

taxes. The League favors implementing a property tax circuit breaker based on need, with an annual cost of living adjustment (in lieu of the STAR program) to alleviate the impact of high property taxes on some households.

## EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

### Fair Pay

The League supports fair pay reforms, including passage of equal-pay-for-job-titles-of-comparable-worth legislation.

### ERA

An Equal Rights Amendment for all protected classes should be passed in New York State. The League supports an amendment that would make it clear that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on account of their race, color, ethnicity, national origin, disability, creed, religion, or sex including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, reproductive healthcare and reproductive autonomy.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### Domestic Violence

The League supports measures to reduce the incidence and effects of domestic violence. We also support protections against discrimination for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.

### Human Trafficking

The League supports efforts to stop human forced labor and sex trafficking through legislation and changes in public policy. Victims of human trafficking should be provided with services to facilitate integration into the community.

## RURAL ISSUES

### Broadband Access

The League supports Digital Equity including access to efficient, high speed, and affordable internet as a public good for all residents in their homes, schools, and businesses regardless of geographic location or neighborhood demographics along with public, educational, and governmental (PEG) access media which is now increasingly accessible only over the internet.

## CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

### New York State Governor Kathy Hochul

NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, New York 12224 · (518) 474-8390  
For additional information, please visit the Governor's Web site: [www.governor.ny.gov](http://www.governor.ny.gov)

### New York State Senate

c/o Your Senator, Room #, Albany, NY 12247  
Senate Operator: (518) 455-2800  
Legislative Info: (518) 455-3216  
Bill Status Hotline: (518) 455-7545 / (800) 342-9860  
Web site: [www.nysenate.gov/](http://www.nysenate.gov/)

### New York State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins

Majority Leader  
Legislative Office Building, Room 907  
Albany, New York 12247 · (518) 455-2585  
[scousins@nysenate.gov](mailto:scousins@nysenate.gov)

### New York State Senator Robert G. Ort

Minority Leader  
Capitol Building, Room 315  
Albany, New York 12247 · (518) 455-2024  
[Ortt@nysenate.gov](mailto:Ortt@nysenate.gov)

### New York State Assembly

c/o Your Assemblymember, Room#, Albany, NY 12248  
Assembly Operator: (518) 455-4100  
Public Info: (518) 455-4218  
Bill Status Hotline: (518) 455-7545 / (800) 342-9860  
Web site: [www.nyassembly.gov](http://www.nyassembly.gov)

### New York State Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie

Speaker  
Legislative Office Building, Room 932  
Albany, New York 12248 · (518) 455-3791  
[speaker@nyassembly.gov](mailto:speaker@nyassembly.gov)

### New York State Assemblyman William A. Barclay

Minority Leader  
Legislative Office Building, Room 933  
Albany, New York 12248 · (518) 455-3751  
[BarclaW@nyassembly.gov](mailto:BarclaW@nyassembly.gov)

### New York State Legislature Legislative Session Information

Bill Text, Status, Summaries,  
Sponsor Memos, Floor Votes  
<http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us>



# 2023

# LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

League of Women Voters® of New York State

League of Women Voters® of New York State  
The Blake Annex | 1 Steuben Place | Albany, NY 12207  
(518) 465-4162 | [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org) | [lwvny@lwvny.org](mailto:lwvny@lwvny.org)



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## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE

The League of Women Voters of New York State (LWVNYS) is a unique, multi-issue, nonpartisan, political organization. It encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through advocacy and education. We can take action under all of our positions, as outlined in LWVNYS Impact on Issues. We also often take action under national positions identified in the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) Impact on Issues. This booklet highlights some of the key issues that we anticipate taking significant action on in the 2023 Legislative Session.

### TAKE ACTION! IT'S EASY!

To take action on the issues listed in the brochure or any other issue, contact your elected officials and make your voice heard!

To learn more about a particular issue and/or how you can help advance our legislative agenda, you can contact LWVNYS office at 518-465-4162, email [lwvny@lwvny.org](mailto:lwvny@lwvny.org), or contact a member of the LWVNYS Issues Committee:

**Judie Gorenstein**, President  
[judiel728@aol.com](mailto:judiel728@aol.com)

**Sally Robinson**, VP/ Issues & Advocacy  
[sally.s.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:sally.s.robinson@gmail.com)

**Laura Ladd Bierman**, Executive Director  
[Laura@lwvny.org](mailto:Laura@lwvny.org)

**Erica Smitka**, Deputy Director  
[Erica@lwvny.org](mailto:Erica@lwvny.org)

**For information on the State Legislature and Pending Legislation**  
<https://nyassembly.gov/>

<https://nysenate.gov>

<http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/>  
(Bill Text, Status, Summaries, Sponsor Memos, Floor Votes)

#### Join the League!

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all persons 16 years and older. There are 43 local Leagues across New York State. Joining at any level automatically confers membership at every level: local, state and national and Membership provides the opportunity to be actively involved in local, state and national issues.

#### Why Become a Member?

Because you want to make a difference. You know the future depends on people like you—people learning about the issues, speaking out and seeking positive solutions to the problems confronting our communities and our country. When you join the League of Women Voters, you're doing something good for democracy – and good for you. As a member of the League, you will:

- Stay Informed About Issues and Government
- Make Your Voice Heard
- Sharpen Your Advocacy Skills

Visit [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org) to join today!

#### No-Excuse Absentee Voting

The League supports an absentee voting system that does not require voters to provide a reason for requesting an absentee ballot.

### GOOD GOVERNMENT REFORM

#### Campaign Finance

The League believes that additional meaningful reform of the current laws is necessary for a successful public financing system. Priorities for reform include further reduction of all contribution limits, including contributions to parties and special “pay-to-play” limits on contributions by lobbyists and those who do business with the state. The League believes that party housekeeping accounts should be banned or significantly reduced and that transfers of campaign contributions should not be allowed. The personal use of campaign funds by candidates should be banned

and campaign fundraising during the legislative session restricted. The League believes that there needs to be independent and robust enforcement for all candidates.

#### Ethics

The League will continue to advocate for the effective implementation and improvements of ethics laws. The new Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (CELG) should be monitored to ensure it provides for effective and independent monitoring of state ethics.

### HEALTHCARE

The League supports equitable access to quality care, public health investments, health and safety standards that protect patients and providers, cost-effective payment and delivery alternatives, and regular public evaluation. Regular, evidence-driven public reviews should identify inequitable accessibility and outcomes needing reform. The League supports single-payer public financing to reduce administrative and drug costs and promote affordable, equitable, quality healthcare for all.

#### Medical Aid in Dying

The League supports the option of medical aid in dying for the terminally ill.

### JUDICIAL ISSUES

#### Streamlining of the Court System

The League supports a unified state court system. The League believes judges should be chosen on the basis of merit and continues to support improvements in the judicial selection process. Candidates should be proactively encouraged to participate in the current system of Independent Judicial Elections Qualifications Commissions.

#### Support of Adequate Indigent Defense Services

The League supports a consistent statewide system with oversight by an Independent Public Defense Commission to ensure indigent defense is more equitable and uniform throughout the state.

#### Alternatives to Incarceration

The League supports alternatives to incarceration for appropriate offenders. Drug and mental health courts that divert defendants to a more rehabilitative process and ex-offender reentry programs should be monitored and improved where appropriate.

#### Fundamentally Reform Our Criminal Justice System

The League supports a criminal justice system that is at all stages just, effective, equitable and transparent. This includes the elimination of systemic bias affecting predominantly marginalized

communities; policing practices that promote safety for both law enforcement officers and the communities they serve; collaboration between government and community throughout every stage of the criminal justice system; humane treatment and the rehabilitation of those who have been incarcerated; and reliance on evidence-based research in decision-making about law-enforcement programs and policies.

### NATURAL RESOURCES

#### Energy and Climate Change

The League supports legislation, regulation and executive action to protect natural resources, public health, and the economy from impacts of the fossil fuel industry. The League favors the development of renewable energy policy for the state's transportation, building, agriculture and other sectors to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, slow climate change and establish climate justice in communities that are currently disproportionately adversely impacted. To achieve parity, the state should advance the transition to renewable energy by developing subsidies for qualifying projects.

#### Hazardous Waste

The League supports the proper labeling and disposal of hazardous waste products and a ban on importing drilling and other “hazardous” waste from other states. Actions to move New York toward a Zero Waste future should be promoted.

#### Agriculture

The League supports policies that protect food production and distribution while diverting food waste from New York's landfills, incinerators and other waste treatment facilities. To the fullest extent possible, the League also supports redirecting edible excess food to the state's food insecure population.

### STATE FINANCES AND EDUCATION

#### Greater Equity in Education Financing

The League believes past Campaign for Fiscal Equity court-ordered state aid increases should be funded irrespective of the property tax cap. The League also opposes the use of “geographic shares” as a basis for allocating either operating or capital aid and believes that the past practices of “holding harmless” school districts and apportioning incremental aid by geographic shares perpetuate inequities for both pupils and taxpayers.

#### Reform of the Property Tax System

The League advocates for uniform equitable assessment and property tax systems. The League accepts the necessity of local property taxes, while at the same time opposing overreliance on property

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