



Letter from the President

October 2023

Dear LWVSC Friends,

My letter for this month is a follow-up to a League letter to the editor that appeared in the *Daily Gazette* on August 7 concerning NY Citizens Audit. At that time, NY Citizens Audit was already on a number of radars including LWVNYS, the NYS Board of Elections, and the NYS Office of the Attorney General. Complaints had come in about a “group” going door-to-door impersonating officials from the Board of Elections accusing voters of felony voter fraud. Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky, Co-Executive Director of the NYS Board of Elections, described in a letter to County Board Commissioners on April 5, 2023, that NY Citizens Audit had made false claims without proof concerning “...duplicated voter IDs, more votes cast than registered voters, multiple voter registrations for a single person, voters missing date of birth or having a birth date that seemed implausible, and voters missing identification.”

In addition, this organization has approached numerous NYS town boards and city councils, (including members of the Rotterdam Town Board), urging them to undergo vote audits for reasons such as “...5 million egregious documented anomalies already exist in the voter rolls and nobody cares” (*Marilyn Hornik, Executive Director of NYCA*). Like so many NYCA statements, there appear to be no hard facts or data that back them up. And – who would pay for these audits? Although I couldn’t find an answer to this question, I’m guessing the cost would come from the towns and cities themselves – the local taxpayers.

You would think that these local officials would steer clear of essentially unknown groups such as NYCA, but a quick Google search shows just how many NYS town boards and councils took up this idea and resolved to complete audits of the 2022 election results. On September 21, 2023, AG Letitia James ordered a Cease and Desist Notification and Document Request (compliance and documents requested by October 2). When I visited NY Citizens Audit website yesterday, though, business appeared to be going on as usual.

It will be interesting to see how this plays out in the coming weeks, but this situation is definitely worrisome. The 2024 election is a year away, and already it appears that some are gearing up to discredit, intimidate, and deny voters as well as challenge the election results. This next year is going to be a very important one for LWV and I know our League is going to do everything we can to make sure that our democracy is in good working order.

In League,

Ann Hatke

Voter Services

Voter Registration

While the interest in local elections is not as widespread as during presidential election years, the League provides a valuable service in registering people to vote every year. We had 26 people complete a voter registration form at the table, which we delivered to the Board of Elections, and handed out another 115 forms for people to complete at their leisure. We also handed out 3 applications for an absentee ballot.

Our dedicated volunteers staffed a table at 9 different venues: Ellen Daviero, Cindy Engel, Joan Fucillo, Karen Hartwig, Ann Hatke, Pauline Kinsella, Sandra McGarraugh, Judy Middelkoop, Connie O'Brien, Zoe Oxley, Inge-Lise Pangburn, Johanna Petersen, Anita Sanchez, Judy Stein, Roberta Steiner, Heide Westergard and Connie Young. Thank you!!

Candidate Forums

Our candidate forum team, led by Sandra McGarraugh, has pulled together four informative forums this year. Heide Westergard and Ellen Daviero coordinated the Niskayuna forum on Sept. 21, Connie Young led the Glenville forum on Sept. 27, Sandra McGarraugh and Maxine Brisport are coordinating the Rotterdam forum on Oct. 5 and Julia Holcomb and Janet Hutchison will lead the Schenectady forum on Oct. 11.

And of course, a number of volunteers pitched in to make the forums a success, including Rina Bell, Joan Fucillo, Carol Furman, Megan Haessig, Ann Hatke, Vicki Hoshko, Pauline Kinsella, Pat Lambert, Judy Middelkoop, Bill Nechamen, Inge-Lise Pangburn, Chuck Pangburn, Johanna Petersen, Kate Rose, Roberta Steiner and Nancy Tudor. I hope I didn't miss anyone and thank you!!

Cheryl Nechamen, Voter Services Chair

Register to vote, find your polling place, look up your ballot, and more at [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org).



The LWV members were generous at the Annual Dinner at the Turf in June by donating to the fund for a refugee and immigrant family first meal in the United States. We are asking now that you look in your closets for lightly used warm weather clothing for our new neighbors. Please contact Johanna Petersen lwvschenectady@gmail.com or Ann Hatke ash.lwvsc@gmail.com for pick up of clothing or other information.



Winter Coat Drive



USCRI-Albany needs new or gently used winter coats for our clients!

We are also collecting hats, scarves, gloves & mittens, and like-new boots.

**Use our Amazon Wishlist link to donate:
<https://bit.ly/3NkgVML>
Or schedule a drop off at 99 Pine St. from 9-4:30
Mondays-Fridays!**

For questions or to schedule a drop off, please email Kelley Gourley, kgourley@uscrimail.org

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

Online Voter Registration Now Available at the NYS Board of Elections Website

You can use the Board of Elections' Online Voter Registration system to register to vote or to update your voter registration information. Updated information could include providing your County Board of Elections with your new name, new address, or changing your party enrollment. Completed applications are sent to the appropriate County Board of Elections for approval and processing.



To register you will need to use a [NY.Gov](#) ID. If you have previously used [NY.Gov](#) with another agency, you may use the same login to access the Online Voter Registration portal. If you have not used [NY.Gov](#) you will need to create an account.

To get to the online voter registration portal on the NYS BOE website, click here: <https://www.elections.ny.gov/OnlineVoterReg.html>

Same Day Voting - October 28

New York State Board of Elections has approved all those eligible to register to vote in New York State may use an affidavit ballot AND vote on Saturday, October 28. Referred to as "Golden Day" being October 28 is the final voter registration deadline AND also the first day of Early Voting.

Important Dates to Remember

General Election: November 7, 2023

Early Voting: October 28 – November 5, 2023

Date	Deadline Information
October 23	Last day for Board of Elections to receive absentee ballot application by letter, telefax, or through the absentee request portal.
October 23	Last day for change of address.
October 28	Last day for IN-PERSON Voter Registration; MAIL IN registrations must be received by a Board of Elections.
November 6	Last day to apply IN-PERSON for absentee ballot.
November 7	Last day to postmark ballot. Must be received by the local Board of Elections no later than Nov. 14th. Military Voter Ballots must be received no later than Nov. 20th.
November 7	Last day to deliver ballot IN-PERSON to the local Board of Elections or to any poll site in your county.

Volunteers Needed for Candidate Forums September and October 2023

The League of Women Voters of Schenectady County will sponsor four candidate forums before the general election on November 7. These forums, or “meet the candidate” sessions are designed to stimulate voter interest and knowledge of the issues and to encourage voter participation in elections. All candidates for office who meet New York State election law requirements and are certified by the Schenectady County Board of Elections are invited to take part in a forum. We have an excellent track record of hosting informative and relevant discussions that engage candidates and voters in a nonpartisan manner.

The League has always depended on member volunteers to staff the forums and these volunteers are central to our success. The candidate forums are scheduled for the following dates:

Niskayuna: Thursday 9/21, 6:30 - 8:30
Glenville: Wednesday 9/27, 7:00 - 9:00
Rotterdam: Thursday 10/5, 6:00 - 7:30
Schenectady: Wednesday 10/11, 6:00 - 7:45

We are seeking volunteers for these positions:

Time Keepers: The Time Keeper will use a stopwatch and warning cards to maintain control of the time during the forum. They will be required to politely but firmly stop a candidate who is attempting to speak beyond the allotted time.

Ushers: The Ushers will ensure that the room is ready by checking the placement of tables and chairs, placing nameplates and water bottles for candidates, and ensuring all necessary items are in place. Additionally, the Ushers will distribute programs and index cards for questions from the audience, as well as welcoming the candidates and community members.

Question Reviewers: The Question Reviewers will review the index cards submitted by audience members to avoid duplication of questions and remove inappropriate questions or comments.

You can sign up to volunteer at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/candidateforums>

Maxine Brisport and Sandra McGarraugh

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”

Time to renew

If you haven’t already done so, don’t forget to renew your League membership – we need YOU. If you don’t have a chance to renew at the June dinner, please mail your check and renewal form to:

LWV Schenectady County
PO Box 9135
Schenectady, NY 12309

Thank You!

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, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024

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 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 _____