

League of Woman Voters of the Cooperstown Area (LWVCA)

Tabling Training and Refresher

Agenda

Wednesday, September 3rd 2025 12:00pm – 1:30pm Clark Center Community Room

12:00 – 12:10 Welcome: settle in and enjoy a snack.

12:10 - 12:20 Introductions of speakers and attendees along with a brief overview of LWV mission, non-partisanship status and goals of tabling.

12:20 – 12:40 What we do...What we don't do!

12:40 - 1:00 Developing tabling skills. Group activity on responding to citizen responses and questions. We'll practice an optional, fun activity to do with citizens to engage them. Then we'll review questions that may arise in meeting citizens. Finally, we will walk through the registration form elements.

1:00 – 1:20 NVRD Key Information/actions: Nuts and Bolts Who, What, Where and When.

1:20 – 1:30 Next steps, Sign-up sheets, meeting evaluation, and closing.

Thursday, September 4th 2025 6:00pm – 7:30pm Clark Center Community Room

6:00 – 6:10 Welcome: settle in and enjoy a snack.

6:10 - 6:20 Introductions of speakers and attendees along with a brief overview of LWV mission, non-partisanship status and goals of tabling.

6:20 – 6:40 What we do...What we don't do!

6:40 - 7:00 Developing tabling skills. Group activity on responding to citizen responses and questions. We'll practice an optional, fun activity to do with citizens to engage them. Then we'll review questions that may arise in meeting citizens. Finally, we will walk through the registration form elements.

7:00 – 7:20 NVRD Key Information/actions: Nuts and Bolts Who, What, Where and When.

7:20 – 7:30 Next steps, Sign-up sheets, meeting evaluation, and closing

Themes from attendees at last year's trainings:

Most of us are new to this kind of volunteering, but in the words of one member who does have experience, "Yes, I've worked the LWV table at various community events over the past years. Through games to attract attention and then engage event attendees, I always learn more about local government. It's really fun.

Our concerns are mostly about staying non-partisan and dealing with any hostility we may encounter

Our hopes center around sustaining democracy:

"Registering so many voters we know are out there but for some reason don't participate and hoping to change that excites and encourages me."

"Feels like this work is one of the strands in defending democracy. If people get disillusioned with government and stop voting we no longer have a government by the people for the people"

"It's all about our continued democracy, and everybody's right to vote."

Things to know so that you feel confident

There's so much to know! But happily, you don't have to know it all. What may make you feel more confident is if you take a look at some of the resources listed at the end of this section and get a sense of where you can find answers quickly or where you can point folks to find reliable information. You might want to use this list of questions to start yourself on a scavenger hunt.

1. Who has to register or re-register
2. How can I check my registration status
3. Can I vote if my registration is not correct
4. Who is not allowed to vote
5. What happens if I make a mistake on my ballot
6. Who can vote early
7. What are the restrictions on early voting
8. Who can vote by mail
9. Is there fraud connected with mail in votes? How is it prevented?
10. Is there fraud with in person voting?
11. How do I know that my vote was counted exactly as I cast it
12. Do I have to vote in every race in order for my ballot to be counted
13. Are voting machines tested
14. How are provisional ballots "cured"
15. Will I be told if my provisional ballot was counted
16. Who can observe at a polling place? What are they allowed to observe
17. Is my ballot truly secret - can anyone see it?
18. What is electioneering - where is it allowed?

19. Will I be safe at the polling place
20. Why is there a delay in reporting final results
21. Where can college students vote
22. What provisions are made for military voting
23. Can an incarcerated person vote
24. Is there help for disabled voters
25. How can I vote for someone who does not appear on the ballot
26. Can I see what my ballot will look like in advance
27. Why is voting done by precinct
28. How do I know where I'm supposed to vote
29. If I'm on line to vote when the polls close will I still be allowed to vote
30. People say democracy is at stake in this election - what do they mean
31. Does the LWV track which party people register with? Other personal information?
32. If I have never voted before, can I vote this year
33. What's the difference between a primary election and a general election
34. If I vote/don't vote in a primary election, can I still vote in a general election
35. Does it matter if I vote
36. If someone is already registered to vote, what else should I talk to them about?
37. How do I register to vote?
38. What do I have to bring with me if I register at BOE?
39. Do I have to bring ID when I go to vote?
40. Does it matter what party I register in?/Can I vote for anyone in the general election? In the primary?
41. How can I learn who's running--and what they'll do if elected-- in my district
42. What are the dates I need to know: when do I have to register by? When are the primaries? When is the general election? When/where can I vote early?



“Empowering citizens to shape better communities worldwide”

League of Women Voters Tables for public access

What we do:

- We give voters registration forms (We can assist in filling out registration forms and hand deliver to Otsego Board of Elections)
- We provide absentee ballot applications
- We tell people how they can check their registration status and how to find their polling place
- We hand out forms voters can use to make their own plan to vote
- We provide information about dates for early voting and election day
- We answer voters' questions about election processes and security of voting
- We point voters to reliable, non-partisan information
- We combat mis-information about voting
- We tell people that their vote is important and invite them to encourage friends and family to vote too
- We invite people to play a civics information game
- We advocate for ballot measures we support

What we don't do:

- We do not endorse a candidate or political party
- We do not tell people who they should vote for
- We do not disclose information about our own party preferences
- We do not speak ill of any candidate or party
- We do not interfere with people who don't want to talk to us for any reason

Contact – Anna Gaeta, Voter Service Chair, annaegaeta@gmail.com cellular 917.613.3927
home: 60726

Materials (provided by Voter Services):

1. Forms and signs
 - a. Tabling dos and don'ts
 - b. voter reg forms (includes info on eligibility)
 - c. Absentee ballot applications/early vote by mail application
 - d. Voter planning forms
 - e. Voter guide
 - f. LWVCA membership forms
 - g. ERA Handout
 - h. Tally sheet for contacts
 - i. List of web resources
2. Small Stuff
 - a. LWV name tags
 - b. black and blue pens
 - c. Clip board(s)
 - d. Large envelope for completed forms
 - e. 3 Weights to hold down forms
 - f. Plexiglass stands
 - g. Civics games materials (including candy)
 - h. Wipes or hand sanitizer
 - i. Swag (stickers, etc.)
 - j. Scissors and tape (because you never know...)
3. Big Stuff
 - a. Table & Chairs
 - b. Tablecloth
4. Optional (bring your own)
 - a. Water bottle
 - b. Stamps and envelopes for voters who are going to mail their own forms.

PROCESS (not necessarily in order)

- Continually interact with as many passers-by as possible. Stand out in front of the table and greet people. Remember that each person you meet can become an advocate for voting even if they themselves are already prepared to vote.
- Register voters (no need to check IDs)
- Offer change of address, name or party on voter reg form
- Distribute the plan to vote and hype the latest news on voting
- Engage individuals in making a voting plan
- Consider iPhone photos of those making a plan as a kind of hype. Use their iPhone for documenting the “planning” if they like
- Invite membership in League
- Probe for any concerns, questions
- Encourage advocacy - especially for young and/or first time voters - take extra Make a Plan forms - ask them to think about people they know
- Encourage thinking about people who might need a ride
- Encourage thinking about people who might need help completing registration forms or ballots due to any type of disability
- At the table we can keep count of several things on tally sheet:
 - VR forms Completed - even if only address or party changes
 - VR forms sent with folks
 - Substantive contacts e.g. plan made
 - Total event attendees (if available from even organizer)

POST

- **SUPER important** – hand deliver completed registration and changes forms to the Board of Elections, 140 County Highway 33W, #2 Cooperstown, without delay
- Person who closes - Notify Voter Services Chair # registrations delivered to BOE
- Person who closes - Send VS Chair tally sheets, total volunteer time (including prep, travel, etc.)

Notes:

- Use noun rather than verb - glad to know you're a voter (identity is a proven motivator)
- Help people think about logistics for their plan
- Talk to voter about follow-up

RESOURCES - just a few of many

Otsego County Board of Elections

www.otsegocountyny.gov/departments/board_of_elections

LWV Vote411

www.vote411.org

New York State LWV

www.lwvny.org

New York State Board of Elections

www.elections.ny.gov

LWV Cooperstown Area (our local League site)

my.lwv.org/new-york/cooperstown-area

Rock the Vote (a great site for young voters)

www.rockthevote.org

Vote - a good non-profit

www.vote.org

Democratic National Committee

www.democrats.org

Republican National Committee

www.gop.org