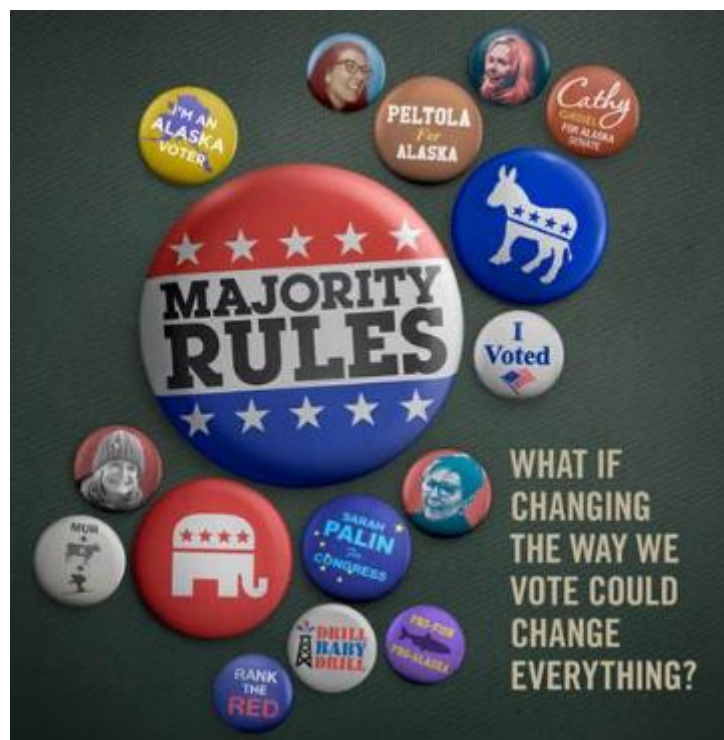




Free Screening of “Majority Rules 101”

The League of Women Voters of Schenectady County invites you to a screening of the short documentary film “Majority Rules 101.”



“Majority Rules 101” covers voter dissatisfaction with the electoral process—“How can I know that my vote actually counts?” and “Why do I feel like I’m always voting for the lesser of two evils?” The film shows Alaskans’ response—passing voting reforms, opting for a system of ranked-choice voting and open primaries—and recounts how those reforms affected the state’s 2022 elections.

"Majority Rules 101" is a 30-minute summary of the 91-minute "Majority Rules" documentary, which is available to stream [here](#). **Q&A to follow.**

Where: The McChesney Room, Karen B. Johnson Public Library, 99 Clinton St., Schenectady, NY 12305.

When: Thursday, September 11, 2025. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Screening starts at 6:00 pm.

Admission is free.

What if Changing the Way We Vote Could Change Everything?

Voter Services Report

Please check the sign-up sheet to volunteer: [LWV voter registration](#)

The race is on!

On the national front: Redrawing congressional districts.

The margins in Congress are narrow, and two states are in the process of redrawing their congressional maps to favor one political party over the other. And more states may join the fray. Normally, the old maps would be set until the next census (in 2030). But these are not normal times.

Texas' legislature has voted to accept re-drawn voting maps to shift the makeup of its congressional delegation by five seats. California has an independent redistricting commission but wants to issue new maps, also shifting five seats, to counter the action by Texas. California voters will weigh in on the new maps in November. More states may join fray.

New York doesn't have that option. Our independent redistricting commission is written into the state constitution, and any amendment would need to pass the

state legislature over two consecutive sessions before it could go to the voters, at least a two-year process. Too late for the current round of extreme gerrymandering.

Here in New York: Voting reforms.

However, New York can address voters' nearly universal dissatisfaction with the political process (Why must I choose between the lesser of two evils? Does my vote even count?) and mitigate the effects of any gerrymandering the state does have. How? By passing legislation to make voting fairer and more equal—by adopting open primaries and ranked-choice voting. LWV NYS supports these voting reforms.

Open primaries allow every registered voter to vote in a primary, whether, or not, they belong to a political party. All candidates are on the ballot; voters choose the one they like best. A larger field of candidates encourages voters to pay more attention to primary contests because they are not bound by their party's choices; voters not registered with a party are no longer shut out. The top four vote-getters in the primary move on to the general election. Open primaries expand all voters' options. It encourages people to pay more attention, maybe even show up at the polls. When voters are freed from party strictures, they may be encouraged to learn more about the candidates and decide to vote.

With **ranked-choice voting**, voters rank each candidate according to their preference, from one to four. Votes are tallied, the candidate with the lowest ranking is eliminated, and the votes are redistributed. The winner is the candidate generally agreed upon by the voters. Ranked-choice voting encourages voters to seriously look at all four candidates, because while their first choice may not win, their second choice may.

Fewer people vote in general elections; even fewer vote in primary races. Instead, citizens are voting with their feet—away from the polls. This is dangerous for our communities and our democracy. The current system is not working. It's time to do something different.

Volunteers needed:

- Carrot Festival, Agudat Achim, Niskayuna. Sunday, September 14, 12-2:30 pm
- National Voter Registration Day, Tuesday, September 16:
 - Fulton-Montgomery Community College, 11 am-2 pm
 - Price Chopper, Glenville, 3-6 pm
 - Price Chopper, Eastern Parkway, 3-6 pm

Please check the sign-up sheet to volunteer for these and other sites: [LWV voter registration](#).

Joan Fucillo
Voter Services

President's Letter

It's the year for local elections- a busy time for our League! We'll be running candidate forums in Glenville, Niskayuna, Rotterdam and Schenectady to allow voters a chance to ask questions of candidates running for office.

Candidate Forums:

- **Rotterdam:** September 25th, 6-8:30 pm, Rotterdam Town Hall, 1100 Sunrise Blvd., Rotterdam
- **Glenville:** September 29th, 7-9 pm, Glenville Municipal Center, 18 Glenridge Rd., Glenville
- **Schenectady:** October 9th, 6-7:45 pm, McChesney Room, Karen Johnson Library, Schenectady
- **Niskayuna:** October 16th, 7-9 pm, Niskayuna Town Hall, 1 Niskayuna Circle, Niskayuna

Rotterdam has 19 candidates running for Town Supervisor, Town Council, County Legislature District 4, Town Justice, Town Clerk, Receiver of Taxes and Highway Superintendent. All but the Highway Superintendent race has multiple candidates, which we are thrilled to see. A bedrock position of the League is that voters should have a choice of candidates when they vote.

Glenville has 9 candidates running for Town Supervisor, Town Council, County Legislature District 3 and Highway Superintendent. The Town Council and County Legislature races have multiple candidates.

In **Schenectady**, 11 candidates will be invited to the candidate forum. Two of those races are county-wide: Sheriff and District Attorney. In addition, there are candidates for City Council, City Court Judge and County Legislature Districts 1 and 2. Sadly, only 2 of those races have multiple candidates- City Council and County Legislature District 2.

Last but not least, **Niskayuna** has 12 candidates running for Town Supervisor, Town Council, County Legislature District 3, Town Justice and Tax Receiver. All but the race for Tax Receiver has multiple candidates.

Everyone is invited to the candidate forums, although League members will probably be most interested in candidates running in their town. We can always use more volunteers to help run the forums- a good way to see your League in action. Contact me at LWVSchenectady@gmail.com if you'd like to help.

We will also be collecting questions by email if you can't attend a forum. Send emails with questions to LWVSchenectady@gmail.com. Please indicate which forum and which race your question pertains to.

Cheryl Nechamen
President

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”

Welcome New Members

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