



## President's Letter

This is my last letter as President of the Schenectady League. Joan Fucillo will be taking over as President, thank goodness!

We're looking forward to seeing our League friends at the Annual Dinner on May 19 at 5:30 PM at the Turf Tavern, Scotia. Kim Siciliano, Executive Director at the YWCA will be our guest speaker. **If you'd like to help out the women at the Y, they're always in need of toiletries so we'll be collecting them at the dinner.**

I'll be taking Joan's place as Voter Services Chair. I learned a lot from Joan when we staffed a voter registration table together at EarthFest. It's amazing how effective a bowl of Jolly Ranchers candy is to draw people to the table- I'd vote for chocolate but Jolly Ranchers don't melt on a hot day!

The other big draw is a bundle of small American flags. Calling out to children passing by- would you like a flag- causes the parents to stop. And then you can engage the adults in current events, while carefully avoiding partisan discussions.

EarthFest took place shortly before school elections occurred. We called out to people to remember to vote in the school elections, with a nice placard showing the date. We also had flyers with information on knowing your rights with ICE. And, of course, we always have Your Right To Vote brochures for college students, persons with disabilities, formerly incarcerated individuals and homeless people.

I used to think our primary goal at tabling events was to register people to vote, but Joan and Ellen Daviero have taught me that information on the whole political process is

equally important. By the way, we registered only one person to vote at EarthFest but it was a great success at getting information out to the public.

*Cheryl Nechamen*  
*President*

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# VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Help us empower voters and defend democracy.



## Voter Services Report

Serendipity: Finding valuable or agreeable things not sought for; luck that takes the form of such finding.

Recently, I was driving home when I saw tables and tents being set up in the bank parking lot, and a long line of people waiting, grocery bags in hand. Mostly women, of all ages, and children. I parked the car and went to see what was going on. It was a pop-up food bank getting ready to open.

[SG Fresh Table](#) (Scotia-Glenville), the group operating this pop-up, is part of the [Fresh Table Pop Up Community Pantry](#), a mobile food pantry and authorized member of the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. SG Fresh Table offers free fresh produce, meat, and dairy to people in need—no questions asked.

The mobile pantry pops up once a month. When I stopped by in May, the pantry was at the First National Bank, Scotia Main Branch. In June, it will be at the First National Bank, Scotia-Glenville Branch on Rte. 50.

While waiting for a chance to talk with Justin Cook (who co-founded Fresh Table with Kim Talbot), I watched volunteers scrambling to get everything ready and talked to a woman cradling a baby, a little girl with a white flower clipped to her soft dark hair. This young mother said she had to go to her car to breastfeed, but her son would hold their place in line. He was eight, she said proudly. A little guy swinging a large bag, he waved to his mom.

When Justin was free to talk, he thought I was there as a volunteer. I explained that I'm a

member of LWV of Schenectady and was interested in what we could do together. He got excited, saying that of all people, the ones standing in that line really need voter services. He'd be happy to host us.

As League members, we keep our eyes open for opportunities to offer our fellow citizens the information and assistance they need to exercise their right to vote. A willful search for serendipity.

We'll be at First National Bank, Scotia-Glenville Branch, on Wednesday, June 17, 6-7:30 pm.

And on June 6, at the Kids Arts Fest, Jay Street, Schenectady. Noon-4 pm. Sign up to volunteer at [LWV voter registration](#).

Any questions? Email me at [lwvschenectady@gmail.com](mailto:lwvschenectady@gmail.com).

*Joan Fucillo*

*Voter Services*

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## **Fragrance Sensitivity**

One of our members has an extreme sensitivity to fragrances, such that it triggers migraine headaches and brain fog. While wearing perfume is a personal choice, our member would greatly appreciate it if you could remember to abstain from perfume at League meetings or get togethers.

**An excerpt from [Fragrance Free Nation on Facebook](#):**

It is framed as a personal preference rather than a critical issue of accessibility and health.

Meanwhile, people are quietly disappearing from public life.

They sit near the exits.

They leave early.

They decline the invitations.

They stay home.

And eventually, exhausted by a world that refuses to accommodate them, many stop explaining themselves at all. Not because they stopped caring about life, but because the environment became simply too hard to survive.

The grief is real.

The exclusion is real.

The loss is real.

The air we share determines who gets to participate in society.

Choose fragrance-free.

*Cheryl Nechamen*

*President*



**Candidate Forum for NY's 44th Senate District Democratic Primary**

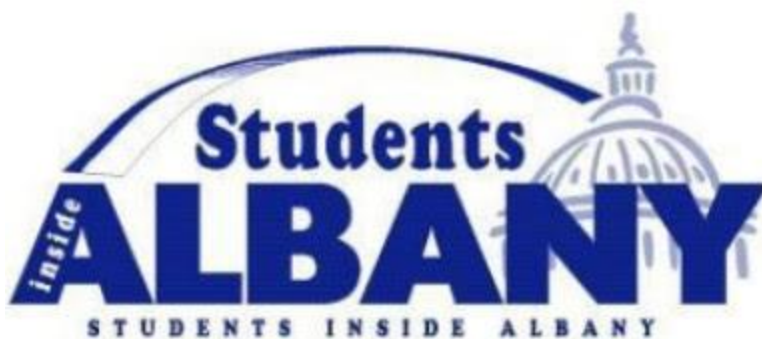
The League of Women Voters of Saratoga and Schenectady Counties are hosting a candidate forum for NY's 44th Senate District Democratic Primary on **Thursday, June 11th at 7 pm on Zoom.**

Both candidates, Patrick Nelson and Sarah Rogerson, will participate. The winner of this election will run against incumbent Republican Jim Tedisco. The forum will address issues that are important to constituents in the 44th Senate District. Voters will hear directly from the candidates asking for their vote. This event is open to the public, who can [register here.](#)

**We need three volunteers: one to vet questions during the week prior to the event, and two volunteers to act as times during the event itself. If you are willing to pitch in, please email Nancy Tudor at [lwvschenectady@gmail.com](mailto:lwvschenectady@gmail.com) as soon as possible.**

The public is also encouraged to **submit questions for candidates** to [lwvsquestions@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsquestions@gmail.com) no later than **Monday June 8th**. Please put NY Senate 44 Democratic Primary in the subject line.

*Nancy Tudor*



**The Students Inside Albany Conference**

The 2026 [Students Inside Albany Conference](#), sponsored by the [League of Women Voters](#)

[of New York State Education Foundation](#), brought 59 high schoolers from across the state to the Albany from May 17–20, 2026. This year’s event successfully equipped students with the tools to participate in representative government and value their civic voice.

As a chaperone, I watched our students from Schenectady (Ethan Brougham and Hema Singh) transform into active, informed citizens ready to engage with representative government. It was incredibly rewarding to watch as they immerse themselves in the New York State’s legislative process.

You can find a recap of the workshops, panels, and activities that made this year’s conference so impactful [here](#).



### Highlights & Memorable Moments

- **Shadowing Success:** Both Ethan and Hema had the incredible opportunity to shadow their Assembly Members (Phil Steck and Angelo Santabarbara) on the chamber floor, gaining a firsthand look at how bills are debated. They also had the opportunity to spend time with their State Senator, James Tedisco, who presented them with a certificate.
- **Inspiring Future Goals:** Several students raised their hands to indicate that they are now seriously considering a future career in public service.

- **Taking Action:** The absolute highlight was watching several students proudly fill out their voter registration form at the end of the conference.

*Maxine Brisport*

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### **Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act Letter to Editor**

The following Letter to the Editor was published in the Daily Gazette on May 29, 2026. Nancy Tudor drafted this letter with input from Board members following Santabarbara's refusal to meet with a representative of the League.

#### **Santabarbara must back packaging bill**

We need the state Assembly and Assemblymember Angelo Santabarbara to support the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (A1749A) this year.

This bill is essential in reducing single-use plastic packaging, an excessive amount of plastic waste that is created every day.

Passing the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act would reduce waste, increase recycling efforts, lower toxicity in food products, cut greenhouse gas emissions and save local governments and taxpayers millions of dollars.

This bill is currently pending in Albany and it is time for Assemblymember Santabarbara to support it.

There is concern that he has not prioritized even meeting with his constituents, yet he is seen meeting with industry lobbyists at the Capitol. The people elected him and now they are asking him to reduce plastic.

We need his vote to get A1749A over this very important finish line.

Voters are aware of the costs beyond business's bottom line: our health and our children's, the environment and water supply, the costs associated with cleaning it all up. Voters deserve to be heard, not just the industrial lobby's self-interests.

Cheryl Nechamen  
Schenectady

*The writer is president of the League of Women Voters of Schenectady County.*



**Top row: Aramis Suarez. Bottom row from left: Cheryl Nechamen, Clyanna Lightbourn, Jamel Muhammad**

### **Democracy During Detention Panel Report**

**We hosted our Democracy During Detention Act (DDDA) panel discussion on Tuesday, May 19. Participants included:**

- [Adonis Richards](#), Poet Laureate of Schenectady
- [Clyanna Lightbourn](#), LWVNYS Campaign Director for the DDDA
- [Jamel Muhammad](#), Youth L.I.F.E. Support President

- [Aramis Suarez](#), Union College NAACP

If you'd like to watch the panel discussion, you can access it [here](#). You can learn more about the DDDA on the [LWVNY's website](#).

Many thanks to our panelists and to Kerrie Wolf-Piechota, who secured our venue, and Cheryl Nechamen, who served as moderator.

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### **Civilian Police Review Board**

I am our League's representative on the City of Schenectady's Civilian Police Review Board. The purpose of the CPRB is to improve communication between the police department and the community, to increase police accountability and credibility with the public, and to create a complaint review process that is free from bias and informed by actual police practices. If you would like to learn more, you can review the [CPRB brochure](#) as well as read the agendas and minutes from recent monthly meetings on the [CPRB's website](#).

One of our most recent projects was to update and translate the referral form for complaints. It was approved by the Schenectady City Council at their December 2025 meeting. We are awaiting news on when the Spanish version will be available. The CPRB's annual report was submitted in May. Some highlights include the following: In 2025, we reviewed 18 cases and 27 violations. At the May meeting, the board met with Chief Whipple and the Electric City Recharge planning group. CPRB plans to share what we do with different organizations and neighborhood organizations in the fall of 2026.

CPRB meetings are held on the **second Wednesday of every month at 6 pm at City Hall, 2nd Floor Courtroom, 105 Jay Street, Schenectady**, and members of the public are welcome to attend. The next meeting is on **Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 6 pm at City Hall**.

*Megan Haessig*

*Secretary & Member, Civilian Police Review Board*

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## The RAPID Survey Project

You might be interested in exploring the [RAPID Survey Project](#), based in the Stanford Center on Early Childhood. It collects data from parents of young children, child care providers, and pediatric healthcare providers across the country. RAPID seeks to understand and elevate the experiences and challenges facing families and to provide timely, actionable insights that inform policies and programs that help each and every child thrive from the start.

Be sure to explore by [topic](#) and [geography](#).

If you're interested in talking about supporting good early childhood education, feel free to contact me at [lwschenectady@gmail.com](mailto:lwschenectady@gmail.com)

*Wendy Shutts Bender*

*LCSW, Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Mentor*

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**JOIN/RENEW**

## Membership

There are no new members this month.

### ***Membership Updating:***

If you have received an email from me, Ellen Daviero, about needing to update your membership and would like help please email and I would be happy to help! My contact information is [lwschenectady@gmail.com](mailto:lwschenectady@gmail.com), look forward to hearing from you. You can

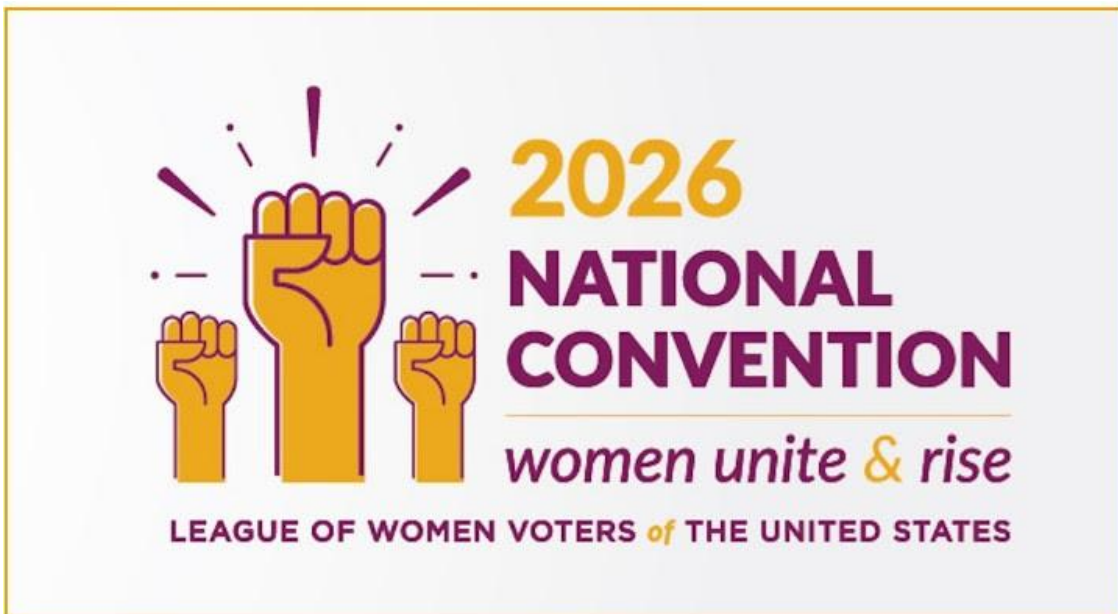
also [log in or sign up here](#) to join or renew online.

***Upcoming Projects:***

We are currently using the VAN (Voter Activation Network) online database from public voting rolls to do outreach to registered voters who have not voted in the last 2 elections as well as 18- to 30-year-old registered voters who have not voted. Our plan is to create a text message to send to encourage them to vote. after the primary in June.

If you are interested in this project or a postcard project, please reach out to me at [lwvschenectady@gmail.com](mailto:lwvschenectady@gmail.com)

*Ellen Daviero*  
*Membership*



**League of Women Voters of the US Convention**

The 57th Biennial League of Women Voters National Convention will take place from June 26 to 28, 2026 in Columbus, Ohio. Our Schenectady County League will be sending Kate Rose to attend in person, but anyone can choose to attend individually at their own expense either in-person or virtually.

Consider registering to attend this powerful multi-day event where League members from across the country come together to network, learn, and chart the course for the next biennium. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

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### **Wanted: Your Pictures**

Do you have pictures of our membership in action, perhaps registering voters, tabling, or lobbying, that you are willing to share? We'd love to include them in this Bulletin or in social media. Please send them to Katie Beltramo at [lwschenectady@gmail.com](mailto:lwschenectady@gmail.com)

Thank you!

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### **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”**

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## Mark Your Calendar

- Thursday, June 4 at 5:30 pm: LWVSC Annual Dinner at the Turf Tavern
  - Saturday, June 6 from 12-4 pm: tabling at Kids Arts Fest, Jay Street, Schenectady - [sign up to volunteer](#)
  - Wednesday, June 10 at 6 pm: LWVSC Board Meeting at the Swanker Board Room at the downtown Schenectady Public Library. All members are welcome!
  - Wednesday, June 10 at 6 pm: Civilian Police Review Board Meeting at 2nd Floor Courtroom at City Hall, 105 Jay Street., members of the public are welcome to attend
  - Thursday, June 11 at 7 pm: Candidate Forum for NY's 44th Senate District Democratic Primary on Zoom- [register here](#)
  - Wednesday, June 17 from 6-7:30 pm: tabling at First National Bank, Scotia-Glenville Branch on Rte. 50 - [sign up to volunteer](#)
  - Tuesday, June 23, 2026: Primary Elections
  - Friday, June 26-Sunday, June 28, 2026: National LWV Convention in Columbus, OH - [learn more & register](#)
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## Board Members

President: Cheryl Nechamen,

Vice President: Joan Fucillo,

Voter Services Chair: Joan Fucillo

Membership: Ellen Daviero,

Secretary: Kate Rose,

Bulletin Editor: Katie Beltramo



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