



President's Letter

The U.S. Constitution was signed on September 17, 1787, by 39 of the 55 delegates that attended the Constitutional Convention. Thursday, September 17, marks this year's commemoration of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. (Reminder: Join us on the 17th for a "Honk and Wave" at Veterans Park in Schenectady, 4-6pm.)

In 1954, "Citizenship Day" was added to the U.S. Code to commemorate the signing of the Constitution and its creation of a citizen class that elects its representatives. Citizenship Day later became part of Public Law 105-225—Aug. 12, 1998, Part A—Observances and Ceremonies, Chapter 1—Patriotic and National Observances. In 2004, "Constitution Day and" was added before the words "Citizenship Day" as they appear in each subsection.

36 U.S. Code § 106 - Constitution Day and Citizenship Day¹

(a)Designation.—

"September 17 is designated as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day."

(b)Purpose.—

"Constitution Day and Citizenship Day commemorate the formation and signing on September 17, 1787, of the Constitution and recognize all who, by coming of age or by naturalization, have become citizens."

(c)Proclamation.—

"The President may issue each year a proclamation calling on United States Government officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on Constitution Day and Citizenship Day"

When we put together our "Honk and Wave," we knew about Constitution Day, but I for one had no idea that the words "Constitution Day and" were a late addition to section 106, or that the designation "Citizenship Day" had preceded it. Knowing this, it seems the purpose was to create a vehicle (i.e., a holiday) for the education of citizens and a

celebration of citizenship:

(d)State and Local Observances.—

“The civil and educational authorities of States, counties, cities, and towns are urged to make plans for the proper observance of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day and for the complete instruction of citizens in their responsibilities and opportunities as citizens of the United States and of the State and locality in which they reside.”

That section 106 was first titled “Citizenship Day” gives the words in subsection (d) greater meaning. What we now call “Constitution Day” really is “Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.” It’s when we commemorate the signing of our founding document and celebrate all of us citizens whose rights and responsibilities are to ensure that the promise of the Constitution is fulfilled.

Joan Fucillo
President

1. <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/36/106>





Potluck Picnic

We had a small but very fun picnic on Saturday, August 29, at the Lion's Pavilion in Collins Park, Scotia. A dozen of us enjoyed great conversation, terrific food, and lovely background music, in a well-appointed picnic space. We all said yes to doing it again next summer!

Voter Services Report

National Voter Registration Day is set for September 15th this year. We plan to mark the occasion by holding voter registration events at four locations: Market 32 in Schenectady and Scotia, Union College and SUNY Schenectady. Check out the signup sheet at [LWV Voter Registration](#) for times and locations if you'd like to volunteer. We still have slots open for the college events.

So far, we've scheduled candidate forums for Rotterdam, Community Center, on September 25th at 6:30 pm, Scotia/Glenville, Glenville Municipal Center, on September 28th at 6:30 pm and Schenectady, Central Library McChesney Room, on October 8th at 6 pm. We're still working on a forum for Niskayuna.

If you know of an organization that would like us to do voter registration or if you'd like to volunteer at one of the candidate forums, please contact me at

lwvschenectady@gmail.com .

Cheryl Nechamen

Voter Services



Mark Your Calendar

- **Friday, September 4 at 3:30 pm:** Youth Civic Education Committee meeting at the Swanker Room of the downtown Schenectady Public Library. Email Joan Fucillo at lwvschenectady@gmail.com if you'd like to join.
- **Wednesday, September 9 at 6 pm:** LWVSC Board Meeting at the Swanker Room of the downtown Schenectady Public Library. All are welcome.
- **Wednesday, September 9 at 6 pm:** Civilian Police Review Board meets at City Hall. These meetings are open to the public.

- **Thursday, September 10 at 6 pm:** Postcard Party at Lisa Pritchard's home. Fragrance-free. Please email Lisa at lwvschenectady@gmail.com to RSVP before 4 pm, Sept 9
 - **Tuesday, September 15** is National Voter Registration Day. Check out the signup sheet at [LWV Voter Registration](#) for times and locations if you'd like to volunteer.
 - **Thursday, September 17, 11 am-2 pm:** National Constitution Day at SCCC. Check out the signup sheet at [LWV Voter Registration](#) for times and locations if you'd like to volunteer.
 - **Thursday, September 17 from 4-6 pm:** "Honk and Wave" at [Veterans Park](#) to commemorate Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.
 - **Monday, September 21 at 4 pm:** Postcard Party at Joan Fucillo's home (with big, friendly dog). Please email Joan at lwvschenectady@gmail.com to RSVP before 4 pm, Sept 20.
 - **Friday, September 25 at 6:30 pm:** Rotterdam Candidate Forum at the Rotterdam Community Center
 - **Monday, September 28 at 6:30 pm:** Scotia/Glenville Candidate Forum at the Municipal Center
 - **Monday, October 5 at 6 pm:** Postcard Party at Johanna Peterson's home at. Please email Johanna at lwvschenectady@gmail.com to RSVP before 4:00 pm on October 4.
 - **Thursday, October 8 at 6 pm:** Schenectady Candidate Forum at the McChesney Room of the Downtown Schenectady Public Library
 - **Saturday, October 24:** Early Voting Begins
 - **Tuesday, November 3:** General Election Day
 - **Sunday, November 8:** New Member Gathering
-



Scotia Rotary President Christopher Cross, Katie Beltramo, Joan Fucillo, & Doreen Oathout.

LWVSC Visits the Scotia Rotary

On Tuesday, August 18, Joan Fucillo and Katie Beltramo visited the Scotia Rotary. They were invited to speak by Doreen Oathout, with whom Joan volunteers at Scotia Glenville Food Pantry.

Joan and Katie offered up a general introduction about the League and what we do, as well as information about how the League combats misinformation and disinformation via social media and AI, and how we reach youth and younger adults and encourage them to participate in civic life and vote. We were excited to share about our Youth Civic Engagement grant, Students Inside Albany, and other initiatives.

We ended asking these business leaders to speak with local politicians about the importance of meeting with all voters, and in particular, the benefits of being part of the League's candidate forums, which are recorded and watched by about 1,000 viewers each campaign season.



Nancy Tudor and MaryJane Shave joined Tanasia from Safe, Inc. to hand out free lunches in Central Park. Many thanks to all the members who put in a shift to support this summer's program!



TAKE ME TO VOTE!



Please click on the QR code to be counted in the **TAKE ME TO VOTE** program

1. Choose your school from the list provided, and
2. Be sure to scroll down and hit **SUBMIT**.
3. A form should be completed for each child

Supported by the League of Women Voters of Schenectady County



Take Me to Vote

The 2026 Take Me to Vote has been accepted in all Schenectady County elementary schools and the posters for the children to click will be at all county polling places.

The League of Women Voters aims to educate the next generation of educated voters.

If you see a child at the polls on election day, point the poster to them.

Connie Young



Summer Internship

A current Niskayuna High School student, Anna Ethier, connected with the New York State League of Women Voters for a summer internship. Here's what she had to say about her experience:

"I have been thoroughly enjoying my time interning at the League. I have gotten to learn in depth how a nonprofit organization runs, as well as how I can become more involved with issues in my community. Being in this position has caused me to become more aware of current issues that I would not have otherwise known about. Whether that is what is

shared during team meetings or what I learn through the different assignments I have been given. I got to do research on voter pre-registration and write an op-ed on that topic. It really interested me, so now I am planning ways to raise awareness of this opportunity at my school. I have also done other research on topics such as voting by mail and election misinformation. I got to create graphics to share the information I learned, which I had fun making. I have been able to further my skills in research and communication. Everyone in the office has been very kind to me and I have enjoyed getting to know all of them. I have gotten to build relationships with four inspiring women who are passionate about their work. I know I will feel more confident going into jobs in the future because I was able to gain a background in a very supportive environment. All in all, this internship has been very beneficial to me, I am glad I was able to take advantage of this opportunity. I am very appreciative of the knowledge and experience that I will be taking away from it."

Civilian Police Review Board Update

Over the last year, CPRB, Schenectady City Council, and the Schenectady Police Department worked together to update the complaint form. The new form was approved by the City Council in December 2025. The new form is now available; the Spanish version of the form is in the final stages of revision and translation and will be available soon.

CPRB is also involved in community outreach and education about what CPRB does. Presentations are now being made by the board to the various neighborhood associations. We will be presenting to the Stockade Neighborhood Association on September 17, 2026. In June we presented to the Woodlawn Neighborhood Association. Presentations are being prepared for the fall and winter with other neighborhood associations. The CPRB board would love for you to attend presentations by your neighborhood association. Just a reminder that CPRB meetings are open to the public and are held on the second

Wednesday of each month at 6 pm at City Hall.

Megan Haessig

Secretary & Member, Civilian Police Review Board



Reaching Out to Voters Via Texts (VAN) and Postcards

The dates have been set for **postcard** parties. We're sending postcards to Schenectady City residents who have registered to vote since January 2026.

Thursday, September 10 at 6 pm

- Postcard Writing Party at Lisa Pritchard's home. Serving some light finger foods to snack on but feel free to bring something to share. Spouses welcome! But perfume, cologne or scented lotions are not - ours is a fragrance-free house due to

a serious chemical sensitivity. Please email Lisa at lwvschenectady@gmail.com before 4 pm, Sept 9 to let us know you're coming.

Monday, September 21 at 4 pm

- Postcard Writing Party at Joan Fucillo's home. Joan can host 6-8 people. Only caveat: we have a large, very friendly dog (some would say overly friendly). If you're a dog person, you'll have a good time. Please email Joan at lwvschenectady@gmail.com before 4 pm, Sept 20 to let us know you're coming.

Monday, October 5 at 6 pm

- Postcard Writing Party at Johanna Peterson's home. Serving some light finger foods and non-alcoholic drinks for snacking. Please email Johanna at lwvschenectady@gmail.com before 4:00 pm on October 4 to let me know you're coming.

Also available: postcards in batches of 10 for pickup to do at your leisure.

At the last board meeting the motion to allocate \$80 towards a GOTV campaign using **VAN** was passed. At the next board meeting the parameters for the different groups that the league could text will be shared along with the text message being sent.

If you are interested in either of these projects, please reach out to Ellen Daviero at lwvschenectady@gmail.com.

Ellen Daviero
Membership

A rectangular button with a blue border and a white background. The text "JOIN/RENEW" is written in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

Membership

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.

Save the date for a new member fall on-boarding gathering on November 18 at 6:00 pm.

Ellen Daviero

Membership



League 101

League 101: Registering Voters

You're a new member, and you want to help with voter registration events. But it's a bit scary because it's official government business. What if there's an error on the registration form?

No worries. You'll be paired with an experienced member until you're comfortable with

the process. In the meantime, take a few minutes to review the [voter registration form](#) and [Harriet Tubman cheat sheet](#) and follow these steps.

1. Are you a citizen of the U.S.? (If yes, they can continue; if not, they can't)
2. If a citizen is 16-17 years old, they can pre-register to vote.
 - a. Will you be 18 years old on election day? (yes/no)
 - b. Are you at least 16 years of age and understand that until you will be 18 years of age at the time of such election, your registration will be marked "pending" and you will be unable to cast a ballot in any election? (yes/no)
(If no, can't register)
3. Name: Last name, first name, middle initial, suffix.
4. Birthdate; Gender (optional); Phone (optional); Email (optional). Optional information: it is recommended that they include an email/phone number in case the Board of Elections needs to contact them.
5. Address where they live: include apt. number, zip code, city/town/village, and county.
6. Address where they receive mail, if different. (Can be P.O. Box)
7. Have you voted before? (yes/no)
8. What year? (if yes)
9. Old address (if you've voted before and have moved since then)
10. Identification:
 - a. NY DMV number (driver's license, permit or other DMV ID); or
 - b. Last four digits of their Social Security number
 - c. Check "I do not have these" and the Board of Elections will contact them
11. Register in a political party. Only four political parties hold primaries in NYS: Republican, Democratic, Conservative and Working Families. Voters may write in any other party they'd like (Green, e.g.), but they will not be able to vote in a primary election. They can choose "no party."
12. Sign and date.

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*



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, lwvschenectady@gmail.com

Vice President: Open

Treasurer: Janet Hollocher, lwvschenectady@gmail.com

Secretary: Kate Rose, lwvschenectady@gmail.com

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Bulletin Editor: Katie Beltramo lwvschenectady@gmail.com



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