



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 2022**

Local League To Do's (email: lwvny@lwvny.org or fax 518-465-0812)

- Submit data tracking form to LWVNYS by Nov. 10 (and the 10th of each month); questions attached in word document but must be completed online at:
<https://forms.gle/jvfv1kFwbGC8QDsX7>
- Submit completed voter service survey by Nov. 18; can be completed on word document attached and emailed or mailed to state office or completed online (preferred) at:
<https://forms.gle/tFHrbdXBz71VWb6R6>

Events Calendar

- Oct. 29 – Nov. 6 Early Voting
- Nov. 3 DEI Drop In Session
- Nov. 6 Beginning of 21 Day DEI Challenge (see below)
- Nov. 8 ELECTION DAY!**
- Nov. 10 Data Tracking online form due to state office
- Nov. 18 Voter Service Surveys due to state office

President's Report, Judie Gorenstein, judieL728@aol.com

Early voting in NY will begin in several days, Election Day November 8 is less than 2 weeks away and soon election season 2022 will be over. Hopefully, New Yorkers were registered, informed and turned out to vote. Hopefully, elections went smoothly and election results are accepted by all and there is a smooth transition of power. In the not too distant past, I would have only had to be hopeful about turnout. Yes, times have changed. There is more polarization now than ever. LWV has remained nonpartisan and I know and appreciate how hard you all have worked to not only be, but to also be perceived as nonpartisan. However, that has not stopped people calling us partisan, refusing to participate in some of our candidate events, and calling us out when candidate events needed to be cancelled. However, together, we will continue to move forward. We need to continue to grow in influence, numbers and power to attain our goal of empowering voters and protecting democracy, but how?

Assessing and evaluating is always important for growth and improvement:

1. Voter service chairs will be completing their voter service surveys due November 18. It is important for Leagues to assess what they did and were able to accomplish re registering, educating, and GOTV, what goals were met and which were not, what worked well and what didn't, and what changes could be made. It is important that each league, MAL and ILO

complete their survey. The LWVNYS Voter Service Committee will also be carefully looking at your surveys and assessing how we can better help you while adhering to our policies.

2. Nominating chairs and nominating committee as well as current board members need to assess and evaluate how the present board is functioning, what is working well, and what is needed to improve. The recent presidents' zoom meeting held on Oct 19, focused on the nominating committee, its power, its importance, and also the process it needs to follow in choosing the upcoming slate of officers. Presidents as well as nominating chairs were invited to this meeting. I thank those who presented: Kate Jankowski, Regina Tillman, Dare Thompson, and Sue Wilson. I thank Joy Rosenzweig and the Local League Support committee who have begun focusing on nominating committee. I thank all those who took time out of their very busy schedules to attend. The meeting was recorded so for those who were unable to attend, please go to <https://youtu.be/UVGBenw7lkg>, watch the recording and then look at the template that Kate discussed and is attached. As was said at both the beginning and end of the meeting, this is only the beginning of the conversation.

The nominating Committee is the MOST IMPORTANT Committee to grow and strengthen each of our leagues. It should be given the attention and help it needs. Of course, each league is unique and the timeline as well as process may vary, but one goal is always the same: to provide the best possible slate of nominees for officers and directors. Assessment of current board and future needs is so important as we all move forward.

State Office

LWVUS Data Tracking

The state League is so pleased to report that 26 local Leagues submitted responses to the monthly data tracking form. And, we are astounded by the results from just 26 local Leagues:

- 86 educational events/rallies/forums were held
- 88 events were held focusing on the mechanics of voting (requirements, procedures, etc)
- Over 10,000 individuals were engaged in League work in-person
- Over 4,000 individuals were engaged in League work virtually
- 164 other organizations partnered with Leagues to do the work
- 19 meetings with local BOE officials were held

On the submissions also, were long lists of partner organizations, trainings held for League members and outside organizations, DEI trainings held, and much more. It was so impressive to see all that just 26 local League accomplished in one month! Imagine what data we would have if more local Leagues submitted their info!

Submit you October data online at: <https://forms.gle/jvzf1kFwbGC8QDsX7> **BY NOV. 10**. And, let's see if we can get more Leagues and even more data to show our tremendous impact in our communities!

Lawn Signs

Want a sign to post in your lawn to encourage people to vote! We have them at \$5 each plus tax and shipping. Email Aimee@lwny.org and tell her how many and where to ship them. We can invoice you or your League later. Do it now!



Vote 411, Milly Czerwinski, Organizer, Milly@lwvny.org

All the Gubernatorial, Attorney General, Comptroller and US Senate candidates have participated so those races are at 100% participation! Congrats to all who helped urge those candidates to participate. And, continue to ask candidates if they have participated and if not, ask why not and urge them to do it!

Total Number of Candidates: 435
Candidates Who Have Responded: 200
Percentage of Candidates Who Have Responded: 46%

Congressional Candidates: 54
Congressional Candidates Who Have Responded: 30
Percentage of Congressional Candidates Who Have Responded: 55%

State Senate Candidates: 110
State Senate Candidates Who Have Responded: 60
Percentage of State Senate Candidates Who Have Responded: 59%

Assembly Candidates: 262
Assembly Candidates Who Have Responded: 98
Percentage of Assembly Candidates Who Have Responded: 37%

Voter Services, Nancy Rosenthal, VP for Voter Services, nancyrosenthal9@gmail.com

Tuesday November 8th is almost here; we are running the last mile of the GOTV marathon! We are not done yet! Hydrate and nourish yourself; our efforts these last days are critical!

Those emails and phone numbers gathered at voter registration events or candidate forums – now is the moment to reach out to those contacts and GOTV; remind them of the early voting dates October 29th through November 6th, vote411.org and League's online voter guide and absentee ballot due dates.

Be certain that Voter Guides Part II are distributed to libraries, grocery stores, town halls, wherever you think best for voters to avail themselves to the guide. And remember to tell them to flip the ballot for the environmental bond act proposal (except in Nassau County where it is on the front of the ballot)! The webinar held to educate people on the Bond Act is posted on the state website at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jba6wIBxPBY>

Be watchful and be careful. Even if a voter has an issue at a poll site, advise them to not leave the poll site without voting! Tell voters to **Call the Attorney General hotline: 866-390-2992** if they encounter an issue. Be certain to report the polling site location and exactly what happened. If possible, report the name of poll worker involved.

If your League received a mini grant for GOTV – it's time to submit expense and paperwork for reimbursement.

Voter Service Survey

A reminder that the Voter Service Survey is due November 18th! Collecting all the data for the survey on an ongoing basis will make the timely filing of the survey very easy! **YOU MUST COMPLETE THE SURVEY BY NOVEMBER 18th**. Attached is a fillable Microsoft word document that you can complete and send to (email), as well as a form to help track voter registrations at drives. We have also created an online version, which you can fill out here: <https://forms.gle/tFHrbdXBz71VWb6R6> .

Texting Service (text VoteNY to 474747)

Encourage members and voters to sign up for the League's texting service (text VoteNY to 474747) to get timely reminders on voting.

Issues and Advocacy, Sally Robinson, VP for Issues and Advocacy, sally.s.robinson@gmail.com, and Erica Smitka, LWNYS Deputy Director, Erica@lwny.org

Election Protection Education

As we near the mid-term elections, an increasing number of conversations have focused on election security and ensuring that NYS is holding fair and reliable elections. This week, the state League will launch an education campaign in which we provide local Leagues and members with materials that detail how NYS runs secure, reliable, and fair elections. These materials can be used as talking points with local news outlets, delivered to county board of elections, and distributed to voters who might have questions about how it all works. Keep an eye out for these materials coming soon!

NYS Supreme Court Decision on Absentee Ballots

As some of you may have read, on Friday October 21 a New York state trial judge issued a ruling in Amedure v. New York a lawsuit challenging aspects of absentee voting laws in New York. The ruling does NOT in any manner impact the ability of a voter to obtain or cast an absentee ballot. The only impact is on one aspect of the absentee ballot counting and challenges law and the decision is being appealed. You can read the full decision here: <https://www.democracydocket.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/2022-10-21-140-Decision-and-Order43.pdf>

Environmental Bond Act Panel

On October 11th, the state League in coordination with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. hosted a presentation and panel on The Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act with speakers from the Nature Conservancy, WeAct, and the Northeast Region of the International Union of Operating Engineers. In total, we had over 200 people attend the event to learn more about this historic environmental act. The League of Women Voters of NYS supports The Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act and encourages voters to vote yes on Proposition #1. The recording of the webinar and the Powerpoint used in the presentation are posted on the Voting page of the state website: <https://lwny.org/voting/>

PowHer Summit

The state League along with a number of local league members and organizations from across the state took part in the PowHer Summit on October 13th. After the Summit, the state League hosted a PowHer Talk in which we focused on the role of the League in ensuring women's equity in NYS. One of the ways in which we will do this is with a focus on the second passage of the New York State Equal Rights Amendment in this legislative session.

Automatic Voter Registration and Online Voter Registration

The state League has been meeting with the State Board of Elections along with the Brennan Center, Citizens Union, Common Cause, NALEO, Brooklyn Voters Alliance and other good government groups to discuss the planned implementation of automatic voter registration and online voter registration in New York State. We have been meeting with the state Board to discuss the timeline for implementation, how to test the system, and to ensuring the board has feedback from our organizations as it relates to the needs of voters.

rmt370@gmail.com, and [Crystal Joseph, DEI Task Force Co-Chair, campus@lwwnyc.org](mailto:Crystal.Joseph@lwwnyc.org)

It has been a good several weeks for the planning and conveying of information on DEI that could affect the culture, and thus, the policies and practices within the Leagues of NYS. So much to do at this time of year that some of you may have missed or were not in a particular audience so here are the highlights, past and future.

- Dear White Women, Please Come Home – Book Discussion and DEI Workshop conducted Tuesday, October 18th on ZOOM. With a new techie toy Mentimeter, we were able to graphically observe that we were bi-coastal for this workshop and that we had league representatives from over 13 locations in NYS.

This workshop was heralded as perhaps the best DEI workshop held to date! This was thanks to the two featured presenters, book author Kimberlee Yolanda Williams who partnered with our friend from the DEI workshops of 2021, NYT best-selling author, Debby Irving. The DEI Task Force and I still need to absorb the wealth of comments from both an exit survey and a healthy chat discussion. However, to indicate the direction they went, let me say that 97.2% of survey respondents would recommend, or highly recommend, these two presenters to other Leagues! And congratulations to the 10 attendees who had entered their comments and will be randomly selected to receive a free copy of Kimberlee's book within the next several weeks!

Due to hearing that many registrants were not able to attend as they had planned and made inquiries about a recording of the program (no recording was made), here are some ways to access the teachings that we all walked away with on October 18th.

Watch Video of a news interview of Kimberlee (6min): www.youtube.com/watch?v=jB89rM9bKLY

Watch Video of Kimberlee and Debby in Conversation (1hr 27min):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nEnDKVGINxM>

Purchase the books, Dear White Woman and Waking Up White from bookstores, or as below:

[Bulk Books Order Page](#) Dear White Woman
[Signed Single Book Order Page](#) Dear White Woman
[Bulk Books Order Page](#) Waking Up White

- A virtual DEI Drop-In Session, via ZOOM, is planned for Thursday, November 3rd at 7:30pm as a casual conversation of what we have processed since the workshop and want to share with others. All attendees will receive an email invitation and ZOOM link. Others wishing to consider attending, please look for an upcoming email blast from the State League to all members prior to November 3rd from with the ZOOM link therein. (FYI: Pre-registration is not required for our virtual Drop-Ins and neither are they recorded.)

- President’s Zoom Meeting of October 19th: which picked up on a conversation begun at the LWVNYS BOD Meeting of October 7th on the importance of Nominating Committees. It provided me with the opportunity to speak about the role that Nomination Committees play in diversifying Board memberships. Clearly this is a multi-step process and begins with committee members defining skill-gaps (with the help of the current BOD) and, afterward, applying a DEI lens in recruitment. A page of suggested readings was prepared (contact me for an emailed copy) but this article is on the top of the list: [6 Steps to Increase Board Diversity at Your Nonprofit](#), by Tatiana Morand, in *Organizational Management*, March 26, 2021. If you are a member who has been designated to work on Nominations for your local League, please read.

- 21 Day Racial Equity Indigenous Challenge: beginning on Sunday, November 6th. Join us as we,

as a League, prepare to better consider the impacts of colonial settlers upon the Indigenous population of the Americas. We put aside romanticizing the creation of Thanksgiving and prepare to recognize Native American Heritage Day on Friday, November 25th (designated by Congress in 2009). This challenge was curated by Dr. Eddie Moore, Jr., our friend and teacher Debby Irving, Marguerite Penick-Parks, and Claudia A. Fox Tree (Arawak), Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness (MCNAA) board member.

“The process of reclaiming Indigenous history is a work in progress and therefore not always complete or aligned. Not to worry. Take in what you can in the spirit it is offered – from perspectives and experiences as diverse as the millions of descendants from the 574 nations on whose land we in the US now stand.”

Sign up anytime between now and November 6th and join your fellow Leaguers in the enrichment of our knowledge and understanding of the heritage of the Indigenous people of this land we now call the United States of America: <https://LWVnativeamericanheritageequitychallenge.eventbrite.com>

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Organizational Assessment: to be issued shortly to all local Leagues of LWVNYS. Two years ago, this assessment was applied to selected local Leagues. However, this year, we hope to ascertain the growth in awareness, knowledge, skill, and abilities related to DEI implementation throughout the entire State. We will ask for its completion by local BOD’s using a method that ensures input to reflect your league, not just of one or two individuals. Please look for more information soon on this important assessment tool to be issued to the field by the end of the month of November. If any questions arise on this matter, or any of the aforementioned items, please feel free to contact me at rmt370@gmail.com.

[Youth Committee, Crystal Joseph and Nick Doran, Co-Chairs,](#)
campus@lwnyc.org and ndoran33@gmail.com

The statewide Youth Committee hosted a zoom event in October which highlighted some of the great youth programs being organized by local Leagues across the state. These programs, and others, are listed in the state League's Youth Programming Toolkit posted on the state website under Local Leagues/League Toolkits, but also individually on the Youth page of the website (<https://lwny.org/youth-programs/>). It is hoped that more local Leagues will share their youth programs that can be added to the Toolkit.