

NEWS FROM THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE FEBRUARY 2019

WHAT WE DO

The League registers voters and disseminates information about voting, to help make this basic right of citizenship a reality for every citizen. We provide information on community issues through our monthly *Coffee & Conversation* speakers and through interviews on our cable program, *City People and Issues*. We organize events to introduce candidates for state and local office and we encourage voters to submit their questions for debate. Young people are introduced to political careers through our state and county League programs, including *Students in Albany*.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well, we made it through a cold, windy, teeth-chattering January – not too worse for wear! And, although it was rough going at times, January held some warming moments for those who have worked diligently for decades to effect positive change in New York's voting procedures. In a bit of a surprise move, on January 14th, the NYS legislature passed a series of seven voter reforms that include early voting. On January 24, Gov. Cuomo signed five of the

seven into law. However, on that same day, he also presented a budget that did not include funding for them. This law and electronic poll books which enable early voting to be feasible will require money being added to this year's budget.

The NYS League will be switching its focus to advocate for appropriate funding and regulations that guide this and other reforms, some of which take place immediately and others, such as same day voter registration, that will require additional votes in subsequent legislative sessions.

Our members have a wonderful opportunity to participate in a member-wide call with NYS League leadership on Thursday, February 7th at 7:00 pm to discuss the current state of voting reforms recently passed by the legislature and budgetary implications for these reforms. Feel free to just listen in, or respond and offer your opinions.

Call In: (800) 220-9875 Code: 24883385

Call in on Thursday evening for an update on the new statutes and to find out how you can help. Questions about the call? Contact Jennifer Wilson, Dir. Program and Policy, at <u>Jennifer@lwvny.org.</u>

As we remain in winter's clutches, it's the perfect time to stay in, read, and learn. However, it's also a time where there is much to do and ... much to enjoy in the community. I invite you to browse the pages of this wonderful newsletter for inspiration on all fronts! -- Monica Grey

What is The Linc and how would it impact New Rochelle?

The Linc is envisioned as a community resource that will provide traffic calming to the immediate neighborhood, safe linkage to the Downtown, and community recreation and cultural events. The project involves transforming Memorial Highway from a highway to open space with separated



pedestrian and bicycle paths for both recreational and commuting activities. The open space portion could accommodate activities such as play zones, farmers markets, special events, art installations, etc.

The idea for the Linc grew out of the need to resolve dangerous pedestrian and traffic conditions at the intersection of Memorial Highway and Lincoln Avenue, which will continue to be the core focus as design evolves. There is also the potential for physical connections to Lincoln Park. The following roadways would be converted from two-way to one-way operations:

- **North Avenue** converted to one-way northbound operations between Burling Lane and Lincoln Avenue; southbound lanes would be converted to open space for the Linc.
- **Lincoln Avenue** converted to one-way westbound operations between North Avenue and Memorial Highway; the eastbound lane would be converted to open space for the
- **Memorial Highway** converted to one-way southbound operations between Lincoln Avenue and Division Street; northbound lanes from Huguenot Street to Lincoln Avenue will be converted to open space for the Linc. The Overpass from the Cedar Street ramps to the Memorial Highway roundabout will be closed to vehicular traffic and converted to open space.

The result would be a safer, more attractive Lincoln Avenue that provides access for vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians. DRI projects include the Linc and Complete Streets along Lincoln Avenue. The main goal of these projects is to reduce the number of cars on Lincoln Avenue by cutting off access to Lincoln Avenue from I-95 via Memorial Highway.

Local traffic would still be accommodated, but nonlocal traffic would be rerouted. Sidewalks would be widened where possible to make intersection crossings shorter and safer. New traffic signals and crosswalks would be added where needed. Shared bicycle lanes would also be added along Lincoln Avenue.

-- Councilman Jared Rice



It's time to finally pass the Equal Rights Amendment

Lisa Murkowski, a Republican, represents Alaska in the Senate. Ben Cardin, a Democrat, represents Maryland in the Senate.

As we approach the <u>100th anniversary of women's</u> <u>suffrage</u>, it comes as a shock to so many that the U.S. Constitution does not guarantee women the same rights and protections as men.

We come from different ends of the political spectrum, but we agree that this needs to change. Women compose a majority of the American population but continue to be underrepresented in government, elected office, the courts and business world. A level playing field should not be a euphemism but rather a reality for women (and men) from Anchorage to Annapolis and everywhere in between.

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." This is the full substance of the **Equal Rights Amendment**. It's a little less than a tweet, but it will make a positive difference in the lives of millions of women. -MURKOWSKI/CARDIN, Washington Post, 1/25/2019

READ THE REST AT ERA

The Trump Administration Quietly Changed the Definition of Domestic Violence and We Have No Idea Why

Without fanfare or even notice, the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women made significant changes to its definition of domestic violence in April. The Obama-era definition was expansive, vetted by experts including the National Center for Victims of Crime and the National Domestic Violence Hotline. The Trump administration's definition is substantially more limited and less informed, effectively denying the experiences of victims of abuse by attempting to cast domestic violence as an exclusively criminal concern. --SLATE, 1/21/19

READ THE REST AT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

State of Health Care: Obamacare End Game, Cuomo-Trump Battle, NY Single-Payer

The League of Women Voters advocates for the right of every American to affordable, quality health care. In this article, The Journal News/Iohud reporter David Robinson looks at the state of health care and the business of health care in the Lower Hudson Valley.

For many New Yorkers, health care is far removed from government policy battles. Whether poor, rich or middle-class, most only learn of its complexity in the face of medical need or crisis. They're thrust into the messy world of paying for American medicine long after hospitals, health insurers, drug companies and lawmakers determined the cost.

Lower Hudson Valley communities will see fallout in everything from mega-mergers, like the \$70 billion CVS-Aetna deal, to tense contract negotiations, such as those between insurers and hospitals affecting thousands of patients. All the while drug prices keep climbing as big pharma, insurers and middlemen scrounge over profits.

--LoHud, 1/9/19

READ THE REST OF THIS ARTICLE AT HEALTH CARE

Moderators Needed for New LWVW Know Your Government Workshop

You are perfect for the Job! Using a prepared presentation, League publications, and discussion guides, moderators will be trained to successfully lead a workshop that will engage our communities in active discussions of how technology is influencing political change like never before. Participants will develop strategies for assessing the reliability of media content. Workshop sessions will be offered at WLS branches and to other interested community organizations at their locations. **2-hour Moderator Training Sessions** are scheduled at the **WLS Offices, 570 Taxter Rd, #400, Elmsford** on:

- Monday, February 4, 6pm-8pm
- Thursday, February 7, 10am-Noon and 6pm-8pm
- Friday, February 8, 10am-Noon

To register your interest in becoming a moderator or to learn more about this program, email: leaguevote411@gmail.com or call Marjorie Hsu (617) 877-7067 or Susan Schwarz at (914) 332-1301.

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE HERE.
READ PAST ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER HERE.



JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE

The League depends on the work and financial support of all of its to carry out its programs. Membership is open to women and men of voting age. Joining our local league confers membership in the State and National Leagues, enables you to receive publications from all three levels, and provides the opportunity to be involved in local, state and national issues.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME	
ADDRESS	
	EMAIL
NEW MEMBERSHIP	RENEWAL
INDIVIDUAL \$60/YEAR	HOUSEHOLD* \$85/YEAR
* ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBE	R NAME
	EMAIL
PLEASE MAKE YOUR	R MEMBERSHIP CHECK PAYABLE TO LWV NR
I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPOR	RT THE LEAGUE WITH A TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION
MADE PAYAB	LE TO LWV EDUCATION FOUNDATION
\$100 \$50	OTHER
RETURN THIS	APPLICATION WITH YOUR CHECK TO
The Leagu	ue of Women Voters of New Rochelle
	45 Long Vue
	New Rochelle, NY 10804

Join and/or Donate via PAYPAL on our website: www.lwvnewro.org

or

CITY PEOPLE AND ISSUES FEBRUARY

The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle presents two new interviews on its cable television program, "City People and Issues."

In an interview with host Tamar Tait, New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson discusses the positive impact of development on the city and the plans for catching up on long-delayed infrastructure needs.

In another interview, Theresa Kump Leghorn, president of the New Rochelle Council on the Arts, speaks with host Ina Aronow about why the arts are important and what is happening in the arts in New Rochelle.



The two programs will be shown

on alternate weeks on Cablevision Channel 76 on Mondays at 7 pm, and repeated on Wednesdays at 10 pm and Thursdays at 9:30 pm. They will also be on demand at www.vimeo.com after the first showing on Cablevision.

The interview with Mayor Bramson will be shown during the weeks of January 28, February 11 and 25. The interview with Ms. Leghorn will be shown during the weeks of February 4 and 18 and March 4.

Witnesses to History: African American Voting Rights
Examine documents, photographs, and other materials that trace
the history of African American voting rights, including letters
written by Frederick Douglass and Martin Luther King Jr.

NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY November 15, 2018 – April 28, 2019

Climate Justice Lobby Day: February 5th

The NY Renews Coalition will be holding a 100% Renewable Energy and Climate Justice lobby day in Albany on February 5th. Although the League is not a member of this coalition we are sharing because we know a large number of our members support and are interested in these issues.

You can find out more and register here.

Voter Service



To volunteer, please call Joan at 914-715-3916 or email at royjoanalex@yahoo.com.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR

Legislators need to prove that their constituents care about particular issues.

- Governor Cuomo: (518) 474-8390 | The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of New York State, NYS State Capitol Building, Albany, NY 12224
- Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins: scousins@nysenate.gov | (518) 455-2585 I
 188 State Street, Room 907, Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12247
- Senator Shelley Mayer: smayer@nysenate.gov | 914-934-5250 | Legislative Office,
 Building, Room 615, Albany, NY 12247
- Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie: Speaker@nyassembly.gov | 718-654-6539 or 518-455-3791 or 518-455-4812 | Room 932, Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248
- Assemblymember Steve Otis: OtisS@nyassembly.gov | 914-939-7028 or 518-455-4897 | Legislative Office Building, Room 327, Albany, NY 12248
- Assemblymember Amy Paulin: PaulinA@nyassembly.gov | 914-723-1115 or 518-455-5585 | Legislative Office Building, Room 422, Albany, NY 12248



COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

This month's guest is Geena Gokey, Claims Sepcialist at the New Rochelle Field Office of the Social Security Administration. Ms. Gokey will be discussing Retirement and Medicare on February 15th, from 9:30-11 am. She will also take questions from the audience.

Coffee and Conversation is an ongoing series of informal public gatherings, with guests discussing public issues. The meetings, open to all, are sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle. Coffee and Conversation is held in the New Rochelle Public Library's first floor meeting room. Coffee and light refreshments are served. For further information, please call 914-632-8254.

February 14th isn't only Valentine's Day. It's also the 98th anniversary of The League of Women Voters. Founded by suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt on February 14, 1920 – just six months prior to passage of the



19th Amendment – the League was charged with "finish[ing] the fight" to ensure that every eligible voter has free and fair access to the polls. Ever since, the League has been at the forefront of efforts to empower citizens to play an active role in our democracy.



Is a Planned Monument to Women's Rights Racist?

Several years ago, before Confederate monuments came toppling down amid collective recognition that American public space needed a politicized renovation, a group of women in New York City started a fund to build a statue in Central Park honoring women's suffrage.

Last summer the city, in partnership with the <u>Statue Fund</u>, as it came to be called, announced that a design for such a sculpture had been selected, following a competition that had received 91 submissions. -- NYTimes, 1/17/19

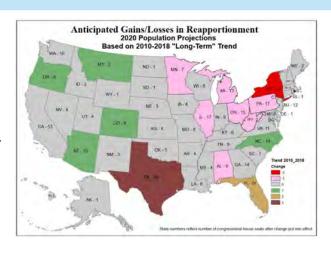
READ THE REST AT MONUMENT



The Women of the 116th Congress - read the article here

New York State Poised to Lose Two Congressional Seats

New York's congressional delegation is likely to shrink in four years. The state is poised to go from 27 members in the House of Representatives to 25, based on an analysis by Election Data Services of the U.S. Census Bureau's updated population estimates for July 2018. The delegation has shrunk every decade since 1953, when it was a high of 45 members.



New York was one of nine states to lose population in the last year, shedding 48,510 residents and ending up with an estimated population of 19.54 million. The loss was driven largely by New Yorkers leaving the state for other parts of the country, with a nation-leading net domestic migration of 180,306 people. --TimesUnion, 12/20/18

READ THE REST AT STATE

NEW ROCHELLE NEWS

COUNCILMAN RICE WILL NOT RUN FOR RE-ELECTION

On January 23rd, New Rochelle Councilman Jared Rice announced that he would not run again for City Council. Read the full text of his announcement here.

COUNTY FUNDING FOR NEW ROCHELLE'S YOUNG PEOPLE

On January 14th, the Board of Legislators approved \$75,000 in County funding for two important programs for our young people in New Rochelle.

The **Strive Leadership Academy** creates opportunities for 11- to 17-year-olds to learn constructive skills in art, dance, leadership, nutrition and fitness, photography and the visual arts. On Monday we approved \$45,000 in County funding for the program, and together with matching City funds will provide more than \$69,000 for the program.



The New Rochelle Youth Court, operating more than 25 years, is a collaboration between the County's

Department of Probation, the New Rochelle Youth Bureau, and the New Rochelle Police Department. It provides supervision to first-time offenders from the ages of 7 to 15 who have committed non- violent offenses like disturbing the peace, shoplifting and trespassing -- training students in all aspects of the criminal justice system. This youth-led program, where young people judge the circumstances and determine appropriate and corrective action to the offense, becomes both a teaching and a prevention tool, giving young people a chance to avoid a criminal record by creating an alternative to formal court proceedings. We approved \$30,000 County funding, which, together with more than \$16,154 in matching funds from City agencies, provides more than \$46,000 for the program.

-Legislator Damon Maher

News from the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle is published by the Executive Board of the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle. We are Joan Alexander, Ina Aronow, Marilyn Brown (Contributing Editor,) Leona Newman, Susan Fleming, Monica Grey, Sydelle Herzberg, John Hessel, Peter Korn, Leslie Mignault (Editor,) and Pearl Quarles. Contact us at LWVNewRochelle@gmail.com.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE

Legislature Passes Package of Voting Reforms

This week a monumental package of voting reforms passed in the Senate and Assembly. The package of reforms included early voting, same day voter registration,



no-excuse absentee voting, pre-registration for 16 and 17 year olds, primary consolidation, state-wide voter registration transfer, and closing the LLC loophole.

We were active at the Capitol the whole day and had League members from NYC, Syracuse, Saratoga, and Albany come for the day to watch the proceedings. The League's former Legislative Director, Barbara Bartoletti, made the trip to the Capitol to come and watch. She was recognized by a several legislators, including the new Senate Majority Leader, Andrea Stewart Cousins, for her decades of advocacy on these issues. It was truly a momentous day and we are still buzzing from the excitement.

The bills have been delivered to the Governor. Once they are signed, the League will begin advocating for state funding to implement these proposals and will be reviewing any proposed regulations to the policies and giving input when necessary. In the case of no-excuse absentee voting and same day voter registration, the League will continue its advocacy work in 2021 as these reforms are Constitutional amendments that require passage in two legislative sessions. You can read the League's statement of support here. Or a NYT article here.

Reproductive Health Act

On the 46th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the State Legislature passed the Reproductive Health Act, the first update to New York's abortion laws since 1970. The bill, which codifies Roe v. Wade into state law, was first introduced in 2007. Governor Andrew Cuomo signed it immediately after. The League has been working on this reform for many decades and we are excited to finally see it pass.

VOTING RIGHTS WRAP-UP

New Voting Restrictions in America

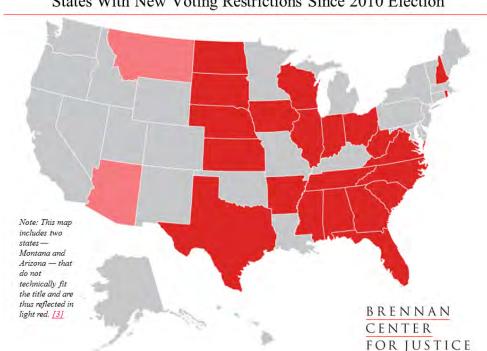
After the 2010 election, state lawmakers nationwide started introducing hundreds of harsh measures making it harder to vote. The new laws range from strict photo ID requirements to early voting cutbacks to registration restrictions.

Overall, 25 states have put in place new restrictions since then — 14 states have more restrictive voter ID laws in place (and six states have strict photo ID requirements), 12 have laws making it harder for citizens to register, seven cut back on early voting opportunities, and three made it harder to restore voting rights for people with past criminal convictions.

In 2016, 14 states had new voting restrictions in place for the first time in a presidential election. Those 14 states were: Alabama, Arizona, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

In 2017, legislatures in Arkansas and in North Dakota passed voter ID bills, which governors in each state signed, and Missouri implemented a restrictive law that was passed by ballot initiative in 2016. (Texas also passed a new voter ID law, though its earlier strict voter ID law was partially in effect in 2016.) Georgia, Iowa, Indiana, and New Hampshire also enacted restrictions last year, in addition to laws that were on the books for previous elections.

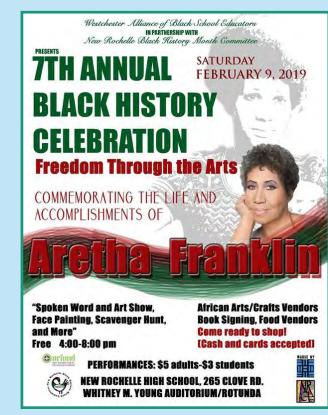
In 2018, Arkansas, Indiana, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, and Wisconsin have enacted new restrictions.



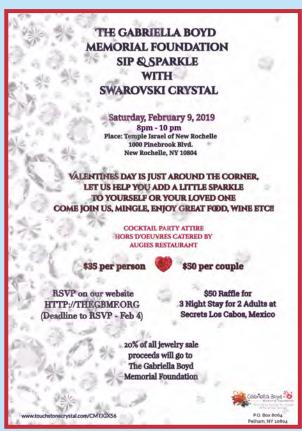
States With New Voting Restrictions Since 2010 Election

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD UPCOMING EVENTS









The Kept Private

Sat, Feb 9 @ 3:00PM

Jay Heritage Center, 210 Boston Post Rd., Rye, NY 10580

Based on Professor Brian McAdoo's survey of the African American burial grounds in Rhinebeck, NY and the 1835 Revolutionary War pension application of a 93 year old black farmer named Andrew Frazier.

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GET TICKETS



Heating Pads and Hot Water Bottles Paper Towels Windex Stuffed Animals Bleach Peanut Butter Ziplock Gallon Bags Dog & Cat Treats Small Scrub Brushes Dog & Cat Toys

Large Garbage Bags Large Dog Kong Toys

Disposable Gloves Dog & Cat Food (canned preferred)

Dish Soap and Liquid Hand Soap Pet Safe Ice Melt Hand Sanitizer

Questions?

Contact: Margie Ostrove at mostrove@gmail.com or Deborah Blatt at debblatt@yahoo.com

The Humane Society of Westchester, lounded in 1911 as the New Rochelle Humane Society, is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting the human/animal bond through the compassionate care and treatment of animal throughout the communities we serve in Westchester County and beyond. To that end, our goal is to create a living environment that is not just a shelter, but a transitional home for stray, lost, abandoned, injured, and abused unlimits, unsi they can ultimately be placed in loving permanent homes. Through promotion of successful pet adoption, animal population control, and public education of animal welfaire issues, we advance our belief that pet ownership is a literime commitment



Temple Israel of New Rochelle | 1000 Pinebrook Boulevard, New Rochelle, NY 10884 (914) 235 - 18000 | www.tinr.org

Stronger Together Solidarity Fair

Sunday, February 3, 2019 at Temple Israel

(1000 Pinebrook Boulevard, New Rochelle)

Exhibit Hall Open from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Guest Panel of Speakers 10:30 a.m. Light breakfast • Free and Open to the Public

In response to the recent attack on Tree of Life Synagogue and HIAS in Pittsburgh, there is a strong desire in the Temple Israel community to engage on the Issues of anti-Semitism and other social, racial and economic injustices. Our **StrongerTogether Solidarity Fair** serves to raise awareness, exchange information and foster coalition building, unity and solidarity against all forms of injustice in today's climate.

Representatives from over 15 organizations spanning from grassroots, local and national organizations such as HIAS and The Workmen's Circle will share their information and answer questions about their work for social justice and human rights. In addition, a panel of leaders committed to these issues will discuss how we are stronger together when we work

Join us. RSVP to the Temple Office at (914) 235.1800, or email Howard Horawitz at howardh@horowitzresearch.com or Yonat Assayag at yonat.assayag@gmail.com.

Brought to you by the Social Action Committee (SAC) of Temple Israel.

Stronger Together - We are All HIAS Now!



