



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK

STATE VOTER

Motivated and Ready for Action!

May 2025

As May brings a spirit of renewal and empowerment, we find strength in unity and hope as we stand together for democracy. 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

Join Us in Albany – June 20–22 – for the LWVNY Convention!

Now more than ever, it's time to come together. Join fellow League members from across New York State in Albany for the 2025 LWVNY Convention, where we'll gather to face the challenges of our time—because these are no longer “business as usual” days.

Important convention registration materials were emailed to Presidents last week and will be shared with all members shortly. We're thrilled to welcome two inspiring speakers: Dianna Wynn, President of LWVUS, and Olivia Hill, the groundbreaking elected transgender councilmember from Nashville, TN.

This year's convention is all about action—how we respond to the threats and opportunities in our democracy, from DEI and voting rights to whatever the current administration in Washington, D.C. may bring. There will be ample opportunity to connect with League members from across the state, exchange ideas, and spark powerful new collaborations and friendships.

As LWVUS has declared, we are facing a full-on [constitutional crisis](#). The pillars of our democracy—checks and balances, the rule of law, and free and fair elections—are under direct attack. This is a time for courage, clarity, and action.

LWVUS is preparing resources to help Leagues mobilize their communities for bold and sustained engagement. These tools will be rolled out in the coming weeks—stay tuned.



We can't wait to see you in Albany. Let's shape the future, together.

In League,
Nancy and Erica

Board of Directors Announcements

Issues and Advocacy

Sally Robinson, 1st Vice President/ Issues & Advocacy

At the League's 2023 Convention, members voted to conduct two studies, one on the approval process of New York State's voting systems and the other on rank choice voting and open primaries.

REMINDER:

Responses are due **May 15, 2025**. We are urging all local Leagues to participate in the approval process and have member meetings to discuss the materials and the position statements. Group discussion is an essential part of the study process. We need as many Leagues as possible to reach the required level of participating Leagues.

Voting Systems Study

- [Individual response form \(Voting Systems\)](#)

Rank Choice Voting and Open Primaries Study

- [Individual response form \(RCV\)](#)

Program planning materials have been released and were due March 15th. If your Local League has not submitted their program planning recommendations to the state League by the due date, then late recommendations will not be considered. This is the only method for suggesting new studies to be adopted at Convention 2025. Changes in the state League program cannot be suggested for the first time at Convention.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

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

In recent months, the LWVUS has been at the forefront of connecting the core values of DEI with the vision of a multiracial, multicultural democracy—one that is not rooted in patriarchal dominance.

Many thanks to the local League Boards of Directors, DEI Directors, and Chairs who took the necessary steps to complete the LWVNYS DEI Self-Assessment Survey in the past month. Local members are also welcome to submit their responses as 'individual members' using the same survey link. This helps us identify what further actions LWVNYS needs to take to deepen our understanding of DEI concepts and make them actionable. Just remember to check the box for individual submissions.

LWVNYS DEI Survey

I will be holding two informal *DEI Meeting-Ups* virtually on *Monday, May 5th* to help anyone with any clarifications that might be needed in completing their DEI Self-Assessment:

DEI Self-Assessment Meet-Up @ Monday (5/5/2025) at 12noon: [Join here](#)

DEI Self-Assessment Meet-Up @ Monday (5/5/2025) at 4:00pm: [Join here](#)

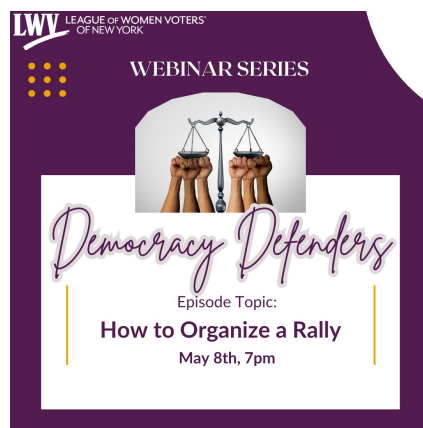
I do hope to see many of you take the action to join LWVUS and Everyday Democracy for a two-part Racial Equity Training. One occurred on April 29th and the second is still upcoming on May 28th at 5pm. These sessions were planned to provide important foundational knowledge on Racial Equity to Council attendees.

However, these are without charge even if you have not registered to attend Council and recordings will be posted. All those in a position of league leadership and those directing local DEI efforts should register [here](#).

Updates from the State League

LWVNYS 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. Click here to access the [2025 Convention Registration Kit](#).

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. There is still time to sign up, so register [here](#) today. For more details connect with Campaign Director, Clyanna Lightbourn, clyanna@lwny.org



Join us in becoming a Democracy Defender!
The League of Women Voters New York State thanks all attendees of last month's episodes of our civic education advocacy webinar series. For our next episode we will be partnering with the League of Women Voters Schenectady County to discuss how to organize an effective rally. With the climate of our nation, it is important that our voices make the most impact when we use them. Be sure to join us on **May 8th at 7pm** to learn tips and skills to implement for your next rally. Click [here](#) to register today!

Local League Happenings

Check out these updates from our Local Leagues!

League of Women Voters Albany County (May 4th at 1 pm)

LWVAC is hosting a docent tour of the exhibit "Americans Who Tell the Truth," followed by a reception and panel discussion. Joining the panel will be Megan Brown, Director of Education at AIHA, Maggie Mancinelli-Cahill, Producing Artistic Director at theREP, and Willie Marlow, Artist and Russell Sage College Professor Emerita. Reception and panel discussion to be held in the Rice Room at AIHA starting at 2 pm.



Thanks to generous support from Albany Institute for History and Art, the per-person cost for the tour, reception and panel is just \$35. The Institute has waived museum entry fees for the event. Special thanks Honest Weight Food Coop for contributing to the reception.

Space is limited; [RSVP](#) is required.

League of Women Voters Syracuse Metropolitan Area (May 16th)- The Syracuse LWV will be holding their Annual NYS Legislative Breakfast on May 16th. League members will have the opportunity to engage with Senators and Assembly Members that represent Onondaga County during their panel discussion. For more information on making a reservation to attend their annual breakfast, click [here](#).

League of Women Voters of Central Nassau- On **April 26**, LWV Central Nassau held its first Annual Tea Party fundraiser. Over 50 guests, including members of neighboring Leagues and potential new members, joined us for an afternoon of sweet treats, a vibrant speaker on democracy and lively conversation. Dr. Marsha Darling of Adelphi University shared her journey of research and promotion of democracy through education and engaging the community. The party served the dual purpose of raising funds and growing our membership. Many thanks to the dedicated, collaborative planning committee of Patricia Meadows, Ann Paulson, Karen Moskowitz, Mehri Fryzel, Sharon McDermott and Ann Leiter.

League of Women Voters of Brookhaven- On **April 11th**, the LWV of Brookhaven held a luncheon with speaker Lawrence Levy, Dean of the National Center for Suburban Studies. Here he spoke with members about the special role that the suburbs play in elections and commended the League for working to get out the vote.

[Donate to LWNYS](#)

[Donate to LWNYS Education Foundation](#)

League of Women Voters of New York State
1 Steuben Place
Albany, NY 12207
lwny.org



League of Women Voters of NYS | 1 Steuben Place | Albany, NY 12207 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!