



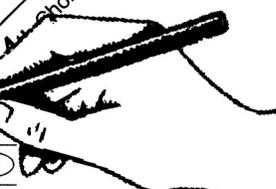
MARCH/APRIL, 2021
The LOCAL VOTER
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA

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

ZOOM AT NOON
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021
NOON—1:00pm

For Mayor

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice
JOHN ADAMS	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
THOMAS JEFFERSON	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ABRAHAM LINCOLN	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GEORGE WASHINGTON	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
write-in	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



LWVNYS CONVENTION

The LWVNYS Convention will go virtual this year, June 7-12, 2021. Workshops and caucuses will be available Monday, June 7 through Thursday, June 10, 2021. The opening plenary session will be the evening of Friday, June 11, followed by caucuses and roundtables and plenary, Saturday, June 12.

Although an in person convention is a great experience, More of us can participate with a virtual event.

Please start thinking about any caucuses or workshops you would like to produce or suggestions for the state to produce.

Send your suggestions to:
lwvsyr@gmail.com
 Or call us at:

Ranked-Choice Voting
How it Works?
Pros and Cons?

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dustin Czarny— Democratic Caucus Chair, NYS Election Commissioners Association & Onondaga County Democratic Election Commissioner

Jessica Bumpus – Communications Director for Senator Rachel May

Directions for joining the ZOOM meeting will be sent closer to the date. To join by phone (no video): 1 646 558 8656

The public is invited to join the meeting .

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BOARD NOTES

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jessica Langerman
Nicole McManus
Patrice Robinson

Onondaga VOTES

Onondaga Votes and its coalition of civic minded organizations, including the Syracuse Metro LWV, is once again gearing up for the 2021 Primary and General Elections. Their goal of “Getting Out the Vote” in underserved areas has been a great success. If you are interested in joining their efforts, please contact Joan Durant at joandurant69@gmail.com.

ZOOM AT NOON

Wednesday,
May 5, 2021

Our guest speaker is Roy Gutterman, an expert on communications law and the First Amendment and Director of the Newhouse School’s Tully Center for Free Speech.

*March is
Women’s
History Month*



An annual declared month that highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society.

Officers

Leadership Team...	Joan Durant Margrit Diehl Roberta Millert
Secretary...	Joan Littlehale
Treasurer....	Roberta Millert

Directors

Education...	Margrit Diehl
Membership ...	Erin Leigh Darnley Michele Jones Galvin Jessica Bumpus
Finance/Fundraising	
Social Media ...	Miranda Askew-Brown
Publications...	Joan Johnson
Public Relations...	Nodesia Hernandez
Voter Service...	Joan Durant Mary Kuhn
Issues & Advocacy...	Margaret Chase Diane Dwire
Program...	Carrie Penner
Events Coordinator...	Amanda Slisz

Off-Board Positions

Budget Director....	Erin Leigh Darnley
Nominating Committee...	Chanel Turnquest Nodesia Hernandez Dorothy Wrase Hares Joan Littlehale Amanda Slisz

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For more information please call the League office at (315) 396-8225 or e-mail to lwsyr@gmail.com

Diversity Statement

The Syracuse Metropolitan League of Women Voters is committed to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any League activity on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, or national origin.

ZOOM AT NOON
WITH OUR NEW YORK LEGISLATIVE DELEGATON

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2021
NOON - 1:00 PM



Senator John Mannion
Senator Rachel May
Assemblymember William Barclay
Assemblymember Pamela Hunter
Assemblymember John Lemondes
Assemblymember William Magnarelli
Assemblymember Al Stirpe

Learn where they stand on the issues you care about.

Join us for a Noon Webinar hosted by Joan Durant, LWVSYR Voter Service Director

Our Moderator—Christ Bolt, WAER's News Director

Directions to follow closer to the date



REDISTRICTING UPDATE



Despite many hurdles, including that Census data will not be available until April 30, 2021, the League of Women Voters of NYS continues to push for a fair redistricting process. The League has joined with several other good government groups to advocate for a process set forth by the voter approved 2014 Amendment to the NYS Constitution.

In January, the State Legislature convened to begin the 2021 session. The Senate and Assembly have already passed a constitutional amendment to alter the voting structure of the state's new Independent Redistricting Commission. The League is opposed to amending the Redistricting Commission arguing that we need to try out this new method of redistricting approved by the voters of New York.

The Commission has continued its regular meetings. Most recent meetings have focused on funding for the Commission. Initially the FY 2020-2021 budget had indicated there was \$750,000 available for the Commission through the Department of State, but more recent reports have stated there is actually 1 million available as grant funding through the SUNY Research Foundation. In December, before we were aware of this discrepancy, we issued a joint letter to the Governor urging him to work with the Department of State to ensure these funds are released. The League also issued an action alert to all members urging them to contact the Governor's office to direct the Department of State to release these funds.

At the Commission's most recent meeting, the Co-Executive Directors indicated that SUNY Research Foundation had said the funding may be further delayed but did not say why this delay persists. We again worked with our partners to issue a letter to legislative leaders to order that these funds be immediately released.

Although we have not yet seen the Commission's budget request letter, early reports have indicated the Commission will be requesting \$3.9 million for FY 2021-2022. Once we see the final budget request and the Governor's proposed budget, we will work to advocate for the funds that are requested by the Commission.

On January 14th, the League held its campaign kickoff webinar. A second campaign webinar was held January 28th.

The League has also hired Alison Martinez, a second year graduate student in the Higher Education Master's program at the University at Albany, to help us in our redistricting campaign. Alison Martinez will be assisting us in our redistricting campaign.

Jennifer Wilson, LWNYS Deputy Director
Sally Robinson, 2nd Vice President for Issues & Advocacy

What's at Stake for New York With a New Redistricting Plan?

Census data predicts that New York State will lose one or possibly two congressional seats when the new redistricting lines are approved. The new Redistricting Commission will determine which congressional districts will be merged by the loss of one or two districts.

Losing just one seat will bring us down from 27 to 26 representatives in Congress. At its peak between 1393-1953, New York had 45 seats. The new commission will determine which congressional districts will be merged by the loss of one or possibly two districts.

The commission will also determine what the 63 senate district lines and the 150 assembly district lines will look like when their work is done.

**NEW YORK STATE PRIMARY
TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2021**

**GENERAL ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021**

**TENTATIVE
OFFICES TO BE FILLED— NOVEMBER 2, 2021**

ONONDAGA COUNTY:
17 COUNTY LEGISLATORS

CITY OF SYRACUSE:
MAYOR
CITY COURT JUDGE
PRESIDENT OF COMMON COUNCIL
(2) COUNCILORS-AT-LARGE
(3) COMMISSIONERS OF EDUCATION
(5) DISTRICT COUNCILORS

MALE & FEMALE MEMBERS OF STATE COMMITTEE (Republican Party Only)

***TOWN OFFICES (ALL 19 TOWNS):**
SUPERVISOR, TOWN BOARD, TOWN CLERK, HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT, RECEIVER OF TAXES,
TOWN JUSTICE

***VILLAGE OFFICES: CAMILLUS, EAST SYRACUSE, SOLVAY, TULLY**
MAYOR, TRUSTEES, JUSTICE

** Races vary in each town and village.*

PRIMARY DAY DEADLINES

May 28, 2021—Last day to postmark registration application or register in person at the BOE

June 15, 2021—Last day to apply for an absentee ballot

June 21, 2021—Last day to apply in person for an absentee ballot

June 22, 2021—Last day to postmark an absentee ballot

June 22, 2021—last day to deliver an absentee ballot in person

Early Voting sites have not yet been determined.



NEW YORK STATE ELECTION REFORM

ABSENTEE VOTING

The State Senate has passed a package of absentee voting reforms including the following:

- S.253: Legislation that would allow absentee ballots to be counted if they have stray marks or are missing a signature date
- S.264: Legislation to expand the deadline to submit an absentee ballot application from 17 days to 15 days ahead of an election
- S.492: Legislation to allow for drop boxes to be used for absentee voting
- S.516: Legislation to mandate speedier sending of absentee ballots
- S.631: Legislation to allow voters to submit absentee ballot application sooner than 30 days ahead of the election (the 2020 bill sunset in December)
- S.632: Legislation to allow voters to submit their absentee ballot request electronically (the 2020 bill sunset in December)
- S.1027: Legislation to expedite absentee ballot counting
- S.1028: Legislation to require boards of election to have an absentee ballot tracker

The Senate also again passed constitutional amendments to allow for no-excuse absentee voting and same day voter registration.

The State League has sent a request to the new the Chair of Assembly Election Law Committee so see if we can determine when these bills may be taken up in the Assembly.

EARLY VOTING

More than 2.5 million New Yorkers took advantage of early voting in the 2020 election. Many of these voters waited in long lines for hours to cast their ballot early. The legislature has already taken action to expand early voting in New York by expanding the number of poll sites in each county. New proposals to reduce the number of registered voters per early voting site will more than double the minimum number of mandated sites to over 800 state-wide.

The Governor has also proposed legislation to ensure that at least one early voting site per county remain open until 9:00pm at least three nights per week. The proposal also extends the minimum number of polling hours for all early sites on weekends.

RESTORING VOTING RIGHTS TO PAROLEES

Several years ago Governor Cuomo restored, by Executive Order, voting rights to New Yorkers who have completed a prison term and are released to Parole supervision and have been compliant with Department of Corrections and Community ‘Supervision (DOCCS) regulations.

The purpose of this bill is to restore voting rights to parolees, post-incarceration to facilitate community reintegration and participation in the civic process, rather than requiring a parolee to wait until he or she has been discharged from parole or reached the maximum expiration date of the underlying sentence.

The Senate has passed legislation in support of this legislation. Please call your Assemblymember urging them to support Assembly Bill A04448A, giving parolees the right to vote.

William Barclay 315-598-5185
Al Stirpe 315-452-1115
Pamela Hunter 315-449-9536
Bill Magnarelli 315-428-9651



ELECTION FUNDING

In testimony before the State Senate and State Assembly Fiscal Committees, the League expressed their appreciation of the advancements the legislature and Governor have made to New York’s election procedures. New York State is finally in the 21st century with regard to voting, but we are still funding our elections as if they were being conducted in the pre-technology era. In order to realize the voter enhancement goals of the Legislative Leaders and Governor, the State Board of Elections and county boards of elections need a serious funding commitment. We urge the legislature to consider the importance of voting when drafting their budget revisions, and to ensure that their progressive elections reforms are not unfunded mandates.

LWVNYS DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION TASK FORCE UPDATE

LWVNYS DEI Task Force:

The DEI Task Force has been meeting virtually since August 2020 with good attendance and our most recent discussions included the following:

- Ways in which a “DEI lens” had been applied by local Leagues to their GOTV activities (i.e., partnerships with Operation PUSH and NAACP, door hangers in and postcards to historically poor turn out communities, lawn signs, Hispanic radio PSA’s, VR in non-traditional locations e.g., in a Mosque, supporting voters in long lines occurring in underserved communities, bus signage to broaden the audience for our message to “be a Voter”.)
- Beginning to identify how to include Organizational Equity as part of our LWVNYS Strategic Plan. To do that, we need to understand the differences between the standard objectives of Equality versus today’s goals as relate to Equity. For assistance in your understanding:
 - Equality – is a system in which everyone has the same amount of resources provided despite their existing needs or assets.
 - Equity – is fair treatment in access, treatment, opportunity, and advancement for all while at the same time striving to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of some groups. Tackling equity issues requires an understanding of the root causes of outcome disparities within our society.
- Confirmation that local Leagues that have not yet started to adopt the LWVUS DEI Policy, and placed it in visible locations, do need to begin. Although aspirational in its tone, it holds us to account for our actions, to both our members and to our communities. Our team will be assessing related metrics to be utilized to help track progress in process and outcomes (impact).

DEI Assessment Survey: As of January, the State League has joined the ranks of the local Leagues represented on the Task Force who have completed a DEI Assessment Survey. I understand that discussions were sometimes difficult, but I hope that they were nevertheless valuable in determining potential next steps for your League.

Next Steps: The results will be aggregated shortly for the Task Force to disseminate and compare against while a state-wide plan of action is being fashioned. Also, these results will be used to consult with DEI workshop speakers and educators as we plan for conducting DEI-related state-wide training, beginning this year.

DEI Policy and Bylaws:

Each local League must adopt/adapt the LWVUS DEI Policy Statement into your League’s local policy and bylaws. It is also recommended to make the statement evident via newsletters, websites, etc.

*Regina Tillman, Task Force Chairperson
Erin Leigh Darnley, LWVSYR Task Force Member*

From the January 2021 State Voter: Just for Fun

Governor’s criticism stuns women

Gov. Nathan Miller, echoing the recent attitude of the state Republican organization, toward the League of Women Voters, told 250 members of that group at a dinner at the Ten Eyck Hotel in Albany, that their league was a menace to American institutions. “When, without being organized as a political party, any organization that seeks to exert political influence, to coerce officials either in the legislative or administrative positions to their particular views by intimidation or otherwise, by promises of support at the elections or by threats, open or covert, of opposition at election, such an organization in my judgement is a menace to free institutions and to representative government,” he said.

He also railed against such LWV-endorsed proposals as an eight-hour work day and health insurance as “placing a premium on laziness and ill health” and “fanatical.” The audience sat stunned, their anger rising, during the governor’s remarks. He was followed by League of Women Voters founder Carrie Chapman Catt, who urged the women “not to worry about what anyone one says,” and exhorted them not to bow to intimidation. She said they should let their consciences be their guides rather than blindly ally themselves with any political party. The women in the audience broke out into applause at Catt’s words.

Albany Times Union, January 28, 1921



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

March/April 2021

LWVSyr Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____

E-mail _____ Date _____

___ *Individual Level....\$60*

___ *Household Level*....\$85*

___ *Student Level **.... Free*

*Please make check payable to:
 Syracuse Metro Area League of Women Voters
 PO Box 11862
 Syracuse, NY 13218*

** Two members in the same household*

*** Full time student 16 –25*

___ *I would like to support the League with a donation.*

Information call us at (315) 396-8225 or visit us at www.lwvsyr.org