



September, 2022

Letter from the President

Dear LWVSC Friends,

I hope all of you have had a wonderful summer, with plenty of relaxation, safe travels, and good health. I've found myself already complaining about where the summer has gone, my usual comment at this time of year. At the same time, I've always thought of the fall season as the beginning of a new year, the start of new activities and the return of old ones, the excitement about upcoming events, and feeling of a real sense of renewal. Perhaps this is the very time to be reviewing the mission of the League of Women Voters...

*The League of Women Voters, a **nonpartisan** political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

During these past months overwhelmed by so many controversial issues, many of us have found it difficult to remain nonpartisan in our public comments – I know I have. I've wanted to name names, play the blame game, and only talk about my own favorite candidates. However, nonpartisanship is one of the most basic tenets of the LWV. In order to be respected as a non-biased political organization that neither supports nor opposes a political party or candidate(s), we need to prove ourselves to be as non-partisan as we say we are.

This is where LWV **action** comes in – we can talk about all of the many important public policy issues without talking about the parties or candidates that support or do not support them. We can register voters, making sure they know how and where to find information about upcoming elections and all the candidates that are running. We can make sure that all citizens can register to vote and place their ballots. We can volunteer to be poll workers, making sure that our polling places are safe and open for voters.

Right now, our League is doing those very things. I want to thank every member of our Voter Services team for their hard work setting up voter registration sites and finding members to staff those places. Many thanks to all of you who have been volunteering throughout the summer registering voters and answering their questions. I'm proud of you all and I'm proud of our League.

In League,

Ann Hatke

<i>President</i>	<i>Ann Hatke</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Maxine Brisport</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Heide Westergaard</i>
<i>Bulletin Editor</i>	<i>Nicole Salamone</i>

Voter Services

Voter Registration

Our voter registration team has been doing a great job organizing voter registration drives. Connie Young arranges for the venues, MaryJane Shave runs the online signup sheet and Pauline Kinsella keeps the VR suitcases packed and delivered/picked up for each VR event (and I sit back and relax!). But none of this would matter if it weren't for the many League members who volunteer to work at these events. So far, we have held or plan to hold voter registration drives at 15 locations and at least 32 volunteers have worked or will be working at these events. We so appreciate your help in getting people involved in the political process. Thank you!

Connie has added a couple more voter registration drives that will need volunteers at the Carrot Festival, Agudat Achim on Sept. 11 and Price Chopper, Eastern Pkwy on Sept. 20. To inquire about the schedule contact Cheryl Nechamen, lwvschenectady@gmail.com

Candidate Forums

We will be holding a combined candidate forum for Village of Scotia Mayor and Trustees, Glenville Town Justice and Schenectady City Court Judge on Sept. 28 at the Glenville Municipal Center from 7-8:30 PM. Candidates running unopposed will not participate in the forum. We need people to help at the forum as moderator, question reviewers, timekeepers and ushers. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Connie Young, or Sandra McGarraugh, at lwvschenectady@gmail.com

The Albany, Schenectady and Saratoga Leagues worked together to hold a virtual candidate forum on Zoom for the Democratic Primary for the 20th Congressional District. We posted the recorded forum on YouTube and posted links to the video on our website and Facebook page. Paul Tonko defeated his opponent Rostislav Rar in the August 23rd primary.

Cheryl Nechamen, Voter Services Chair



THANKS to Nancy Tudor, Linda Doody, Mary Delory, Tara Peterson, Pauline Kincella, Joan Fucillo, Ellen Daviero, Connie Young and Carmel Patrick for the many good lunches they handed to happy children in Central Park. LWV workers aided SICM provide summer lunches the week of August 8-12. Weather was sunny and the time together was fun.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Joy Bloomstein

More to follow on Joy!

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**Candice Noonan-Toly**

Candice is interested in judicial, health, environment, registering voters, candidate forums, voter information, data bases, and Facebook.

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Diane Chin

Diane is interested in judicial, health, environment, education, registering voters, voter information, graphics/layout, website work, and Facebook.

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**Susan Greenquist**

Susan is interested in Citizenship mentoring, education, registering voters, voter information and states that she is a retired copywriter and editor.

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SAVE THE DATE!

What? LWVSC Cocktail Party

When? Tuesday, October 11 ~ 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Where? Mohawk Golf Club

Details to follow soon!

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 Democrac



STATE VOTER

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy
Summer 2022



President's Message

Judie Gorenstein, judieL728@aol.com
CALLING ALL MEMBERS

I do know that summer is a time for vacations and relaxation and I do hope that everyone has found some time to have fun and relax. I do also know that the League of Women Voters' goal of empowering voters and defending our democracy is more important than ever. I am therefore asking that each of our members do what they can to help us achieve our goal.

- Be informed yourself. Know what your league and LWVNYS is doing so you can share with others.
- Sign up for the League's texting service and receive timely updates on voting procedures. Text VoteNY to 4747474.
- Let your league know if you have time to volunteer either for one time or ongoing. There is so much to do especially during election season.
- Let LWVNYS know if you can volunteer at the NY State Fair in Syracuse this month.
- Let your league know of any special skills talents or interests you may have. Are you social media savvy? Are you a creative?
- Let your league know of affiliations you have with other organizations, communities or media.
- And of course, always ask your friends and acquaintances to join .



NY State Fair - WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The state League will have a booth at the NYS Fair in Syracuse again this year! We are really excited to have a presence there and provide information to all voters in NYS. **BUT we will need lots of volunteers to help staff the table.** We will provide the admission ticket and parking ticket and only ask you to staff the table part of the day so you'll have the rest of the day to explore the Fair. Think about helping and we'll be sending out the exact schedule soon – but for now, the Fair is held in Syracuse from August 24 to September 5 and we have to staff the table from 10:00am to 9:00pm (Fri-Sun til 10:00 pm). Maybe you'd like to spend a day or two at the Fair?

SIGN UP BY CLICKING HERE

<https://forms.gle/auBgUmYi8xZzoeon6>



Voter Services

Nancy Rosenthal, VP for Voter Services, nancyrosenthal9@gmail.com

NY State has one more primary:

August 23 Primary: candidates in races for US Congressional seats and NYS Senate seats

Up to date and accurate information on the primaries and deadlines for the primaries, and for the general election, can always be found on the state League website at: <https://lwvny.org/voting/>.

BREAKING NEWS:

Yesterday the State Board of Elections filed a motion to the NYS Supreme Court asking for a blackout period for party enrollment to be instated, which would create a deadline by which someone must change their party affiliation for the August primary. Judge McAllister issued an order last night which makes the deadline to register with a party or to change party affiliation August 11th. Applications must be received by a board of elections on this date. Any application received on or after August 12th will not be effective immediately, but will become effective seven days after the August primary (August 30, 2022).

Hotlines

If voters have issues at the polls, two hotlines are available if they encounter any problems when trying to vote. They can call these hotlines for legal assistance and guidance to make their vote count.

One hotline is operated by the NYS Attorney General's office:

Call - (866) 390-2992

Early Voting Days: 9:00am - 6:00pm

Election Day: 6:00am - 9:00pm

FAQs: <https://ag.ny.gov/election-protection>

Complaint Form: <https://ag.ny.gov/election-hotline>

The other hotline is from the NY Democratic Lawyers' Committee:

Main line: 1-888-369-8683 (1-888-3NY-VOTE)

Spanish Line: 1-888-369-8682 (1-888-3NY-VOTA)

Helpline Hours

Mon - Fri: 9 am - 8 pm

Sat - Sun: 10 am - 7 pm

Texting Service (text VoteNY to 474747)

Encourage members and voters to sign up for the League's texting service (text VoteNY to 474747) to get timely reminders on voting.



Vote 411

VOTE411.org is live for the August primary election! VOTE411.org provides election information and what will be on the ballot Election Day. Using the QR Code on postings provides many with greater access to VOTE411.org. If candidates in your area have not yet responded on Vote 411, please nudge them to do it – contact their campaign and tell them it's important for all voters to know their positions on issues. Let's all get the word out on this valuable election tool, VOTE411.org.

[Click here to download and print a flyer on Vote 411.](#) Share the flyer with friends, co-workers and family members - post it in grocery stores, libraries or convenience stores!

Issues and Advocacy

Sally Robinson, VP for Issues and Advocacy,

Sally.s.robinson@gmail.com

Erica Smitka, Deputy Director, Erica@lwvny.org



Ethics Reform

As of July 8th, the Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE) ceased to exist. The Legislature agreed to replace JCOPE with a new state ethics and lobbying oversight committee- the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (CELG).

Under state law, New York's statewide officials and legislative leaders appoint the members to the new Commission on Ethics on Lobbying in Government, but instead of elected officials making direct appointments to the Commission, as has historically been the case, the new law created the Independent Review Committee ("IRC") comprised of the Deans of the State's 15 law schools to determine whether or not nominees should be confirmed for appointment. The League along with other good government groups sent the statewide and legislative officials a letter in June asking that they appoint independent members to the new ethics commission. You can read the letter here. Our groups separately encouraged law school deans to adhere to procedures that would increase the transparency and independence of the vetting process for ethics commissioners.

As of August 1st, most nominations have been submitted to the IRC and we are waiting on one final appointment from the Governor. Public comment on candidates will be welcomed by the IRC by emailing info@irc.ny.gov.

Medical Aid in Dying Virtual Meeting

It's time to rally support for Medical Aid in Dying! We have called for the passage of this legislation since 2018 and will be working on this issue again this legislative session. An online planning meeting led by Compassion and Choices is being held on **Wednesday, August 10, from 11 a.m.- 12 noon**. The planning will be for activities in the 4-County capital area to build legislative support for Medical Aid in Dying. If this is legislation that you believe is important and willing to work on, please consider attending. Reach out to Erica at erica@lwvny.org or Barb Thomas at bkoepicust@gmail.com for additional information and the Zoom link.

DONATE TO LWWNYS



DONATE TO LWWNYS
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

lwvny@lwvny.org

Our League goals are to educate citizens about government and public policy, encourage citizen participation in elections, and influence public policy relating to issues we've studied. Membership makes working on our goals possible.

Membership for AUGUST 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Return to: LWV of Schenectady County, P.O. Box 9135, Schenectady, NY 12309

New or Renewing Members Please Confirm This Contact Information

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

_____ \$60 Individual _____ \$85 Household _____ \$20 Full time HS student

Additional support for the League, dues plus \$10 contribution (\$70 or \$95 – circle one)

Confidential arrangements for special payment or partial assistance can be made. Contact Connie Young at 393-7061 with questions about dues or payments. Dues and contributions are not tax deductible.

I am sending my membership dues payment, but please consider me an **INACTIVE** member.

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