



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 **January 2022**

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

- Each local League MUST update the LWVUS database as to current members **by Jan. 31**. Members that are current should be checked off as “active” and those no longer members should be “inactive.” All “active” members will be counted on Feb. 1 to determine the LWVUS and LWVNY Per Member Payment amount as of July 1, 2022.
- Schedule a local League meeting in Feb, March or April, 2021, to discuss the proposed principles of a new position on election administration structure; **responses due May 1**
- Forms for students selected to attend SIA must be received by the state office **by March 1**.

Calendar

- Jan. 27, 6:30 pm: County Redistricting: How, What, and When? [Register here](#).
- 21 Day Listening Challenge (DEI) extended until Jan 31 (see report below)
- Feb. 14 Day of Action for Voting Rights (read more in President's Report)
- February-April, 2022: Schedule a local League meeting to discuss the proposed principles of a new position on election administration structure; responses due May 1.
- March 1, 2022: LWVUS Program Planning Responses are due (see From LWVUS below)

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

Happy New Year everyone! 2021 is over and 2022 has begun. The issues and struggles we faced in 2021 remain. COVID is still here! Misinformation and disinformation flood the internet and social media! Politics are more partisan than ever! Voting rights are being threatened! Redistricting remains an issue! LWVNY will continue doing what has worked well in 2022. However, we are always looking to do more!

We will continue holding presidents' zoom meetings. On January 19, our first of this year addressed leadership development. We all knew how important it is to be developing new leaders just as we all new how important it is to grow membership. Updated materials are already up on the LWVNY webpage for all to read. THIS YEAR the local League support group has begun sending out weekly tips on membership/ leadership to presidents.

We will continue holding zoom voter service meetings, updating materials and helping Leagues wherever and whenever possible. THIS YEAR we will be paying for the entire cost of VOTE 411. There will be no cost to Leagues.

We will be holding zoom youth meetings for all local youth chairs. THIS YEAR, materials will be updated sharing what our local youth committees are doing.

We will be encouraging Leagues to look at everything they do through a DEI LENS. The DEI task force will continue to meet, send materials, have challenges, and hold workshops. THIS YEAR, we will be asking all Leagues to share their DEI success stories.

We will continue providing all needed materials for studies and concurrences making it easier for Leagues to hold meetings. THIS YEAR, we are doing a Concurrence on Election Administration and a Study on Voting for the Incarcerated.

We will be holding regional training workshops on Sat. in March and April. THIS YEAR we are asking you for your ideas for workshops and also idea for zoom calls.

We will continue to work with you and LWVUS to reach our goals. THIS YEAR, LWVUS will be celebrating its 102nd birthday on Feb, 14th with action, advocacy and storytelling. They are asking for Leagues to come together to build power for elections in 2022. LWV began with the struggle for voting rights for women, but the struggle for voting rights for all eligible voters continues. Our democracy works best when everyone participates, when every eligible voter is able to cast their vote and when every vote is counted and counted correctly. The failure of both voting right bills in the US Senate has heightened concern and urgency. LWV has gotten recognition for our steadfast fight for voting rights from the very beginning. Voting rights is an issue with legs that attracts new members. Feb 14, 2022 can be a Day for Action, a Day of Recognition, and a Day of Celebration. LWVUS is asking that Leagues hosting events on February 14 share them using this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfooLBDINwGy2b3LJiHYV26WOQrF3JWkCshSO9EN4PJrpdWw/viewform?usp=sf_link. There are so many different ways you can celebrate this day either virtually or in person. LWVUS is hosting a call on Feb 1 when they will go over their toolkit and resources for this day of action; register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEld-iorTspHdH-um9oWsOYFikJvT8euwnu>. Then on Feb. 14th LWVUS will host a national pep rally on Facebook live. Invite all your members to join in! Let us know what YOUR League did. Share stories and pictures with Laura@lwny.org. Share with us so we can share with others.

Thank you for all you do! Together we will work together to meet the challenges of 2022!

Issues and Advocacy, Sally Robinson, VP for Issues and Advocacy,
sally.s.robinson@gmail.com

Redistricting

On January 3rd the Independent Redistricting Commission voted to submit two sets of maps for Congressional and state Legislative Districts, one Democratic and one Republican. Each received five votes. The League, Citizens Union and Reinvent Albany sent a letter to the Commissioners criticizing the failure to submit one set of maps. <https://lwny.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Letter-IRC-010322-FINAL.pdf>

Because the Commission voted, the Legislature had to consider both sets of maps. On January 10, they voted both sets of maps down. The Commission has 15 days to submit new maps to the Legislature. Only after those maps are voted down does the Legislature get to amend the maps. We sent another letter to the Commission on January 13 asking them to come together on one set of maps after the Legislature voting down the maps. The second letter can be seen here: <https://lwvny.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Letter-to-IRC-Jan-13-2022-FINAL.pdf> .

On January 24, the Commissioners of each party of the IRC released a statement blaming the other for not even agreeing to meet to discuss the 2nd set of maps. The IRC will therefore shirk its constitutional responsibility and not submit the 2nd set of maps. The League released a statement blasting the IRC's inaction (see here: <https://lwvny.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/statement-on-IRC-inaction-Jan-25-2022.pdf>).

Development of maps now falls to the hands of the Legislature. We are now working on a letter to the Legislative leaders urging transparency in their process and urging an opportunity for public input as they consider these maps.

Ethics

Governor Hochul has made abolishing JCOPE, the much-maligned New York state ethics enforcement agency her main ethics priority. Her office has been working with the good government groups, including the League on this but it will also need to be negotiated with the Legislature. She included her proposal in with her budget submission last week.

New Position on Election Administration and Voting for the Incarcerated

An Election Administration Structure Committee was created right after the delegates at the LWVNYS approved a new study on the topic at the state Convention in June, 2021. The Committee met many times during the fall researching:

- How other states administer elections, including speaking with administrators in some states, for a broad look at what other states do see
- Testimony from other good government groups regarding BOE reform,
- Senate Election Committee report on BOE Reform,
- Statutory reforms we have been urging in recent years

The Committee has finished the first part of its work and prepared a set of principles to be used to write a new position on how to structure election administration in New York. A full packet of materials, including the principles to be considered by each local League with their members, will be distributed in the next week. **ALL LOCAL LEAGUES SHOULD SCHEDULE A MEETING BEFORE MAY 1, 2021, TO CONSIDER THESE PRINCIPLES.** All responses will be due to the state League by May 1, 2021.

With these materials, local Leagues and members will also be asked to concur with a position allowing individuals currently incarcerated to be able to vote.

Bigger Better Bottle Bill

The League is participating in a coalition working on advocacy for a bigger better bottle bill. Watch for more info as legislative action is proposed, but share the attached fact sheet with all.

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

Gearing up for 2022!

The key in 2022 will be Getting Out the Vote (GOTV)! All voters were helped last week with the signing of legislation allowing for Voting by Absentee Ballot due to the Covid-19 Pandemic through 2022. This legislation will “ensure the pandemic does not create inaccessibility for voters during upcoming elections and help protect New Yorkers’ access to the ballot,” according to Governor Hochul. The legislature is currently debating other legislation in regards to voting; we will be certain current and accurate voting information is available to Leagues as the Tuesday June 28, 2022 primary election and Tuesday November 8, 2022 general elections get closer.

Thanks to our own Voter Services Committee member, Kathleen Stein, who also chairs the Rural Caucus Committee which includes several Leagues throughout the US, the VS Committee is looking to model packets created by other Leagues in rural areas on Voter Registration and Voting that can be distributed by local Leagues to libraries or other groups/organizations. We are just beginning to look into the particulars and hope to have packets available by the summer. These packets will facilitate registering voters!

The six pamphlets available from the League office on voting have been updated: First Vote, Individuals with Criminal Convictions or Detained in Jail or Prison, Homeless Individuals, College Students, Individuals with Disabilities, and Individuals with Mental Health Disabilities. These updated pamphlets will be available in March, if not sooner.

It's time to start preparing for Vote411! Vote411 at last has an updated format! There's a great training conducted by Megan Brown from the LWVUS that goes over everything a user could want to know. You can watch a recording of the training here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1igh9LcVMb0gnPLQPN3bWJjsCAk39ACXy/view?usp=sharing>.

Milly Czerwinski (milly@lwny.org) from the State League office and Nancy Rosenthal (nancyrosenthal9@gmail.com) are the go-to people for all your questions about Vote411. At the LWVNY regional trainings there will be a workshop offered on Vote411 as well. This year, the State League will be handling the Congressional and NYS Senate and Assembly races in Vote 411, looking to local Leagues for assistance if a candidate does not respond. And remember the good news: Vote411 will be free of charge to all local Leagues, thanks to the generous donation received from an anonymous donor!

County Redistricting, Milly Czerwinski, [Milly@lwny.org](mailto:milly@lwny.org)

An educational county redistricting event has been scheduled for January 27th and will be held over Zoom. Jeffrey Wice from the New York Law School, Dale Barbaria from Assemblywoman Amy Paulin's office, and Barbara Grosh from LWV Rochester will be speaking at the event. The League has created county redistricting guides that will be shared with event attendees, League members, and the public.

Students Inside Albany Conference, Laura Ladd Bierman, Laura@lwny.org

The 2022 Students Inside Albany Conference is currently being scheduled for May 22-25 at the Hampton Inn in downtown Albany. There is a chance that the Conference may be cancelled depending

on the pandemic or if the state Capitol is closed to visitors and the public. Forms to be completed by the students selected by each local League have been emailed to each local League. The forms are due to the state office by March 1; if forms are not received by then, the local League will lose that spot and a student will be allowed from the waiting list. All local Leagues are urged to make sure the students **and** parents know and agree to the following:

- All students will be required to show proof of being vaccinated and boosted based on CDC recommendations just prior to SIA commencing (right now that is 2 vaccines and booster – could be more by May 22);
- All students must wear a mask over their nose and mouth at all times in public or common areas; and
- All students will be sharing a hotel room with another student.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Regina Tillman, VP for DEI, rmt371@live.com

Effective listening puts others in the center of our focus and thus, conveys a sense of belonging and, dare I say, inclusion. Saying we are inclusive doesn't do the trick. And since the benefits of diversifying a group include getting different perspectives, one must listen and consider the offerings that only come through to us by hearing them being expressed.

Last week while doing the Challenge, I personally came across a great list called the “**Listening Sixers**”! The directions were as follows: Start to listen artfully to the conversations that are taking place around you at your school, workplace, place of worship, or home. Pick a specific conversation and L-I-S-T-E-N for the following:

- Did the listener welcome the speaker to the conversation in any way?
- Did the listener allow the speaker to express all of his or her thoughts?
- (...to be continued on the Better Listening Challenge Page)

Register and engage to find the remaining list of #3 – #6 additional pointers to L-I-S-T-E-N for and then process what you heard. Doing this for several days, even if just in your own household, sensitizes oneself to what works in a conversation and how a conversation fails. Then you will be ready to connect with a speaker yourself using the “**Listening Sixers**”. I personally printed off a copy to serve as a readily accessible cheat sheet to consult with.

Although we have League members from across NYS enrolled and engaged in this Challenge (many thanks for your involvement), more would be great in order to effect the change we seek in our collective behavior. Please reenforce the notice of the extension to your local League members via an email blast, or just forward this email to your friends in the League, to alert them of **the newly extended deadline date of Sunday, January 30th**. It is not too late to start on completing the 21-Days by engaging in the Better Listening Challenge© after registering by the final registration date at: <https://lwnys-21daybetterlisteningchallenge.eventbrite.com> Questions? Email Regina Tillman, at rmt370@gmail.com. Thank you!

Local League Support Committee, Joy Rosenzweig, joyrose6@gmail.com, and Kathy Stein, kstein1@twcny.rr.com, Co-Chairs

The Local League Support Committee (LLSC) has been busy addressing the needs of our local Leagues. We now have some great membership and leadership materials in the new [Membership and Leadership](#) section of the LWNYS website. Our Local League Presidents' Google Group is a great

place to share resources, have questions answered, and get moral support, so we encourage presidents to take advantage of it. In addition, upcoming regional workshops will include membership/leadership training.

From LWVUS

2022 Program Planning Leader's Guide Now Available!

As the first step in the Program process that will culminate in adoption of LWVUS organization-wide program at Convention 2022, the Program Planning Leaders Guide and Survey response form is now available for Leagues to use at their program planning meetings in early 2022. The input of League boards will help shape the proposed program of study and action that will be debated and voted on by convention delegates. Program planning reports forms must be returned online by Tuesday, Mar. 1, 2022. Each League is entitled to one response, and individual member responses are not accepted. You can access the [Leader's Guide here](#) and the [2022 Program Survey here](#). For questions about program planning, email progplan@lww.org.