



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK

STATE VOTER

Women are the Changemakers of History! March 2025

Women have been the driving force behind pivotal change throughout history, relentlessly championing for rights and equality. Through unmatched resilience, women have forged paths for future generations to thrive and continue the fight for justice and equity. This month we celebrate women, Happy Women's History Month! Check out these updates from this month's State Voter.



State Leaders Message

Nancy Rosenthal, President, nancyrosenthal9@gmail.com

Erica Smitka, Executive Director, erica@lwvny.org

This month we witnessed several actions from our country's Executive branch that strongly oppose the core values of the League. We pushed back by sending a letter to Congressional leadership about the state of our nation.

The letter, signed by leadership from every state League in the country and DC affiliate, expressed strong concern over Congress abandoning its duties and authorities under Article I of the U.S. Constitution and urged leaders to address the unprecedented executive branch overreach threatening American democracy. You can read the letter [here](#).

We will continue to push back against actions that counter our values. One of the ways in which it's imperative we do this is through our work around diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. Ensuring diversity, equity, inclusion and justice initiatives thrive is key to our work defending democracy. The formal inclusion of DEI initiatives can largely be traced back to the [1960s and the civil rights movement](#) along with the [Civil Rights Act of 1964](#). Activists, like former League member Shirley Chisholm, were instrumental in its expansion to cover gender equity. We have watched DEI expand into the workplace and advance initiatives like equal pay and the legalization of same-sex marriage. Let's keep DEI as the lens we view our work, each and every day. We also would like to highlight an [Action Alert](#) to all members calling on the US House and Senate to commit to the Constitution. This builds on the letter that all 51 state Leagues joined that went to heads of both Chambers. Please share this [action alert](#) across the League network.



Board of Directors Announcements

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Regina Tillman, 3rd Vice President/ Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

While many Americans are getting hurt by the current goings-on in this administration, please make no mistake in who those in power are targeting, and what their ultimate aims are. And in your uptick of listening and reading and staying abreast as best you can on the deeds of folk in our government with a lack of push back by those who should be upholding their oath, the US Constitution, and the laws of this country, do think about what else you might do, remaining nonpartisan but true to our values.

To read more from our 3rd Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion on the matter click [here](#).

LWV UN Observer Team

Jane Colvin, Board Member and LWNYS NGO Lead

The Status of Women's 2- week forum will take place on March 10th -21st. The 2-week NGO forum is part of the UN's Commission on the Status of Women annual meeting that focuses on gender equality and equal rights for women and girls around the globe.

The LWVUS UN Observer's Team's virtual panel discussion is on Wednesday, March 12 from 12:30 - 2:00 and is entitled Democracy at Risk: Reactions to Voter Decline Globally. The link to register is:



69th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women Parallel Event
presented by
The League of Women Voters of the United States
and the Global NGO Executive Committee



Democracy at Risk: Reactions to Voter Decline Globally

12 March 2025

12:30pm to 2:00pm Eastern Time (New York)

Please register in advance to join our Zoom Webinar

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DMzrMAb7RD-IDyjpGyAhdQ?](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DMzrMAb7RD-IDyjpGyAhdQ?amp_device_id=3363c91d-d496-4d1c-ba2a-4b0fe23492e9)

(After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.)

With the global decline in voter participation, democracy is at risk. There is a pressing need to revitalize voter engagement, particularly among women and marginalized communities. Our panelists will examine critical issues affecting voter participation, including youth disengagement, institutional challenges, civic mistrust, and cultural barriers and highlight policy innovations that can foster democratic resilience. In this discussion, panelists will present actionable strategies to engage citizens and revitalize democratic processes worldwide.

Our Panel of Expert Speakers:

Dr. Seema Shah, Head of International IDEA's Democracy Assessment Unit

Celina Stewart, Chief Executive Officer of the League of Women Voters of the United States

Maria Isabel Aninat Sahli, Dean of Faculty of Law at the Universidad Adolfo Ibañez in Chile

Idrissa Mamoud Tarawalle, Head of Programme Sierra Leone for the International IDEA

Stuti Bhakat, International Legal Studies, LLM Candidate, NYU School of Law

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DMzrMAb7RD-IDyjpGyAhdQ?amp_device_id=3363c91d-d496-4d1c-ba2a-4b0fe23492e9

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. It's free and we'd love the support!

Transformation

Patty MacLeish, Board Member and LWNYS Transformation Lead

The new LWVUS membership platform launched on February 1. Problems were expected, and there were quite a few. Being a glass half-full person, I was impressed by how well it did work. Some of the issues were related to emails that didn't match. The previous roster contained email addresses, but quite a few did not match members' current addresses. The new platform didn't accept them. Issues like these were easy to fix. Others were more complicated.

Local League leaders who deal with membership will find it helpful to regularly visit these two sites:

1. The ChapterSpot resources page(<https://www.lwv.org/league->

[management/membership/chapterspot-resources](#)).

2. The Membership Portal Updates (<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/membership/membership-portal-updates>)

Bookmark the sites in your browser. LWV membership updates them regularly with new information. Working with our local Leagues has been a wonderful experience for me. Please be in touch with your questions pmacleish@verizon.net.

Updates from the State League

"Light for our Democracy"- Tuesday, March 4th at 6pm, marks the President's Address to Congress. Instead of tuning in, we the people of New York will gather virtually on Zoom at 6pm with special guest Attorney General Letitia James to come together in reflection, action, and solidarity.

This event is co-sponsored by The League of Women Voters of New York, Common Cause New York, The Workers Circle, VOICE Buffalo, Chinese-American Planning Council, One Heart One Vision, Independent Care System, and more.



Whether you join us on Tuesday evening or not, be sure to place a lighted candle in your window at 8:30 when the address is scheduled to start, to show your support for our democracy! Click [here](#) to register.



Join us in becoming a Democracy Defender! Webinar Series March 19th, 6pm League of Women Voters New York State is excited to announce a civic education advocacy series in which we will host a series of webinars that focus on building advocacy skills. It's important that we build the skills needed to take action and participate in democracy outside of the election cycle. Our first topic is effective lobbying and will be on March 19th at 6pm. RSVP [here](#).

Lobby Day 2025- This year we will be lobbying at the NYS Capitol on **May 6th, 2025**. During this time, we will have the opportunity to speak with local and state representatives on topics and issues that impact us the most. Keep an eye out for a link to sign up!

Local League Happenings

Check out these updates from our Local Leagues!

League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island & North Fork-

On **March 3rd**, at 7 p.m., On Southampton Town's SEA-TV YouTube channel, LWV Hamptons, Shelter Island, and North Fork will host a virtual Candidates Debate for one seat on the Southampton Town Board, before the Special Election that takes place on March 18.

League of Women Voters Syracuse Metropolitan Area- (March 5th) Set to host their Lunch and Learns on the 1st Wednesday of each month LWV of the Syracuse Metro Area has agreed to support legislative and advocacy initiatives of area organizations, such as the Food Bank of CNY and the Housing and Homeless Coalition of CNY, addressing food, housing, and other critical needs of children and families in poverty. This week's topic will be Renewable Energy. If you are interested in attending in person, Tully's, 2943 Erie Blvd E, Syracuse 13224 or join via

ZOOM <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5634341614>

Meeting ID: 563 434 1614

Passcode: LWVSYR

League of Women Voters Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties- On February 14th, LWV Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties celebrated Douglass Day and LWV Birthdays by participating in their third annual Trans-cribe-a-thon of rare books and manuscripts on African American History. 2025 is also the third year of the Library of Congress' collaboration with Douglass Day, organized by the Center for Black Digital Research at Pennsylvania State University, started in 2017. LWV members shared stories of Frederick Douglass, Black Suffragists and League History with faculty, staff, librarians, students and enjoyed the Birthday Cake competition by Alfred State's Culinary students. We look forward to this day every year.

If you'd like to share what your local League is up to email Xavia at xavia@lwnyny.org.

Where in the news is the League of Women Voters?

You may have caught us on TV, in the paper, or on a podcast.

- **League of Women Voters St. Lawrence** North Country Matters is a local public interest video magazine that has been coming out for over twenty years. NCM is a civic partnership of the LWV of St. Lawrence County and the Potsdam Public Library that is produced and published by LWV SLC member Donna Seymour. All shows can be found on the North Country Matters You Tube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4oaAX0OIWeCqyhWGqYyX3Q>

LWVUS Corner:

League of Women Voters Responds to Gutting of Civil Rights Offices

the League of Women Voters of the United States CEO Celina Stewart issued the following statement in response to the Trump administration's closing of civil rights offices in agencies across the federal government. To read more on our CEO's statement, click [here](#).

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Donate to LWNYS Education Foundation

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