



The

MARCH—APRIL 2024

**LOCAL VOTER
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA**

Syracuse Metro LWV
PO Box 11862
Syracuse NY 13218
Phone: (315) 396-8225
Email: lwvsyr@gmail.com
Web Sites:
Local: www.lwvsyr.org
State: www.lwvny.org
National: www.lwv.org



March 6th– Lunch & Learn
Tulley's 2943 Erie Blvd. E. Syr.

March 14th– LWVSYR Board Mtg.
Jamesville-Dewitt Library—6PM

March 16th– LWVNY Regional Mtg.
Cortland Area

April 2nd– Presidential Primary
Polls open 6AM-9PM

April 11th– LWVSYR Board Mtg.
Jamesville-Dewitt Library– 6PM

April 19th– Legislative Breakfast
Collegian Hotel: 730-9:30 AM

May 8th—Deciding Vote Event
1st Unitarian Universalist Church
109 Waring Rd. Syracuse 13224



**March is
Women's
History
Month!**

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**LWVSYR FIRST WEDNESDAY
LUNCH & LEARN AT NOON**

March 6, 2024 11:30 AM-1:00PM

Tully's Restaurant

2943 Erie Boulevard East, Syracuse 13224



Topic:

How to increase representation in government by breaking the barriers to voting and curbing the influence of money in politics.

**Speaker
Christine Wood**

Ms. Wood serves as a Co-Director for the Public Citizen Declaration for American Democracy. Prior to this role, she served as the Field Director for the Coalition, where she spearheaded their grassroots organizing work.

Public Citizen Declaration for America Democracy is a coalition of 260+ organizations working together to make the promise of democracy real for all of us by :

Protecting our Freedom to Vote
Ensuring Fair Representation in Government
Reducing the Influence of Big Money in Politics
Combating Partisan Election Subversion

JOIN BY ZOOM:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5634341614>
MEETING ID: 563 434 1614
PASSCODE: LWVSYR

JOIN BY PHONE:
+1 646 558 8656 US (NEW YORK)
MEETING ID: 563 434 1614
PASSCODE: 925553

BOARD NOTES

WELCOME NEW MEMBER Cynthia Durham

LWVSyr Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is seeking members who might want to fill upcoming positions on the LWV Syracuse Board of Directors. The following positions will possibly be available as of July 1, 2024:

- Leadership Team & Administration
- Director of Social Media
- Co-Director of Program, Issues & Advocacy
- Co-Director of DEI
- Nominating Committee Members

If you might be interested in these or any future leadership positions, please contact Sarah C. O'Neill, at sarahcbittel@gmail.com. I can provide job descriptions to help you find a position that fits best for you. There may also be opportunities to be mentored by current Board members for when their positions become available in the future.

Sarah O'Neill

High School Voter Registration

Do you have a connection with a suburban High School?

Will you ask if the LWV can come into their Civics Class to register students or do they want us to drop off Voter Registration forms? Please contact Joan Durant: joandurant69@gmail.com call or text 315 345-5860.

We are working with all the Syracuse City School District High Schools to schedule voter registration. Are you willing to volunteer in late March or early April? Are you willing to volunteer during the day to register these students? To volunteer we are using SignUp. Here is how it works in three easy steps:

1). Click this link to see our SignUp (event): <https://signup.com/go/XZBRRWf>

2). Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) (dates and times) you like. **Additional High School spots will be added, check back.**

3). Sign Up! It's Easy – you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp. But using your email makes it much easier for our organizer to keep track. You will not get irrelevant emails, only ones applying to the event for which you sign up.

Joan Durant & Mary Kuhn
Voter Service Co-Directors

Officers

Leadership Team

Joan Durant
Margrit Diehl
Roberta Millert
Amanda Slisz

Secretary
Treasurer

Dona Wonacott
Roberta Millert

Directors

Education
Program/ Issues & Advocacy

Margrit Diehl
Margaret Chase
Dorothy Wrase Hares
Robin Brown-Bolewski

Membership
Voter Service

Joan Durant
Mary Kuhn

Events
Social Media
Publications
DEI
Development

Cheryl Matt
Chanel Turnquest
Joan Johnson
Karen Chisholm
Ellyn Lentz

Off-Board Positions

Budget Director
Healthcare Specialist
Nominating Committee

Kathy Zabinski
Dorothy Wrase Hares
Linda Alario
Trymeter Carter
Sarah O'Neill
*Dorothy Wrase Hares
*Ellyn Lentz

*Board Members

LWV Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Policy

The League of Women Voters is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, and communities and policy maker in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.



NYS Presidential Primary—Tuesday April 2, 2024

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS (ONONDAGA COUNTY)

ARMOND MAGNARELLI COMMUNITY CENTER AT MCCHESENEY PARK
2300 Grant Boulevard, Syracuse NY 13208

BEAUCHAMP BRANCH LIBRARY
2111 South Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13205

CAMILLUS FIRE DEPARTMENT (Rear Entrance)
5801 Newport Rd, Camillus NY 13031

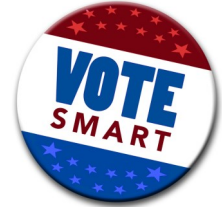
CLAY TOWN HALL COURTROOM (Rear Entrance)
4401 Route 31, Clay NY 13041

DEWITT TOWN HALL COURTROOM
5400 Butternut Drive, East Syracuse NY 13057

LAFAYETTE FIRE STATION #1 (Rear Entrance)
2444 Route 11 South, LaFayette NY 13084

LYSANDER MUNICIPAL BUILDING
8220 Loop Road, Baldwinsville, NY 13027

ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE – Mulroy Hall
4926 Onondaga Road, Syracuse, NY 13215



2024 EARLY VOTING DATES & TIMES

Saturday, March 23: 9:00AM-6:00PM

Sunday, March 24: 9:00AM-6:00PM

Monday, March 25: 9:00AM-6:00PM

Tuesday, March 26: 11:00AM-8:00PM

Wednesday, March 27: 11:00AM-8:00PM

Thursday, March 28: 9:00AM-6:00PM

Friday, March 29: 9:00AM-6:00PM

Saturday, March 30: 9:00AM-6:00PM

VOTER DEADLINE INFORMATION

- | | |
|----------|--|
| March 23 | Last day voter registration must be received by the BOE by mail or in person. |
| April 1 | Last day to apply in person for an absentee ballot. |
| April 2 | Last day to postmark ballot and the postmarked ballot envelope must be received by the BOE by April 9, 2024. |
| April 2 | Last day to deliver ballot in person to the BOE or to any poll site in your county. |

ONONDAGA COUNTY VILLAGE ELECTIONS—MARCH 19, 2024

Baldwinsville Fabius Fayetteville Marcellus Minoa

Is It Time To Review Closed Primary Elections?

Most state and federal primary elections in the U.S are divided up by political party and many are only open to voters who are members of a party. However, in the last 25 years independents (voters who have chosen not to align with a political party) are the largest and fastest group of voters in the country. Over 50% of young people do not register in a political party. Onondaga County Board of Elections statistics dated November 2023 show that there were 87,231 voters not registered in a political party out of a total of 306,077 registered voters. That shows that over 87,000 will be unable to vote in the Presidential Primary.



In 15 states (including New York) and the District of Columbia, at least one political party conducts closed primaries, while states with open primaries (or some variation of an open primary) allow cross over voting. To vote in a closed primary you must be registered in that party. An example would be if you are enrolled as a democrat, you cannot vote in a republican or other party primary. If you are registered as an independent, you lose your right to vote. Experts and advocates say this electoral process that excludes voters has led to more extreme candidates and a polarization problem in U.S primaries.

As we approach the 2024 election, there is movement in many closed primary states to open the process so all registered voters can participate. However, they are running against opposition from party leaders and partisans who think only party leaders should choose their candidates for the general election.

Joan Johnson, Publications Director

The League's History Sponsoring Presidential Debates

With presidential debates coming soon, it's worth remembering an important moment in history -

"In 1988, the League of Women Voters of the USA ended its role as the sponsor of presidential debates because it has no intention of being an accessory to the hoodwinking of the American public."

The League of Women Voters had hosted candidate debates at the local and state level since its founding in 1920. In 1976, they sponsored the first ever televised, nonpartisan debate between presidential candidates Ronald Reagan and Walter Mondale. The debate allowed Americans across the country to see two candidates side by side for the first time, addressing the same issues in a nonpartisan setting. The league received an Emmy award for Outstanding Achievement in Broadcast Journalism for sponsoring the debate. The League went on to sponsor presidential debates in 1980 and 1984.

As campaigns became more and more image-driven and scripted, the chairpersons of the Democratic and Republican parties announced their intention to sponsor their own debates. The League was explicit in its opposition to this move. How could an organization set up by political parties offer an unbiased, nonpartisan forum for debate?

The League moved forward with its own plans for a nonpartisan debate. In September representatives from the Bush and Dukakis campaigns presented the League with an agreement that gave the campaigns the power to:

- Pack the debate hall with their own supporters and relegate press to the back two rows
- Control the selection of the people who asked candidates questions during the debate
- Determine the debate format
- Restrict what the television cameras could take pictures of during the debate

In response, on October 3, 1988, the League withdrew its sponsorship of the presidential debate.

From LWVUS Archives



Reservations for Legislative Breakfast Due April 13. Checks Payable to LWVSYR.

Mail: PO Box 11862, Syracuse NY 13218

Email: lwvsyr@gmail.com or by Pay Pal at [lwvsyr.org](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flwvsyr.org)

NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FINANCING PROGRAM

The New York State Public Campaign Financing Commission approved in 2020, is now in effect for candidates seeking legislative office in 2024 and statewide office in 2026. For statewide candidates from an individual donor over the course of an election cycle. Now statewide candidates can only except \$18,000 per donor.

For senate candidates the limit is \$10,000 and for assembly candidates it is \$6,000. Under the new system, candidates who receive donations between \$5.00 and \$250.000 qualify for matching funds if donors do not give a \$1.00 more in the same election cycle.

Candidates do need to qualify to participate by demonstrating they have enough support to be viable candidates. Candidates must also raise a certain amount of matchable funds from enough New Yorkers in their district to become eligible for public money.

The program should also provide an opportunity for more citizens to run for office.

. Let's hope it works!



NYS CONGRESIONAL REDISTRICTING UPDATE

The NYS Congressional Redistricting Saga continues. In December 2024 the New York State Court of Appeals ruled that the congressional maps used during the 2022 congressional election were temporary. The Court ordered New York's Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) to submit new maps to the state legislature by February 28, 2024. The IRC released its latest proposal on February 15, 2024.

On February 27th, after returning from winter break, the legislature voted to reject the proposal. According to the NYS Constitution, the legislature, with the approval of the governor, gets to draw the congressional lines.

The IRC map proposal is now in the hands of the state legislature whose members can approve the plan or draw its own lines. **The vote is planned for February 29th.** If approved by the democratic majority in both the Senate and the Assembly, it will be sent to the governor for her approval.

What does this mean for Onondaga County voters? The 22nd Congressional District appears the same as the plan submitted by the IRC.

Will it end here? Republicans still have the potential to file a legal challenge against the plan.



DECIDING VOTE



**WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024
1ST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
109 WARING ROAD
SYRACUSE NY 13224
5:30-8:00PM**

Deciding Vote is a documentary on how a courageous NYS Assemblymember, George Michaels, cast a deciding vote that changed the course of women's rights in New York State and across the nation. A vote that also ended his political career.

Producer Rob Lyons of Wheelhouse Creative, a New York City Company that produces, designs and markets documentaries, and the assemblyman's daughter-in-law, Sarah Daniels, will be our guests.

A RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA

Annual NYS Legislative Breakfast

Friday April 19 – 7:30 am – 9:30 am

The Collegian Hotel 1060 E. Genesee St, Syracuse

Meet your NYS Assemblymembers and NYS Senators



**NYS Senators Rachel May and John Mannion. NYS Assemblymember Will Barclay
NYS Assemblymembers Pamela Hunter, John Lemondes, Bill Magnarelli, Al Stirpe**

Moderator: Andrew Donovan - NewsChannel 9



Breakfast Buffet \$ 30. Reservations to lwvsyr@gmail.com due April 13.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

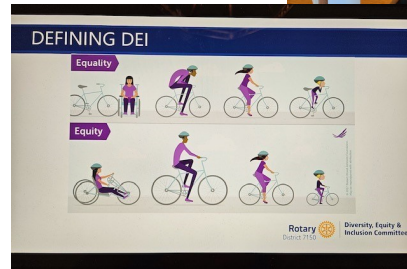
LUNCH & LEARN

JANUARY 3, 2024

At our first meeting of the new year, our Events Coordinator Cheryl Matt along with Rotarian Jonathan Yost presented the Rotary's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion program to our members and friends.

Cheryl and Jonathan shared information on how we can talk about DEI in a productive way, how we all can do better moving forward, and why embracing DEI is Important to the future of any organization.

Thank you Cheryl & Jonathan.



***LUNCH & LEARN
FEBRUARY 7, 2024***

REVIEWING OUR CURRENT LWVUS POSITIONS

Every two years prior to the League's national convention members are asked to review LWVUS present positions and recommend changes or add new positions to be acted on at convention. The goal of the LWVUS Program Planning process is to achieve collective agreement around how Leagues will move our mission forward for the next two years.

As apart of the process, Leagues are also asked to share information on how their work will impact the Campaign for Making Democracy Work.

The group also agreed to support a concurrence request from the Vermont League of Women Voters that would update the LWVUS Privatization Position to include "Healthcare" as a public good.

A concurrence from the Washington State League was also approved. With the loss of dozens of weekly newspapers across the country in the last several years, the LWVWA commenced a two year study that reached consensus by its members that it is the responsibility of the government to provide support for conditions under which credible local journalism can survive and thrive.

The Syracuse LWV will also include a question on why the LWVUS position to abolish the Electoral College was not focusing on the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact that would call for states to reward their electoral votes to the winner of the national popular vote once enough states join the agreement.

Thank you to Dorothy Wrase Hares & Peggy Chase, Program and Advocacy Directors, for conducting the meeting.





**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA
PO BOX 11862
SYRACUSE NY 13218**

March/April 2024



**Syracuse Metropolitan Area League of Women (*and Men*) Voters
Membership or Renewal Form**

Join the LWVSYRMA as a member:

_____ \$60.00 Individual _____ \$85.00 Family * _____ Student (full time student 16 years and older free)
(Annual Membership—July 1—June 30)

And or Show your SUPPORT for LWVSYRMA by donating:

\$ _____ LWVSYR gifts support our local general operation fund
\$ _____ LWVNYS Education Foundation (tax-deductible) gifts support our local educational efforts (ask your employer if they have a Matching Gift Program that will double or triple your donation)

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ZIP _____ PHONE: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____
Email _____ Date _____

*Family Membership two in same household

Please mail your check payable to: Syracuse Metro LWV, PO Box 11862, Syracuse NY 13218 or
pay by Pay Pal at www.lwvsyr.org

THANK YOU

