



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 May 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)**

- Register delegates from your local League to attend LWVNYS Council on **June 7** (email names to [Laura@lwvny.org](mailto:Laura@lwvny.org)) or complete and return proxy form (attached) or complete online at: <https://forms.gle/NFePDGxLvgRwZ3iR6>.
- Register to attend LWVUS Convention in person or virtually (<https://www.lwv.org/manage-your-League/council-convention>)
- Complete and return the attached Local League Update form to indicate your 2022-23 Officers and Board

#### **Calendar**

- June 7, 7:00 pm: LWVNYS Council via Zoom (email [Laura@lwvny.org](mailto:Laura@lwvny.org) with names of delegate)
- June 13, 7:00 pm: Presidents Zoom
- June 23-26: LWVUS Convention (register: <https://www.lwv.org/manage-your-League/council-convention>)

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

Last month I wrote in my SBR report that this year has taught us:  
We cannot be certain things can happen as planned. Anything can happen.

No matter what happens, LWVNYS, our local Leagues and MAL Units will work together and persevere to EMPOWER VOTERS and DEFEND OUR DEMOCRACY.

The month of May has proved these statements all too true. First, there was the leak from the Supreme Court of their upcoming decision to overturn ROE vs Wade. Then there was the horrific mass murder in Buffalo where a white supremacist espousing replacement conspiracy planned and carried out a terrorist attack in the black community, killing 10 innocent people in a supermarket before being arrested and carrying out the rest of his plan. In both of these horrendous situations, LWVUS is working with LWVNYS and local Leagues to combat the threat to all of our rights.

Nowhere near as terrible, but terribly disappointing was LWVNYS needing to cancel Students Inside Albany on May 17, only 5 days before students were to arrive in Albany. After all the careful preparation and planning on the part of LWVNYS and local Leagues, the surge of COVID and recent positive test of staff and chaperones, made it impossible to safely hold the program. We all worked together to ensure students and parents were informed and were encouraged by the positive feedback we got, acknowledging their disappointment but indicating it was the right decision and appreciation for all we do. We do suggest, however, that local Leagues could offer free membership to the students selected for this year's SIA. It might get them interested in League activities and provide some educational activities on making their voice heard.

On June 7, LWVNYS will be holding a virtual Council Meeting at 7:00 PM. The Council Kit is attached to this SBR. Included in it is the 2022-2023 proposed League budget on which you are asked to vote either by proxy or at the virtual meeting. All Leagues need to select their delegates and inform Laura who they will be. Leagues are urged to have delegates attend the virtual meeting as it will give another opportunity to hear what has been accomplished and also what still needs to be done. We will also live stream the Council meeting for those who are not delegates to watch and learn.

On June 13 at 7:00 pm there will be a Presidents' Zoom Call which will focus on looking ahead to the upcoming year. I remind all Leagues to email their new boards as soon as they are elected. Upcoming presidents who have yet been elected but are nominated for this upcoming year, should also attend. Yes, we cannot be certain what the future holds, but we know it will take us all working together to accomplish our goals.

### **2022 LWVNYS Council, June 7, at 7:00 pm by Zoom**

**The LWVNYS Council will be held on June 7, 2022 at 7:00 pm by the Zoom/video** and audio program for the purpose of voting on the Budget for the years 2022-2023 and such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Please see the attached information about how to participate in-person or vote by proxy. There is also a chart identifying how many delegates each local League is entitled to.

If you haven't already, please email [Laura@lwvny.org](mailto:Laura@lwvny.org) the names of delegates who will be participating on zoom in person; we will send them the link to participate on Zoom. Other members may watch the Council meeting on YouTube – a link will be provided later.

Complete and return the proxy form if delegates are not voting in-person at the Council meeting. Return this form by June 3 to be included in the vote.

The **2022 LWVNYS Council Kit** is attached to this email. In the Kit are summaries from the various state Board members and committees on the accomplishments of the state League this past year. Please review and share the information – the accomplishments couldn't have been achieved without all of you and the work of the local Leagues!

### **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.

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

We are nearing the end of session and have only four legislative days left before it's over on June 2<sup>nd</sup>! Our primary focus over this next week, will be voting rights initiatives. If we are able to get enough support behind these bills, then *we may see all three voting rights bills pass this session*. Below is an overview of each initiative from our post budget lobby packet and where we stand on each.

**10-day Voter Registration (S2951/A8858):** This bill was passed in the Senate in 2021 and now an amended version is moving through both the Senate and Assembly. It was amended on the third reading in the Senate on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and was ordered to a third reading in the Assembly on May 24<sup>th</sup>. This bill clearly has the support it needs in the Senate and based on conversations with representatives it sounds like it has more than enough support in the Assembly. We just need to make sure this bill gets back onto the floor for a vote so that it passes this session.

**Wrong Church (S284/A642B):** This bill was passed in the Assembly and the Senate! It now just needs to reach the Governor's desk to be signed. It is worth it to note that there were some small changes to this bill that voting advocates weren't thrilled about, but the changes were deemed necessary in order for the bill to pass.

**NYVRA (S1046D/A6678D):** There is a lot of support behind this bill and it's one that most voting advocacy organizations are pushing for in the last few days of session. In the Senate it was amended and recommitted to Rules and was amended and recommitted to Election Law in the Assembly on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Most believe this bill has the power to pass in session this year.

**Bigger Better Bottle Bill (A10184/S09164):** This bill was referred to Environmental Conservation in the Assembly on May 5<sup>th</sup> and in the Senate on May 11<sup>th</sup>. The bill was introduced by Englebright in early May and Senator May signed on to carry the bill for the Senate on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, we haven't seen much progress to move this bill forward since.

**NY Packaging Reduction Act (EPR) (A10185):** This bill was introduced by Englebright at the same time he introduced the revised BBBB. It was referred to Environmental Conservation on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, this bill has not yet received a Senate sponsor. Senator Kaminsky did not want to carry Englebright's bill in the Senate and instead introduced his own piece of EPR legislation. The League, along with other environmental advocates, continues to back Englebright's bill and will continue to put pressure on lawmakers to find a sponsor in the Senate and move both of these bills ahead.

**Court Simplification (A09401 and S8424):** The biggest hurdle to these bills this session was the lack of continuity between the bills. The Assembly bill was referred to the Judiciary committee on March 1<sup>st</sup>. It went to the Attorney General for opinion on the 7<sup>th</sup> and was referred back to the Judiciary on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The Senate bill was referred to the Judiciary committee on February 28<sup>th</sup>. We don't expect

either bill to move before session ends this year. The response to both bills highlighted the need for more visibility and education around this issue.

**Fair and Timely Parole (S7514/A4231A):** The Senate version of this bill was referred to Crime Victims, Crime and Correction and in the Assembly it was referred to Codes on January 5<sup>th</sup>. We have heard that there is enough support behind both parole bills for them to pass so we are pushing to see them move before session ends.

**Elder Parole (S15A/A8855):** The Senate version of this bill was referred to Crime Victims, Crime and Correction on January 5<sup>th</sup> and in the Assembly it was referred to Correction on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Concurrences on State Studies**

At its Board meeting in December 2021, the Board approved materials be distributed to all local Leagues and members in January 2022 for consideration of a new position on the structure of election administration in New York state. An Election Administration Structure Committee was created after approval of a new study on the topic at the state Convention in June 2021. The Committee met many times during the fall researching the history of election administration in New York state and how elections are administered in other states.

Twenty-three Leagues and 11 individuals responded. The Leagues were split almost down the middle in supporting and opposing the proposals for local and state election administration and the individuals almost unanimously supported them. Since 2/3 agreement is needed for adopting new positions, the proposals failed. Individual responses were considered but weighted less than local League responses adjusted for the number of members attending the local League meeting.

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 responded, and 11 individuals responded and the new position was approved overwhelmingly. It will be formally adopted by the state board at its next meeting.

### **From LWVUS**

Registration is open for LWVUS Convention June 23-26 in Denver and virtually. See the agenda, how to register and more at: <https://www.lwv.org/manage-your-League/council-convention> .