

June 2025

---



## Annual Dinner

Wednesday, June 18, 5:30 PM

Turf Tavern, 40 Mohawk Ave., Scotia

Guest Speaker: Rev. Amaury Tañón-Santos,

Executive Director, Sycamore Collaborative

Expectations, Reliability, and Government – A Reflection on Food Access,

Democracy, and Community Resilience

Buffet Dinner \$35

**Please RSVP to Cheryl Nechamen at [lwvschenectady@gmail.com](mailto:lwvschenectady@gmail.com) by  
June 8**

## VSC Report, June 2025

As of now, the SAVE Act (Safeguard American Voter Eligibility), promising tectonic shifts in who, how, and when people may register to vote, is wending its way through the U.S. Senate. Its passage and implementation – whether all or in part – will affect our League’s core mission of registering voters. At the same time, our identity is being challenged from another front: New York State is considering automatic voter registration for all eligible voters. The passage of either, or both, will surely change what we do and how we do it.

While we understand the purpose of the SAVE Act is to restrict voting rights, and the purpose of New York’s move to automatic registration is to expand those rights, the implication for our work is the same – how do we shift from registering voters to educating and giving them the tools they need to make the best choices for them and their families?

It's a cliché (maybe worse) but each endeavor starts with one step. I arrived at the Schenectady Greenmarket on May 25, with VR forms in English and Spanish, a poster on the SAVE Act, information about the June primaries and a list of offices throughout Schenectady County that are on the ballot this fall. Scotia-Glenville’s school budget failed to pass, so I added copies of a recent *Daily Gazette* article that details the process for passing a new budget or reintroducing the old one.

The results? A couple from Scotia was happy (startled) to get an article with information about the June budget vote; others were informed about the SAVE Act; some were glad to see the county’s election information; and others took forms to join the LWV or jotted down the LWVUS website. Riley Hart, UniteNY, brought palm cards and talked to marketgoers about UniteNY’s proposals to revise some of New York’s voting laws.

The highlight was meeting a teacher from Mont Pleasant Middle School who wanted materials about voting. Her goal is to prepare a civics lesson for next fall and asked to work with us on a voter registration event at the school, so parents can register to vote. She left with sample VR forms in English and Spanish, a cheat sheet for filling out the forms, four “First Vote” pamphlets and my email address so we can coordinate in the new school year. And, we got two new voters.

Joan Fucillo  
Voter Services

## Citizenship Mentoring Group - June 2025

### “USCIS Deploys Common Sense Tools to Verify Voters”

According to US Citizenship and Immigration Services, a branch of Homeland Security, we are in dire need of a system that will eliminate voter fraud caused by “aliens”. Without providing credible facts or proven statistics, the current administration insists that our elections are no longer safe due to votes being cast by non-citizens.

Retroactive to April 1, 2025, USCIS will partner with the Social Security Administration to verify citizenship and /or immigration status using social security numbers, which most states and local agencies do not usually collect. This system is part of the larger SAVE Act (not yet passed by Congress) that will affect voters in upcoming elections, requiring proof of citizenship before being allowed to vote.

States have been invited to register to use SAVE “for verifying lawful US citizenship and immigration status operated by USCIS, providing federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local agencies with US citizenship and immigration status information to help ensure the eligibility of individuals applying for *certain public benefits and licenses, including voter eligibility verification*” (my italics).

This is another of the many reason that LWVUS does not support the Save Act, and why we must continue to fight against its passage.

Ann Hatke, Coordinator, Citizenship Mentoring Group

## Summer Lunch Program

It's officially Summer, and we've been invited by the Sycamore Collaborative (formerly known as SICM) to help in their Summer Lunch Program. I hope you can join us!

We'll be serving lunches to Schenectady children during the week of July 14-18 in the Central Park Picnic Pavillion. Our volunteer time each day is 11:30 until 1:00 pm. Prepared lunches will be dropped off at our site at 12:00, and we will have a Sycamore supervisor with us at all times. We will need at least 2 volunteers each day, but a few more would be great.

One of the requirements is to attend a required training (even if you have already volunteered in the past). The training will be held Tuesday, June 3 (time is TBA). If you cannot attend this training session in person, you will be provided with a video to watch.

This is a worthy program that helps deliver a healthy meal to our community's children, and LWVSC has been involved for a number of years. Sign up at [Summer Lunch Program](#).

## Students Inside Albany

We were pleased to sponsor Sonia Bhola from Schenectady High School to participate in Students Inside Albany this year. It's a great opportunity for students to learn more about our state government.



<i>President</i>	<i>Cheryl Nechamen</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Joan Fucillo</i>
<i>Voter Services Chair</i>	<i>Joan Fucillo</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Heide Westergaard</i>
<i>Bulletin Editor</i>	<i>Cindy Engel</i>

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”*

**Welcome New Members:**

Shannon Elliott  
Sarah Schmidt