



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 **June 2022**

If you are no longer an officer or on the board of your local League, please forward this email and attachments to the new leaders of your League.

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

- Complete and return the attached Local League Update form to indicate your 2022-23 Officers and Board or do it online at <https://forms.gle/NFePDGxLvgRwZ3iR6>
- Order copies of Voter Guide Part IB (with August primary deadlines included); see attached.
- Submit your mini-grant application for funding a GOTV effort (see below and application attached) **by July 13, 2022**

Calendar

- Early Voting for June Primary: June 18-26
- Primary Election Day: June 28
- June 23-26: LWVUS Convention (register: <https://www.lwv.org/manage-your-League/council-convention>)
- Aug 24-Sept 5: NYS Fair (League has a booth)

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

Looking back at the last twelve months, LWVNYS has been successful in reaching many of our goals and working together with all our Leagues. Looking ahead to the next 12 months, we have a lot more to do. This month during our Council meeting (and I thank all those delegates who attended and unanimously approved our budget for this upcoming year), we acknowledged what has been accomplished. During the presidents' zoom meeting, we began looking at what needs to be continued and still be done. Here is a reminder:

- If your League has Directions to the Board, they must be emailed to Laura asap.
- Make certain you also email Laura your new slate of officers (see form attached and online link).
- Plan for your orientation of your new board over the summer.
- Plan your upcoming local League calendar.

Many of you will be delegates at LWVUS Convention either virtually or in person. Remember we are all working together. Share what you learn, new ideas and any concerns, as well as your concerns with your own League, other Leagues and LWVNYS. Thank you all for all you have done and continue to

do. We know our democracy is in peril, but we will continue to empower voters and protect our democracy!

2022 LWVNYS Council

The State League Council meeting was held on June 7 by zoom. At the Council meeting, the delegates approved the LWVNYS 2022-23 Budget (thank you!) and heard reports from the state Board members and Committees. The link to the recording of Council is: <https://youtu.be/MJLBICEkLgo>.

State Office

The Local League Update form is attached to this email. **PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE FORM TO THE STATE OFFICE ASAP OR COMPLETE THE FORM ONLINE AT: <https://forms.gle/NFePDGxLvgRwZ3iR6>**. Our email group lists are created from this form and you will not be included on important emails from the state League if we don't know to have you on the lists. You can add anyone to each category even if they are not on your board. For example, if you want others who work on Voter Service activities to be on that email list, just add them to the form.

Mini-grants to GOTV (Get Out the Vote)

The state League has received grant funding from two sources that has enabled it to offer mini-grants to local Leagues for their effort to Get Out the Vote in the fall election. The grant application is attached and we will be looking for creativity in reaching new populations or areas of low voter turnout and also require that data be collected on the project to determine its impact. We will also love to see projects that are partnering with other community organizations to help fund or implement the project.



NY State Fair

The state League will have a booth at the NYS Fair in Syracuse again this year! We are really excited to have a presence there and provide information to all voters in NYS. **BUT we will need lots of volunteers to help staff the table.** We will provide the admission ticket and parking ticket and only ask you to staff the table part of the day so you'll have the rest of the day to explore the Fair. Think about helping and we'll be sending out the exact schedule soon – but for now, the Fair is held in Syracuse from August 24 to September 5 and we have to staff the table from 10:00am to 9:00pm (Fri-Sun til 10:00 pm). Maybe you'd like to spend a day or two at the Fair?

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

NY State has two primaries:

- June 28 Primary: candidates in races for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, NYS Assembly seats
- August 23 Primary: candidates in races for US Congressional seats and NYS Senate seats

Up to date and accurate information on the primaries and deadlines for the primaries, and for the general election, can always be found on the state League website at: <https://lwny.org/voting/>.

If voters have issues at the polls, two hotlines are available if they encounter any problems when trying to vote. They can call these hotlines for legal assistance and guidance to make their vote count. Please

add these hotlines to your websites and promote on social media – you can share the state League’s posts or create your own.

One hotline is operated by the NYS Attorney General’s office:

Call - (866) 390-2992

June 18th through June 26th (9am to 6pm)

June 28th (6am to 9pm)

FAQs: <https://ag.ny.gov/election-protection>

Complaint Form: <https://ag.ny.gov/election-hotline>

The other hotline is from the NY Democratic Lawyers’ Committee:

Main line: 1-888-369-8683 (1-888-3NY-VOTE)

Spanish Line: 1-888-369-8682 (1-888-3NY-VOTA)

Helpline Hours

Mon - Fri: 9 am - 8 pm

Sat - Sun: 10 am - 7 pm

Revised Voter Guide Part I

A revised Voter Guide Part 1 is being printed. In this revised Guide, the dates and deadlines for the August primary are included. Orders for this revised Guide (Part IB) in English and Spanish can be made using the attached form. If you ordered and paid for the earlier version, this new version is free (except for shipping costs)!

Voter Guide Part 2 which will include information about the statewide candidates will be available for local Leagues in September.

Vote 411

VOTE411.org is live for the June primary election! VOTE411.org provides election information and what will be on the ballot Election Day. Using the QR Code on postings provides many with greater access to VOTE411.org. If candidates in your area have not yet responded on Vote 411, please nudge them to do it – contact their campaign and tell them it’s important for all voters to know their positions on issues. Let’s all get the word out on this valuable election tool, VOTE411.org, with social media postings and Letters to the Editors (templates were sent to local Leagues – if you need them again, email Milly@lwvny.org).

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.

The Voter Service Committee and our voter service contacts with each local League are working together to GOTV. Check out the GOTV Tool Kit for new ideas (attached). And be sure to submit your application to receive funding (mini-grant) for a new GOTV effort this fall (see above). The VS committee is here to help, answer questions, address concerns, and listen to your thoughts and ideas!

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

League Lawsuits to Consolidate State Primaries

As a result of the Court of Appeals landmark decision invalidating Congressional and state Senate maps drawn by the legislature, the legislative lines for Congress and state Senate were drawn by a special master appointed by the trial court and finalized on May 20, 2022. Primaries for Congress and state Senate were moved to August 23rd, but the state Legislature declined to move the statewide and Assembly races from their scheduled June 28th date. The state League filed two pro bono lawsuits -- one in federal court and one in state court -- to get the primaries consolidated. The federal case claiming infringement of voters' First and Fourteenth Amendment rights under the Constitution was decided against the League, but the judge noted in his ruling that the case was "worth bringing and trying."

The state case was an Article 78 proceeding filed in Supreme Court in Albany to invalidate the Assembly lines that the Court of Appeals said were unconstitutionally drawn but could not be struck down in that case for procedural reasons. This case was decided against the League, but in a separate and parallel state case an Appellate level judge ordered that the Assembly lines be redrawn for 2024. The rationale was that it was too late for 2022.

2022 Concurrences

The new position on the structure of election administration in New York state sent to local Leagues in January failed to gain the necessary 2/3 approval. Twenty-three Leagues and 11 individuals responded. However, our current positions fully allow us to support needed reforms to election administration that fall short of eliminating the bipartisan constitutional requirement for "qualifying voters, or of distributing ballots to voters, or of receiving, recording or counting votes at elections."

At the same time as the election administration study, Local Leagues and members were asked to support a new position allowing individuals in prison the right to vote while still incarcerated. Twenty-three Leagues and 11 individuals responded, and the new position was approved overwhelmingly. The Board adopted the following new position on June 7th.

The League of Women Voters of New York State supports extending the right to vote to all currently incarcerated individuals.

Legislative Updates

Below is an overview of significant outcomes from the 2022 Legislative session.

The Governor is expected to sign the following three bills the League strongly supported this session.

- **10-day Voter Registration:** Passed in the Senate on May 31 and in the Assembly on the last day of the session. This will reduce the voter registration deadline to the constitutional minimum of ten days. It will be effective on January 1, 2023.
- **Wrong Church:** This bill will be effective on January 1, 2023. This bill requires counting affidavit ballots of eligible voters if a voter appears at a polling place in the correct county and assembly district but in the incorrect election district.
- **NYVRA:** This marks a monumental achievement for voting rights in the state of New York and will serve as an example to other states and Congress. The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of NYS is a state-level Voting Rights Act would help prevent and redress acts of voter

suppression, disenfranchisement, or intimidation; require certain localities to clear local changes to voter access that could infringe civil rights with the NYS Attorney General; designate SUNY as a transparent state steward of election data; and improve language assistance. This bill will be effective immediately, although some sections of the bill won't be active until a year or three years after it's signed into law. The Governor signed this bill on June 20, 2022 on Medgar Evers College campus and the League was there! Photo from left: Kate Doran, LWVNYS Elections Specialist; Diane Burrows, LWVNYS Co-President; Cathy Gray, LWVNYS; and Bella Wang, LWVNYC.



Gun Law Reform Package: The Senate and Assembly passed a broad package of 10-gun reform bills.

Reproductive Health Package: The Senate and Assembly passed six reproductive health bills that primarily focus on protecting abortion providers.

Cryptocurrency Mining Moratorium: This bill establishes a moratorium on cryptocurrency mining operations that use proof-of-work authentication methods to validate blockchain transactions. It was passed the Assembly and Senate on June 3, 2022.

Wage Transparency Bill: Requires employers to disclose compensation or range of compensation to applicants and employees. It was passed the Assembly and Senate on June 3, 2022.

The following bills were not passed in this legislative session:

- **Bigger Better Bottle Bill:** This bill was referred to Environmental Conservation in the Assembly on May 5th and in the Senate on May 11th. The bill was introduced by Englebright in early May and Senator May signed on to carry the bill for the Senate on May 10th. This bill was not passed this session.
- **NY Packaging Reduction Act (EPR):** This bill was introduced by Englebright at the same time he introduced the revised BBBB. It was referred to Environmental Conservation on May 5th. Unfortunately, this bill did not receive a Senate sponsor and did not make it out of committee. Environmental advocates celebrated the fact that an opposing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) bill from Senator Kaminsky did not advance and expect the fight for EPR to continue in 2023.
- **Court Simplification:** These bills were not passed this session but advocates will continue this long-standing effort.
- **Fair and Timely Parole and Elder Parole:** These bills were not passed this session.
- **Medical Aid in Dying:** This bill was not passed this session in either the Senate or Assembly.
- **Equality Amendment:** This constitutional amendment would improve equal rights and protect against discrimination in the NYS constitution. This bill did not pass this session.
- **Voting Rights Constitutional Amendments:** Amendments establishing same day voter registration and no-excuses absentee ballots were on the ballot in the fall of 2021, but were not passed by voters. Despite promises to try again, they were not passed in this legislative session and cannot be on the 2024 ballot (absent a special session). Constitutional amendments must

pass the Assembly and Senate in two consecutively elected legislatures before they can make it on the ballot.

We will continue to advocate for these bills next session – and plans for success will be developed with coalition partners during the fall.

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

Welcome LWV of Great Neck MAL Unit

The Local League Support Committee is happy to report that the LWVNYS Board approved the establishment of the LWV of Great Neck MAL Unit. Leaders of the new MAL Unit include Beth Friedmann, Marni Schlesinger, and Nancy Sherman – welcome! The Committee is continuing to provide support to them and to other Leagues. We encourage everyone to review our Membership/Leadership Regional Training presentation at <https://lwny.org/regional-training-workshops/> and many Membership and Leadership resources at <https://lwny.org/membership-leadership-resources/> . Contact us if we can be of any assistance.