



## President's Letter

While presidential elections get all the attention, local elections make a bigger difference in your daily life. Think of all the services you rely on in your town or city- police, fire, water, sewer, not to mention pothole-free roads! Towns/cities make the rules regarding zoning and development. This is where your tax dollars are spent and elected officials make those decisions.

At the county level, the legislature oversees everything from public health to children and family services to the county jail to veterans' services.

Local and county elected officials are the future state and federal elected officials. They're the pipeline for our country's future. It's worth your time and attention.

### **Candidate Forums:**

**Schenectady:** October 9<sup>th</sup>, 6-7:45 PM, McChesney Room, Karen Johnson Library, Schenectady

**Niskayuna:** October 16<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 PM, Niskayuna Town Hall, 1 Niskayuna Circle, Niskayuna

Each of the candidate forums will be recorded and available on YouTube. The link will be on our Facebook page (League of Women Voters- Schenectady County) and on our website <https://my.lwv.org/new-york/schenectady-county>.

*Cheryl Nechamen*  
President

# Voter Services Report

Election season is officially underway: our League is holding candidate forums!

On Thursday, September 25, we held our first forum in Rotterdam. (By the time you read this, our Glenville forum, September 29, will be over. There's two more in October— Schenectady on the 9th and Niskayuna on the 16th.)

Candidate forums are an essential tool of democracy. The League's forums are conducted to ensure that the process is fair and respectful and public. At our forums, the audience asks questions by submitting them on index cards during the event or by emailing them in advance. Our guidelines are based on our pledge of nonpartisanship: every candidate has equal time to introduce themselves, to answer questions (each candidate in a race is asked the same questions) and to give a closing statement. Every candidate has an equal shot at having their voice heard.

The Rotterdam forum was packed. Attendees heard from candidates for town clerk, receiver of taxes, county legislature, town justice, town council, and town supervisor. It was a success for the candidates and everyone in attendance. The Daily Gazette published a good article about the forum, but only about the race for town supervisor and a few sentences on the candidates for town council.

Why is that? Maybe it's because five candidates did not attend: only one of two candidates for town clerk; one of two for receiver of taxes; three of four for county legislature; three of four for town council; and three of four for town justice. The only full slate at the table were the two candidates for town supervisor.

These absences are a bit disturbing and seem to be something of a trend. How does the public get to know their local candidates? Ads, meet-and-greets, getting people to write or post on social media nice—or mean—things about them? And there's fundraisers—although some are open and some are closed to the public. People running for office instinctively want to control the narrative.

But there's a problem. Voters trust politicians less than ever. That's why the direct democracy of a League forum works. Voters see officeholders and would-be officeholders answering their concerns. That helps rebuild some lost trust. We might think about how to communicate to candidates the real advantages of participating in one of the few open forums where constituents get to ask questions, and where all candidates are treated fairly and equally.

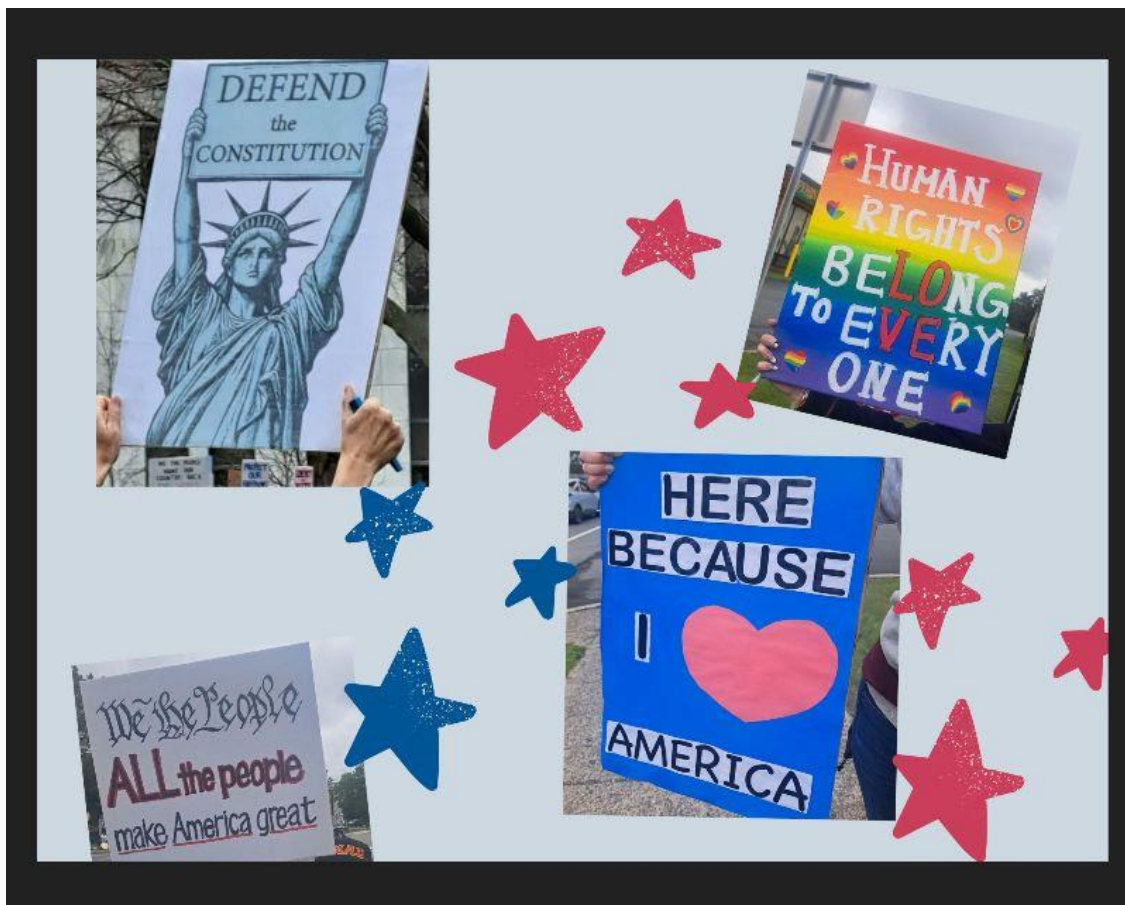
*Check our website and Facebook page for youtube links to the candidate forums. And visit [LWV 2025 Voter Registration Drive Sign Up](#) to sign up for voter registration events. Next up: Schenectady Greenmarket, October 19.*

*Joan Fucillo*  
Voter Services

## Honk and Wave Rally

We gathered at Veterans' Park in downtown Schenectady for a Honk and Wave Rally for Human Rights, Civil Rights and Due Process on September 18, 2025.





## Wanted Scrapbookers

We are looking for LWWSC members who are willing to share their talents to share community activism.

Interested?? Contact Ellen Daviero [lwvschenectady@gmail.com](mailto:lwvschenectady@gmail.com)

**COMMUNITY**



**MEETING**

**Join us to discuss creating a Community  
Reuse Center in the Capital District**

*Let's take the first step in creating a reuse network in our Region!*

**Thursday, Oct. 9th, 2025**

**5:30 PM Refreshments - 6:00 PM Meeting**

**Delmar Reformed Church**

**386 Delaware Ave, Delmar, NY 12054**

**RSVP below or HERE**

**Please take our survey here:**

**<https://tinyurl.com/CDReUseSurvey>**

**SCAN HERE TO RSVP**



**ZEROWASTECD.ORG**



A Reuse Center is a place to bring items you no longer want and buy things that you need including furniture, construction supplies, household items, and clothing. It's a community destination for education, upcycling & workforce development. And it's just the beginning...

**LET'S KEEP REUSABLE,  
REPAIRABLE ITEMS  
OUT OF THE LANDFILL!**

## Welcome New Members

Margie Amodeo

Nancy Benz

Sharon Locke

## Special Thanks

Special thanks to LWVSC member Katie Beltramo for helping me make this MailChimp bulletin happen!

*Cindy Engel*  
Bulletin Editor



## **Mission Statement:**

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization. We encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government. We work to increase the understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

**“Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy”**

## **Board Members**

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