

STATE VOTER

Now is the Time to Act!

April 2025

As we slowly begin to take the layers off and welcome in the warmth of the spring, we must remain vigilant to the state of our democracy as new executive orders challenge the basic tenets. Here are your updates for this month's State Voter.



State Leaders Message

Nancy Rosenthal, President, nancyrosenthal9@gmail.com

Erica Smitka, Executive Director, erica@lwvny.org

The League of Women Voters, at every level—whether member, local League, ILO, State League, or National League—strongly condemns President Trump's Executive Order issued on March 25, 2025, which demands proof of citizenship and mandates that mail-in ballots be received by Election Day. It is crucial to assert that only Congress, not the President, has the authority to alter or override state procedures concerning federal elections, including voter registration. This Executive Order is just as abhorrent to the League as those that have come before it, which threaten the principles of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The League partnered with the Brennan Center, NAACP, the ACLU, and the Legal Defense Fund to clearly state that the [US Election Assistance Commission is not authorized to respond](#) to this Executive Order. We stand united, resolute in defending our core values, and committed to taking proactive, bold action wherever it is necessary, while remaining mindful of when caution must guide our response.

We strongly urge all local Leagues to dive into the LWVUS Toolkit, [Turn Up the Heat: Congressional Recess Guide for Action](#). This invaluable resource is packed with essential tips, strategies, and tools for effectively engaging with your members of Congress during recess. It includes crucial guidance on scheduling meetings at district offices, how to speak out in town halls or meetings, and how to respond when members cancel or fail to schedule events. The SAVE Act is going to be voted on in the U.S. House of Representatives this week so make sure to [tell your representative to vote no](#). Keep democracy strong in New York State by telling your [Assemblymember](#) that you want them to support the ERIC bill (S1356A/A3649B). This bill would clean up our voter rolls, take strain off local boards of election, and increase civic participation. It has passed in the Senate and will be on the Assembly Election Law Committee Agenda. Now is the time to take



action—be prepared, be bold, and make your voice heard.

In League,
Nancy and Erica

Board of Directors Announcements

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

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

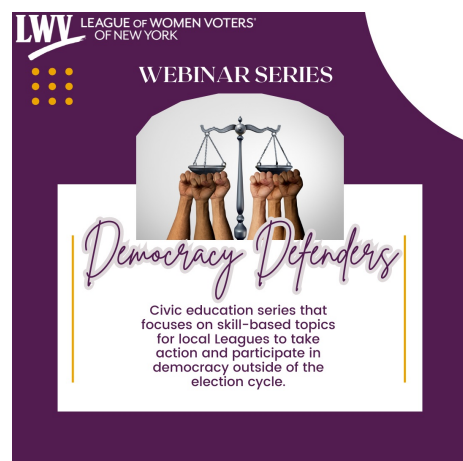
The LWNYS welcomes input on your progress in adopting a “DEI Lens” when engaged in the work of the League. This input is sought from Local and State League Board of Directors (via a group consensus process) and from any individual members that would like to weigh in on the evaluation.

The Self-Assessment Survey provides questions and statements designed to prompt reflection on DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) in your League’s policies, practices, and behaviors. By gathering input through this survey, we gain insight into the actions that have been taken—or not taken—and identify factors that may be enabling or hindering progress. Additionally, we aim to better understand the support local Leagues may need at the State level and the areas where they are achieving significant success in advancing DEI initiatives.

DIRECTIONS: Please submit your survey response via Google Forms by clicking the button below.

LWNYS DEI Survey

Updates from the State League



Thank you for joining us in becoming a Democracy Defender! The League of Women Voters New York State thanks all attendees of last month's civic education advocacy webinar series. Touching base on topics such as Effective Lobbying and Fighting Back Against the SAVE Act, attendees gathered information on how to take action and participate in democracy outside of the election cycle. Special thanks to the Brennan Center and Stand-Up America for the amazing presentations. Be on the lookout for our next episode coming during the month of April. Click [here](#) to view our last episode.

Lobby Day 2025- Join the State League to let your voice be heard up at the Capitol this spring for Advocacy Day on **May 6, 2025!** This will be a full day event. We will hear from speakers in the morning and then head up to the Capitol to lobby our representatives in the afternoon. Register [here](#). For more details connect with Campaign Director, Clyanna Lightbourn, clyanna@lwny.org

LWNYS Convention 2025- Our theme this year will be "Standing Together,

Defending Democracy." Convention will be held June 20-22, 2025 at the Crowne Plaza Desmond Hotel in Albany, NY. More information to come regarding registration and our agenda!

League of Women Voters New York's Executive Director, Erica Smitka, will be moderating a **Forum with Congressman John Mannion** on **April 10th at 6:30pm** via zoom.

Join league members as we introduce Congressman Mannion of the NY22 Congressional District to the work and priorities of League. Organized by our Cortland, Syracuse, Utica/Rome and Cazenovia this zoom forum will offer League members and others an opportunity to hear directly from our congressman about what he is doing to counter the unprecedented, breathtaking assault on our democracy.

Scan the QR code or click [here](https://tinyurl.com/MannionForum) to register by **April 8th**.



Local League Happenings

Check out these updates from our Local Leagues!

League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island & North Fork- On **April 7th**, at 7 p.m., LWV Hamptons, Shelter Island & North Fork is holding a public information program with the heads of the Anti-Bias Task Forces in our Towns of Southampton, East Hampton and Riverhead discussing their programs and voting issues. The ABTFs consist of citizens who work to address issues of prejudice and discrimination in their towns and serve as a liaison throughout the community.

League of Women Voters Rye, Rye Brook, Port Chester (April 4th)- To further the LWV mission of encouraging informed participation in government, and in line with our chapter's chosen identity and focus, we will be holding our first CLASs event on April 4, 2025, at the Port Chester High School. CLASs is a partnership between our LWV chapter and the Westchester Board of Legislators to bring **County Legislators into Schools**. Four AP Government classes will gather for a mini assembly at Port Chester High School and be visited by District 6 Legislator Nancy Barr. Ms. Barr will discuss the role of County Government and answer questions from students. All at the League and in the Legislator's office extend enthusiastic thanks member Shawn Parker for bringing this program to the league as well as Principal Luke Sotherden and AP Gov teacher Marina Tramontelli for their willingness to participate.

League of Women Voters Syracuse Metropolitan Area (April 2nd)- Set to host their next Lunch and Learn on April 2nd. 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. During this lunch attendees will explore Good Jobs for Central New York with Khadeejah Ahmad, an organizer with Jobs to Move America and CNY Good Jobs and Equitable Jobs Access Working Group. For those who cannot attend in

person, there is a virtual option [here](#).

Spring Fling March 22 2025



League of Women Voters Tompkins County (March 22nd)- LWV Tompkins County held their "Spring Fling" Soup and Bring Luncheon on March 22nd. Members were able to socialize and indulge in cuisine while also interacting with guest speakers and league members to see what they want to see and how we can create a plan of action to move forward.

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

LWVUS Corner:

League of Women Voters, Brennan Center for Justice, NAACP, ACLU, and Legal Defense Fund say US Election Assistance Commission is Not Authorized to Implement Executive Order-

Organizations issued a letter to the US Election Assistance Commission telling them to not to take any actions in response to the President's Executive Order of March 25, 2025. To read the Order's extreme provisions click [here](#). To read the entire letter sent to the US Election Assistance Commission click [here](#).

Donate to LWNYS

Donate to LWNYS Education Foundation

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