



The League of Women Voters of New York State
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**THE LEAGUE
 OF WOMEN VOTERS**
of New York State

State Board Updates: October 2017

Local League To Do's (email: lwvny@lwvny.org or call 518-465-4162)

- Mark your calendar for **Saturday, Nov 4th, to be in Albany!** We are hosting an opening reception at the NYS Museum to kick-off their special exhibit on women's suffrage history. Be sure to join us – it'll be a great celebration! A flyer is attached that you can share to help promote the reception.
- **call or email the office to have** Voter Guide Part II and the brochure on the constitutional convention **mailed to you today**
- Register for League Day at the United Nations on **Nov. 16th** (see below and attached)
- Complete and return the **Voter Service Survey by Nov. 24** to the state office
- Schedule membership meeting **before Feb. 15** to discuss state Update and Concurrence (see info below)
- Send a copy of your local League bylaws and current budget to the state League office (mail, email or fax is fine) – thanks to those who have already done this.

100th Anniversary Dates

November 6, 2017	100 th Anniversary of Woman Suffrage in New York State
November 19, 2019	100 th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of New York State
February 14, 2020	100 th Anniversary of National League of Women Voters
August 26, 2020	100 th Anniversary of the official certification of the ratification of the 19 th amendment by the US Secretary of State

Check out the resources on the state website to help plan your events: <http://www.lwvny.org/programs-studies/womens-suffrage/index.html>.

President's Report: Dare Thompson, darethompson@gmail.com

The first of THREE centennial years is heading fast into its peak month because it was on November 6, 1917 that suffragists officially triumphed here in NY.

We certainly hope you know about Saturday, **November 4** when an exhibit, "Votes for Women: Celebrating New York's Suffrage Centennial," will open at our State Museum in Albany and continue to May 13. Our own suffrage treasure - the Susan B. Anthony gavel that you see at every LWV state convention - is just one of the items you'll see. Go to the state museum site at <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/exhibitions/votes-for-women> to see more.

Opening day will include an all-day conference right there in the same building organized by the NY Cultural Heritage Tourism Network which has held preparatory conferences in the Seneca Falls area in 2015 and 2016. They've all been organized by Lynn "Spike" Herzig whom some of you met when he led our pre-convention tour in Seneca Falls. He is a true champion of women's rights and, to his delight, we made him a member of the Geneva LWV.

Visit Spike's **NY Cultural Heritage Tourism Network** at <http://nychtn.com> and scroll down a bit to get all the information about the day's schedule and speakers and to register. Two of the workshops are organized by the League and there is so much more. The emphasis this year is on bringing about full equality for women in our second century of exercising our right to vote. We are grateful to the academics, politicians and activists who are participating, including the **Women's Suffrage Commission** headed by **Lt Gov Kathy Hochul** and the **NY State Archives**.

And last but hardly least, the day will be topped off with a **state League reception from 5 - 8 pm featuring Coline Jenkins**, the great-great granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Go to lvwny.org to buy your ticket now. We've been waiting a long time for this so it's "HUGE!" and we want you there.

On **November 6** (Monday, day before election day) in **New York City** there are two celebrations of the anniversary of the first election in which all NY women could vote. Unfortunately they are at the same time, from 6 - 8 pm. One is being hosted by **Governor Cuomo and Lt Governor Hochul** on the 48th floor at SAP-Gen, **10 Hudson Yards**. It's free and open to all but they ask you to RSVP by October 30 at suffrage@exec.ny.gov. The view, refreshments, and celebratory spirit should be outstanding!

The other Manhattan event at that time, also free and open to all (but no reservation required), is at BMCC's **Tribeca Performing Arts Center at 155 Chambers St.**, and will include speeches, poetry and other writings, drama, music, multi-media installations and live site-specific performances, a women's suffrage sing-along, and an open mic - and of course food.

Feeling too far away to enjoy these festivities? Don't despair. On Election Day **November 7**, Lt Gov Hochul will be traveling from her own polling place and Mary Burnett Talbert's grave in **Buffalo** to Susan B Anthony's grave and home in **Rochester** to Matilda Joslyn Gage's grave and home in **Fayetteville**. LWV leader Terri Parks is helping in Buffalo and LWV leaders Joan Johnson and Erin Leigh Darnley are helping in the Syracuse area. The Gage Center and its director Sally Wagner, who spoke at our state convention, will host a reception at Matilda's home from 2:30 (or a bit earlier) to 3:30 and I will be introducing the Lt Governor.

And why the graves? The Women's Suffrage Commission has supplied all Boards of Elections with I VOTED stickers to wear and/or put on your favorite suffragist's grave. Make sure YOUR BOE is planning to distribute them. If not, shame! but we have extras - just call.

Votes for Women: Celebrating New York's Women's Suffrage History

Nov. 4, 5:00-8:00 pm, NYS Museum

The LWV of NYS Education Foundation & The NYS Archives Partnership Trust invite you to a special evening reception celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote in New York State and the opening of the State Museum's *Votes for Women* exhibit. The League is proud to have its own gavel, used by Susan B. Anthony, included in the exhibit.

Coline Jenkins, great, great granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, will speak about growing up in a family of women activist. In addition to Stanton, her great grandmother Harriot Stanton Blatch, worked as a major organizer of New York State woman suffrage during the Militant Period of 1913-1915. Her grandmother, Nora Stanton Blatch DeForest Barney, was the first female civil engineer to graduate (1905) from Cornell. Jenkins' mother was born one



month prior to the passage of the 19th Amendment of the US Constitution in 1920. Jenkins grew up in an atmosphere of suffrage and women's right campaigning.

Museum staff will also serve as guides as we have private access to this new exhibit on women's suffrage history.

You can purchase tickets to the reception online at:

https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/7MenLR3YUpmX2yVcmFXCcg or the registration form is attached and can be printed out for those without computer access. Join us!

Voter Service Report, Judie Gorenstein, judieL728@aol.com

Thank you to all presidents, voter service chairs and League members who worked diligently on educating voters, registering voters and sponsoring and running candidate forums. We know this year may have been particularly challenging and appreciate effort made by our Leagues to follow the state's policy for candidate nights. Although I hate to ask you to do ONE more thing, **I am requesting that each League complete and return the attached Voter Service survey by Nov. 24.** We have tried to ask only relevant questions. Your answers will help us determine steps the LWVNY will take next to help us help you. We are and want to remain the gold standard when it comes to our voter service activities. Together we can and do so much. Thanks once again.

PSAs to Encourage Voting

Thanks to Mary Speed Perry and Deborah Cosher, new members of the LWV of Huntington, 2 PSAs were created to encourage the public to vote on Nov. 7. One PSA is in English and one is in Spanish. We've attached the links and urge you all to contact your local radio stations and ask them to play these PSAs – it only takes a call to ask!

Issues and Advocacy Report: Sally Robinson, robintwins@gmail.com

Reminder: State Update and Concurrence

At the State Convention, delegates approved two program items:

1. An update on the Charter School position adopted in 2006 to delete the following sentence. "In lieu of amendment of the Charter School Act to increase the total number of charters that could be granted, it supports retention of the current total (100) with amendment of the Charter School Act so that a charter could be reissued if a charter school ceased to function for any reason." The 100 charter school cap has been exceeded over the years and is no longer a relevant number.
2. A concurrence with a LWV of Utah's position on Death with Dignity.

Materials for each of these have been mailed and emailed to all local Leagues. One paper copy has gone to a President or one co-President of each local League – we emailed all leaders with the electronic versions and all materials have been be posted on the state website.

PLEASE SCHEDULE A TIME IN YOUR CALENDARS BEFORE FEBRUARY 15 TO CONSIDER THIS UPDATE AND THIS CONCURRENCE. The update should be easy and short and may be accomplished during another meeting. The Concurrence maybe require more discussion and take longer, but it is your decision as to how to present the materials and how to schedule this discussion.

State Office, Laura Ladd Bierman, Executive Director, Laura@lwvny.org

Local League Bylaws and Budgets

The state League would like to review every local League's bylaws and current budget. Please send a copy of each to the state office by snail mail, email, fax or whatever is easiest for you. Thanks.

League Day at the United Nations, Nov. 16th

Briefing Topic: Forced Labor and Human Trafficking

The Annual League Day at the United Nations (NYC) will be held on Thursday, November 16. We will again offer a delicious lunch in the Delegates' Dining Room, tours of the facility (General Assembly room, Security Council Room, etc) and then a briefing by UN experts. This year we will have a panel of UN experts discuss the issue of Forced Labor and Human Trafficking. The panel will also discuss what individuals can do to help reduce this problem.

The State League will also be offering a group bus option from Albany to NYC with a stop in Poughkeepsie.

To register online, go to: https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/INvmPPc4Hpebf0PLNzaRnw and a form is attached that you can download and print out for those without computer access.

Legislative Action, Jennifer Wilson, Director of Program and Policy,

jennifer@lwny.org

Vote411

Publicize Vote 411 on your Facebook page, twitter, website and anywhere you can – Vote 411 is only strong if people are using it. We've attached **sample press release** templates that you can distribute to the media as soon as your Vote 411 site goes live – and **sample flyer** templates you can use to print off and have available at voter registration drives, candidate forums or League meetings. If your media doesn't cover it, write a letter to the editor telling people it's live and available.

From LWVUS

First Call to National Convention 2018

The League of Women Voters' 53rd National Convention will be held at the Hilton Chicago in Chicago, IL, from Thursday, June 28 through Sunday, July 1, 2018. We invite our League members to save these dates and plan to join hundreds of passionate and engaged leaders for our biennial national gathering. More information and the full "first call" is [available here](#).

League Supports We the People Democracy Reform Act

The legislation has been introduced in the House and Senate by [Senator Udall \(D-NM\)](#) and [Representative Price \(D-NC4\)](#) and offers a clear path forward for improving our democracy. This legislation will elevate the voices of the American people so we can be heard over the special interests and partisan bickering. This bill will strengthen our elections with automatic and online registration, enabling more voters to participate in our great democracy.

Rally to Support the Dream Act During House Recess

The [League supports](#) passage of the Dream Act and Congress has until the end of December to pass this important legislation. Join activists calling on Congress to pass a clean Dream Act at [rallies and district office visits](#) around the country next week while the U.S. House is on recess.

Election Observation Training Resources from LWVUS and the Carter Center

LWVUS, in conjunction with the Carter Center, created two online courses to support election observation volunteers and to guide election observation programs. The two courses, Volunteer Observer Training and Core Team Election Observation Training, are geared toward different audiences. The former is meant to be used by election observation volunteers, while the latter is meant to be used by more experienced volunteers, leaders, and staff who are setting up election observation programs in their states or localities. These materials were developed after the Carter Center and LWV Ohio executed a pilot election observation training program in

2016, and were reviewed extensively by LWV Wisconsin. [Find instructions on how to enroll in the courses to access materials here.](#)