



The

JANUARY 2019
LOCAL VOTER
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA

Syracuse Metro LWV
PO Box 11862
Syracuse NY 13218
Phone: (315) 396-8225
Email: lwvsyr@gmail.com
Web Sites:
Local: www.lwvsyr.org
State: www.lwvny.org
National: www.lwv.org

Calendar

Wednesday, February 6th

First Wednesday Luncheon

Tuesday, April 30th

LWVNY Advocacy and Lobby

Training Day (Albany)

June 7-9

LWVNY Convention (Hilton, Albany)

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We are still accepting candidates for the Students Inside Albany Conference sponsored by the LWVNY Education Foundation. This year's conference takes place May 19-22, 2019 in Albany.

If you know of a high school junior or senior who might be interested in participating in this interactive conference that brings students from across the state to learn about New York State government, please contact Youth Director, Margrit Diehl at margrit.diehl@gmail.com or call us at 315-396-8225.

- ELECTION REFORM**
- HEALTHCARE**
- CAMPAIGN FINANCE**
- ETHICS**
- JUDICIAL ISSUES**
- NATURAL RESOURCES**
- STATE FINANCES & EDUCATION**
- TRANSPORTATION**
- WOMEN'S ISSUES**
- SOCIAL WELFARE**

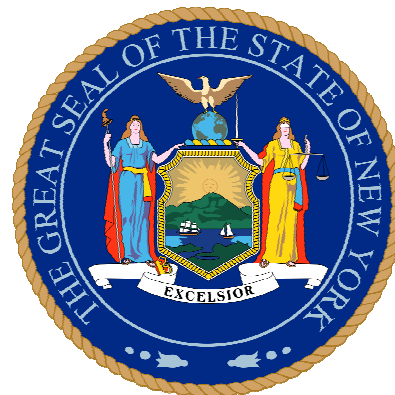
WHAT ARE THE ISSUES YOU CARE ABOUT?

Each year the state League canvasses local leagues to determine their priorities for the coming legislative session. These responses will aid the state league in determining what issues are most important to league members.

Two of the issues we care about are noted in this newsletter - Campaign Finance & Ethics Reform and Election Reform. Sponsors and bill numbers will change this year.

Please let us know what issues are most important to you. Send us an email at lwvsyr@gmail.com or reply by snail mail to LWVSYR, PO Box 11862, Syracuse NY 13218 with your top three priorities by **January 25, 2019.**

For more information on LWVNY issues and goals, go to lwvny.org and click on Legislative Action.



BOARD NOTES

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are sorry to announce the passing of our member **Jack Mallan**. Jack was a “charter member” of what we like to call our Men’s Auxiliary, referring to husbands who have joined the League, sometimes because they wished to be a member of our organization and sometimes from pressure from their spouses. Jack believed in the mission the League stood for - getting citizens involved with the process and encouraging them to educate themselves on the issues.

As noted in Jack’s obit he was a teacher, professor, reader, writer, athlete, idealist, Eagle Scout, storyteller, and prankster. Our condolences to his wife, Janet, his children and grandchildren. We will miss him.



Two hundred former members of Congress, governors and Cabinet officials have formed an organization to advocate for solutions to fix our democracy.

At a time when public trust in our democracy nears historic lows, the ReFormers Caucus represents an unprecedented force for positive change in Washington.

The goal of the group is to call for urgent, bipartisan political reform that will protect our elections from foreign influence, provide transparency around “dark money” and strengthen our election laws.

Utica Congressman Richard Hanna, has accepted our invitation to be our guest at a forum early next year. Plans are not yet in place as to the venue or date. We will keep you posted. - **STAY TUNED** -

FIRST WEDNESDAY LUNCHEONS

We will resume our First Wednesday Luncheons on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 12:30 PM. Join us at Tony’s Restaurant, 3004 Burnet Avenue, Syracuse. Hope to see you there. All are welcome.



Officers

Leadership Team...	Joan Durant Joan Johnson Margrit Diehl Roberta Millert
Secretary...	Diane Dwire
Treasurer....	Roberta Millert

Directors

Education	Margrit Diehl
Environmental Issues	Marguerite Dormer
Local Programs	Jessica Bumpus
Membership ...	Heather Allison Waters
Public Relations...	Andrea Wandersee
Voter Service...	Joan Durant
Directors-at-large...	Michele Jones Galvin Charles Gowing Sandra Gowing Ann Jamison Sylvia Matousek

Off-Board Positions

Budget Director....	Erin Leigh Darnley
Membership Data Base...	Roberta Millert
Nominating Committee.....	Ona Bregman Kerin Rigney Ann Magnarelli
Technical Support...	Roberta Millert

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For more information please call the League office at 315 396-8225 or by email at lwwsyr@gmail.com

Diversity Statement

The Syracuse Metropolitan League of Women Voters is committed to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any League activity on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, or national origin.



Find us on
Facebook

NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES – JANUARY 10 – JULY 4, 2019

<u>Location*</u>	<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>League Representative</u>
County Court House	Thursday, January 10 - 2:00 PM	
Federal Building	Thursday, January 24 – 11:00 AM	Lois Meyer
County Court House	Thursday, February 14 – 2:00 PM	
Federal Building	Thursday, February 28 – 11:00 AM	Lois Meyer
County Court House	Thursday, March 14 – 2:00 PM	
Federal Building	Thursday, March 21 – 11:00 AM	
SU College of Law	Thursday, April 4 – 1:00 PM	
County Court House	Thursday, April 11 – 2:00 PM	
Federal Building	Friday, April 12 - 11:00 AM	
Federal Building	Thursday, April 25 – 11:00 AM	
County Court House	Thursday, May 9 – 2:00 PM	
Federal Building	Thursday, May 30 – 11:00 AM	
County Court House	Thursday, June 13 – 2:00 PM	
Federal Building (12 th Floor, Court Room 5)	Thursday, June 20 – 11:00 AM	
New York State Fair Amphitheater	Wednesday, July 4 – 7:20 PM	

Please arrive 45 minutes early for all ceremonies with 100 voter registration forms.

*** All Federal building ceremonies are held in the Ceremonial Courtroom except for the June 20th event**

We are always looking for volunteers to register new citizens at these ceremonies. It is a very rewarding experience. Training is available if you have not done it previously. Email us at lwvsyr@gmail.com or call us at 315-396-8225 to volunteer or for more information.

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 28, 1919 -	Local Suffrage Party members met with New York State Suffrage Party members for the purpose of electing officers to represent Onondaga and Cortland counties in a proposed New York State League of Women Voters that would replace the New York State Woman Suffrage party.
November 19, 1919 -	At the 51st Convention of the New York State Woman Suffrage Party, delegates voted to change their name to the New York State League of Women Voters.
February 14, 1920 -	During the convention of the American Woman Suffrage Association, under the guidance of Carrie Chapman Catt, the National League of Women Voters was founded, six months before the ratification of the 19th Amendment.
May 21, 2019	100 th Anniversary of the 19 th Amendment passage in the House of Representatives
June 4, 2019	100 th Anniversary of the 19 th Amendment passage in the Senate
Nov. 19, 2019	100 th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of New York State
August 18, 2020	100 th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19 th Amendment



Preparations for the 2019 Legislative Session

Now that the election is over, the League is reengaging with many of its coalition partners and planning strategy for the upcoming legislative session. Don't forget to complete and **return your Legislative Priorities form** to the state office by Jan. 31! We want your input as we begin our lobbying.

The League was invited to testify before the Assembly Election Law Committee in NYC in November on early voting and no-excuse absentee voting. The League made recommendations for best practices and outlined the 2018 legislative policies that we believe best addressed these two reforms.

The state League will be organizing advocacy training sessions and legislative updates across the state in February, March and April. Last week, Jennifer spoke to the Capitol Region Leagues at a breakfast meeting. The meeting trained members on state positions, how to best lobby and outlined our legislative plans for the year ahead. Plans are underway for another session in Geneva in early March and the state League is looking to other areas for more presentations. And, the spring Advocacy Training and Lobby Day in Albany will be in late April – watch for the date as soon as the Legislature announces its calendar for the session.

Jennifer Wilson, LWVNY Legislative Director
Sally Robinson, VP Issues & Advocacy



Lawsuit With NYCLU - Voter Registration Deadline

The League has signed on as a plaintiff on the NYCLU lawsuit to challenge the 25 day voter registration deadline. Public interest in the people and issues on the ballot peaks in the 25 days before Election Day. Candidates debate each other, new information comes out about their campaign fundraising, endorsements are announced, and ads blanket the airwaves. Yet eligible voters who become motivated to vote by the flurry of electoral activity in the last four weeks of political campaigns find themselves unable to do so because they failed to register prior to the 25-day cut-off. The lawsuit charges that the voter registration cut-off is no longer necessary in the age of computers and needlessly disenfranchises thousands of voters. The suit claims that this disenfranchisement violates the state constitution's guarantee of the fundamental right to vote as well as its equal protection clause.

Sally Robinson, VP Issues & Advocacy
Jennifer Wilson, LWVNY Legislative Director



2018 Gubernatorial Debate

After failing to find a media co-sponsor, the League pursued holding a Gubernatorial Debate without a media sponsor. Of the 5 gubernatorial candidates, 4 (Stephanie Miner, Larry Sharpe, Marc Molinaro and Howie Hawkins) immediately agreed to participate when we announced the debate. Governor Cuomo was the only one to refuse to participate. The College of Saint Rose graciously agreed to host the debate and provide the technology to livestream the event on Facebook, Twitter, and Youtube. The state office organized a Go Fund Me to raise money to support any costs that would arise around the debate. We were able to raise over \$5,000 much of which was raised from donors who had never donated to the League.

The debate was moderated by LWVNYS Executive Director, Laura Ladd Bierman, and questions were asked by the following media panel:

- Susan Arbetter**, State Capitol Correspondent and News & Public Affairs Director for WCNY Syracuse Public Television and host and producer of The Capitol Pressroom
- Ken Lovett**, New York Daily News Albany Bureau Chief
- Josefa Velasquez**, Investigative Reporter at Sludge

The media panel also included a College of Saint Rose journalism student, **Takora McIntyre**. Takora is a junior majoring in communications at The College of Saint Rose with a concentration in journalism. Her work has been featured on the Times Union's Pine Hills blog.

The debate itself had great media coverage and our social media posts were shared hundreds of times. The livestream itself has been viewed by over 80,000 people and the Facebook post has been shared by 496 users. Overall we had great engagement and visibility around the event and everyone agreed it was a tremendous success.

LWVNY 100th Anniversary Events Committee

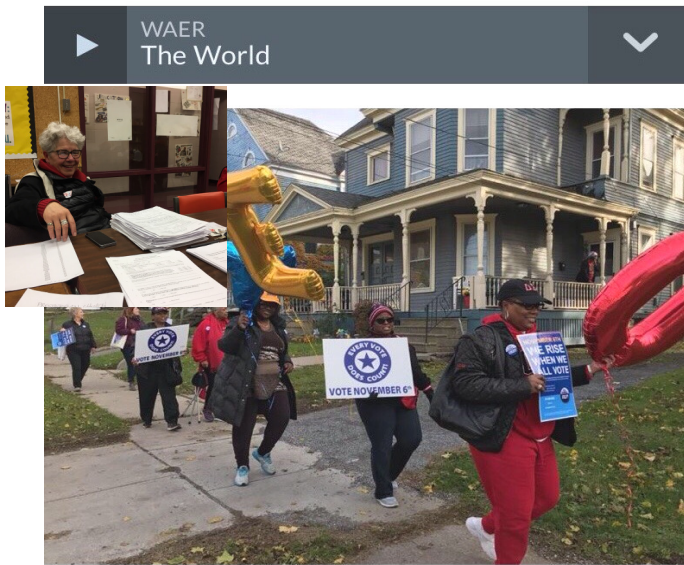
The LWVNY events committee has been busy discussing what we can do to spread the word and raise awareness of what we have accomplished in 100 years. To date we hope to focus the LWVNY biennial Convention (June 7-9, 2019 in Albany) on this anniversary with a celebration on Saturday evening. In November of 2019 LWVNY and LWVNYC will hold a joint fundraising event in the LWV of NYC.

We are encouraging all local Leagues to host events during the year. Leagues may join with other nearby Leagues or host their own. These events can be both fundraising and/or a gathering to celebrate. It can be a big event or simply a house party. We hope everyone will join the effort to promote our historic past and what we hope to accomplish in the next 100 years.

Co-Chairs,
Barb Thomas & Joan Johnson



GETTING OUT THE VOTE - ELECTION - 2018



Local Residents Participate in 'Get Out The Vote' Walk to Advocate for Voter Participation 🗳️

A band of local Syracuse residents went door to door in the 'Get Out the Vote' Walk on Sunday. But they weren't celebrating anything. The non-partisan group marched down the 2 nd and 5 th election districts in the 19 th ward of Syracuse, trying to convince people to vote.



Onondaga VOTES ! Photos

VOTER SERVICE REPORT - JOAN DURANT





This was a very busy summer and fall and a look back on what we did in collaboration with Onondaga VOTES!

- Worked with the Department of Correction and Community Supervision to register parolees who received a pardon to vote.
- Attended 16 Naturalization Ceremonies and registered new citizens.
- Received a grant from the Gifford Foundation to Get Out the Vote (GOTV) on Syracuse Southside. From mid-September to Election Day over 100 volunteers knocked on doors to educate registered voters on the importance of voting every year.
- Registered voters at libraries and community events.
- Registered voters at the Justice Center and Jamesville.
- Moderated a candidate forum for the LWV of Cazenovia.
- Acted as the neutral election monitors at 9 Syracuse Housing Tenant Association elections.
- Registered over 1,000 new voters.








What's upcoming for 2019?

- Visit signup.com at <http://signup.com/go/XZBRRWf> (new signup address) to volunteer for 2019 Naturalization Ceremonies. More activities will be added.

LWVNY CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ETHICS REFORM

<p>Ban “Pay to Play</p> 	<p>Ban “Pay to Play.” Strict “pay to play” restrictions on state vendors. The U.S. Attorney’s charges that \$800 million in state contracts were rigged to benefit campaign contributors to the governor underscores the need to strictly limit contributions from those seeking state contracts.</p>	<p>A.6808 (Galef)/ S.6306 (Avella) An act to amend the public officers law, in relation to prohibiting members of the legislature from obtaining funding and providing such funds to any business entity or not-for-profit entities in which such officials, members, domestic partners or certain relatives hold official or legal positions.</p>
 <p>Close “LLC Loop-hole.”</p>	<p>Close “LLC Loophole.” Ban unlimited campaign contributions via Limited Liability Companies. LLCs have been at the heart of some of Albany’s largest scandals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.9758A (Simon) / S.27149 (Kavanagh) An act to amend the election law, in relation to political contributions
<p>Strict Limits on Outside Income</p> 	<p>Strict Limits on Outside Income. Impose limits on the outside income for legislators and the executive branch. Moonlighting by top legislative leaders and top members of the executive branch has triggered indictments by the federal prosecutors.</p>	<p>(A.5831) Santabarbara Relates to prohibiting outside income for members of the legislature in excess of fifteen percent of gross annual salary.</p>
<p>Create a Database of Deals</p> 	<p>Create a Database of Deals. A “Database of Deals” will list all state economic development benefits, including grants, loans or tax abatements awarded to a particular business or organization. The “Database of Deals” will also include the cost to taxpayers of each job created, and create a uniform definition of what a “job” is across subsidy programs including full-time, part-time, permanent, and contract jobs.</p>	<p>A.8175(Schimminger) Relates to the creation of a searchable database; requires the Urban Development Corporation to create or modify an existing searchable database including information on qualified participants receiving state economic development benefits.</p>

LWVNY ELECTION LAW REFORM

Issue	Description	Bill Numbers
<p>Early Voting</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The League supports enacting early voting in New York State. Currently 37 states allow for some form of early voting. Early voting should be implemented in a manner that will allow equivalent access to the polls for all voters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S.7400A (Kavanagh) Relates to establishing early voting and the New York state early voting fund
<p>Voter Registration</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The League supports Election Day registration, on the same day, as a proven method of increasing voter participation. The League supports reducing the voter registration deadline to 10 days before an election. The League supports pre-registration of 16 and 17 year olds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A.9609 (Lavine) / S.1661 (Carlucci) Allows for pre-registration of 16 and 17 year olds. S.2478A (Gianaris) Amends Constitution to remove requirement of registering to vote 10 days before an election.
<p>Automatic Voter Registration</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently 10 states and DC have automatic voter registration (AVR) The League supports an opt-in AVR system that would not require voters to duplicate information. The League supports all state agencies participating in an AVR program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S.3304A (Gianaris) Enacts the "voter empowerment act of New York" to streamline the process for registering to vote. Allows state agencies to automatically register voters.
<p>No-Excuse Absentee</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The League supports a constitutional amendment to allow for no-excuse absentee voting. Currently 27 states and the District of Columbia allow for no-excuse absentee voting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. 7623 (Vanel) / S.0840 (Comrie) Amends the State Constitution to authorize ballot by mail by removing cause for absentee ballot voting.
<p>Ballot Design</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The League supports improvements to ballot design that would make a clear delineation between offices with a bold vertical bar between offices and a fine line between the candidates, a larger font with an absolute minimum size, and fill-in circles in black instead of gray. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S.1512 (Avella) Creates the voter friendly ballot act which would create a ballot layout that is easy for voters to read and use.
<p>Single June Primary</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The League supports legislation that would create a single combined congressional and state June primary date and would bring New York State into compliance with the Military Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A.9925 (Lavine)/ S.3562 (Stewart-Cousins) Allows for the consolidation of state and congressional primaries to create a single June primary.
<p>Electronic Poll Books</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The League strongly supports replacing printed poll books with electronic poll books to eliminate time and resources spent producing paper poll books and updating voter information, and to speed up processing voters at the polls on Election Day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A.5547 (Cusick)/S.2788 (Akshar) Authorizes counties to employ computer generated registration lists; updates the list of supplies to be delivered to poll sites.



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 SYRACUSE NY 13218**

JANUARY 2019



JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK IN NEW YORK SINCE 1919

Individual Member \$55.00 Household* \$80.00 Full Time Student Free

*Two members in the same household

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ (H) _____ (C)

Email _____ Date _____

To join call us at (315)396-8225, email us at league@lwvsyr.org or mail this form to Syracuse Metro LWV, PO Box 11866, Syracuse NY 13218.

ANNUAL DUES—July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019

Please share this information with others who have expressed interest in our work or who have thought about becoming a member of the League..