



President's Letter

As you might know, candidate forum season is off to a (very) slow start. Our forum team is amazing, so this isn't due to a lack of volunteer interest or effort on the part of the committee. It's because so many candidates refuse to show up.

Let's be candid: People running for election (or re-election) are looking for a job, but some current and would-be officials don't treat it that way.

Serious job seekers show up on time for the interview, present their qualifications, and are civil to the people who might hire them. They do not claim an interviewer is biased or refuse to answer questions they don't like. They respect the hiring process because they want a job.

Voters have the right to ask questions and to get thoughtful responses from candidates for office, especially at the local level, where voters see the direct effect of local officials' actions or inactions in office.

Local contests are often decided by just a few votes. When the voters are engaged in local issues and show up at the polls, they are more likely to get positive action on issues they care about. If they stay home because they believe that their voice doesn't matter, then it won't. Politicians count votes; voters count results.

Wherever we have a voter registration/voter information table, let's remind

voters: no one is entitled to hold elected office; voting is our superpower.
Sometimes, a handful of votes can change a community.

Joan Fucillo
President



P.S. Last bulletin before the election. Full speed ahead until 9 pm on November 3. Whatever you can do with the League or on your own block has tremendous value. Thank you for being part of LWV of Schenectady and thank you for all you do.



Connie Young and Cheryl Nechamen at the Scotia-Glenville Candidate Forum.

Voter Services Report

Voter Registration

We had an inspiring day on National Voter Registration Day, September 15th. We collected 22 completed voter registration forms and handed out 4 more at SUNY Schenectady and the Market 32 stores in Schenectady and Glenville. Plus lots more voter registrations at Union College- many of the students registered online in Schenectady or their home state and Union collected completed VR forms, so we don't have an exact number.

Many thanks to our volunteers: Inge-Lise Pangburn, Julia Holcomb, Janet Hollocher, Judy Stein, Martha Cameron, Wendy Bender, Susan Spring, Ellen Daveiro, Helen Passonno, Joan Fucillo and Nancy Tudor!

We post voter registration events on a continuing basis. [Check our voter registration signup here](#). If you know of a potential venue, please contact me at lwvschenectady@gmail.com.

Candidate Forums

It's been a less successful story with candidate forums this year. In Rotterdam and Niskayuna, only 2 candidates were running for a seat as Supervisor. In each case, one candidate said yes, the other candidate said no to our invitation. Consequently, we had to cancel forums in both towns.

Slightly more successful was a candidate forum for [Scotia/Glenville](#),* held on September 28. The Republican Party in Glenville, which included Scotia candidates, declined our invitation. Fortunately, there were multiple candidates for races in Glenville and Scotia so we were still able to hold a forum.

Our scheduled forum is for Schenectady on Wednesday, October 14 in the McChesney Room, Karen Johnson Library at 6 pm with 3 candidates running for one seat on the City Council. Let's hope they all show up!

It's been disappointing that so many candidates this year decided it was not to their advantage to appear at a candidate forum. It's the voters who lose out when they don't have the opportunity to question people running for elected office.

Jail Outreach

On a brighter note, we've made real progress in encouraging incarcerated individuals at the Schenectady County Jail to register to vote. Recently, the NAACP reached out to us to inquire whether we could work together to go register people at the jail.

NAACP member Renee Bradley took the lead and set up an appointment for the two of us to meet with Sheriff Dominic Dagostino. Also present at the meeting were Undersheriff Michael Brown and Superintendent Ronald Walsh. The Sheriff was very supportive of the idea.

I gave Superintendent Walsh the State League's brochure, "Your Right to Vote for Individuals with Criminal Convictions or Detained in Jail or Prison". It's a great brochure laying out all of the circumstances when an individual is or is not eligible to vote.

Just as I was ready to order 500 copies of the brochure, Judy Middelkoop pointed out that we have a [pdf version on our website](#). I sent the link to Superintendent Walsh and he promptly ensured that the brochure was loaded on the tablets of incarcerated individuals. In fact, the brochure loads up every time an individual logs onto their tablet so they will now have access to the information at any time.

We're looking forward to visiting the jail in person to talk to incarcerated

individuals.

Cheryl Nechamen
Voter Services



League of Women Voters of Schenectady County
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Videos



Candidate Forum
Scotia/Glenville
Monday, September 28th
Glenville Municipal Center

Candidate Forum Scotia Glenville 9/28/26 - League of Women Voters of Schenectady County
11 14h ago

* You can view the Scotia Glenville Candidate Forum [here](#). That's right! We now have a League of Women Voters of Schenectady County [YouTube Channel](#). You can support LWVSC -- and potentially raise the visibility of our videos -- by interacting with us. Just below the video of the forum, you'll see some options.

Candidate Forum Scotia Glenville 9/28/26 - League of Women Voters of Schenectady County

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~ Katie Beltramo, Bulletin Editor



Upcoming Candidate Forums

Schenectady Candidate Forum

Wednesday, October 14 at 6 pm

McChesney Room, Downtown Karen Johnson Schenectady Public Library

Our scheduled forum will have 3 candidates running for one seat on the City Council. All candidates for Schenectady City Council that will be on the ballot on November 3 have been invited. Audience members are invited to submit questions at the forum or in advance by email to lwvschenectady@gmail.com, subject Schenectady Candidate Forum. Let's hope they all show up!

Candidate Forum for NY Senate District 44

Thursday, October 22 at 7 pm

via Zoom

The League of Women Voters of Saratoga and Schenectady Counties are

hosting a candidate forum for NY's Senate District 44 on October 22nd at 7 pm via Zoom. Both candidates, Senator Jim Tedisco and Sarah Rogerson, will participate.

The forum will address issues that are important to constituents in Senate District 44. Voters will hear directly from the candidates asking for their vote.

This event is open to the public, who can [register here](#).

Please get the word out about this event! The League will post the recording of the forum at LWVSaratoga.org/candidates and in its voter guide at VOTE411.org. The public is also encouraged to submit questions for candidates at: lvvscquestions@gmail.com no later than Monday, October 19th. Please put **NY Senate 44** in the subject line.

Candidate Forum for NY Assembly District 112

Wednesday, October 21 at 7 pm

via Zoom

The League of Women Voters of Saratoga and Schenectady Counties are hosting a candidate forum for NY's Assembly District 112 on October 21st at 7 pm via Zoom. Both candidates, Asm. Mary Beth Walsh and Mario Fantini, will participate.

The forum will address issues that are important to constituents in Assembly District 112. Voters will hear directly from the candidates asking for their vote.

This event is open to the public, who can [register here](#).

Please get the word out about this event! The League will post the recording of the forum at LWVSaratoga.org/candidates and in its voter guide at VOTE411.org.

The public is also encouraged to submit questions for candidates at: lvvscquestions@gmail.com no later than Monday, October 19th. Please put

NY Assembly 112 in the subject line.

Liz Yanoff
Voter Services - Forums



Mark Your Calendar



Mark Your Calendar

- **Monday, October 5 at 6 pm:** Postcard Party at Johanna Peterson's home
RSVP to lwvschenectady@gmail.com before 4:00 pm on October 4.
- **Wednesday, October 7 at 6 pm:** LWVSC Board Meeting at the Swanker Room of the downtown Schenectady Public Library. All are welcome.
- **Wednesday, October 14 at 6 pm:** Schenectady Candidate Forum at the McChesney Room of the Downtown Schenectady Public Library
- **Sunday, October 18 from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm:** Voter Registration tabling at the Schenectady Greenmarket. Check out the signup sheet at [LWV Voter Registration](#) if you'd like to volunteer for a shift.
- **Wednesday, October 21 at 7 pm:** Candidate Forum for NY Assembly District 112 via Zoom. Both candidates, Asm. Mary Beth Walsh and Mario Fantini, will participate. To join, [register here](#).
- **Thursday, October 22 at 7 pm:** Candidate forum for NY's Senate District 44 via Zoom. Both candidates, Senator Jim Tedisco and Sarah Rogerson, will participate. To join, [register here](#).
- **Saturday, October 24:** Early Voting Begins

- **Tuesday, November 3:** General Election Day
 - **Sunday, November 8:** New Member Gathering
-



JOIN/RENEW

Membership

The Schenectady County League of Women Voters would like to welcome two new members Natasha Nolan and Christiana Staple. Welcome! Hope you will join us at the upcoming board meeting or our newcomer meeting on Wednesday November 18 at 6 pm-7:30 pm.

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 .

Update on our new tool to Get Out The Vote

The State League has joined with NYCET (The New York Engagement Table). With this partnership we have access to VAN (Voter Activation Network) providing us with information from voting rolls. It is an online database from public voting rolls.

With our specialist, Monica (who is working with the State League to help counties across the state to use the database), Anne and I have been using VAN to create voter lists. We created lists of voters in each town/city in our county

that voted in the 2024 election but did not vote in the local 2025 elections. We worked together to create a text message and plan to send this text to those voters. The cost is \$.04 per text. The NY State League is providing \$250.00 to each league that would like to use this system this year. We have received confirmation that the funds are available to us. Next month we will put in a copy of the text that was sent to Schenectady County residents. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at lwvschenectady@gmail.com .

Post Carding Party-Monday, October 5 at 6 pm

Postcard Writing Party at Johanna Peterson's home. Serving some light finger foods and non-alcoholic drinks for snacking. Please call or text Johanna at lwvschenectady@gmail.com before 4:00 pm on October 4 to let her know you're coming.

Also available: postcards in batches of 10 for pickup to do at your leisure.

If you are interested in any of these projects, please reach out to me at lwvschenectady@gmail.com .

Ellen Daviero
Membership

Civilian Police Review Board Update

You may have seen the recent [Times Union article](#) * on the Civilian Police Review Board currently doesn't have quorum of members and can't hold

meetings this month. Hopefully this will be resolved soon.

Megan Haessig
Secretary & Member, Civilian Police Review Board



* If you're not a subscriber, you can go to the [Schenectady County Public Library's website](#) and choose [Databases](#) from the Books & More drop-down menu, then choose America's News and enter your library card number to do a search for this and other local articles. ~ *Katie Beltramo, Bulletin Editor*



League 101

League 101: Tabling

Tabling is NOT all about registering voters. It's about connecting with voters; it's about talking to people. 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 cheerful. 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 giveaways like candy, a Constitution, a flag, or 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. The League has information that voters need. We can help people look up their polling places, dates, and times for early voting. We offer important resources like pamphlets on NYS government, voting if homeless, voting if currently or previously incarcerated, first votes, voting with a disability and an annual Voter's Guide.
4. 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.
5. Have fun! If you are enjoying yourself, others will enjoy themselves too. And they will leave feeling good about our League.

If you're curious about a topic about the League, please contact me at lwvschenectady@gmail.com

Katie Beltramo, Bulletin Editor

Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan citizen activist organization that operates at the local, state, and national level. We influence public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate.

“Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy”

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