

STATE VOTER

Fired Up, and Ready to Defend Democracy July 2025

Thank you for all those who were able to attend the 2025 State Convention. We hope that you continue to be mindful of your temperature when defending democracy. Whether you are fired up and ready to go or anxious and don't know where to start, we must continue to learn from each other as we continue to educate and mobilize voters. Here is a look at your July State Voter.



State Leaders Message

Nancy Rosenthal, President, nancyrosenthal9@gmail.com

Erica Smitka, Executive Director, erica@lwvny.org

The energy behind the League's mission at our LWWNYS Convention was truly palpable. It was a meaningful opportunity to come together, share stories and challenges, and leave with our toolboxes replenished—filled with new ideas and renewed energy.

Just days later, we (Erica and Nancy) were at LWV US Council, surrounded by League leaders from nearly all 50 states, each carrying that same energy and seeking the same inspiration. It's clear: we are not alone. We are part of a vibrant, determined, and growing movement. That movement is dedicated to centering diversity, equity, inclusion, and access as- not just values- but the foundation of what democracy looks like in our shared vision of a multiracial, inclusive future.

As many of you know, LWVUS has launched the Unite and Rise 8.5 campaign, which is our rallying call to mobilize and strategize with voters. The goal is to mobilize 3.5% of the population to take action. Here in New York that means we need to reach 500,000 voters. Sign the commitment pledge [here](#). Take a look at the dynamic playbooks, updated every three months, designed to guide your efforts on the ground: [Unite and Rise Playbooks](#)



You can take action today by working with your local League to plan an action around the Good Trouble Lives On National Day of Action on July 17th. Check out the website here <https://goodtroubleliveson.org/> and the host toolkit [here](#).

It is time to be bold, fearless, and to raise our voices. Change doesn't come from one dramatic act. It comes from many people, engaging in small, persistent actions over time. That's what the League is about. That's what grassroots activism looks like.

In League,
Nancy and Erica

Board of Directors Announcements

2025-2027 Board of Directors

Congratulations to our board of directors, serving our league for 2025-2027!

Officers

President

Nancy Rosenthal *LWV of Albany County*

1st VP Issues and Advocacy

Sally Robinson *LWV of New York City*

2nd VP Voter Services

Jane Colvin *LWV of New York City*

3rd VP Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Regina Tillman *LWV of Albany County*

4th VP Local League Support

Marjorie McIntosh *LWV of Cattaraugus/ Allegany MAL Unit*

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Chris Alexander, *LWV of Saratoga County*

Treasurer

Nancy Agen *LWV of Utica- Rome Metro Area*

Directors

Mary Croxton *LWV of Chautauqua County*

Crystal Joseph *LWV of Rivertowns*

Patty MacLeish *LWV of Cooperstown*

Carla Michalak *LWV of Broome Tioga*

Nominating Committee Members

Chair

Judie Gorenstein *LWV of Rivertowns*

Member

Kate Doran *LWV of New York City*

Member

Lori Robinson *LWV of Buffalo/ Niagara*

Updates from the State League

LWVNYS Convention 2025- The League of Women Voters of New York State Convention was an opportunity for members to gather in person and for delegates to take an active role in moving the League of Women Voters forward for the next two years. We would like to thank all of our members who were able to attend and participate in this year's State Convention. We will be sharing our findings with your local league in our 2025 Convention Summary. In the meantime, if you or one of your local league members joined us this year in Albany, please fill out this [2025 State](#)





Join us in becoming a Democracy Defender! The League of Women Voters of New York State thanks all who attended last month's episodes of our civic education and advocacy webinar series, *Democracy Defenders*. If you missed our previous episode, click [here](#) to view.

For our next episode we will hear from LWNYS Executive Director, Erica Smitka, who will host a training on how to properly testify during a hearing or public meeting. Be sure to join us on **July 23rd at 6pm**. Click [here](#) to register today.

Advocacy Recap

The League of Women Voters NYS would like to thank all of our members and advocates for your efforts this session. We're proud to share that two key bills on our legislative agenda were successfully passed

The ERIC Bill (S1356A/A3649B)- The Electronic Registration Information Center is the most effective tool available to help election officials maintain more accurate voter rolls. It passed earlier this year in the Senate and will now go to the Governor to sign. This bill will allow NY to join a multistate voter list maintenance organization like ERIC. Read more [here](#).

The MAID Act (S.138 Hoylman-Sigal/A.136 Paulin)- The Medical Aid in Dying act would allow a terminally ill, mentally capable adult to request life-ending medication from a doctor to self-administer at a time of their choosing. This bill would afford terminally ill New Yorkers greater peace and the ability to die with dignity. Read more [here](#).

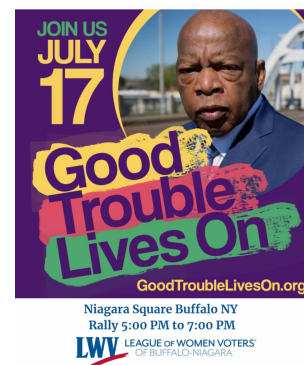
Please take a minute to reach out to Governor Hochul and ask that she sign both pieces of legislation when they reach her desk.



Local League Happenings

Check out these updates from our Local Leagues!

League of Women Voters Buffalo/Niagara (July 17th)- LWV of Buffalo/Niagara is hosting the Good Trouble Lives On Rally in honor of Congressman John Lewis on July 17th at Niagara Square in Buffalo from 5pm-7pm. Prior to that they will be holding a poster making event on July 10th. This event has much success bringing in approximately 20-25 rally poster makers. LWV Buffalo/Niagara will also be tabling at the Disabilities Pride Festival on July 26th.





League of Women Voters Rockland County (July 4th)- LWV of Rockland County is hosting a reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th in Nyack. They hope to bring in league members as well as locals to the event. They aim to remind citizens on the importance of the foundational document during a time when our democracy is under attack on many fronts.

League of Women Voters Larchmont/Mamaroneck (June 26th)- LWV Larchmont/Mamaroneck held its annual meeting on June 26th and sponsored a program with the Community Resource Center featuring a presentation by an immigration attorney. Co-president Beth Radow released episode 1 of "This is What Democracy Looks Like" which was screened at the 2025 State Convention. Click [here](#) to watch.

League of Women Voters Chautauqua (June 19th)- LWV Chautauqua hosted a voter registration and informational table at their local Juneteenth Celebration.

League of Women Voters of New York City- LWFVNYC partnered with the WNBA's 2024 Champion New York Liberty at their Barclays Center home games, to register NYers and GOTV in the run-up to the NYC Primaries and to conduct in person balloting for this year's Citywide Participatory Budgeting program, giving thousands of New Yorkers a chance to have their say in how the city spends its money.



League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island & North Fork- LWV of Hamptons, Shelter Island & North Fork held a fundraising tour on **June 3** of both the Wildlife Refuge in Quogue, and the Wildlife Rescue Center in Hampton Bays, with a buffet lunch in between. On **June 9**, the local league held two virtual candidate debates via Southampton Town's YouTube channel, for both the Southampton Village Mayoral candidates and also the Southampton Village Trustees. On **June 14**, several of their members attended the "No Kings" rallies in East Hampton and in Sag Harbor.

League of Women Voters Syracuse Metro Area (June 12th)- The LWV Syracuse Metro Area held its annual dinner and business meeting on June 12, 2025. At the meeting our representative to the Students Inside Albany Conference, Firyal Abbas, gave a report about her experience at the conference. To read Firyal's entire report on her experience inside Albany, click [here](#).

League of Women Voters of Suffolk County ILC- LWV Suffolk County (ILO) via their four local Leagues (Brookhaven, Hamptons/Shelter Island/North Fork, Huntington, Smithtown) has been providing voter registration services at Naturalization ceremonies at the Federal Courthouse in Central Islip NY for over ten years. The ceremonies and held several times a week and usually there are 150+ new citizens. Recently they were invited to provide these services at a special outdoor



Naturalization ceremony at the Long Island Museum (LIM). This coincided with LIM's hosting the Smithsonian/NYS traveling Voices and Votes exhibit. To read more click [here](#).

Donate to LWNYS

Donate to LWNYS Education Foundation

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