



President's Letter

The last few years have been tumultuous for our climate and our economy, for civil rights and our democracy. Rights we've relied on our entire lives are reversed or in danger. We worry about the future: ours, our family's, our friends,' our neighbors' and our community's.

Our League is one of many organizations doing everything we can to defend the democratic ideals embodied in our Constitution. Yet that does not give us ease. We wake up every morning, listen to the day's news, and then go about our day with a lump in our throats.

This quote from Justice Sonia Sotomayor is apt: "There are days when I get discouraged. There are moments where I am deeply, deeply disappointed. And, yes, there have been moments where I have stopped and said, 'Is it worth it anymore?' And every time I do that, I lick my wounds for a while, sometimes I cry. And then I say, 'Ok, let's fight.'"¹

Our League began fighting in earnest when Cheryl organized a 'Hands Off' rally at Schenectady City Hall about 15 months ago. It rained hard, but people stuck around and signed up to join us. It showed us we weren't alone; and that, on a very local level, people are hungry to protect our democratic ideals. We have gained new members, new venues, and fresh ideas about outreach and communication. Our neighbors are with us. We need to stand up for them and with them.

From now until the midterms, let's redouble our community efforts. All of us are key to its success. Invite a neighbor or friend to a League tabling event! They might not have time to join, but they will spread the word. We need more visibility—more venues for tabling and consistent tabling at our regular sites. We can do this!

Our Civics Table at Kids Arts Fest on June 6.

Voter Services Report

Summer is peak season for festivals and community events. While the League typically does not register many voters at those kinds of events, they are a good opportunity to give out information, along with lots of Jolly Rancher candy and American flags.

Our Your Right To Vote brochures, covering groups such as individuals who are in college, homeless, disabled or with criminal convictions, give hope to people who have difficulty voting.

We also try to keep up with current events- school elections in May, encounters with ICE agents, primary elections in June and midterm elections in November.

We've already scheduled several voter registration opportunities in July at [Mopco Improv Theater](#), S-G Fresh Table pop-up food pantry and March for Jesus. To volunteer at any of these events, check out our [Voter Registration Signup](#). We'll make sure new volunteers are paired up with experienced League members.

If you know of an organization that would like us to do voter registration, contact me at lwvschenectady@gmail.com.

Cheryl Nechamen

Voter Services





Mark Your Calendar



Mark Your Calendar

- Thursday, July 9 from 6:30-9 pm: Registering voters at UNITE NY Voting Reform at Mopco Improv Theater - [sign up to volunteer](#)
 - Wednesday, July 8 at 6 pm: LWVSC Board Meeting at the McChesney Room at the downtown Schenectady Public Library. All members are welcome!
 - Wednesday, July 8 at 6 pm: Civilian Police Review Board Meeting at 2nd Floor Courtroom at City Hall, 105 Jay Street., members of the public are welcome to attend
 - Wednesday, July 15 from 6:30-9 pm: Registering voters at Scotia-Glenville Fresh Table at First National Bank in Scotia - [sign up to volunteer](#)
 - Saturday, July 25 from 3-6 pm: Registering Voters at March for Jesus at Jerry Burrell Park in Schenectady - [sign up to volunteer](#)
 - Saturday, October 24: Early Voting Begins
 - Tuesday, November 3: General Election Day
-



Kim Siciliano, Executive Director at the YWCA, spoke at our Annual Dinner.



2026 Legislative Session Summary of Environmental Issues

Legislators significantly weakened the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) in several ways.

- In the enacted budget, NYS gave itself a four-year extension, from 2024 to 2028, on the requirement to establish regulations to implement the Climate Law, allowed itself to take factors like economic growth and competitiveness goals, and affordability into account when designing regulations, and weakened the law's regulations themselves.
- The State will now calculate greenhouse gas warming potentials using a 100-year accounting method that waters down the impact of short-lived climate pollutants like refrigerants and methane, thereby making these gases seem less dangerous than they are.
- While the State left 2030 emissions-reduction goals intact at 40% below 1990 levels and 2050 goals intact at an 85% reduction, it changed the mid-term 2040 target to a 60% reduction from its original "Net Zero," and made that reduction subject to interpretations of what's feasible and cost-effective.

- The State will no longer count emissions from the extraction and transmission of imported fuels and will treat biogenic emissions (from biofuels) as having no greenhouse impact.

After spending almost two months on budget deliberations, the NYS Legislature had only six session days post-budget for other matters.

- The LWVNY's long-time priority Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (PRRIA) and Bigger Better Bottle Bill did not make it to a vote, despite (in the case of PRRIA) spending the entire session on the floor, ready for action, having cleared all committees during the 2025 legislative session.
- The LWVNY's other priority bill, the Accelerate Solar for Affordable Power (ASAP) fared better – its direction to the Public Service Commission to modernize the utility interconnection process to enable quicker and less expensive solar and energy storage process development was included in the State budget, along with \$200M for NY-SUN, a program that supports solar development in the State.
- The Legislature passed a one-year moratorium on the approval of large (greater than 20 MW) data centers, along with a directive to State agencies to study their impact and possible requirements to impose on them.
- The Board of Regents voted in favor of the substance of a LWVNY-priority bill mandating climate education in the State's K-12 schools, though the State failed to include targeted funding for the effort in its enacted budget.

Make Your Voice Heard:

- [Contact the Governor](#) and urge her to sign the Responsible Data Center Development Act (S10642/A11560).
- Contact the [Governor](#) and your legislators ([NYS Senate Finder](#), [NYS Assembly Finder](#)) to express deep disappointment in the State's rollbacks to the CLCPA and failure to pass the LWVNY's two priority plastics bills (PRRIA and Bottle Bill).

Anne Erling

LWVAC

LWV Capital Region 4-League Environmental Committee

JOIN/RENEW

Membership

We have one new member: Christina Loukides

Membership Updating:

If you have received an email from me, Ellen Daviero, about needing to update your membership and would like help please call, text or email and I would be happy to help! My contact information is lwvschenectady@gmail.com, I look forward to hearing from you. You can also [log in or sign up here](#) to join or renew online.

Upcoming Projects:

We are currently using the VAN (Voter Activation Network) online database from public voting rolls to do outreach to registered voters who have not voted in the last 2 elections as well as 18- to 30-year-old registered voters who have not voted. Our plan is to create a text message to send to encourage them to vote. after the primary in June.

If you are interested in this project or a postcard project, please reach out to me at lwvschenectady@gmail.com . Feel free to call, text or email.

Ellen Daviero
Membership



League 101

We are planning a new series for the Bulletin in which we explain a bit more about different aspects of the League of Women Voters, including how decisions are made on the local, state, and national level; how to learn more (or unsubscribe!) from various emails; and more.

This month, to coincide with implementing Givebuttr to take credit card donations, our topic is donations. We promise that we're not going to start asking for donations all the time! We are, however, including donation buttons at the bottom of the Bulletin for quick reference. And the topic of how renewal fees are used vs. donations can feel a bit opaque, and we're in favor of transparency, so it's our first 101 topic.

If you're curious about a topic about the League, please contact me at lwvschenectady@gmail.com to request it as a future League 101 topic.

*Katie Beltramo
Bulletin Editor*



How to Financially Support the League of Women Voters of Schenectady County

The League of Women Voters of Schenectady Country draws from two main funds:

- LWVSC Operating Fund
- LWVNY Education Fund (Schenectady County)

The **LWVSC Operating Fund** is a Schenectady-local 501(c)4 entity, which means donations are **not** tax deductible. This funds political activities like campaigning and lobbying on specific issues as well as day-to-day operations, like voter registration and P.O. Box fees, as well as sending delegates to the State and National Conventions. The operating fund is managed entirely locally by our League members here in Schenectady County with an account at TrustCo Bank.

The **LWVNY Education Fund** is a state-wide 501(c)3 entity, which means that donations **are** tax deductible, but spending must be limited to educational activities with no campaigning or lobbying permitted. The statewide fund has a Schenectady-specific account for our local activities, but in order to use those, our local LWV branch must go through a more complex process (ie. approvals and/or invoicing).

Your Membership Fees

When you join or renew membership with the LWVSC, you choose your own annual dues amount, with a suggested amount of \$75 and a minimum of \$20. Your dues are then distributed as follows:

- 20% to the LWV Schenectady County Operating Fund
- 47% to the LWV of New York State
- 33% to the LWV of the United States

Donating Additional Funds

When you join or renew membership with the LWVSC via the [online portal](#), you choose your own annual dues amount, with a drop-down list of \$75 (the suggested amount), \$150, \$250, or \$500, with the option of putting in your own amount, as long as it's at least a minimum of \$20. **After clicking Next**, you may donate any additional amount that you choose that will go directly to the LWVSC Operating Fund. For both, these will be a one-time payment unless you choose to renew each year, and a nominal fee will be deducted from your donation for the credit card processing fees (c. 3%).

You can always click the [Donate button on our website](#) to find a [donation form](#) if you

would like to donate via check.

At any time, you can always make an online donation:

- You can make a donation to the LWVSC Operating Fund [here](#).
- You can make a donation to the LWVNY Education Fund [here](#). *Be sure to choose **Schenectady County** as your local League.*

Katie Beltramo

Bulletin Editor

Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan citizen activist organization that operates at the local, state, and national level. We influence public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate.

“Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy”

Board Members

President: Joan Fucillo, lwschenectady@gmail.com

Vice President: Open

Treasurer: Janet Hollocher, lwschenectady@gmail.com

Secretary: Kate Rose, lwschenectady@gmail.com

Voter Services Chair: Cheryl Nechamen, lwschenectady@gmail.com

Membership: Ellen Daviero, lwschenectady@gmail.com

Bulletin Editor: Katie Beltramo, lwschenectady@gmail.com



*Locally-controlled for use
without restrictions
501(c)4
not tax-deductible*



*Managed by NY State League,
no lobbying or campaigning
501(c)3
tax-deductible*