



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 August 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](mailto:lwvny@lwvny.org) or fax 518-465-0812)**

- Order copies of Voter Guide Part II (with candidate info for statewide races and ballot proposal); see attached.
- Update officers in LWVUS database
- Start collecting data requested on voter service survey (see below and attached)

#### **Calendar**

- Aug 24-Sept 5: NYS Fair (League has a booth and still needs volunteers to staff it!)
- Sept 8, 7:00 pm, Presidents' Zoom
- October 13, 3pm -6pm, PowHer Summit

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

Our democracy is being threatened like never before. We have all heard and spoken these words but they are never more true than now. Voting rights have been restricted in many states and being threatened in others. Women's rights/human rights are being threatened with some states eliminating abortion for any reason at all. Our law enforcement and justice systems at all levels from FBI to local police are being threatened. Workers in all forms of government from volunteers at the polls to sitting judges and even the United States Attorney General are being threatened.

Never has the LWV mission to protect voters and defend our democracy been more crucial. Although over the years, LWVNYS has stressed the importance of us all working together, as I reflect on what I have written and talked about in the past, I think it now important to stress the importance of working with LWVUS. LWVUS has been out front, often leading the way on the fight for our democracy. LWVUS has increased its visibility, its funding sources, its staff and ultimately its ability to help leagues all over the country. LWVUS have provided webinars, monthly updates, and valuable information and templates and toolkits. LWVNYS and our local Leagues have benefitted from the materials and programs they have offered. In addition, LWVNYS has benefitted from the grants they awarded us, much of which we passed through to your Leagues. Now LWVUS is looking for our opinions but also our help.

- 1) The League of Women Voters has been a trusted organization with an excellent reputation for over 100 years. In these extremely partisan times, it is crucial we maintain our reputation.

LWVUS is trying to insure that all local leagues, MALS and ILOs are committed to maintaining our integrity and our mission. LWVUS board has developed two draft policies which they believe “will provide clarity on organization-wide expectations for LWVUS, state and local Leagues, and members in the form of a League Rights and Responsibility Policy and a Member Rights and Responsibility Policy. These policies were formulated from existing bylaws, politics, and legal or nonprofit best practices. As the LWVUS board and staff prepare to finalize and implement these policies, they are looking for feedback from Leagues. They have stated that our feedback is critical to ensure the policies are as useful as they can be. LWVNY will be carefully looking at these policies and submitting our feedback and comments. We feel it is important that each League have board discussions and submit their comments. Click here for the proposed [League Rights and Responsibility Policy](#) and click here for the proposed [Member Rights and Responsibility Policy](#) .

- 2) In order for LWVUS to continue to flourish and grow, just like local leagues, they cannot stand still. They have to not only maintain their funding sources but increase them. We know that grants are data driven. LWV is a grassroots organization and our Leagues, MALS and ILOs provide the boots on the ground. LWVUS needs us to not only collect data but provide it to them. The next President’s zoom on September 8th will mainly focus on the data we need to collect and how to collect it. Although LWVNY will be presenting on what we need, and how to do it, there will be the opportunity for you to share ideas, ask questions on this topic as well as on the Leagues Rights and Responsibility policy. Please mark the date **Thursday September 8th at time 7 PM** and on your calendar. I am aware that data collection is not the most stimulating topic, but it is extremely important and must be seen as a necessary stepping stone to reach our goal of Empowering Voters and Defending Our Democracy!

## State Office



### **NY State Fair – If you’d like to help, we can still use you!**

The state League will have a booth at the NYS Fair in Syracuse again this year! The League will have a table at the fair where we will register voters, educate them about the League and Vote411, recent changes in election law, and the upcoming November election.

Thank you to those who have volunteered to staff the table! So far, we have 45 volunteers who have filled 70 volunteer spots. We still have 8 spots open if you are interested in volunteering! Reach out to Erica at <mailto:erica@lwny.org> if you’re interested. 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.

### **GOTV Mini Grants**

Thank you to all of the Leagues who submitted a 2022 Making Democracy Work mini grant proposal! Thanks to a grant we received, we are so pleased to be able to grant \$18,550 to local Leagues across the state. Thanks for your great ideas for GOTV and we will share results with all so that others may replicate activities in the future. Congratulations to the following Leagues receiving funding:

**Cattaraugus and Allegany**

**Albany County (on behalf of capital region Leagues)**

**Broome Tioga  
Buffalo/Niagara  
Central Nassau  
Cooperstown / Oneonta  
Cortland County  
Huntington  
New Castle  
New Rochelle / Scarsdale**

**NYC  
Oneonta  
Port Washington  
Rensselaer County  
Rochester Metro Area  
Smithtown  
Syracuse Metro Area  
Westchester ILO**

### **LWVUS Database**

Local Leagues are reminded to update the LWVUS database with their new officers. If you go onto your local League page and scroll down, you can then click on tab, “Current Leadership” and list your current officers and make “inactive” any former officers. You can click on the tab, “Leadership/Staff History” to see former leaders.

### **Insurance Certificates**

The state Leagues make general liability insurance available for local League events when requested. To request a certificate for insurance (required by school districts and many others for Leagues to hold events at their facilities), email [Aimee@lwny.org](mailto:Aimee@lwny.org) with the following info:

1. DATE & TIME OF THE EVENT
2. LOCATION

This must be the physical address of event, including the zip code

i.e.: Brown School

123 Main Street

Anywhere, NY 12345

3. TYPE OF EVENT

i.e.:Candidate Forum, Membership Meeting, Garage Sale, Debate, Informational Seminar.

4. TO BE INSURED:

This must be a complete address, the answer to this question could be the same as the answer to #2, but there are exceptions, such as when events are held at High Schools, and the School District is the entity that requires proof of insurance.

### **Voter Services, Nancy Rosenthal, VP for Voter Services, [nancyrosenthal9@gmail.com](mailto:nancyrosenthal9@gmail.com)**

With August 23rd tomorrow, we have now have to start planning for election day on Tuesday November 8, 2022 and our GOTV efforts: Vote411.org, many virtual, in person and hybrid candidate forums plus National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) on Tuesday, September 20, 2022. Thanks to the many volunteers for the State Fair in Syracuse who are helping League have a presence at this event, registering voters, providing absentee ballot applications, and wealth of info about the upcoming election and Vote 411.

As you register voters for the general election, access the descriptions of the four parties on the Voter Registration Form and provide them to those deciding which party (if any) to mark when registering to vote. The descriptions, written by each party, are attached.

## **Voter Service Survey**

The 2022 Voter Service Survey is attached to this email. As in the past, all local Leagues must complete this survey. It is not only a tremendous evaluation tool to help your League determine what worked well during this election season, but it is also important to the State League, as gathering this data allows us to report to funders and justifies our future projects in grant applications.

We are providing the survey now so that you may start tracking data now. In addition to information from the Fall election season, we are also asking that you add anything you can from activities from this past spring or summer. We understand that you may not have not been tracking this info during the early election season – that is perfectly fine. We ask that you include anything you can, even if you don't know how many people were registered or how many attended an event.

As the nonprofit world continues to move to a data driven environment, it is important that the League move in that same direction. In order to maintain and expand our reach through grant funding, we need to present funders with data-based information. We can't do it without you. You are critical in evaluating the impact of the League in voter education and election turnout, and these surveys will allow the State League to better support local Leagues for years to come. We also love to boast about the many successes that you all have, so this is your opportunity to shine!

**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> .

## **Voter Guide Part II**

Voter Guide Part II will include candidate information for the statewide races (Governor/Lt. Governor, Attorney General and Comptroller) and the US Senate race. It will also include information about the bond act that is on the ballot in November; more information about this environmental bond act will be forthcoming. The order form is attached (ordering now helps us determine how many to print) and the Guide should be ready for shipping by late September.

## **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.

## **Vote 411, Milly Czerwinski, LWVNYS Organizer, [Milly@lwny.org](mailto:Milly@lwny.org)**

### **Vote 411 Data on August Primary**

Thanks to all who helped get candidates to participate!

Congressional Primaries: 19

State Senate Primaries: 11

# of Congressional Candidates: 71

# of State Senate Candidates: 35

Total # of Candidates: 106

# of Candidates Who Responded: 80

Percentage of Candidates Who Responded: 75%

**Issues and Advocacy, Sally Robinson, VP for Issues and Advocacy, [sally.s.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:sally.s.robinson@gmail.com), and Erica Smitka, LWNYS Deputy Director, [Erica@lwnvny.org](mailto:Erica@lwnvny.org)**

### **League Joins the Environmental Bond Coalition**

The State League has joined the Vote Yes for Clean Water and Jobs Coalition in support of the Environmental Bond Act that will be on the ballot in November. The coalition is led by The Nature Conservancy and the site can be found here: <https://voteyescleanwaterandjobs.com/>

Here is the [link to the campaign toolkit](#). It includes materials that can be used to promote and educate voters about the measure. If you would like to join the email list and coalition phone calls, please sign up for that by visiting <https://cleanwaterandjobs.org/email-sign-up>.

### **PowHer Summit**

The PowHer Coalition (a statewide coalition of organizations committed to accelerating economic equality for all New York women) will be hosting a summit on **October 13, 2022 from 3pm -6pm**. The State League has agreed to co-host this event. This summit will build on PowHer's successful work in policy reform as well as the coalition's anti-racist, gender-focused agenda outlined in [A Roadmap to Inclusive Gender Justice in New York](#). The hope is that this gathering will expand our collective power and inspire us all to act boldly in the face of escalating challenges women face in New York and the U.S.



#### **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**



#### **POWHER NEW YORK EQUITY AWARD IN PHILANTHROPY**

Presented to **Ana Oliveira**, President & CEO, The New York Women's Foundation

#### **SETTING THE STAGE**

**Al-jen Poo**, President, National Domestic Workers Alliance & Director, Caring Across Generations

#### **CREATING AN EQUITABLE ECONOMY**

A panel with: **Cheri Preston**, Anchor/Correspondent, ABC News - **Fatima Goss Graves**, President & CEO, National Women's Law Center - **Liz Shuler**, President, AFL-CIO - **Maria Colacurcio**, CEO, Syndio

#### **VALUING WOMEN'S WORK**

Discussion with: **Anna Wadia**, Executive Director, CARE Fund - **Michelle Holder**, former President, Washington Center for Equitable Growth - **Jocelyn Frye**, President, National Partnership for Women & Families

#### **PowHer Talks: Interactive Sessions**

Virtual and regional in-person conversations across New York State

**Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI), Regina Tillman, 3rd Vice President for DEI, [rmt370@gmail.com](mailto:rmt370@gmail.com), and Crystal Joseph, DEI Task Force Co-Chair, [campus@lwnvny.org](mailto:campus@lwnvny.org)**

While it seems that defining our lives from thus forth as “normal” is passé, I hope that this summer has been a nourishing and replenishing time for us all. Kindness and self-care have been elevated in importance in our activism and with our ever growing awareness of how much we actually can aid in improving the world, perhaps we will begin to see the beginnings of a “new -normal” that we all can I have begun reconnecting with the authors, Kimberlee Yolanda Williams and best-selling author, Debby Irving, for rescheduling of the workshop based on Ms. Williams’ book entitled, Dear White

Woman, Please Come Home. It was originally planned for April 2022, and I hope that it will be conducted in mid-October. Please look for updates within the upcoming weeks so you can save the date after it is announced.

In November, I hope you can join me and the DEI Task Force members in a 21-Day Racial Equity Indigenous Challenge that will enlighten us on both the past and the present as related to the Indigenous American population and its demise at the hands of European colonizers. It is planned to conclude on or near Native American Heritage Day, November 25th. The Task Force has been working on recommendations to provide you on how to create an authentic local approach to conducting “Land Acknowledgements” and those will be issued in that time as well. Be assured, learning of the amazing history of the Indigenous peoples of the Americas, let alone of those of the land in what we now refer to as New York State, will be eye-opening!

From the 21 Day Challenge description: “Too often the framing of racial justice gets limited to the Black/white experience. We find that by broadening our lens of how white supremacy marginalizes multiple groups, we both deepen our understanding of white supremacist strategy and impacts and learn about particular histories and current issues of historically targeted groups. As you work through this challenge, bear in mind the degree of invisibility experienced in US Native communities. 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.”

And DEI Online Drop-In Meetings will be scheduled monthly beginning in September. These meetings are informal, unrecorded gatherings of our NYS League members as they wish to attend (thus, the drop-in nature of the meetings). These meetings are held to discuss with each other and available members of the DEI Task Force, your challenges, successes, questions, and answers. I will be looking forward to hearing about how the 4 P’s are deployed locally to get past “performative compliance” with our DEI policies, reactions to the 21 Day Challenge and how the information is used on an individual basis or at the local league, opinions on we can best help each other navigate these times of heightened ‘isms’, and more.

But while it is the case that all the ‘isms’ seem to be standing front-and-center currently, I have also read or heard it said several times in the past months that it is the individual that changes... and that is what changes the world. Individuals with their freedom of choice, can choose to think differently and act differently. "There is no social-change fairy. There is only change made by the hands of individuals." – Winona LaDuke. For any questions or assistance in your local DEI efforts, please contact me at your convenience: Regina Tillman, rmt370@gmail.com

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



**Nominating Committees: Powerful & Vital, but Misunderstood**

Question: What do many song lyrics, Doctor Pepper, and Nominating Committees have in common?

Answer: They're misunderstood!

The Nominating Committee is the heart of your League and crucial to its sustainability. Yet too often we think of it as a pro-forma affair.

From now through January, the Local League Support Committee is focusing on League management. We are offering training and resources to help your Nominating Committee maintain, strengthen, and develop your board structure and composition. Strong boards are necessary to satisfy Leagues' needs and further their goals. Our program will culminate in January with a presentation on different management options that can be considered by your Committees.

Take a look at some resources on our [website](#) to get you started. Then check out your understanding of Nominating Committees and their work by taking this short, hopefully amusing, quiz.

And if you don't know the Doctor Pepper reference, [watch this 1970s ad](#).

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

The Youth Committee is pleased to release the new Toolkit for Youth Programming which is attached and is posted on the state website under Local Leagues and then League Toolkits. This Toolkit is just a sampling of the many great programs organized by our local Leagues across the state. We want to add to the Toolkit with any programs that you are running – please share them with us so we can include them in the Toolkit. And, all local Leagues should read and consider replicating any of these wonderful programs. A contact and email address is included for each program so you can email and get more information about each. Use it well and often!

**Seal of Civic Readiness**

NYS Education Department recently reported about the implementation of the Seal for Civic Readiness by the school districts and schools around the state. Over 320 approved schools have been approved for the 2022-2023 school year for the Seal of Civic Readiness!

**Schools approved by category:**

<b>Category</b>	<b># Of Approved Schools</b>
Low Needs	47
Average Needs	110
High Needs Rural	33
High Needs Urban/Suburban	14
Big 5	102
Charters	15

**And, 7 of the 8 districts in the Big 5 Conference have been approved:**

- Albany
- Buffalo
- Mt. Vernon
- Rochester
- Syracuse
- Yonkers
- NYC