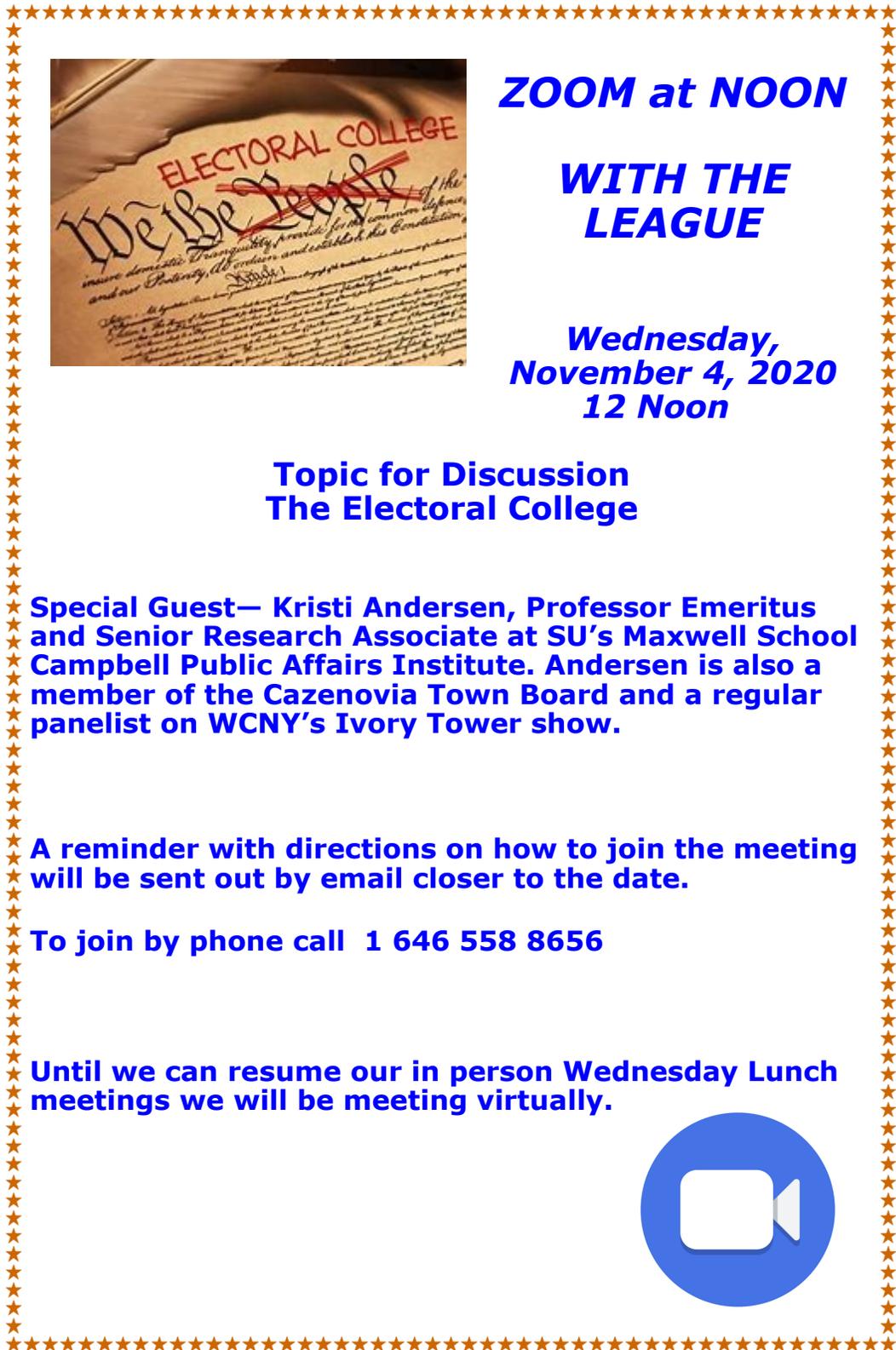




NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020
The LOCAL VOTER
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
SYRACUSE METROPOLITAN AREA

Syracuse Metro LWW
 PO Box 11862
 Syracuse NY 13218
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 Local: www.lwvsyr.org
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ZOOM at NOON

WITH THE LEAGUE

**Wednesday,
 November 4, 2020
 12 Noon**

**Topic for Discussion
 The Electoral College**

Special Guest— Kristi Andersen, Professor Emeritus and Senior Research Associate at SU's Maxwell School Campbell Public Affairs Institute. Andersen is also a member of the Cazenovia Town Board and a regular panelist on WCNY's Ivory Tower show.

A reminder with directions on how to join the meeting will be sent out by email closer to the date.

To join by phone call 1 646 558 8656

Until we can resume our in person Wednesday Lunch meetings we will be meeting virtually.



WHOSE ON YOUR BALLOT?

CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION

FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE

CHECK FOR DEBATES and FORUMS

AND MORE

VISIT:

VOTE411.ORG

**ELECTION DAY
 TUESDAY
 NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

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BOARD NOTES

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Christa Cook
Ellen Grapensteter
Sunju Raybeck

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of **Barbara Buck**. Our condolences to her family.



LOIS MEYER

Lois Meyer has been an active member of the League of Women Voters for over 50 years - first as a member of the Buffalo League and later the Syracuse League. During her many years with the Buffalo League she participated in many studies including a study of the Mayor's Budget, a Healthcare Study and a major study of the development of the Buffalo Waterfront.

After 30 years Lois retired from the Food and Drug Administration in 1994. Her League involvement continued, and she was elected treasurer of the Buffalo League. At that time the Buffalo City League, which had several branches in surrounding towns, decided to merge into one Buffalo/Niagara League.

These smaller branches did not want to give up their treasury. Lois devised a plan where they could track their own "pot of gold." She also did the payroll and IRS reports for the part-time office manager.

Lois then decided to move to the Syracuse area where she has been active in our league. Her pet project is registering new citizens at Naturalization Ceremonies. Lois has also been a member of AAUW since 1969.

Needless to say- Buffalo's loss is Syracuse's gain. Thank you, Lois for your commitment to the League and your role in "Making Democracy Work."



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 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.

How the League Reaches Consensus

Consensus, or membership understanding and agreement, is the basis of the grassroots character and effectiveness of the League of Women Voters. The League is a study and action organization. It is important to have a clear expression of member views to determine what action to take. Consensus-taking is a complex procedure at the local, regional, state, and national levels; it is puzzling to new members and challenging to experienced leaders.

Consensus is a process whereby members participate in a group discussion of an issue. The ‘consensus’ reached by members through group discussion is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity; rather it is the overall ‘sense of the group’ as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions.

Preparing for the meeting involves extensive membership participation and that members be well informed as possible on the issue. A resource committee is responsible for preparing a discussion outline based on fact sheets and articles to create interest to members and increase their understanding of the issues involved. The resource committee should not only give needed information but bring in pro and con arguments not covered and make sure all viewpoints are expressed.

Once consensus is agreed by a local league, the results are sent to the appropriate Board (State or National League Board). Here the results of all local league consensus reports are reviewed and the position is either approved or disapproved.



Countdown to Election Day

The Syracuse Metro League of Women Voters and Onondaga Votes along with several other civic minded organizations have been active during the summer and fall, on Syracuse’s southside, registering voters and providing information on the voting process. As well , they have encouraged people to participate in the 2020 Census. Billboards have also been placed throughout the area.

Signs like the one below have been placed in several Centro Bus shelters urging citizens to vote.



It looks like their work has paid off—as of October 24th, the Onondaga County Board of Elections has reported a record breaking 308,296 eligible voters have registered to vote this year. The number of people voting by absentee ballot has also broken a record with the BOE processing over 63,000 absentee ballot requests. Over 35,000 of these ballots already have been returned to the BOE. Voters have until October 27th to request an absentee ballot. Ballots must be postmarked by November 3rd and received by November 10th or delivered to the BOE in person by November 3rd. Nearly 10,000 citizens voted during the first two days of early voting. Early Voting continues through November 1st.

PREPARING FOR OUR HEALTHCARE UPDATE STUDY

Dorothy Wrase Hares, Amanda Slitz

The League of Women Voters of New York has updated the position on Healthcare and the Financing of Healthcare which was first created in 1991. Each local league has been asked to review the 2021 position and respond to 2 consensus decisions by **March 1, 2021**, specifically:

A. Do you accept the new position on Healthcare? YES or NO.

No retains the current position; Yes accepts the new position

B. Do you accept the new position on Financing of Healthcare? YES or NO.

No retains the current position; Yes accepts the new position

The 2021 proposed positions (Healthcare and The Financing of Healthcare) with the changes from the previous position (1991) indicated with the new wording underlined. Footnotes explaining the changes in the 2021 position can be accessed in this link, which contains the complete NYS LWV Update on Healthcare and the Financing of Healthcare (2019-2021) Materials. Footnotes for Healthcare can be found on p. 31-32 and Healthcare Financing on p.33-35.

<https://files.constantcontact.com/37d635eb001/471e6b05-c610-4098-99e2-8d5d0d19e968.pdf>

The linked document can also be found on the LWVNYS website - <https://my.lwv.org/new-york-state> or our local website at <https://my.lwv.org/new-york/syracuse-metropolitan-area>

Healthcare (2021) [Underlining indicates new wording]

GOALS

The League of Women Voters of New York State (LWVNYS) believes that everyone should have access to essential physical and behavioral healthcare. New York State has a proper role in the regulation of healthcare and must assure high quality care that is affordable and accessible to all.⁹¹

Resources should be devoted to health promotion and disease prevention so that people can take active responsibility for their own health. People should have opportunities to participate effectively in decisions regarding their personal health and in healthcare policy decisions. ⁹²

The League believes that New York State's primary role in healthcare is to assure that quality care is available to all New Yorkers. We believe that the state should provide planning and regulations to assure everyone, including the medically indigent, access to an essential level of quality physical and behavioral healthcare. Cost containment should be an important criterion in developing regulations. Such regulation, however, should not compromise the quality of care or its accessibility.

The League supports regulatory incentives to encourage the development of cost-effective alternative ways of delivering and paying for healthcare, appropriate to all areas of NYS, with coordination across regulatory bodies to avoid undue delays and contradictory, duplicative regulations. Delivery programs may take place in a variety of settings, including the home and online, and must provide quality care, meaning consistent with "standard of care" guidelines, by trained and licensed personnel, staffed adequately to ensure their own and patient safety. ⁹³

Coordination of services is essential to assure that community needs are met. As public health crises increasingly reveal, NYS should protect the health of its most vulnerable populations, urban and rural,⁹⁴ in order to protect the health of everyone. In addition, all programs should be evaluated regularly. Provider reimbursement should include incentives for efficiency and for disease prevention and health promotion activities. Public health, environmental health and research activities should be continued.

Decisions on medical procedures that would prolong life should be made jointly by patient, family, and physician. Patient decisions, including those made prior to need, should be respected.

ESSENTIAL LEVEL OF QUALITY CARE

The League supports uniform eligibility and coverage of essential healthcare services, both physical and behavioral,⁹⁵ ideally, including coverage of services such as vision, dental, hearing, and long-term care, through public financing.⁹⁶ Access to optional insurance coverage for care not covered by public financing should be available. **The League** has a strong commitment to an emphasis on preventive care, health education, and appropriate use of primary care services.

FINANCING OF HEALTHCARE (2021) (continued)

As a continuation of the 1985 statement of position on healthcare, a two-year study and consensus on the financing of healthcare was conducted from 1989 to 1991. Following study in 2019-20, this position was updated again in 2021.⁹⁷

The League of Women Voters of New York State (LWVNYS) believes that any proposed healthcare financing system should provide access to essential healthcare at an affordable cost for all New Yorkers, both patients and taxpayers. The League supports the single-payer concept as a viable and desirable approach⁹⁸ to implementing League positions on equitable access, affordability, and financial feasibility. In any proposed healthcare financing system, the League favors funding supported in part by broad-based and progressive state taxes on earned and unearned income with health insurance access independent of employment status.

FEDERAL v STATE ROLES

Although the League prefers a healthcare financing system that includes all residents of the United States, in the absence of a federal program that achieves the goals of universal, affordable access to essential health services for New Yorkers, the League supports a healthcare program financed by NYS which includes continuation of federal funding.⁹⁹

FEASIBILITY

The LWVNYS believes the financial feasibility of any single-payer NYS program requires:

Levels of federal support appropriate for the cost of the program,¹⁰⁰

Sufficient cost-savings to be identified so that estimated overall program cost will approximate the cost of current overall health services (all funding sources) or less,¹⁰¹

New state funding from individual taxpayers, employees and businesses to be equitable and progressive to ensure affordability for all,¹⁰²

A healthcare trust fund managed by the state, that operates in a similarly efficient fashion as Social Security or Medicare trust funds.¹⁰³

COST-CONTROL METHODS

To reduce the impact of any tax increases, healthcare reform should contain costs.¹⁰⁴ The League believes that efficient and economical delivery of care can be enhanced by such cost-control methods as:¹⁰⁵

Reduction of administrative costs — both for this insurance plan and for providers,¹⁰⁶

Negotiated volume discounts for pharmaceuticals and durable medical equipment to bring prices closer to international levels — or importing of same to reduce costs,¹⁰⁷

Regionalization of specialized tertiary services to ensure timely access and quality,¹⁰⁸

Evidence-based treatment protocols and drug formularies that include cost/benefit assessments of medical value,¹⁰⁹

Malpractice reforms designed both to compensate patients for medical errors and to avoid future errors by encouraging robust quality improvement processes (at individual and systemic levels) and open communications with patients,¹¹⁰

Investment in well-care — such as prevention, family planning, patient education, primary care — to increase health and reduce preventable adverse health events/expenditures,¹¹¹

Investment in maternal/infant care, chronic disease management, and behavioral healthcare.¹¹² Provision for short-term and long-term home-care services to reduce institutionalization,¹¹³

Innovative payment and record-keeping.¹¹⁴

Specific cost-control methods should reflect the most credible, evidence-based research available on how healthcare financing policy affects equitable access to healthcare, overall quality of care for individuals and populations, and total system costs of healthcare and its administration.¹¹⁵ Methods used should not exacerbate disparities in health outcomes among marginalized New Yorkers.¹¹⁶

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The League supports public input as integral to the process for determining health care coverage and funding. To participate in public discussion of health policy and to share effectively in making policy decisions, NYS residents must be provided with information on the health care system and on the implications of health policy decisions.¹¹⁷

Remembering US Supreme Court Justice

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

“When I am sometimes asked ‘When will there be enough (women on the Supreme Court)?’ and my answer is: ‘When there are nine.’ People are shocked, But there’d been nine men, and nobody’s ever raised a question about that.”

Last week the world lost a national icon and an unwavering defender of democracy and equity for women. As we mourn the death of a great leader, Americans are feeling uncertain about the future of our democratic values including the status of the nation’s highest Court.

Many have been asking if the League will take a position on the nominee to fill this vacancy. After careful and deliberate discussion, the Board has decided to oppose the timeline by which the U.S. Senate is expected to move this nomination. To be clear: At this moment, there is no nominee, and we have no plans to take a position on the nominee.

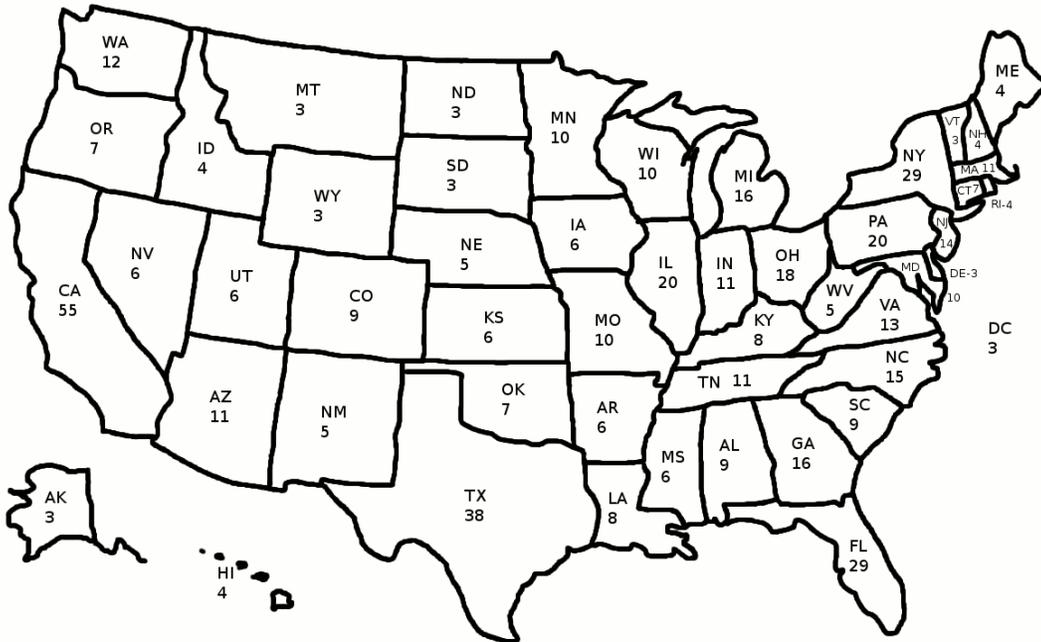
The appointment of a Supreme Court Justice is a serious undertaking that requires extensive and transparent vetting. This is a lifetime appointment and is too important to rush. We support waiting until after the election thereby upholding the rules the Senate adopted in 2016. It is imperative for our Senate to respect the desires of their constituency, and not dishonor the rules they adopted emphatically four years ago. For democracy to survive we must demand transparency and truth from our elected officials. We must shore up trust in our system by honoring the principles of transparency, truth, and consistency.

I close by acknowledging those mourning the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and those who are feeling the heaviness of the continued mistreatment of communities of color in our country. 2020 has been a trying year and we still have months to go so please take care of yourselves. A little self-care can go a long way to helping you and yours weather the storm. And, of course, wear a mask.

In League,
Deborah Ann Turner,
President LWVUS



UNITED STATES ELECTORAL COLLEGE



The United States Electoral College is a name used to describe the official 538 Presidential electors who come together every four years during the presidential election to give their official votes for President and Vice President of the United States.

The number of electors each state has is determined by the number of representatives a state has, plus its two senators. No state can have less than three electors. There are 435 representatives in total plus 100 senators. The 23rd amendment gave Washington D. C. three electors. Presently the Electoral College consists of 538 electors, and an absolute majority of electoral votes, 270 or more, is required to win the election. The distribution of electoral votes can change after each Census count depending on the number of representatives any given state is allowed. New York State's declining population could cost us one or even two electoral votes.

Each state legislature determines how electors for that state are to be chosen. Elected or appointed federal officials are prohibited from serving as electors.

The Electoral College was created as the founding fathers were afraid the popular vote would be easily swayed. Because congressional representation is determined by population, the electors are assigned based on representatives. More populous states have more electors. Because most states have a winner-take-all system, where the winner of the popular vote in a state gains all of the electors. Several presidents have lost by the popular vote and won by the electoral vote.

The Electoral College plays an important role in today's elections. It is the subject of a lot of controversy as some people approve of the system, but for various reasons, many do not.

Please join our First Wednesday Zoom Meeting on Wednesday, November 4, 2020. Our guest, Kristi Andersen will discuss why we have an Electoral College and why there is so much controversy over this method of choosing our President and Vice President.



Info from Wikipedia



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

Nov/Dec 2020



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*** 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