



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 2021**

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

- Complete and return the Voter Service Survey by **Nov. 12, 2021**

#### **Calendar**

- November 2, 2021 Election Day
- Wed, Nov. 10, 7:00 pm Presidents/Co-Presidents Zoom
- March 1, 2022 LWVUS Program Planning Responses are due (see From LWVUS below)

#### **President's Report, Judie Gorenstein, [judieL728@aol.com](mailto:judieL728@aol.com)**

##### **Presidents/Co-Presidents Zoom, Nov. 10, 7:00 pm**

Join us for a discussion on membership recruitment and retention with all local League Presidents and Co-Presidents. Here's the Zoom link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85466008637?pwd=RVpHaGV2K1dYL2ZEbm1jV2VkOFJOUT09>

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 854 6600 8637

Passcode: 598452

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85466008637?pwd=RVpHaGV2K1dYL2ZEbm1jV2VkOFJOUT09>

#### **“To every season there is a purpose”**

Throughout the summer and fall, LWVNYS, local Leagues and League members have all been extremely busy registering and educating voters, holding candidate events and getting out the vote. With Election Day only a few days away, election season is almost over although there are still the voter service surveys to complete, evaluations to be done and ultimately the preparation for the next election cycle. Yes, voter service continues throughout the year. However, we are now entering the season of Thanksgiving a time to give thanks. Here is what I am thankful for:

I am thankful to all our members, all our Leagues, all the wonderful LWVNYS board and LWVNYS staff for making it possible for us to achieve all we have done and all we are planning to do.

I am thankful for all our LWVNYS committees who are enabling us to reach out to all our local Leagues.

To our Voter Service Committee: I am so impressed by how quickly this year you have been able to update the toolkits, how you have been able to respond to concerns and questions from local Leagues. I look forward to seeing the analysis of the voter service surveys and plans for the following year.

To our DEI Task Force: I am so impressed by the number of members ( over 150) who you have reached and educated through the 2 DEI workshops you held and also the 21 Day Challenge many of our members participated in. I look forward to seeing and reading the “DEI Successes from our Leagues” you are putting together which will be on LWVNY webpage for all to read.

To our Local League Support Group: I am so impressed by how well you, a very new committee has formulated, distributed, collected and analyzed survey of what local Leagues need most: membership and how you have begun to review the materials available and what will be most valuable to our Leagues. As a result of your work, I look forward to your helping Leagues first attract new members and then involve and retain them.

To our Youth Committee: I am impressed by how well you worked together, some members of the committee with years of experience working with youth and other much younger members who can easily engage youth. I look forward to your working with our local Leagues, compiling and sharing what our local Leagues are doing, and to the Youth Corner you will have in the State Voter. Our youth are our future!

I am thankful that the future of LWVNYS and our Leagues looks bright with so many motivated members.

I am also reminded that this is a time of giving. Let’s all think about what we can and then give to the League: a donation, time, new ideas. We can and we will Build Our Power Together increasing our influence and visibility and reaching our mission and goals. Thank You!

**Voter Services Committee, Nancy Rosenthal, [nancyrosenthal9@gmail.com](mailto:nancyrosenthal9@gmail.com), Sheila Bernson, [sbernson@mac.com](mailto:sbernson@mac.com), Co-Chairs**

A hearty “Thank You” to all the Voter Service team members, as well as to all the other Leaguers who stepped up to help with registering voters and participating in our Get Out the Vote efforts for the November, 2021 general election. Many Leagues have held successful zoom, hybrid, and in-person candidate forums. Other Leagues canceled forums due to the unwillingness of candidates to appear, or candidates canceling after agreeing to attend. This has been one of the more difficult election cycles for many of us. Yet, League members again meet the challenges! All of your efforts are what continue to Make Democracy Work!

Don’t forget to complete the Voter Services Survey (attached) to boast about all your great activities this fall. We need this information to summarize our impact statewide. **Get your survey in by Nov. 12!**

Your Voter Service Committee eagerly awaits the results of the ballot proposals. Once we have the results, we will be updating the Toolkits and brochures on voting in NY State! Stay tuned!

**People Powered Fair Maps, Jennifer Wilson, [jennifer@lwvny.org](mailto:jennifer@lwvny.org), and Milly Czerwinski, [Milly@lwvny.org](mailto:Milly@lwvny.org)**

The redistricting process has been in full swing for over a month. Jennifer and Milly have finished their meetings with the redistricting delegates. Milly has been conducting individual meetings with the delegates who weren't able to attend the initial meetings.

We sent out a letter on October 18 to the Independent Redistricting Commission expressing our disappointment towards the separate map proposals and the lack of transparency and uniformity throughout the redistricting process thus far. The letter urged the Commissioners to release a single set of maps and to publicize their internal mapping negotiations to the public. We encouraged local Leagues to sign on and 35 did so.

On October 19th we had our first state-wide redistricting delegate meeting. Steve Elliot of the Albany County League presented his guide on how to look at a redistricting map. We also heard from the Broome Tioga, Saratoga, Albany County, Rochester, and Syracuse Leagues on their efforts on educating the public on the redistricting process.

We held two very successful mapping trainings on October 13 and October 18. Over 120 people attended.

The IRC has begun their second round of redistricting hearings. As of the writing of this letter the Buffalo, Rochester, and Southern Tier hearings have all concluded. As of right now, the Albany County, Tompkins, Westchester, Syracuse, and North Country Leagues will all be testifying at their respective hearings.

**Local League Support Committee, Joy Rosenzweig, [joyrose6@gmail.com](mailto:joyrose6@gmail.com), and Kathy Stein, [kstein1@twcny.rr.com](mailto:kstein1@twcny.rr.com), Co-Chairs**

The Local League Support Committee has been very busy this fall. We have been in touch with many local League presidents and will continue to reach out to learn about their needs and let them know we are here to be of service.

Because most Leagues indicated in our survey that membership (recruiting, retaining, and leadership development) is an area in which they would like support, our committee decided to start out focusing on that area. We created a Presidents' Google Group in which local League presidents can exchange ideas and information. We plan to post membership tips and guides in this group and encourage all presidents to access these materials, share them within their Leagues, and post ideas and questions for each other. The membership tips and guides will also be posted on the LWVNYS website.

Judie Gorenstein and the committee also decided to devote a portion of the statewide local League presidents' meetings to membership issues. The upcoming meeting will include a presentation on recruiting new members. Future meetings will address retaining members and leadership issues.

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Regina Tillman, [rmt371@live.com](mailto:rmt371@live.com)**

On August 17th and October 19th, we successfully conducted a total of 6 hours of workshops for DEI education and training for members of the LWVNYS by the noted speaker, racial justice educator and bestselling author, Debby Irving. On behalf of the DEI Task Force, our thanks for the support of

LWVNYS and local Leagues to conduct these workshops! And to individual League members - for your attendance at our virtual DEI workshops since the first one in June 2021. We also acknowledge the follow-up engagements that have already begun to occur because of your heightened awareness and motivation to develop our organization into one which is more inclusive, more equitable, more multi-cultural, and anti-racist.

And as you learn of an expanded history of America, there are people being set up to attack local school board officials for standing behind the need to also teach our children a complete history. DEI is getting rolled up in some communities with CRT (Critical Race Theory), claiming it all to be divisive and, therefore, inappropriate to support let alone to teach.

We at the State League have taken note and will be providing you with information to help you “set the record straight”. While good people must speak up against this misinterpretation and use of a term as a rallying cry, first you must have “the facts”. In the meantime, please know - as a place to begin - that CRT has nothing to do with public school curriculum. In fact, I hope that you will be able to take 3 minutes to watch this video clip describing what CRT is and is not:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_gdxrkwpPKc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_gdxrkwpPKc)

And I have included a video clip of less than 7 minutes interviewing Kimberlé Crenshaw, who was among the legal scholars who developed the theory, helping us to understand the true meaning of Critical Race Theory and how it became a political flashpoint in schools, and beyond:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jih7ZbB8OLE> More to come.

## **From LWVUS**

### **LWVUS 55th Annual Convention: First Call**

We invite our League members to save these dates and plan to join fellow passionate and engaged League leaders for our biennial national gathering to be held in Denver, CO, and online June 23 – June 26, 2022. More information can be found [here](#), and we will be posting more to the League Update and on the League Management Site in the coming weeks. Please email [cdavis@lwv.org](mailto:cdavis@lwv.org) if you have questions.

### **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@lwv.org](mailto:progplan@lwv.org).