



Program Planning Potluck Dinner

Thursday, February 12

4:30 PM: Board meeting

5:30 PM: Program planning potluck

Cheryl Nechamen's house, Schenectady

Contact me at lwvschenectady@gmail.com

All are welcome!

President's Letter

We'll be meeting at my house on Thursday, February 12th- bring your favorite dish to share! The Board meeting will start at 4:30 PM- all members are most welcome to attend. If you want to skip right to the program planning potluck, come at 5:30 PM (we won't judge!).

While we're enjoying a meal together, we'll discuss our Local Objectives for the year- the issues our local League thinks are important. We'll also do a quick review of the national League's positions in preparation for the national convention in June.

The national League's positions can be found here:

https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2024-12/ImpactOnIssues_2024-FINAL-DIGITAL.pdf . The summary of the positions is on pp. 16-20 of the document.

Local Objectives 2025-2026

Citizens Right to Vote - Making Democracy Work

- Provide voter information during voter registration drives, tabling events and other LWVSC activities in person, on the LWVSC website and on social media
- Support and provide voter education to youth in high schools and colleges
- Advocate for local government transparency and monitor activities of local governmental units
- Support improving local, state, and national elections
- Meet with the Commissioners of the Schenectady County Board of Elections on a regular basis

- Maintain the Citizenship Mentoring Group program that helps prepare immigrants for the US Citizenship Exam and attend Naturalization Ceremonies when possible to register new citizens

Children and Education

- Collaborate with other organizations to identify the needs of children
- Encourage the availability and affordability of day care services for young children
- Advocate for adequate and equitable funding for all public schools
- Advocate for the strengthening of programs that improve the capacity, quality, and speed of connectivity to the internet, especially in rural and low-income communities
- Advocate for the active recruitment by all school districts in Schenectady County of teachers of color
- Support the annual LWWNYS's Students Inside Albany program

Health Services

- Advocate for national/state/local health care reform that provides quality physical and mental health care for all citizens

Justice and the Law

- Support restorative justice programs such as the Center for Community Justice
- Improve accessibility to police complaint procedure and support Schenectady police reform efforts
- Register eligible voters in the Schenectady County Jail and encourage them to vote

Environmental Issues

- Advocate for the protection of environmental resources, land, water and air in Schenectady County
- Advocate for energy conservation and development of renewable energy alternatives
- Advocate for solid waste management programs that promote Reduce, Reuse, and Recycling in the City and County

*Cheryl Nechamen
President*

Voter Services Report

If you haven't heard, the National League has awarded us a grant to register youth voters, focusing on Title 1 schools and community colleges.

The National League's zoom training for the grant was excellent. It included tips on data tracking and ways to follow up with students to remind them to vote. LWVUS also shared Tufts University's informative research on youth voting and polling, from its Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE).

The message was that registering a voter is step one. Getting them to vote requires continual and consistent effort: Engage students; get volunteers to help register voters; make sure everyone involved knows that registration is not the goal – it's just the start.

The highlight of the meeting was listening to grantees from all over the country

sharing their experiences – both successful and not so successful. Some school districts deny access to the League; in others, school superintendents strongly support League efforts.

Some can ask the schools to include voting messages and upcoming voting dates in the morning announcements. Others invite students to register at a rally-the-vote event at the local library and to come back for a GOTV drive. Some sweeten the deal with giveaways and drawings for gift cards.

This is the second year we've received this grant. In 2025, we had a wonderful experience working and meeting with high school and college students, registering 158 new voters.

In 2026, we are expanding our efforts to GED classes and hope to meet, register, and follow up with many more young people over the next five months.

Here are a couple of links to pique your interest in this project:

Tufts University CIRCLE: <https://circle.tufts.edu/2024-election>

Project of LWV of Fremont-Newark-Union

City: <https://youthvotermovement.org/>

Valentine's Day is the LAST day you can change your party enrollment. If you want to vote in the June primaries, but you are not registered with a party, or want to change your party, February 14, 2026, is the last day to do so.

Coming up:

Voter registration at Fulton-Montgomery Community College, March 25, and April 2.

Please check the Voter Registration sign-up sheet for these and future VR opportunities: [LWV voter registration](https://lwwvoterregistration.com)

Joan Fucillo
Voter Services

Membership:

The Schenectady County League of Women Voters would like to welcome three new members Tiff Mansfield, Gillian Scott and Lisa Pritchard. Welcome, hope you will join us at the upcoming potluck meeting if able!

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 Ellen Daviero at lwwschenectady@gmail.com . I look forward to hearing from you.

THANK YOU:

We received a lovely thank you note in the mail from "Bread of Life food" pantry, this was one of the food pantries that was selected to receive money from the donations that were given at the League's December luncheon. The note was expressing their gratitude for the donation.

During November and December their food pantry was open 12x and each time served 26 families, who were able to select 30 items from their stock. The donation was VERY helpful in keeping their shelves full. Thank You!

New Tool to Get Out the Vote:

The State League has joined with NYCET(The New York Engagement Table). With this partnership we have access to VAN (Voter Activation Network) providing us with information from voting rolls.

This new tool will allow us to engage with voters to educate and strengthen our GOTV (get out the vote) efforts. It is an online database from public voting rolls.

Along with our access to VAN, we have a specialist, Monica, who is working with the state league to help counties across the state to use the database.

With this information we could figure out areas in our county that have lower than average voter turnout and focus activities and efforts to increase participation. So for example, we could create a nonpartisan list of voters, (party is not included in the information that we have access to) in a lower turnout district and send postcards or texts to remind them to vote or reminders about early voting, for example.

We do pay a fee for texts sent, as well as postage for postcards. I have taken the training and would love to work with other members of our league that might be interested in this project. We can make this as complicated or simple as we like, I am aiming for simple, but would love to bounce ideas off of other interested members. If you are interested please reach out to me, Ellen Daviero at lwvschenectady@gmail.com .

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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