



August 2023



President's Message

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Here we are, almost September with teachers and students returning to school and meetings are about to start to fill our calendars.

September 19th is National Voter Registration Day (NVRD)! Along with other like-minded organizations, let's register voters for the General Election on Tuesday November 7th, with Early Voting October 28th to November 5th.

Maybe you have thought about being a **poll worker!** New York is experiencing a critical shortage of poll workers. The right to vote is one of our nation's oldest and most important entitlements, and with this right comes responsibility. Free and open elections are the basis on which this country was formed, and you can make a difference by becoming a poll worker to help protect those freedoms. If you are ready to apply:

- If you live in NYC, please complete the [NYC Election Day Worker Form](#).
- If you live outside NYC, please complete the [Outside NYC Election Day Worker Form](#)



Women's (In)Equality Day

August 26, 2023

August 26, otherwise known as Women's Equality Day, marks the anniversary of the certification of the 19th Amendment, which granted some women the right to vote in 1920.

In 2022, LWVUS declared this day to be Women's Inequality Day in the aftermath of the Supreme Court rollbacks of reproductive freedom (in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*) and

the failure of Congress to pass voting rights legislation or add the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution.

One year later, we have seen the impact of the *Dobbs* decision on women and those who can become pregnant. We have seen anti-voter laws passed in states nationwide that could silence voters at the polls in the months ahead. And a century after it was first introduced, we are still calling on Congress to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment and make it part of our Constitution.

The fight for women's equality has always been grounded in the right to vote. When some women have fewer rights and access, we cannot call ourselves equal or celebrate equality.

This August, women are standing together demanding that our rights be restored, our voices be heard, and that we ourselves be seen and treated as equals in our democracy. Together, we have the power to create a more perfect and inclusive nation that celebrates our diversity and welcomes everyone to participate. We can create the change we need and want with the power of our votes.

Our Campaign

The LWVUS campaign will spread the word about women's equality on social media while lifting our voices to our legislators. We are sending Congress a petition letting them know about our women's equality wish list:

- Passing voting rights legislation;
- Adding the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution; and
- Restoring reproductive rights

Members can take action by adding their name to the LWVUS [petition](#), sharing this petition in their communities, and participating in our digital campaigns. Please share, like, follow, post, retweet social media posts from LWVUS and LWVNYS tomorrow to educate all about this inequality.

Upcoming Events

Endocrine Disruptors in Plastic: On October 3, 2023 at 7pm, join the League of Women Voters of New York State, Beyond Plastics, and Bedford 2030 on Zoom for a conversation about endocrine disruptors with John Peterson 'Pete' Myers, Ph.D., CEO and Chief Scientist of Environmental Health Sciences, New York State Senator Pete Harkham, Chair of the New York Senate Environmental Conservation Committee, and Megan Wolff, Ph.D., MPH, Policy Director at Beyond Plastics. People may be exposed to endocrine disrupting chemicals through everyday food and beverages consumed, pesticides applied, and cosmetics used. Endocrine disruptors can decrease or increase normal hormone levels or alter the natural production of hormones in the body. Even low doses of endocrine-disrupting chemicals may be unsafe. The body's normal endocrine functioning involves very small changes in hormone levels, yet we know even these small changes can cause significant developmental and biological effects. Click [here](#) to register.

Our Vote-Our Power: Join us for a Candid Discussion About the Women's Suffrage Movement and its Impact: On September 20, 2023 at 6pm, join the LWVNYS and the Queens County Women's Bar Association to talk about the history of women's suffrage in New York and what's happening in today's legislative landscape. Click [here](#) to register.



Issues and Advocacy

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Wrapping up the 2023 Session

Signed Legislation:

The Governor has been moving quite slowly when it comes to signing bills. We expect there to be a backlog of bills on the Governor's desk as we near December.

- Banning Nuclear Waste Discharge in the Hudson River (S.6893/A.7208) Will protect the Hudson river by restricting discharges in connection with nuclear power plant decommissioning. **Governor signed on August 21st.**
- Mandatory Training Curriculum for Poll Workers (**S587** Comrie/**A268** Walker)
- Relates to mandatory training curriculum for poll workers; requires the state board of elections to develop and provide to each county materials for a model poll worker training program which the counties may use to train individuals to serve as poll workers in state and county elections. **Not signed by Governor yet.**
- Plain Language Ballot Initiative (**S1381** Comrie/**A1722** Zinerman) Requires proposed amendment to the constitution or other question provided by law to be submitted to a statewide vote be submitted to the people for their approval in plain language. **Not signed by Governor yet.**
- 10-day Voter Registration Implementation (**S5984A Kavanaugh/A6132A Carroll**) This bill would allow for the effective implementation of the 10-day voter registration bill that was passed

last session. It would allow voters to complete a conditional voter registration application and cast an affidavit ballot. **Not signed by Governor yet.**

- Reproductive Telehealth (**S1066A** Mayer/**A1709** Reyes) Provides certain legal protections for reproductive health service providers who provide legally protected health activities including protection from extradition, arrest and legal proceedings in other states relating to such services; restricts the use of evidence relating to the involvement of a party in providing legally protected health activity to persons located out-of-state. **Delivered and signed by the Governor.**
- Birds and Bees Protection Act (**S01856** Hoylman-Sigal/**A03226** Glick) Enacts the birds and bees protection act; prohibits the sale of certain pesticides (neonics) or use of seeds coated with such pesticides; requires the department of environmental conservation to review the latest scientific information concerning certain pesticide active ingredients. **Not signed by Governor yet.**
- Clean Slate (**S211A** Myrie/ **A1029A** Cruz) Provides for automatic sealing of certain convictions after a certain passage of time from either imposition of sentence, release from parole or probation, and if the defendant does not have a current charge pending; excludes certain offenses; permits access by certain persons. **Not signed by Governor yet.**
- School Based Health Centers (**S2339** Rivera/**A6029** Paulin) Provides that services provided by school-based health centers shall not be provided to medical assistance recipients through managed care programs. **Not signed by Governor yet.**
- Citizens Released from Jails and Voting Bill (**A4009**): We support this bill, but did not advocate for it during session. It requires information to be distributed on voting for all eligible citizens released from NYS jails. **Not signed by Governor yet.**
- Pre-Registration Bill (**S1733**): Requires local boards of education, BOCES, charter schools and non public schools to adopt policies to promote student voter registration and pre-registration, including procedures for providing access to voter registration and pre-registration applications during the school year and assistance with filing such applications and informing students of the state requirements for voter registration and pre-registration. **Not signed by Governor yet.**

Significant legislation that we are tracking, but not supporting:

- New York Early Mail Voter Act (**S7394A**) Establishes early mail voting; authorizes registered voters to obtain early mail voting ballots through application to the board of elections; requires the state board of elections to establish and maintain an electronic early mail ballot application transmittal system through which voters may apply for an early mail ballot online. **Not signed by Governor yet.**
- Even Year Election Bill (**S3505B**): This bill would move several town and county elections in **New York** State to even-numbered years to synchronize them with state and federal races. The measure would not affect city elections or certain local posts such as county district attorney, which are held on odd-numbered years under terms of the state constitution. Read more [here](#). **Not signed by Governor yet.**

Legislation we oppose:

- Revisions to the New York State Public Campaign Finance Program (S7564/A7760) were pushed through and passed. The League strongly opposes this bill. **Not signed by Governor yet.**

Jail Based Voting Study Press Coverage

Last month we released the results of a study conducted by Hazel Weiser of the LWVNYS Criminal Justice Committee on voting in jails in counties across New York State. We wanted to note that we were featured on the front page of the print version of the August 10th Times Union for our efforts. Take a look at the full report [here](#).



Voter Services

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All You Need to Know About Voting in NYS: <https://www.elections.ny.gov/>

Online Voter Registration Now Available at the NYS Board of Elections Website

You can use the Board of Elections' Online Voter Registration system to register to vote or to update your voter registration information. Updated information could include providing your County Board of Elections with your new name, new address, or changing your party enrollment. Completed applications are sent to the appropriate County Board of Elections for approval and processing.



To register you will need to use a [NY.Gov](https://www.ny.gov/) ID. If you have previously used [NY.Gov](https://www.ny.gov/) with another agency, you may use the same login to access the Online Voter Registration portal. If you have not used [NY.Gov](https://www.ny.gov/) you will need to create an account.

To get to the online voter registration portal on the NYS BOE website, click here: <https://www.elections.ny.gov/OnlineVoterReg.html>

Same Day Voting - October 28

New York State Board of Elections has approved all those eligible to register to vote in New York State may use an affidavit ballot AND vote on Saturday, October 28. Referred to as "Golden Day" being October 28 is the final voter registration deadline AND also the first day of Early Voting.

Important Dates to Remember

General Election: November 7, 2023

Early Voting: October 28 – November 5, 2023

Date	Deadline Information
October 23	Last day for Board of Elections to receive absentee ballot application by letter, telefax, or through the absentee request portal.
October 23	Last day for change of address.
October 28	Last day for IN-PERSON Voter Registration; MAIL IN registrations must be received by a Board of Elections.
November 6	Last day to apply IN-PERSON for absentee ballot.
November 7	Last day to postmark ballot. Must be received by the local Board of Elections no later than Nov. 14th. Military Voter Ballots must be received no later than Nov. 20th.
November 7	Last day to deliver ballot IN-PERSON to the local Board of Elections or to any poll site in your county.

Local League News

Albany County

The Albany County League is partnering with the Albany County Legislature to host an "I Voted" sticker contest! Eight finalists have been chosen from submissions from young people all across the county, and

voting is now open to the public. The winner will have their sticker distributed on Election Day. Don't miss your chance to participate! [Click HERE to vote for your favorite.](#)

Mid-Hudson League

The Mid-Hudson League had the opportunity to discuss natural resources with Senator Michelle Hinchey, who chairs the Agriculture Committee. Despite the event being originally scheduled for thirty minutes, the conversation went on for an hour.

Conversation topics included climate versus an impending food crisis and how it would affect importing food in New York State; the use of agrivoltaics (placing solar panels, wind turbines/renewables on farmland) and how some solar companies are placing panels on farmland in a way that the soil underneath cannot be farmed; and how due to the current trend of wildfires and the drought, many state legislators are predicting that New York may be a part of the new 'breadbasket' of the United States.

Tompkins County

The Tompkins County League partnered with Southside Pride, Alliance of Families for Justice, No Mas Lagrimas/No More Tears Ithaca, Black Lives Matter at First Unitarian Society of Ithaca, and The Ithaca City School District to host a Family and Community Day at West Village Apartments. Throughout the day, the League registered voters, spread information about voting, and helped people find their polling sites. Other activities included a job fair, music and entertainment, and food.

New York City

On June 21 the New York City League celebrated their 104th anniversary by taking a trolley tour at the Woodlawn Cemetery & Conservancy. League members visited the graves of influential women, including those of suffragists Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Alva Vanderbilt Belmont, America's first investigative reporter; Madam C.J. Walker, America's first self-made female millionaire; the "Queen of Happiness" Florence Mills, the "Queen of Salsa" Celia Cruz; the journalist Nellie Bly; Olympic Gold Medalist Gertrude Ederle; founder of Pepperidge Farm Margaret Rudkin; and poet, writer, critic and satirist Dorothy Parker. After the tour, members gathered for light refreshments and toasted to the League turning 104 years old.

LWV of Buffalo

The League on July 5 was at the naturalization ceremony at the Robert H. Jackson U.S. Courthouse. They greeted and distributed voter registration forms to 50 new citizens with 42 people completing their forms. Some members of the audience also registered. All new citizens who did not register took their forms home to be completed later or online.

LWV of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork

Renewing its pre-COVID practice of holding fundraising tours of historic and cultural community sites, the League visited four noted sites in Bridgehampton in June: the five-acre demonstration Bridge Gardens, the newly-reconstructed Nathaniel Rogers House museum, the newly-built Bridgehampton Child Care and Recreation Center, and the iconic Candy Kitchen. Twenty-six Leaguers and guests attended the tour and receive marigold plants in celebration as well as a LWV Directory of Public Officials.

LWV of Rensselaer

The League held its annual Summer Picnic in July. Members brought their own meals and were able to catch up with friends they had not have seen in a long time and share League news and goings on.

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[Donate to LWNYS Education Foundation](#)

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