



October, 2022

Letter from the President

Dear LWVSC Friends,

As Election Day approaches, we are becoming more and more aware of the threats to our democracy. Daily news stories tell us about states that have made it more difficult for voters to get to the polls, pre-election challenges to registered voters, and people who are afraid to sign up to be poll workers. For those of us who have been voting for decades, this election season is worrisome, to say the least. What does our national League have to say about this?

Here are just two examples of legal cases in which the LWV participated recently:

“The League of Women Voters and Voting Rights Advocates Notify Georgia of State and Federal Voting Violations
9/22/2022

Lawrenceville, GA – Today the League of Women Voters of Georgia and other voting rights advocates, notified the Georgia Secretary of State and Gwinnett County that the county has been in violation of state and federal laws by illegally sustaining pre-election challenges to the eligibility of registered voters. The League, the Georgia State Conference of the NAACP, Gwinnett County branch of NAACP, GALEO Latino Community Development Fund, Inc., and Common Cause sent the notice letter as a prerequisite to filing a lawsuit under the NVRA.”

“The League of Women Voters and the Missouri NAACP Sue Over Law Criminalizing Voter Engagement Efforts
8/22/2022

Jefferson City, MO – Two nonpartisan civic engagement organizations sued the state of Missouri and Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft in Cole County Circuit Court to block provisions of one of our nations most extreme laws restricting voter registration activity and distribution of absentee ballot applications. The law violates the core political speech by securely curtailing the ability to engage with voters.”

You can read more about the multiple legal interventions of the League of Women Voters on their [new](https://www.lwv.org/search?keywords=Legal+Center&sort_by=field_date) Legal Center on the national LWV website:

https://www.lwv.org/search?keywords=Legal+Center&sort_by=field_date

I feel privileged to be a part of our local, state and national Leagues in our push for free, safe, and fair elections. See you all on November 8!

In League,
Ann Hatke

Voter Services Report

Early Voting

When can I vote early?

Early Voting for the November 8, 2022 general election will be from: **Saturday, October 29 through Sunday, November 6.**

Where can I vote early?

In Schenectady County, the early voting poll sites will be:

Hon. Karen B. Johnson Library
Central Branch, 99 Clinton
Street Schenectady, NY 12305

Glenville Senior Center
32 Worden Road
Glenville, NY 12302

**South Schenectady Fire
Station** 6 Old Mariaville Rd.
Rotterdam, NY 12306

Niskayuna Town Hall
1 Niskayuna Circle
Niskayuna, NY 12309

All voters can vote at any of the early voting locations within Schenectady County during the following hours:

Saturday, October 29, 2022
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 30, 2022
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Monday, October 31, 2022
Noon – 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 1, 2022
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 2, 2022
Noon – 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 3, 2022
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday, November 4, 2022
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 5, 2022
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 6, 2022
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

On November 8, we'll be voting for a number of federal, state and local offices:

Federal: U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative

State: Governor, Lt. Governor, Comptroller, Attorney General, Supreme Court Justice, NYS Assembly and NYS Senate

Local: Scotia Mayor and Trustees, Glenville Town Justice, Schenectady City Court Judge

To find out who's running in your district, go to Ballotpedia.org or Vote411.org.

Cheryl Nechamen
Voter Services Chair



<i>President</i>	<i>Ann Hatke</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Maxine Brisport</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Heide Westergaard</i>
<i>Bulletin Editor</i>	<i>Nicole Salamone</i>

Get to know our new members:

Susan Greenquist

Susan recently moved to the Capital District area from Colorado. She is a retired copywriter and editor, having worked primarily for Fortune 500 companies. She has joined the LWV to become more involved with local communities and pursue her interest in political issues and voter services. Susan has helped with voter registration this September. She is also interested in citizenship mentoring, education and other voter related issues.

Susan's hobbies are nature and wildlife photography.

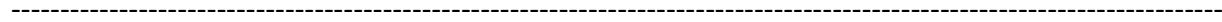
Candice Noonan- Toly

Candice is retired from the New York State Department of Health, employed as a data analyst with the Bureau of Data Systems Surveillance (part of the Division of Epidemiology). Her LWV interests include voter related issues health, the environment, judicial issues, data bases and Facebook.

Candace is an avid traveler. She and her husband have recently returned from an African safari. She is a dedicated reader, a member of the local Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and a City Mission meal program volunteer.



*The League of Women Voters
of Schenectady County
invites you to a Fall Cocktail Party
Tuesday, October 11 from 5:00 ~ 7:00 pm
at the Mohawk Golf Club
1849 Union Street ~ Schenectady
Hors d'Oeuvres will be served ~ cash bar
Music by Trio Capriccio
RSVP to hatkeann@gmail.com*



A Word to the Wise...

If you don't get a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.

Shirley Chisholm

Strong women don't have 'attitudes', we have standards.

Marilyn Monroe

Women are like tea bags. We don't know our true value until we are in hot water.

Eleanor Roosevelt

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”



STATE VOTER

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy
September 2022



President's Message

Judie Gorenstein, judieL728@aol.com

Election Day, November 8, 2022 is about 6 weeks away, with Early Voting less than 5. Most everyone is registered to vote, but people have until October 14th to register. Now is the time to make sure you have you done everything you could to be knowledgeable, ready to vote yourself and get out the vote.

- Do you know anyone who is just turning 18 or has recently moved and needs to register? Now is the time!
- Do you know how and when to apply for an absentee ballot? Now is the time!
- Have you gone to VOTE411 (the LWV On line Voter Guide) and checked out the candidates on your ballot? Have you told your friends about VOTE411? Now is the time!
- Do you know when the league is holding candidate events for your election districts and made plans to attend? Now is the time!
- Have you signed up for LWVNY texting service? If not text VOTENY to 47474 to get alerts and reminders. Now is the time!
- Have you made your plan for voting and asked friends or family to come with you? Now is the time!
- Do you have any ideas or strategies to Get Out The Vote and shared them? Now is the time!
- And of course if you have not already renewed your 2022-2023 LWV membership , now is the time!

You, our members, are our most important asset. Thank you for being a member, for your contributions, and your time!



Take Action on the NYS Environmental Bond Act!

We are thrilled to be a part of the NYS Bond Act Coalition (<https://voteyescleanwaterandjobs.com/>). We will be hosting a webinar presentation and panel on October 11th at 6:30pm that will be open to League members and the public. Register for the webinar here: <https://bit.ly/3rd2eiA>. The webinar will talk about details of the bond act, the effect it will have on labor rights and job creation in NYS, and impact it will have on NYS from the lens of environmental justice.

Below are a few important campaign updates:

Toolkits

Here is the link for two toolkits and another folder with easy to use materials:

Toolkit 1: <https://bit.ly/3LXMR7d>

Toolkit 2: <https://bit.ly/3CcAeAX>

Materials: <https://bit.ly/3dRonjw>

Videos, Social Media, and News Coverage

Share and post information from the bond act social media platforms:

- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/nybondact>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NYBondAct>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/nybondact/>

You can view & share the video spots "[C- grade](#)" and "[100 years](#)" on YouTube.

Read and share news coverage.

- Times Union: [Coalition launches seven-figure campaign for 'green' ballot measure](#)
- Daily News: [New York's \\$4.2B environmental bond act getting big boost](#)

Get Involved in the Coalition

To sign up for the Bond Act coalition email list, visit <https://cleanwaterandjobs.org/email-sign-up>.

Future Meetings

- Wednesday, October 5, 3-3:30 PM
- Wednesday, October 19, 3-3:30 PM
- Wednesday, November 2, 3-3:30 PM
- Wednesday, November 16, 3-3:30 PM (Post election wrap up)

Zoom information for all meetings:

<https://tnc.zoom.us/j/7599098933?pwd=NXhscmhLOGtMSGYzeiBrbzJ3YjNFdz09>

Meeting ID: 759 909 8933

Passcode: 5678123

Please reach out to Erica at erica@lwvny.org if you or your League has spent substantial funds to advertise this campaign (ex. printing).

Feel free to circulate the above information to members of your League and please let me know if you have any questions!

Upcoming Programs

Civic Education Series: District Attorneys, October 5th, 6:30 - 8

PM Register [HERE](#)

Presented by the New York State Public Affairs Committee of the Junior League (NYSPAC), this educational event highlights the importance of local elections and local offices. This month, join LWWNYS and NYSPAC to discuss the role that Districts Attorneys play in local government.

Women and The Vote Film Screening, October 6th, 7

PM In-Person at the New York State Museum (Albany)

Filmed on Election Day 2020 in five cemeteries across New York State, Women and the Vote is a mosaic-style documentary on the past 100 years of women's political equality, the present moment, and the possibilities for the future. Interviews and verité footage of visitors in the Bronx, Sleepy Hollow, Auburn, Rochester, and Buffalo intertwine with rich historical elements to generate connections between New York's rich suffragist legacy and contemporary voters. The screening will be followed by a brief Q&A with the filmmaker, Linda Moroney. [Click HERE for more information.](#)

NYS Environmental Bond Act, October 11th, 6:30 - 7:30

PM Register [HERE](#)

Learn more about the Environmental Bond Act that will be on the ballot in November! The League of Women Voters will be joined by speakers from The Nature Conservancy, WeAct, and the NYS Conference of Operating Engineers to learn how the Bond Act will impact the environment, the labor market, and environmental justice in NYS.

LWWNYS Youth Committee Back-to-School Event, October 12th, 6 - 7:30

PM Register [HERE](#)

This summer, LWWNYS' Youth Committee used all the input from this year's regional training to craft a resource page on our website. Our task force members are working on three areas of focus for fresh directives to engage our youth: social media literacy, challenges in the traditional classroom post-pandemic, and using more college campuses as election poll sites including how to organize campus partners for continued support. Come and join us on October 12th with feedback on any summer projects that your local League has found to be successful and other ideas that can help us better serve the thoughts, judgments, and impressions our young voters have on the sustained civic engagement process.

2022 PowHer New York Equality Summit, October 13th, 3 - 6

PM Register [HERE](#)

Join LWWNYS and PowHer New York for a conversation focusing on the urgent change that is needed to build an equitable, just, and inclusive economy. This unique gathering of advocates and thought leaders in business, non-profit, union, and government will inspire attendees to think and act boldly during this unprecedented moment created by the pandemic and escalating threats to women's rights.

Dear White Woman: Workshop & Book Discussion, October

18th Watch for the Zoom Link in the coming weeks!

Book author Kimberlee Yolanda Williams and NYT Best Selling Author Debby Irving's workshop on getting past biases into a real sisterhood. Dear White Woman, Please Come Home is Kimberlee Yolanda Williams' invitation to white women longing for authentic friendship with Black and brown women, the kind of friendship with no place for secrets, the kind of relationship where truth-telling is welcome... even when it hurts.

This workshop is brought to you by the LWVNYS in its continuing effort to support our collective journey toward policy and practice changes that will ensure an inclusive and equitable organization.



Voter Services

Nancy Rosenthal, VP for Voter Services, nancyrosenthal9@gmail.com

Now is the time for Leagues to execute what we do so well: registering new voters by October 14th, handling absentee ballot requests timely, GOTV during early voting October 29th –November 6th, and having candidate forums where we collaborate with neighboring Leagues and other organizations! National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) is a bigger event each year! And many of our Leagues participated again this year! Thanks for all of your hard work. Below are a few photos from the day - send yours to milly@lwvny.org.

State Fair

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped register voters and provide educational information to the public at the NY State Fair! We couldn't have done it without you all! The data from the Fair is as follows:

- 272 People completed voter registration forms (which we mailed to their county BOEs)
- 230 People took voter registration forms to complete later
- 23 People completed absentee ballot applications (which we mailed to their county BOEs)
- 118 People took absentee ballot applications to complete later
- 171 People had questions answered or comments received

- a 72-year-old man who had never voted before
- a formerly incarcerated person who didn't know that he could vote again
- a high school teacher who took forms and brochures for his students
- a woman who was excited to be able to complete an absentee ballot application because in the past, she couldn't get to her poll site
- a 17-year-old who was excited to learn that he could pre-register to vote - and even went and brought his friends over to the booth to also pre-register

The League's presence made a difference for these people - and all voters in NYS!

Vote 411

Vote411.org goes live October 1st. Please urge candidates in your League's area to respond so that voters can be educated and informed on all candidates running for office. The state



League will email all members a flyer on Oct. 3 - we ask you all to print it out and post it in your neighborhood or community.

Issues and Advocacy

Sally Robinson, VP for Issues and Advocacy,

Sally.s.robinson@gmail.com

Erica Smitka, Deputy Director, Erica@lwvny.org

As we head into the fall, many of our state committees have been meeting to discuss priorities for the next legislative session. If you would like to get involved with any of the following committees, please reach out to the committee leads listed below:

- Criminal Justice Committee, Co-Chairs
- Energy, Agriculture, and the Environment Committee
- Healthcare Committee
Judy Esterquest (LWV of Port Washington/Manhasset)-

esterquest@gmail.com **Ethics Reform**

The new Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (the “Commission” or CELG) is coming together and the League along with several other good government groups has been monitoring the nominations and their progress. In early September, we encouraged them to get to work as the New York State Independent Review Committee (composed of the state’s law school deans) had approved seven out of eleven commissioners, enough commissioners appointed for a quorum – the legal minimum required to conduct business.

More recently, the League and good government groups wrote a letter encouraging the new commission to take part in the following practices. We identified the creation of the new Commission as an opportunity to “reset” public and state officers and employees’ expectations about state ethics oversight.

We’ve asked the Commissioners to do the following:

1. Clearly firewall Commissioners from the elected officials (or their representatives) who appointed them (prohibit ex parte communications).
2. Fully use the Commission’s powers under state law to fulfill the Commission’s mission of restoring public trust in state government.
3. Pursue enforcement matters promptly, including previous Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE) matters.
4. Reexamine current protocols and procedures regarding advisory opinions to avoid abuse of authority (such as by requiring Commission approval of all opinions regarding agency heads and statewide elected officials).
5. Appoint an Executive Director after a nationwide search.
6. Ensure state workers feel confident in reporting allegations of misconduct.
7. Require trauma-informed harassment training for all Commissioners and senior staff.
8. Increase transparency and access to public information through use of open data for financial disclosure reports, improving the lobbying database, collaborating with the Attorney General’s New York Open Government portal, and developing clear guidelines regarding disclosing the status of investigations.
9. Hold an annual hearing starting in 2022.





Youth Committee

Crystal Joseph, campus@lwvnyc.org, and Nick Doran, ndoran33@gmail.com

Welcome back to another school year and great opportunities on the horizon with our Leagues. This summer our youth steering committee used all the input from this year's regional training to craft a resource page on our state website. In many cases, you will notice that all of the successful programs which serve students well, across the state, were included in our toolkit which can be adaptable for a variety of student learners, leaders and used for outreach or training events. If your local League is like most, the challenge is always understanding the audience,

abilities and discerning which program model will work best. Over the past few months, we posed as many questions to our League leaders, student members and received as much input as possible to help continue to answer the call to civic readiness and election preparedness. With much thought, this toolkit illustrates the common areas that schools, community groups and campuses have found to be helpful training practices from our organization. Our hope is that you will have the opportunity to review the toolkit and join us in early October when we host our back-to-school webinar. Presently, our task force members are working on three areas of focus for fresh directives to engage our youth: social media literacy, challenges in the traditional classroom post pandemic and using more college campuses as election poll-sites including how to organize campus partners for continued support. Come and join us this October with feedback on any summer projects that your local League has found to be successful and other ideas that can help us better serve the thoughts, judgements, and impressions our young voters have on the sustained civic engagement process.

LWVNYS Youth Committee Back-to-School Event, October 12th, 6 - 7:30 PM Register [HERE](#)

LWVNYS Nominating Committee

Kate Willower Jankowski, Chair, kwillower@hotmail.com

Every other year, the State League Board Nominations Committee undertakes the task of nominating Board members that will help responsibly carry out the mission of the state League. As with all nominating committees, we endeavor to nominate a diverse group of people who will bring experience and passion to the Board. Thankfully, the state League has very clear by-laws governing the nominating committee's work so our task is clearly defined and transparent.



"The board shall consist of the officers of the LWVNYS, up to five but not less than three elected directors, and up to four appointed directors.

The officers of the LWVNYS shall be a president, a first vice-president, with up to but no more than three additional vice-presidents, and either a secretary and a treasurer or a combined position of secretary/treasurer. The number and order of vice-presidents and whether the offices of secretary and treasurer shall be combined shall be recommended by the Nominating Committee. Any of those offices may not be eliminated or combined until the term of an elected officer is concluded. The Officers shall be elected by the convention and hold office until the conclusion of the next convention or until their successors have been elected and qualified."

The Nominating Committee is made up of three elected League members and two Board members nominated by the President of the state League Board. Every other Fall, we begin the process of building the slate by having the nominating chair attend a state League Board meeting. We then interview each current Board member asking a series of standard questions that include:

- Tell me about your experience as a LWVNYS Board member so far.
- What do you think are the strengths of the current Board?
- What do you think would help make it stronger?
- Are you interested in continuing your service? If so, in what capacity? If not, why not?
- Do you know any prospective Board candidates that you would recommend we consider? In what capacity/Why?

The answers to these questions inform our process as we build the slate. They allow us to know which Board members would like to continue serving, what areas of expertise are represented on the Board and what areas we might need to cover with new members, and give us some leads on others Board members have worked with who might be ready and willing to step into a leadership role. It is important to note that, just because someone is willing to continue service on the Board, that does not mean they are guaranteed a renewal of membership. Because the Board is relatively small, the nominating committee may choose to nominate new candidates to give others a chance at a leadership position and/or increase expertise or diversity on the Board.

After we interview all the current Board members, we put a notice in the SBU and Voter to ask if anyone would like to nominate (or self-nominate) any candidates for the Board. We then begin outreach to those potential candidates. Through calls and interviews, we determine if these potential candidates are interested and would fill needs identified on the Board. As we conduct this outreach, we are ever aware of our goal to build diversity on the Board. We consider diversity in many areas— race, gender, geography, expertise, age, and experience as a League member. We consider the best slate to include people of diverse backgrounds who can offer multiple perspectives as the state League moves into the future.

We often look to local League representatives and Board members to nominate leaders in their ranks as the best way to identify our next state Board members. We are beginning our process to create the next slate now and would love to hear from you if you, or anyone you know, would be interested in serving. You can contact me at kwillower@hotmail.com to self-nominate or nominate someone you know.

In March of every other year, we present our proposed slate to the current Board. That slate is then voted on by delegates during the state Convention and our new Board members begin their two-year terms leading this exciting and dynamic organization.

[DONATE TO LWVNYS](#)



[DONATE TO LWVNYS
EDUCATION FOUNDATION](#)

lwvny@lwvny.org

Our League goals are to educate citizens about government and public policy, encourage citizen participation in elections, and influence public policy relating to issues we've studied. Membership makes working on our goals possible.

MEMBERSHIP FOR AUGUST 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023

Return to: LWV of Schenectady County, P.O. Box 9135, Schenectady, NY 12309

New or Renewing Members Please Confirm This Contact Information

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

_____ \$60 Individual _____ \$85 Household _____ \$20 Full time HS student

Additional support for the League, dues plus \$10 contribution (\$70 or \$95 – circle one)

Confidential arrangements for special payment or partial assistance can be made. Contact Connie Young at 393-7061 with questions about dues or payments. Dues and contributions are not tax deductible.

 I am sending my membership dues payment, but please consider me an **INACTIVE** member.

.....