



## Letter from the President – August 2024

### President's Letter

I hope you're all enjoying your summer. Our League has two exciting events scheduled in September.

There has been a lot of misinformation circulating about the security of our elections. We're looking forward to a presentation by the Schenectady County Board of Elections Commissioners, Laura Fronk and Darlene Harris, to address these concerns. On September 10, they'll be talking about "Election Integrity in Schenectady County", in the McChesney Room, Hon. Karen B. Johnson Library at 6:30 PM.

The League of Women Voters has a number of positions that support protecting the rights of all New Yorkers, as defined in the proposed NY Equal Rights Amendment which will be on the ballot on Election Day. In collaboration with Union College, the Schenectady League will present a panel discussion on the New York ERA on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at Union College. More details to come soon!

*Cheryl Nechamen*  
*President*



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## Save the Dates!

September 10, 2024, “Election Integrity in Schenectady County”, Board of Elections Commissioners Laura Fronk and Darlene Harris, 6:30 PM, McChesney Room, Hon. Karen B. Johnson Library

September 19, 2024, “NY ERA Panel Discussion”, 6 PM, Union College; details coming soon

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## Voter Services Report

Our committee is gearing up for a busy fall. From now through October 1, we’ve scheduled 11 voter registration events on nine separate dates at Fulton-Montgomery Community College; Union College; I Am Father and Caribbean Day Festivals; Sycamore (formerly SiCM); and the YWCA.

The main event is National Voter Registration Day (NVRD), Tuesday, September 17. We will need 10 volunteers to register voters at three sites: the Price Chopper in Glenville and on Eastern Parkway, from 2-6 PM, and Schenectady County Community College. If you would like to volunteer for NVRD, or any other registration event, please check the google docs sign-up sheet at [LWV voter registration](#) or send me an email and I’ll be happy to help.

At NVRD, as we talk with people and register voters, we’ll offer them pocket Constitutions (and quizzes) in honor of the upcoming Constitution Day, to remind people of that document’s essential role in our democracy.

The National Voter Registration Day organization offers small grants to organizations to register voters on that day. We’ve applied for money to help purchase more Constitutions, more flags, more student-oriented ‘Vote Today, Shape Tomorrow’ stickers, and more stickers for children accompanying their parents to the grocery stores. The idea is to freely hand out these items to passersby, as a way to start a conversation about voting.

Actually, start now by reading Anita Sanchez’s piece ‘The Art of Tabling.’ If you didn’t see it in the last bulletin, it’s on our website at: <https://my.lwv.org/new-york/schenectady-county/voting>. Then share your ideas for what else we can do to make every registration day a ‘Voter Engagement Day.’

Joan Fucillo  
Chair, Voter Services Committee

*From LWVUS at <https://www.lwv.org>:*

**Keeping Power in the Hands of the People**

The Republican-controlled North Carolina Legislature, asserting that state legislatures had exclusive power over redistricting, petitioned the Supreme Court for review, after the state supreme court struck down its redistricting plan.

**Fighting for Lifesaving Abortion Care**

LWVUS and nearly 100 other organizations joined an amicus brief arguing that the federal *Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act* (EMTALA) preempts Idaho’s abortion ban, which prohibits abortion in all instances unless necessary to save the life of the mother. EMTALA requires hospitals participating in Medicare to provide stabilizing care to any individual experiencing a medical emergency, regardless of their ability to pay.

**Fighting Racial Gerrymandering**

LWV of South Carolina and LWVUS filed amicus briefs at the United States Supreme Court supporting plaintiffs seeking affirmation of a three-judge panel ruling that found South Carolina’s first congressional district to be a racial gerrymander. The plaintiffs argued the state legislature violated the Fifteenth Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment’s Equal Protection Clause by dividing Black communities and voters among multiple districts to reduce their power to affect elections.

<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>Nicole Salamone</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:**

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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 July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025**

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 \_\_\_\_\_ No Fee Full-time 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 518-393-7061 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.



**ACTIVE MEMBERS:** The League depends upon the work of its members, even if for just a short task.

Please check any areas that interest you. We appreciate your help.

**Register Voters** \_\_\_\_\_ **Candidate Forums** \_\_\_\_\_ **Get Out the Vote** \_\_\_\_\_

**Citizenship Mentoring Group** \_\_\_\_\_ **Environment** \_\_\_\_\_ **Students Inside Albany** \_\_\_\_\_

**Observer Corps** \_\_\_\_\_ **Judicial** \_\_\_\_\_ **Health** \_\_\_\_\_ **Membership** \_\_\_\_\_

**Facebook** \_\_\_\_\_ **Website Work** \_\_\_\_\_ **Other Technical Skills (Describe)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other areas of interest** \_\_\_\_\_