



The

MARCH 2019
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

Calendar

Wednesday, March 6th

First Wednesday Luncheon

Tuesday, March 19th

ReFormers, Fix Democracy Now

Friday, April 5th

Legislative Breakfast

Tuesday, April 30th

LWVNY Advocacy and Lobby

Training Day (Albany)

June 7-9

LWVNYS Convention (Hilton, Albany)

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**LWVSYR ANNUAL
LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST
FRIDAY, APRIL 5**



**DETAILS AND RESERVATION
FORM ON PAGE 7**



The largest bipartisan coalition of its kind ever has assembled to advocate for political reform. Over 200 former Republican and Democratic members of Congress, Cabinet Officials and Governors are advocating for legislation aimed at strengthening ethics and accountability in government and the political system.

Join us for a conversation with former Congressman **Richard Hanna**, a member of the caucus, and learn what the ReFormers are doing to return Government to the American people.

Tuesday, March 19, 2019
5:30 PM
OASIS Lecture Hall
6333 State Route 298
East Syracuse NY 13057

Please let us know if you will be there so we can plan refreshments.

315-396-8225 (Phone)
lwvsyr@gmail.com (Email)

All are welcome - bring a friend

For more information on Issue One and the ReFormers Caucus:
www.issueone.org/reformers-caucus

Co-Sponsors:
Syracuse Metro League of Women Voters
CNY NOW
NASW NYS Central Division

BOARD NOTES

Welcome New Members
Miranda Askew Brown
Beth Williams

Naturalization Ceremonies

We are always looking for volunteers to register new citizens at these ceremonies. It is a very rewarding experience. Training is available if you have not done it previously.

Email us at

lwvsyr@gmail.com or call 315-396-8225 to volunteer. or for more information.



Celebrating 100 Years of a Great Idea*

Plans are well on their way for a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters in New York State. We have a very enthusiastic committee. Jennifer Blusk hosted our first meeting on Wednesday, February 27th.

We are aiming for September 12, 2019 and have agreed to a cocktail reception with a guest speaker or historical impersonator. Several potential venues were considered and we are in the process of checking them out.

Celebrating the past 100 years of our right to vote and envisioning the next 100 years will be our theme. Do you know of a catchy phrase or way to say this? Let us know.

Our discussion generated some creative and lively ideas not only for this celebration, but for other events during the year. These ideas include hosting a related movie, day trips to local suffrage sites, book readings, trivia contests and a parade.

If you would like to join our committee, please contact us at lwvsyr@gmail.com or 315-396-8225 and join the fun

*Courtesy of the 75th Anniversary of the LWNYS

FIRST WEDNESDAY LUNCHEON

Join us for our First Wednesday luncheon, March 6th at 12:30 PM at Tony's Restaurant, 3004 Burnet Avenue, Syracuse.

Hope to see you there. All are welcome.



Officers

Leadership Team...

Joan Durant
Joan Johnson
Margrit Diehl
Roberta Millert
Diane Dwire
Roberta Millert

Secretary...

Treasurer....

Directors

Education
Environmental Issues
Local Programs
Membership ...
Public Relations...
Voter Service...

Margrit Diehl
Marguerite Dormer
Jessica Bumpus
Heather Allison Waters
Andrea Wandersee
Joan Durant

Directors-at-large...

Michele Jones Galvin
Charles Gowing
Sandra Gowing
Ann Jamison
Sylvia Matousek

Off-Board Positions

Budget Director....
Membership Data Base...
Nominating Committee.....

Erin Leigh Darnley
Roberta Millert
Ona Bregman
Kerin Rigney
Ann Magnarelli

Technical Support...

Roberta Millert

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 by email at lwvsyr@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.



Find us on
Facebook

BECOME AN ELECTION INSPECTOR

The Onondaga County Board of Elections is in need of Election Inspectors for the 2019 Election Season. Election Day means over two thousand people will work at schools, churches and other facilities processing voters so that we can conduct a fair election, as perfectly as possible. It is a long day but it is very rewarding to know you have helped your community choose its leaders.



WE WANT YOU!

Election Inspectors are paid \$190.00 to work in the November General Election from 5:30am to 9:30pm. In the June Primary, the hours are from 11:30am-9:00pm and the pay is \$140.00. You must be registered in either the Democratic or Republican parties, be able to speak English, read and write in English (bilingual inspectors, especially Spanish speakers, are very welcome). You must be able to work the entire shift- we cannot split shifts.

As an Election Inspector you will be required to complete a 3 hour course on the processes and procedures related to being an inspector, followed by a mandatory written test. Persons who successfully complete the test will have \$25.00 added to their election inspector pay the first time they work at the polls. Contact the Board of Elections at 315-435-3331 for more information.

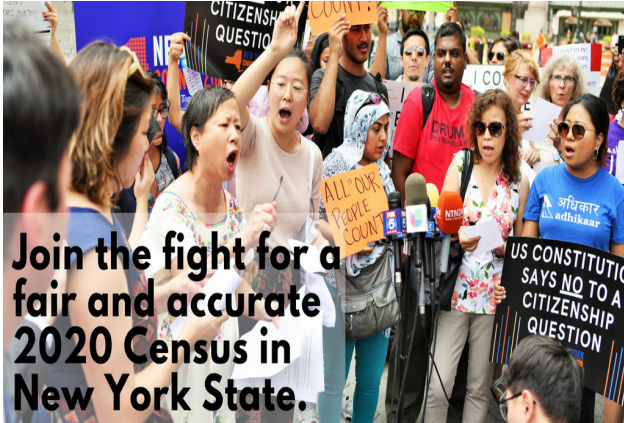
With Early Voting now the law, the need for inspectors is even greater. Please consider this opportunity to serve your community and help ***“Make Democracy Work.”***

DATES TO REMEMBER

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| May 28, 1919 - | Local Suffrage Party members met with New York State Suffrage Party members for the purpose of electing officers to represent Onondaga and Cortland counties in a proposed New York State League of Women Voters that would replace the New York State Woman Suffrage party. |
| November 19, 1919 - | At the 51st Convention of the New York State Woman Suffrage Party, delegates voted to change their name to the New York State League of Women Voters. |
| February 14, 1920 - | During the convention of the American Woman Suffrage Association, under the guidance of Carrie Chapman Catt, the National League of Women Voters was founded, six months before the ratification of the 19th Amendment. |
| May 21, 2019 - | 100 th Anniversary of the 19 th Amendment passage in the House of Representatives |
| June 4, 2019 - | 100 th Anniversary of the 19 th Amendment passage in the Senate |
| Nov. 19, 2019 - | 100 th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of New York State |
| August 18, 2020 - | 100 th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19 th Amendment |



NEW YORK COUNTS 2020



Under the direction of the board, the New York State League has signed on as an organizational partner to New York Counts 2020. New York Counts 2020 is a broad-based, statewide coalition composed of racial, ethnic, immigrant, religious, health, education, labor, housing, social services, and business groups working in partnership with state and local government officials. Their aim is to ensure that New Yorkers across the state -particularly marginalized communities in hard-to-count districts- can fully maximize their participation in the 2020 Census. As a partner, the League will be working with the coalition to create and distribute educational materials and trainings. You can find out more about New York Counts 2020 by going to:

www.newyorkcounts2020.org

LWVNYS LOBBY DAY



Mark your calendar now for April 30th in Albany. This will be our annual advocacy training day with opportunity to lobby your state legislators in Albany.

STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS

LWVNY HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE UPDATE

This is an exciting time for the possibility of passage for the New York Health Act, the single-payer legislation in New York State. Along with other progressive issues the League has been fighting for, the Senate change since the last election increases the chance that the bill will finally be brought to the floor for a vote. Many of the newly elected legislators ran on support of this bill. Our Health Care Committee is working to educate the public through grassroots techniques such as letters-to-the editor, op-ed articles, presentations to various local groups, providing local forums, and lobbying legislators about the facts of the legislation. The current bill is being amended to include long-term care. New York State can serve as a testing ground for the future of American medicine if passage and implementation is achieved.

Madeline Zevon

Democracy Ready NY Coalition

The League is pleased to be a partner in the Democracy Ready NY coalition. A press release on the coalition was distributed last week.

The Democracy Ready NY Coalition, a new statewide group working to secure the right of all New York students to a quality P-12 education that prepares them for effective civic participation, announced its launch today, a day when many are reflecting on the past, present, and future of our democracy.




The coalition of educational-justice organizations, civic-education leaders, and good-government advocates was forged by the Center for Educational Equity at Teachers College, Columbia University, following a year of consultation with stakeholder groups and leaders from across the state.

DemocracyReady NY will help guide New York's legislature and education policymakers as they advance their education priorities for the 2019 legislative session and beyond. DemocracyReady NY promotes the right of all New York students to develop the knowledge, skills, experiences, and dispositions needed to become effective civic participants.

The Coalition will raise awareness of students' right to effective civic preparation under the New York State constitution, and work to strengthen state education law, policy, practice, and resources to guarantee that right in every school in the state.



Campaign Finance and Ethics Reforms

	Executive Proposal	League's Position
Campaign Finance 	<p>This Governor's proposed public financing plan would reform the State's campaign finance system by requiring increased disclosure of certain campaign contributions, reducing campaign contribution limits, and enacting a voluntary public campaign finance system.</p>	<p>The League strongly supports the executive budget requirement for disclosure of intermediaries or "bundlers."</p> <p>The League has long supported voluntary public financing of campaigns and a significant reduction in contribution limits. New York State has the highest contribution limit of any state with limits. We believe that the contribution limits proposed in the executive budget (for those within and outside public financing) do not go far enough in reducing these limits. Limits should be significantly lower, closer to the maximum contribution for federal office of \$2,700.</p> <p>The \$25,000 limit on housekeeping accounts is also too high. Party and political committees should have lower "hard" limits on contributions and stricter rules about the use of these accounts.</p>
 Contract Procurement	<p>The executive budget proposes new campaign finance restrictions on those seeking and receiving government contracts. The League has long supported "pay-to-play" restrictions and would like to see these limits extended to lobbyists and to contributions to state committees as well as candidates.</p>	<p>The League supports the creation of a Database of Deals. A.2334 (Schimming).</p> <p>A "Database of Deals" will list all state economic development benefits, including grants, loans or tax abatements awarded to a particular business or organization. The "Database of Deals" will also include the cost to taxpayers of each job created, and create a uniform definition of what a "job" is across subsidy programs including full-time, part-time, permanent, and contract jobs.</p>
 Ethics	<p>The most glaring and noticeable omission from the executive budget were reforms to strengthen and improve ethics enforcement.</p>	<p>The League believes that the Joint Commission on Public Ethics and the Legislative Ethics Commission need to be replaced with one effective and independent ethics enforcement agency.</p>

The NYS Commission Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE) consists of 14 members, three appointed by the Temporary President of the Senate, three appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, one appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, one appointed by the Minority Leader of the Assembly, and six appointed by the Governor and the Lt. Governor. The Commission appoints an Executive Director.

The Commission was established as part of the Public Integrity Reform Act of 2011, which comprehensively reformed the oversight and regulation of ethics and lobbying in New York State. The League believes our current system for ethics enforcement is not working and is disappointed that none of the executive budget reforms address enforcement shortcomings.

First Wednesday Luncheon - February 5, 2019



We resumed our First Wednesday Luncheons at Tony's Restaurant on February 5th. Over 25 members and friends of the League heard from our Board of Elections Commissioners, Michele Sardo and Dustin Czarny, about what the new election reforms mean to Onondaga County voters and what we can expect this election season. The first change will be the movement of our state and local primary from the second Tuesday of September to the fourth Tuesday in June.

Early voting will go into effect this year. In Onondaga County, six polling sites will be open around the county to accommodate early voters beginning October 27. It is estimated that the cost for implementation of early voting will be \$9.3 million across the state. We ask that you call or visit your state senator and assembly member and ask that they provide the necessary funding as they negotiate a new budget.

Other reforms will follow when signed into law, while some will call for amending the state constitution.

The League has supported these reforms for many years. As they are implemented New York should have greater voter participation and rank closer to states with high voter turnout.



Status of 2019 Election Reforms

Early Voting – Will take place for the first time in New York State with the 2019 General Election. In Onondaga County, six polling sites will be open around the county to accommodate early voters. Early voting will begin October 27, 2019 and go through November 3, 2019.

Primary Consolidation- Federal and state primaries will be combined into one primary on the fourth Tuesday in June. New York deadlines will comply with MOVE, the federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act. This will allow for two primaries rather than three in presidential years saving the state about \$25,000,000.

Same Day Voter Registration- In order for this reform to become law, the NYS Constitution needs to be amended. This would require the same bill that passed this year to be passed in both the Assembly and Senate in the Legislative session following the 2020 general election, and then being passed by voters in a referendum in 2021.

No-Excuse Absentee Voting- Would allow absentee voting without a cause. In order to become law it would require a NYS Constitutional Amendment as with same day voter registration.

Preregistration for 16 and 17 year olds- Would allow 16 and 17 year olds to preregister. This act will not take effect until January 2020.

State-wide Voter Registration Transfer- Provides that the Board of Elections transfers the registration and enrollment of a voter appearing on a statewide voter list to wherever they move in the state. This would enable voters who move to a different county in NY to vote on an affidavit ballot even if their new county was not notified of the change of address, and have their vote counted. Currently it is up to voters to reregister in the new county. This act will go into effect 60 days after it becomes law.

Closure of the LLC Loophole- Will change the way that candidates can run and fund their campaigns. This will eliminate the loophole which has allowed corporations to pour almost unlimited money into races through limited liability companies. Each limited liability company that makes a contribution or expenditure for political purposes must file a form with the NYS Board of Elections disclosing the identity of all members in the limited liability company and the proportion of each member's ownership interest. This act will take effect on the seventh day after it becomes law.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE SYRACUSE METRO AREA

ANNUAL BREAKFAST WITH YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS



**Friday, April 5, 2019
7:45AM—9:30AM**

**Embassy Suites - Destiny USA
311 Hiawatha Blvd. Syracuse 13204**

Breakfast Buffet —\$20.00

- Come and meet your state legislative representatives -**
- Learn where they stand on the issues you care about-**
- Take a chance on our annual basket raffle-**

RESERVATIONS

Phone: 315-396-8225

Email: lwvsyr@gmail.com

Mail: PO Box 11862, Syracuse NY 13218

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Number of Reservations @ \$20.00 _____ Total \$ _____

If paying by check, make payable to: **LWV Syracuse Metro Area**

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED
BY MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2018
THE EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



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

March 2019

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK IN NEW YORK SINCE 1919

___ Individual Member \$55.00 ___ Household* \$80.00 ___ Full Time Student Free

*Two members in the same household

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ (H) _____ (C)

Email _____ Date _____

To join call us at (315)396-8225, email us at league@lwvsyr.org or mail this form to
Syracuse Metro LWV, PO Box 11866, Syracuse NY 13218.

ANNUAL DUES—July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019

Please share this information with others who have expressed interest in our work or who have thought about becoming a member of the League..