

# NEWS FROM THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE October 2018

#### 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. The League also provides 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:

During this past month I have had several opportunities at voter registration drives to speak directly with high school and college students. I have to admit that I encountered some naysayers who sadly expressed no interest in being part of the process. They have been turned-off by what they have observed from the sidelines, and have no belief in the power of their single vote. Fortunately, they were in the

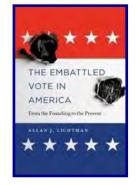
minority. There were many more students who were proud to acknowledge that they were registered already and eager to vote this November now that they were eligible. We heard from several of them appreciatively that their teachers or parents had made sure they were.

However, there were many others who, when we inquired whether they were registered, gave a little shrug of the shoulder and a quizzical look, but didn't walk away. They were uninitiated, uninformed and unengaged – but not disengaged. They needed to be asked; they needed to become informed; they needed to be encouraged and supported. They needed to be helped to realize that registering, and in turn voting, are neither complicated (despite NYS' antiquated rules and mechanisms). As individuals, they can make their voices heard: they count. They can participate and make a difference!

For me, it's absolutely exhilarating (yes, exhilarating!) to be part of empowering citizens of all ages to use this right, this power, earned through tireless fight and fortitude for us and all who were disenfranchised. Newly-registered voters could surely benefit from support and encouragement to make it to the polls and cast their votes. The same is true for some our neighbors and friends who haven't voted in a long while. As League members, you have demonstrated commitment to its mission of participatory citizenry. You have access to valuable resources for becoming and staying informed – several of which are highlighted in this issue. I urge you to see yourself as a mentor. Reach out, educate, encourage others with whom you come in contact to register and vote. You may be surprised at the gratitude you receive, and the satisfaction you experience! -- MONICA GREY

# THE EMBATTLED VOTE IN AMERICA From the Founding to the Present

Allan J. Lichtman's important book emphasizes the founders' great blunder: They failed to enshrine a right to vote in the Constitution or the Bill of Rights. Instead, the Constitution handed control over elections to state and local governments. Local officials developed thousands of different electoral systems with no uniform standards or regulations and little oversight. Elections were organized and supervised by partisans



brazenly angling for advantage. "The Embattled Vote in America" traces the consequences through American history. --James A. Monroe, NYT, 9/12/18

Read the rest of this review at VOTING

# Discriminatory Voter Laws have Surged in Last 5 years, Federal Commission Finds

New state laws make voting more difficult for minorities and the Justice Department has done less to challenge those discriminatory laws since the Supreme Court struck down a core element of the 1965 Voting Rights Act five years ago, the federal Commission on Civil Rights said in a report issued Wednesday.

The report was a scathing condemnation of state and federal actions since the Supreme Court, in the 2013 Shelby County v. Holder decision, eliminated the Justice Department's authority to block changes to voting laws in states with histories of discrimination.

-- Eric Bradner, CNN, 9/12/18 Read the rest of this article at COMMISSION

## Make Voting Easier in New York.

New Yorkers pride themselves on being among the most politically engaged citizens in the country. So why don't they vote?

From Buffalo to the Bronx, voter turnout in New York is abysmal. In November 2016, when everyone in America seemed to have a strong opinion about Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, only 57 percent of the state's registered voters showed up at the polls. That was lower than 40 other states. But it was at least better than New York's turnout for the 2014 midterms — 34.4 percent, 48th in the nation. Only Oklahoma and West Virginia did worse.

The picture in federal and state primaries is starker yet. Because New York's electorate is heavily Democratic, the primaries effectively decide many elections. And yet in last year's primary for mayor of New York City, only 12 percent of eligible voters bothered to weigh in.

--Editorial Board, NYT, 9/12/18 Read the rest of this editorial at LAWS

#### IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO THE LEAGUE!

Join or Renew on line at www.lwvnewro.org

#### CITY PEOPLE AND ISSUES

The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle presents two new interviews on its cable television program *City People and Issues.* Jeffrey Hastie (right,) president of the New Rochelle Board of Education, discusses the role of the school board and the issues facing the board, particularly safety and security. He is interviewed by Ina Aronow.



Nicole Lesser (left,) deputy chapter leader of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America a national grassroots organization that partners with EveryTown for Gun Safety, discusses the negative impact and statistics of lax gun laws, the need for strengthening gun regulations nationally and the growth and impact of her group. She is interviewed by Tamar Tait.



The programs will be shown on alternate weeks on Cablevision Channel 76 on Mondays at 7 pm, and only on

some Wednesdays at 10 pm and Thursdays at 9:30 pm. They will also be on demand at <a href="https://www.vimeo.com">www.vimeo.com</a> after the first showing on Cablevision. The interview with Mr. Hastie will be shown during the weeks of September 24 and October 8. The interview with Ms. Lesser will be shown during the weeks of October 1 and 15. They will continue to rotate until new interviews are scheduled.

Do you know a student who is away from home? Send him or her this link to **VOTE REMOTE - ABSENTEE VOTING FOR STUDENTS** 

# Lyft offering discounted and free rides to the polls

Lyft is offering 50 percent off rides to the polls this Election Day, Tues. Nov. 6, in partnership with a handful of voter turnout organizations. In "underserved communities that face significant obstacles to transportation," Lyft will provide free rides.

The ride-hailing company announced its plan to get more people to the polls in a blog post Thursday. Lyft will distribute 50 percent off discount codes to Vote.org, Nonprofit Vote, TurboVote, and other comparable organizations that can then distribute them.

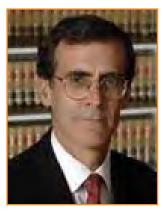
Groups like Voto Latino, Urban League, and the National Federation of the Blind will identify people in need and connect them with free Lyft rides to the polls.Lyft also plans to send push notifications and other reminders to users encouraging them to vote. Last election day, --Monica Nickelsburg, Geekwire, 8/24/18



### **COFFEE AND CONVERSATION**

Councilman Jared Rice (right) was the guest speaker at the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle's Coffee & Conversation on September 21st. The event was very well attended and Councilman Rice spoke in detail about all the events My Brother's Keeper of New Rochelle has held and about the development going on in our downtown.





Legislator Damon Maher (left) will be the guest speaker at Coffee & Conversation on October 19th. He will also answer questions from the audience. Coffee, tea, and light breakfast fare will be served. The informal public meeting, open to all, is held in the New Rochelle Public Library's first floor meeting room.



# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES

In November 2015, Governor Cuomo signed the bill to establish the New York State Women's Suffrage 100th

Commemoration Commission. The goal of the Commission is to plan and coordinate a series of statewide programs that celebrate the accomplishment of women's suffrage and the central role of New Yorkers and New York State in this milestone. The 14-member commission took effect on April 1, 2016, and will be active through 2020.

Humanities New York is bringing the people, places and ideas of the women's suffrage movement to life. To date, Humanities New York has awarded over \$458K to New York tax-exempt organizations for Centennial themed activities that explore the diversity of individuals and ideas that contributed to this grassroots movement. In particular, Humanities New York has supported projects that connect contemporary concerns (civil rights, gender diversity, equality, and civic engagement) to the legacy of women's suffrage.

To find out more, or to apply for a grant, see the Humanities New York website.

#### NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY



On Tuesday, September 25, 2018, thousands of national, state and local organizations and volunteers celebrated National Voter Registration Day with a 50-state effort to register voters before Election Day this November. In New York State alone, over 100 events were sponsored by LWV chapters. In addition, <a href="mayors across the country">mayors across the country</a> linked arms with educators in a special effort to encourage students to get registered.

The torrential rain in New Rochelle that day did not dampen the enthusiasm of League of Women Voters of New Rochelle volunteers, who spent the day registering new voters at Iona College, The College of New Rochelle, Monroe College, New Rochelle High School, Ursuline High School, and New Rochelle Public Library.

At a ceremony marking the occasion at New

Rochelle High School, Monica Grey and Ina

REGISTER TRASH

Alice McNamara registers a voter at Iona College

THELE

Svetlana Wasserman registers a new voter at Jefferson School

Aronow were welcomed by Gustavo Barbosa, Social Studies Chair. Mayor Noam Bramson, who also visited each school in New Rochelle that day, was welcomed by Jeffrey Hastie, President of the School Board, Superintendent Dr. Brian Osborne, Interim Principal Joseph Starvaggi, and Ken Valenti, Head of Communications for New Rochelle.

"Voters, one by one, are the most powerful people in a democracy," noted Ina Aronow of the New Rochelle League. "The politicians that voters

choose to set policy and make decisions about government services make a big difference in our lives. So it is important also to learn what we can about the people running for office and make good choices when we vote. And maybe some of us will choose to run for public office ourselves."

Mayor Bramson spoke with student organizers and encouraged their efforts. "High school and college students have the power to make a real difference in our community and nation, and have a profound stake in the choices made



**New registrant at CNR** 

by government," the Mayor said. "So whether Democrat, Republican, or Independent, whether liberal, moderate, or conservative, we encourage every eligible



Marianne Makman and Sue Tozzi register a first time voter at Iona

young person in New Rochelle to register, to vote, and to make their voice heard."

Dr. Osborne thanked the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle for spending time at New Rochelle High School, educating the students about voting, and helping those who are old enough to register. "It is heartening to see how engaged many of our students are in the world around them." Dr. Osborne said. "Voting is the most direct

way they can participate

in government on a local, state and national level. I am encouraged to see that so many of our students understand the importance of voting, whether they are old enough to vote or not."

Founded in 2012, National Voter Registration Day is designed to create an annual moment when the entire nation focuses on registering Americans to exercise their most basic right – the right to vote. More than two million Americans have registered to vote on this day since the



**Pearl Quarles at Monroe College** 

inaugural National Voter Registration Day. --adapted from Kathy Gilwit, Ina Aronow

# We need volunteers for the following dates:

- 12-2pm at the College of New Rochelle in October (TBD)
- 12-1 pm on Tuesday 10/9 at Monroe College
- 10-3 pm on 10/12 at Grace Church, Resource Reentry Fair

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Joan Alexander at 914-715-3916 or at <a href="mailto:royjoanalex@yahoo.com">royjoanalex@yahoo.com</a>. **To download a Voter Registration form, click HERE.** 

# Thank You, New Registrants!

I had a great time on September 25th visiting with students and



Volunteers at Monroe College

educators throughout New Rochelle, as together we observed <u>National Voter Registration Day</u>. Inspiring to see young people committed to making a difference. Thank you to everyone who pitched

in, especially all the volunteers with the League of Women Voters. Here are a couple of photos from my



Volunteers at the Ursuline School

day. #MayorsForOurLives

-- Mayor Noam Bramson



# **PLEASE VOTE** GENERAL ELECTION DAY: NOV. 6

- Oct. 12 last day to postmark voter registration form or register in person at BOE
- Oct. 12 last day to change party enrollment for 2019 primaries
- Oct. 30 last day to postmark application for absentee ballot
- Nov 5 last day to apply in person for absentee ballot
- Nov. 5 last day to postmark ballot for general election
- Nov. 6 last day to deliver absentee ballot in person to BOE





A new hilarious political trivia game by Samantha Bee with cash prizes up to \$5k!

Samantha Bee wants to get you excited about the 2018 midterm elections in the best way possible: a daily trivia game with a cash prize of up to \$5,000! Once per day, you'll get the chance to answer 10 multiple choice questions about the midterms, current events and very important facts about democracy. Get every question right and you'll win cash from the daily jackpot, split with the other winners (#winning)! Get every question wrong and you probably don't know anything about the United States, so we're glad you're here

# How to Participate in Politics, No Matter How Much Free Time You Have

Getting registered to vote—and actually showing up to the polls—is an essential, effective way to participate in politics. But with the midterms getting closer (Nov. 6, everyone!), it's also important to know about the handful of other ways to get involved. No matter if you have five minutes or five hours to spare, find how you can get engaged.

5-10 Minutes

#### Talk to your friends and family about their voting plans.

It might seem too easy, but leveraging your own connections is one of the most powerful things you can do. Jeanette Senecal, senior director of mission impact at the League of Women Voters, says to make sure you ask your friends and family about when and where they're going on election day or direct them on how to get registered: "Research says if someone has thought through what their plan is on election day... that increases likelihood that someone will actually go and vote."

#### Post on social media.

Senecal also says small things, like posting a selfie with your voter registration card or voting sticker, is helpful. Lucinda Guinn, the vice president of campaigns at EMILY's List, says that once you find a candidate you want to support, post about them on social media to get the word out: "Help tell their stories and post opportunities for other people to get involved."

#### Donate to a candidate or a related organization.

If you're extra short on time, donating is another easy way to invest in a campaign and help get people you support into office. If you're unsure of a campaign, organizations like EMILY's List, which helps elect pro-choice, Democratic women, or League of Women Voters, which encourages women to be informed, active participants in government, also accept donations.

--Madison Feller, ELLE, 9/20/18

**Read the rest at GET INVOLVED** 



# A USER'S GUIDE TO DEMOCRACY

### Congress Works for You. Here's How to Be a Better Boss.

Welcome to the User's Guide to Democracy. We sat down with experts on Congress, voting, elections, and political campaigns, and asked all our questions about how things really work. Then we got rid of the jargon, and used what we learned to create an eight-step program to make you a more informed, more engaged, more confident voter. Starting in September, we'll be emailing you about once a week.

**SIGN UP** 

# Number of Women Appearing on New York Ballots Hits a Record High

Women are running for office in record numbers in this year's legislative races in New York.

Some 105 women will appear on major party lines for the state Legislature's 213 seats, a 22-percent increase from the 86 who ran in 2016. It's also significantly more than the 91 who ran in 2006, which was the previous high in this century and almost certainly the all-time record before this year.

The increase has been particularly pronounced among Democrats. The party's 196 legislative candidates include 80 women, an increase from 60 two years ago. In the state Senate, 44 percent of the Democratic candidates are women. That appears to be the closest any legislative conference in state history has come to creating a ticket with an even gender balance.

Among Republicans, the number of female candidates decreased from 26 to 25. Only 13 of the 99 Republican candidates for Assembly seats are women.

Given the sheer number of women running, it seems likely that the gender balance will become a little bit more even in the Legislature, where the share of members who are women has gradually inched from around 20 percent to close to 30 percent over the past two decades. But even if that doesn't happen, the mobilization of women is likely to have an impact on the priorities of state government.

"There's a direct correlation between women candidates who run and the issues that are discussed and advocated for," said Assemblywoman Nily Rozic (D-Queens), the youngest woman ever elected to the Assembly. "Things like [the Reproductive Health Act] and pay equity will be more prevalent in campaigns if there are women candidates talking about it."

The number of women running for office in New York this year mirrors a national trend, particularly on the Democratic line. And like elsewhere, it appears to be driven in part by a frustration with the federal government.

. --Bill Mahoney, Politico, 9/24/2018

Read the rest of this article at WOMEN

### WE'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY

Women earned 86.4 percent of men in New York last year, ranking it better than the national average and the seventh-lowest disparity among states, according to a report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, <u>Gannett Albany reports</u>.

### **NEW ROCHELLE NEWS**

# A Big, Big Win for New Rochelle



New Rochelle has won a \$10 million State grant through New York's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI.) This afternoon, State officials visited the Remington Boys and Girls Club to make the announcement.

This highly-competitive program chooses only one winner per year from the entire mid-Hudson Valley, a huge multi-county region with dozens of municipalities. New Rochelle's selection is, therefore, not only enormously helpful in

material terms -- we can do a lot with \$10 million! -- it is also a powerful validation of our <u>ambitious downtown development plan</u>, which has received widespread, positive recognition. -- Mayor Noam Bramson -- More info in this PRESS RELEASE

#### Friends of New Rochelle Public Library to Hold Big Book Sales

The October Big Book Sale conducted by the Friends of the New Rochelle Public Library will take place in the library lobby on Friday, October 5th, and Saturday, October 6th, from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. The public may select from a wide range of gently used and highly discounted hardcover and paperback books, dvds, and more.

#### **Developers Propose New Hotel In New Rochelle Atop Former Don Coqui**

With New Rochelle's downtown revitalization continuing as part of the "the most ambitious redevelopment in city history," a new hotel may be heading to Cedar Street, with a design similar to that of the High Line, according to New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson. The hotel would sit adjacent to I-95 at the site of the former Don Conqui and Got Soul restaurants.

The proposal includes 225 rooms, along with dining and other amenities for residents and visitors to utilize. It would be "in an ultra-modern tower rising above a rehabbed historic structure at the base." --Zak Failla, New Rochelle Daily Voice, 9/13/18

Read the rest of this article at CEDAR STREET

Track New Rochelle's development on this website.

#### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE

# League of Women Voters and New York State Social Studies Supervisory Association Launch Comprehensive Civics Program for All High School Seniors

The League and the NYS Social Studies Supervisory Association (NYS4A) are pleased to announce the publication of 7 lesson plans for teachers of the New York Grade 12 **Participation in Government** course. The 7 lesson plans are designed to provide teachers and students with information specific to New York State. Lessons can be customized to meet the needs of individual classrooms or student interests and are designed to be inquiry-based and non-partisan.

The goal of these lessons is to bring a heightened knowledge of the formal system of government in New York State, a better understanding of the forces that can change the balance of power, and to develop an improved student understanding of how to be an active citizen, knowing their rights and responsibilities.

The lessons are based on the Key Ideas and Social Studies Practices of the New York State Social Studies Curriculum Framework. The lesson plans could be integrated into existing units or combined for a unit of instruction on New York government. With these lesson plans, *Participation in Government* teachers have ready-made resources which will engage high school seniors. The lesson plans and materials are available at <a href="https://www.lwvnycivics.org">www.lwvnycivics.org</a> and on the state League website.

#### **Lesson topics include:**

- The structure of New York State Government
- Individual rights and responsibilities in New York State
- Voting in New York State
- The Public Policy Process (Laws) in New York
- Influencing New York State Government
- Participating in Political Action in Your Local Community
- Participating in Community Service in Your Local Community

We are excited to announce this project and hope that you will consider supporting our future youth engagement by making a donation to the <u>League's Education Foundation</u>. With your help we can expand this program to create public forums that can be presented state-wide. Civic education is the first step to political engagement.

--Laura Ladd Bierman, Executive Director, League of Women Voters of New York State

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



### **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	
CITY, STATE, ZIP	
TELEPHONE	EMAIL
NEW MEMBERSHIP	RENEWAL
INDIVIDUAL \$60/YEAR	HOUSEHOLD* \$85/YEAR
* ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBER NAME	
EMAI	L
PLEASE MAKE YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHECK PAYABLE TO LWV NR	
I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE L	EAGUE WITH A TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION
MADE PAYABLE TO LWV EDUCATION FOUNDATION	
\$100 \$50	OTHER
RETURN THIS APPLICATION WITH YOUR CHECK TO	
The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle	
45 Long Vue	

or

New Rochelle, NY 10804

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

# COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD UPCOMING EVENTS



Celebrating
Human
Rights
Through the
Camera Lens

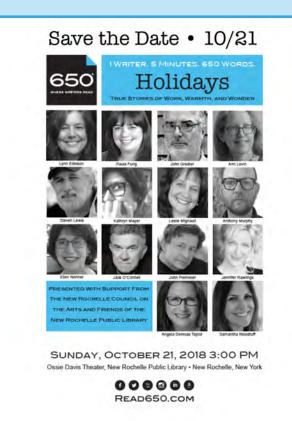


Our Rights, Our Freedom, Always: Celebrating Human Rights Through the Camera Lens

The exhibition showcases the work of photojournalists from the European Press Agency who illustrate freedoms that are at the core of the International Bill of Human Rights.

OSilas Gallery at Concordia College

Through November 17 *12:00 pm - 5:00 pm* 







ANNOUNCING. OUR WESTCHESTER UNDOING RACISM WORKSHOP WILL BE ON OCTOBER 23-25!

PLACE: Shaarel Tikvah, 46 Fox Meadow Rd, Scarsdale, NY 105831

WHEN: Tuesday, October 23 2018: 6:30pm - 8:00pm Wednesday, October 24, 2018: 9:00am - 5:00pm Thursday, October 25, 2018: 9:00am - 3:00pm

(note: continental breakfast served 8am-8:45am; workshop starts promptly at 9am each day; kosher lunches will be served each day)

COST: \$350 per person; \$175 for students

CONTACTS:
Rev. Doris K. Dallon. doris@mlkwestchester.org

URWs are offered by the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond and The Anti-Racist Alliance / Learn more at <a href="https://www.pisab.org">www.pisab.org</a> and <a href="https://wwww.pisab.org">www.pisab.org</a> and <a href="https://www.pisab.org">wwww.pisab.

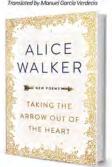
To Register Online go to <a href="http://antiracistalliance.com/ARA-training.html">html</a> and search for the "Westchester County" workshop. Accepting all major credit and debit cards.

Note: If you want to attend the workshop but need some support for the registration fee, please call or email us. We will have a scholarship fund to help people register.



In a rare appearance, the remarkable Alice Walker comes to Westchester for a conversation about her upcoming bilingual collection of new poems

TAKING THE ARROW OUT OF THE HEART



#### Let's welcome Alice Walker to Westchester!

When: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 Time: 7-9 PM

Where: New Rochelle High School Whitney Young Auditorium, 265 Clove Rd

New Rochelle, NY 10801

Purchase Tickets: Online: https://goo.gl/VnCDs7

This event supports WEDC's entrepreneurial training programs and services Dr. "Tea" Traci E Alexander at talexander@wedcbiz.org or 914-948-6098 ex. 11

Seats are limited! This event will sell out!



ArtsFest returns to New Rochelle and Pelham. Highlights include tours working artists' studios — including world renowned 3-D artist Charles Fazzino's Museum Editions studio, where visitors can meet the artist and dabble in interactive arts projects – and family art events at the BID Grand Market, a Classic Car Show and the 7th annual Lincoln **Avenue Arts & Culture Fest** 

Also on the menu are art exhibits. interactive activities, and a free trolley providing transportation between four major points both weekend days.

**October 19-21** 

# **NOTABLE**



## **WOMEN**

Interested in seeing what Rosa Parks would look like as the face of a \$1 bill? Go to Notablewomen.com to see Parks and all your favorite women in history as they should have been commemorated.