



President's Letter

We're looking forward to hearing from Kim Siciliano about the latest happenings at the Schenectady YWCA at the **LWVSC Annual Dinner** on June 4. It's also a great opportunity to get together with our League friends! **Don't forget to RSVP by May 28 to lwvschenectady@gmail.com**

Thank you to the many League members that donated to replace voter registration materials that were lost in the fire at Ellen Daviero's home. We received over \$700 which will be a great help!

We've organized what we hope will be an interesting and informative panel discussion on the **Democracy During Detention Act (DDDA)** for Tuesday, May 19 at 6 PM at the Sycamore Collaborative, 839 Albany St., Schenectady. Most citizens detained in jail have the right to vote, unless they're currently serving a sentence for a felony conviction. But many detainees, along with many of the staff at jails, are not aware of this fact. The DDDA is designed to ensure consistent voter access across the state.

Adonis Richards, Poet Laureate of Schenectady, will open the program with an original poem.

Clyanna Lightbourn, LWVNYS Campaign Director for the DDDA, will give an overview of the Democracy During Detention Act and why it's necessary.

Jamel Muhammad, Youth L.I.F.E. Support President, will talk about his experiences as a formerly incarcerated individual and the work he does now with detainees at the Schenectady County Jail.

Our collaborators, Courtney Chaires and Danielle Brown, from the Schenectady and Union College chapters of the NAACP, respectively, will talk about the many reasons

the NAACP is concerned about voting rights for detained individuals.

We hope to see many League members at this event!

Cheryl Nechamen

President

**DEMOCRACY
DURING DETENTION**

Panel & Discussion
Tuesday May 19th, 2026
6:00PM at Sycamore Collaborative
839 Albany St., Schenectady

Poem by Adonis Richards - First Poet Laureate of Schenectady

Panelists:
Danielle Brown, NAACP- Union Chapter
Courtney Chaires, NAACP- Schenectady Chapter
Clyanna Lightbourn, Campaign Director, LWVNYS
Jamel Muhammad, Youth L.I.F.E. Support/President

Presented By:

NAACP
Union College Chapter

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

NAACP
Schenectady Branch

VOTE

*Please submit requests for accessibility accommodations by May 16 to
lwvschenectady@gmail.com*

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Help us empower voters and defend democracy.



Voter Services Report

More variations on a theme: The most important aspect of Voter Services is engaging with voters and enticing potential voters. It's not the number of people you register at a tabling event; it's how many people you talk to. Our presence reminds people of the importance of voting, and our engagement shows them that we are a trusted source for voters.

On April 25, we were at the first annual Earth Fest in Schenectady's Central Park. We registered one voter, but talked with dozens more, about the school board elections (May 19) and the primaries (June 23), discussed how candidate forums work, the new

Post Office rules regarding mail processing and how to ensure your mail-in ballot gets there on time.

For some of us, tabling is hard because it's uncomfortable to talk to strangers, let alone trying to get them to do something. A few tips:

1. Be happy. People like to engage with people who like them. Cheerfully ask if they're registered to vote and whether they know about upcoming elections or proposed legislation that might affect their rights? Offer them candy, a Constitution, a flag, stickers.
2. Listen. One person was on the fence about voting, but he told us about one (potential) candidate that he really likes. We pointed out that if he registers, he doesn't have to vote, but if his preferred candidate gets on the ballot, he'll be ready to vote.
3. Engage with children. Ask their parents if they can have a flag. If a child sees the candy dish, ask for parents' permission to let them choose one. This can start a conversation.
4. Have fun! If you are enjoying yourself, others will enjoy themselves too. And they will leave with a good feeling about our League.

Upcoming Opportunities:

- Sunday, May 31, Schenectady Greenmarket: 9:30 AM - 1:12 PM or 12 PM - 2:15 PM: 2 volunteers needed.
- Saturday, June 6, Kids Arts Fest on Jay Street, 12 PM - 2 PM or 2 PM - 4 PM: 2 volunteers needed.

If you haven't registered voters -- no worries. You'll be partnered with an experienced League member.

Here's the signup link: [LWV voter registration](#).

Any questions? E-mail me at lwvschenectady@gmail.com

Joan Fucillo

Voter Services



Suffs the Musical

Recorded from Broadway

Sunday, May 3, 2026

NYS Museum Huxley Theater

Theater opens at 1 pm, Suff's program begins at 1:30 pm

Free; registration required

Free and open to the public, but [Registration is Required](#).

****note: when I registered, the little "Next" button wasn't highlighted, but it still worked!***

Questions? Email lwwac@lwvalbany.org.

Presented by the League of Women Voters of Albany County. Cosponsored by the Leagues of Women Voters of Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady Counties.



Advocate for the Environment

Are you concerned about toxins in your food?

If your food is touching plastic, which most everything we buy is, it most likely contains a mixture of toxic chemicals, including PFAS, Phthalates and BPA, which scientists consider harmful to our health, and the health of our planet. (Where does all this plastic go? Landfills, burn plants.... then into our water and air). Some of these chemicals have been linked to birth defects, infertility, cancer, and developmental issues. Studies suggest we consume a credit card size worth of plastic each WEEK.

There is a simple action you can take! Contact the grocery store where you shop. Tell them you want less plastic. Remember: It was not always this way. No one asked for all this plastic!

- [Hannaford](#) or call the Home Office at [\(800\) 213-9040](#)
- [Price Chopper](#)
- [Fresh Market](#)
- [Healthy Living](#) or call [\(518\) 306-4900](#). *Most produce is NOT wrapped in plastic at this store – thank them!
- [Honest Weight Food Co-Op](#) or call [\(518\) 482-2667](#) *They encourage less plastic use – thank them!
- [Aldi](#)
- [Trader Joe's](#)
- [Whole Foods](#) or call [\(518\) 621-5300](#)

Sources:

- **Washington Post.** [The plastic chemicals in our food](#) *See the thousands of plastic chemicals in what we eat.* By [Shannon Osaka](#) and [Naema Ahmed](#) December 17, 2025
- World Wide Fund for Nature study, University of Newcastle.

Nancy Tudor

Environmental Chair



JOIN/RENEW

Membership

Please welcome our newest member, Sara Galica. Thanks to everyone who is renewing online, appreciate it!

Membership Updating:

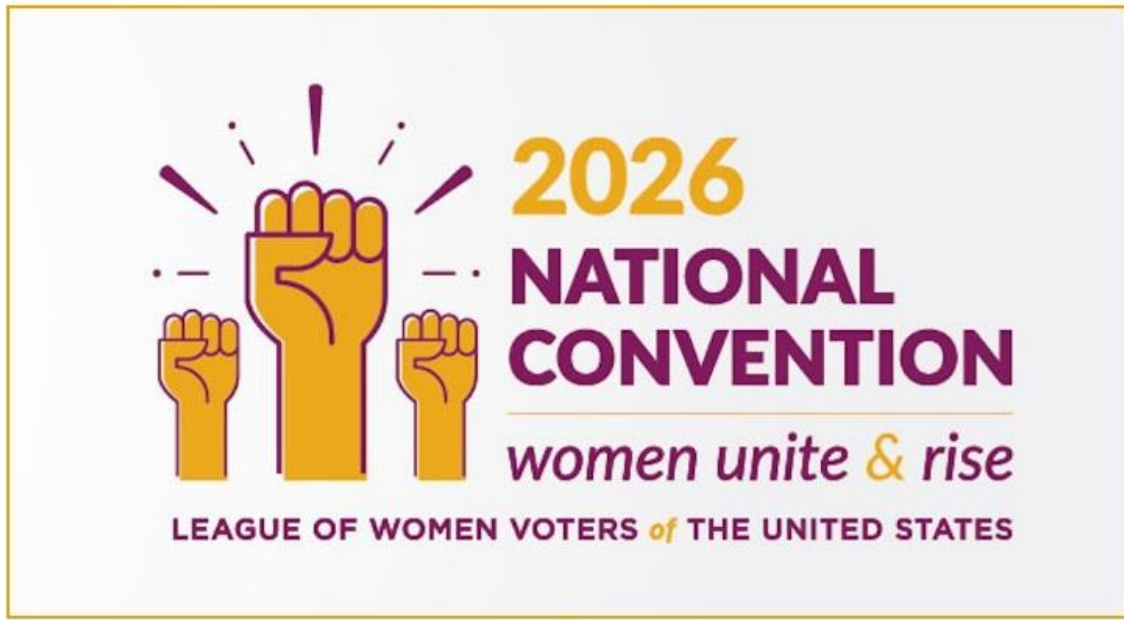
If you have received an email from me, Ellen Daviero, about needing to update your membership and would like help please call, text or email and I would be happy to help! My contact information is lwvschenectady@gmail.com , look forward to hearing from you. You can also [log in or sign up here](#) to join or renew online.

Upcoming Projects:

We are currently using the VAN (Voter Activation Network) online database from public voting rolls to do outreach to registered voters who have not voted in the last 2 elections as well as 18- to 30-year-old registered voters who have not voted. Our plan is to create a text message to send to encourage them to vote. after the primary in June.

If you are interested in this project or a postcard project, please reach out to me at lwvschenectady@gmail.com

Ellen Daviero
Membership



League of Women Voters of the US Convention

The 57th Biennial League of Women Voters National Convention will take place from June 26 to 28, 2026 in Columbus, Ohio. Our Schenectady County League will be sending Kate Rose and Lisa Pritchard to attend in person, but anyone can choose to attend individually at their own expense either in-person or virtually.

Consider registering to attend this powerful multi-day event where League members from across the country come together to network, learn, and chart the course for the next biennium. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

Wanted: Your Pictures

Do you have pictures of our membership in action, perhaps registering voters, tabling, or lobbying, that you are willing to share? We'd love to include them in this Bulletin or in social media. Please send them to Katie Beltramo at lwvschenectady@gmail.com . Thank you!

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”



Mark Your Calendar

- Sunday, May 3: Suffs screening at the New York State Museum at 1:30 pm. Free and open to the public but [you must pre-register](#).
- Monday, May 11: Beyond Plastics PRRIA Rally and Lobby Day from 10 am- 4 pm at Empire State Plaza [RSVP](#) by May 1.
- Wednesday, May 13, 2026: LWVSC Board Meeting at 6 pm in the McChesney Room at the Karen Johnson Library (Main Downtown Schenectady Public Library Branch) - just show up!
- Tuesday, May 19, 2026: School Board Elections
- Tuesday, May 19, 2026: Democracy During Detention Act panel discussion at 6 pm at Sycamore Collaborative
- Friday, May 22, 2026: Deadline to submit items for this Bulletin. Email submissions to Katie Beltramo at lwschenectady@gmail.com
- Thursday, May 28, 2026: Deadline to RSVP for the LWVSC Annual Dinner. RSVP to lwschenectady@gmail.com
- Thursday June 4, 2026: LWVSC Annual Dinner at the Turf Tavern
- Tuesday, June 23, 2026: Primary Elections

- Friday, June 26-Sunday, June 28, 2026: National LWV Convention in Columbus, OH - [learn more & register](#).

Board Members

President: Cheryl Nechamen

Vice President: Joan Fucillo

Voter Services Chair: Joan Fucillo

Membership: Ellen Daviero

Secretary: Kate Rose

Bulletin Editor: Katie Beltramo