



LEGISLATIVE HOT TOPICS 2023





Speaking with one voice

Local Leagues

- regional issues are addressed in a consistent matter by neighboring Leagues
- Only president (or designee) is permitted to speak for the League in an official capacity
members take action on League topics as individuals

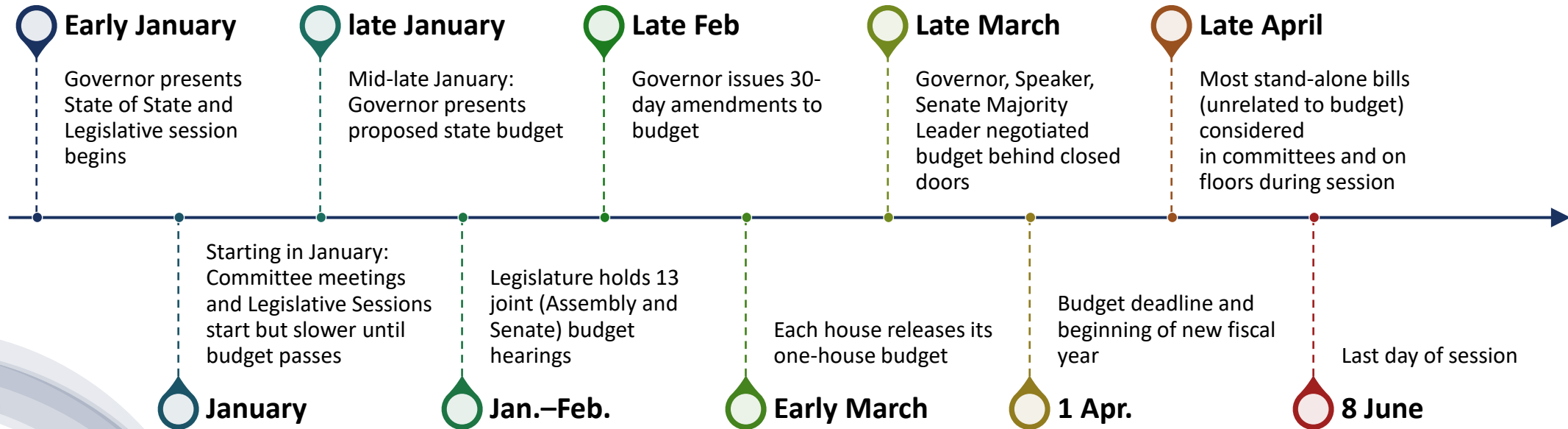
LWVNYS

- responsible for a consistent state message
- Local Leagues must ask permission of state League to advocate on state issues to ensure consistent message by local and state League

LWVUS

- responsible for determining strategies and action policies that ensure that the League's message on national issues is consistent throughout the country
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NYS Executive and Legislative Calendar

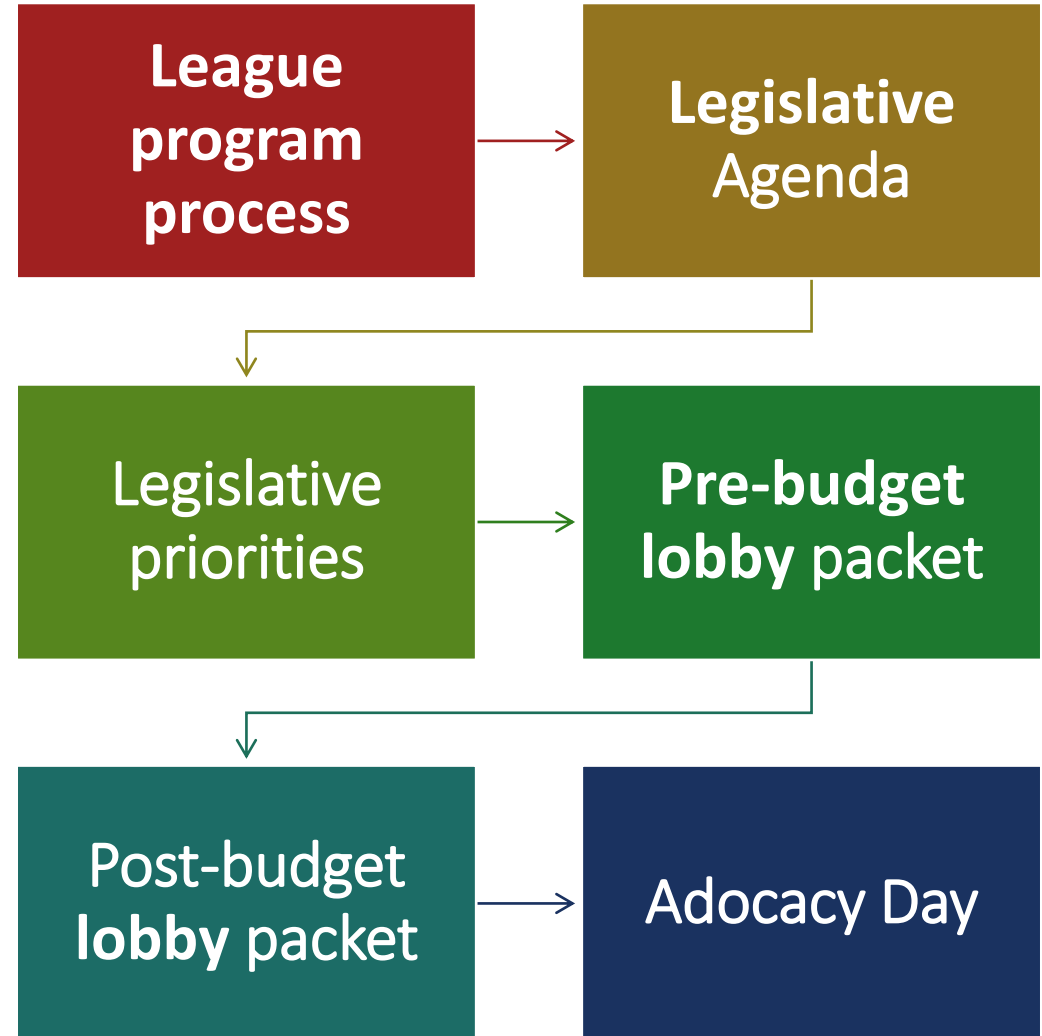




How the State League takes action

- Sends Memos of Support or Opposition
 - Writes letters to legislators or legislative leaders
 - Writes letters to Governor
 - Lobbies legislators at the Capitol
 - Issues Press Releases or holds Press Conference
 - Issues an Action Alert for members to call legislators or Governor
 - Asks members to call, write or email
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State Action Timeline





What can you do?

- Take action on local issues – reminder that only your President can speak on behalf of your league
 - Join a state committee
 - Participate in identifying priorities for your League
 - Senate: <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation>
 - Assembly: <https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?sh=advanced>
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Legislative Priorities Survey

- Collected every January/February
 - Each League has own process for deciding on priorities
 - Meeting, survey, etc.
 - League leader will submit survey to NYS League with top 3 priorities by Feb. 1st
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Issue Specialists and Committee Chairs

- Environment- Beth Radow
 - Election Law- Kate Doran
 - Campaign Finance- Sally Robinson
 - Court Simplification- Laura Bierman
 - Education- Marian Bott
 - Equality of Opportunity and MAID- Barb Thomas
 - Criminal Justice- Vivione Marshall and Richard Rifkin
 - Rural Caucus- Kathy Stein
 - Healthcare- Judy Esterquest
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Environment

Beth Radow- enradow@gmail.com



Environmental Hot Topics

- Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act
 - Hazardous waste
 - Extended Producer Responsibility and Bigger Better Bottle
 - Ban on single use plastics and creation of alternatives
 - Support for regenerative agriculture, local farms and community gardens, reduction of food waste
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Election Law

Kate Doran and Erica Smitka- katedoran@gmail.com, erica@lwvny.org



Election and Democracy Hot Topics

- 10- day voter registration implementation
 - John R. Lewis New York Voting Rights Act Database
 - Board of Elections- Training, staffing/professionalism, resources
 - OVR/AVR implementation
 - Youth voting and jail-based voting
 - Update on no-excuse absentee and same day voter registration
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Campaign Finance

Sally Robinson- sally.s.robinson@gmail.com

Court Simplification

Laura Bierman- laura@lwvny.org



Education

Marian Bott- sydneymab@aol.com

Equality of Opportunity and Medical Aid in Dying

Barb Thomas- bkoeppicust@gmail.com



New York Equal Rights Amendment

- NY ERA protected classes:
 - race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, creed, religion, or sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, reproductive healthcare and autonomy.
 - Voters to vote on it in 2024 League Action Feb 14
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Fair Pay for Home Care

- Home Health Aides are in short supply
 - Majority are women &/or people of color (and have a history of discrimination)
 - Our position supports comparable pay for work requiring a comparable level of skill.
 - We have a position in support of a living wage.
 - Last year many of the bills called for \$22/hr
 - Our Health care position calls for home care.
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Medical Aid in Dying

- Modelled on the Oregon Law
- Safe guards
- No evidence of Abuse of the law
- Assembly Sponsor: Amy Paulin
- Senate Sponsor: Brad Hoylman-Sigal

Barb Thomas- bkoeppicust@gmail.com

Criminal Justice

Vivione Marshall and Richard Rifkin- vivione@lwvnyc.org , richardrifkin54@gmail.com

Rural Issues

Kathy Stein- kstein1@twcny.rr.com

Healthcare

Judy Esterquest- esterquest@gmail.com

Healthcare Hot Topics

Pre-Budget Priorities

- **Medicaid funding levels** — equal or expanded
 - First 1000 or 2000 days (uninterrupted care post-natal to age 3)
 - SBHC — School-Based Health Clinics
 - Other vulnerable, underserved populations & facilities
- **Fair Pay for Home Care** — 150% of minimum wage
- **Safety Net Hospitals** — ensure return to fiscal health

Legislative Priorities

- **New York Health Act**— affordable, equitable HC for all
- **Staffing Ratios** — safer for patients, safer for providers
- **MAID** — Medical Aid in Dying
- **Telemedicine & Shield Laws**
- **Health Equity Assessment** — ensure community review before closing maternity wards, local health facilities
- **Preventive Health Issues** — vaccine confidentiality, safe consumption

Intersectional Priorities

- Equality of Opportunity & MAID
 - MAID, ERA, Shield Laws for Telemedicine, Living Wage, Maternal/Infant Health
- Rural Caucus
 - Digital Equity, Safety Net Hospitals, EMS, Childcare, Health Equity Assessment, Maternal/Infant Health
- Education & Finance
 - School-Based Health Clinics (SBHC), Universal Free Breakfast & Lunch, Mental health
- Criminal Justice
 - Healthcare in Prisons/Jails, Re-Entry access to HC, Elder Parole
- Environment
 - Hazardous Waste, Plastic Pollution

How YOU can get involved

- Zoom meetings — about 8 per year, 60 min
 - 30 “regulars” from 20 local Leagues
 - Learn, share, encourage, mobilize
- Prep for meetings — what interests you?
 - Find news articles, white papers
 - Track bills, committee work, DOH actions
 - Plan local League/regional actions
- Build relationships with HC allies
 - LWV: with intersectional networks
 - Not LWV: nonpartisan, credible, with lobbying depth (paid or volunteer)
 - Partner on advocacy & lobbying
- Email: **Esterquest@gmail.com**

Questions?