



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK

# STATE VOTER

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## December 2024

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Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones! It's been a busy few weeks, but don't worry, we didn't forget about the State Voter!



### President's Message

Nancy Rosenthal [nancyrosenthal9@gmail.com](mailto:nancyrosenthal9@gmail.com)

Let's be honest. We're all feeling a mix of emotions—anger, frustration, fear. But here's the thing: we don't have the luxury of giving up. **We have no choice but to be hopeful, to fight back, and to continue the work that strengthens our democracy.**

While the election is behind us, the League of Women Voters of New York continues to show up, just as we always do. Democracy isn't just an Election Day priority—it's an everyday commitment.

New Yorkers in November passed overwhelmingly the NY ERA Amendment by voting YES on Proposition One. Now is the time to pass the Federal ERA. The League of Women Voters has shown its commitment by sending thousands of letters to President Biden asking him to certify the Equal Rights Amendment. The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which will update the US Constitution to protect the equality of rights under the law regardless of sex, can be added to the Constitution with one action. With just over a month left in office, we are urging President Biden to act to ensure that the ERA is published. Please send a letter to President Biden urging him to immediately publish the Equal Rights Amendment. Spread the word, tell your friends and family to do the same!

<https://www.lwv.org/take-action/president-must-immediately-publish-equal-rights-amendment>

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### Celebrating the Retirement of Executive Director, Laura Ladd Bierman

This past week, we celebrated the Legacy of former State Executive Director, Laura Ladd Bierman for her 16 years of service to the League!



The evening was filled with laughter, heartfelt memories, and inspiring stories from friends and colleagues who had the privilege of working alongside Laura. A huge thank you to everyone who joined us in this special celebration, and to the generous donors whose contributions will support the League's Students Inside

Albany program in Laura's honor. It was a memorable night of reflection and gratitude!

A special thanks to Assemblymember John McDonald III for presenting a citation for Laura's hard work, with heartfelt thanks on behalf of himself, Assemblymember Patricia Fahy, and Senator Neil Breslin.



## LWVNYS Hires Program and Office Coordinator

Join us in welcoming our new Program and Office Coordinator, Xavia Francis!

Xavia is a City of Albany native and recent graduate of the University of Albany earning her Bachelor's in Arts studying journalism. For the past two years Xavia worked as an Administrative Assistant with the City of Albany Office of Audit and Control. She leveraged her leadership and interpersonal skills to drive impactful initiatives in the areas of youth development, community service and event coordination. As founder of *Captured by Xavia Cimone*, she uses her expertise in photography, video editing and graphic design to create engaging content that reflects and promotes the work of organizations she supports. She enjoys creating amazing memories for people to share. As a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Xavia has a focus on innovative approaches to community service, and is determined to give back and create lasting, positive change.

Xavia's first day was November 12<sup>th</sup>. She looks forward to the work she will do with the League.

Xavia can be reached at [xavia@lwvny.org](mailto:xavia@lwvny.org).

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## Local League Happenings

**The League of Women Voters of Albany County** hosts a community meeting to discuss creating a reuse center for the Capital District. For more information on this event, visit [Let's Build a Reuse Center - Community Meeting - Events - League of Women Voters of Albany County](#)

**The League of Women Voters of Mid-Hudson** will be hosting their next Dutchess County Meet Up and the Southern Tier Meet Up this month.

This is a small snapshot of all of the incredible work that's going on around the state. If you'd like to share what your local League is up to email Erica at [erica@lwvny.org](mailto:erica@lwvny.org).

## Where in the news is the League of Women Voters?

This week we were busy! You may have caught us on TV, in the paper, or on a podcast.

- Prop 1 passes in NYS, check out the outcomes of the vote on prop 1 across the state [New York Proposal 1 election results 2024 live updates | The Washington Post](#)
- Check out this article on Early Voting in NYS [Republicans once shunned early voting; in 2024 they increased their numbers in NYS - Newsday](#)

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## LWVUS Corner:

VOTE411.org Wins First Place in 4th Annual Anthem Awards Nov. 27- The League of Women Voters announced today that it has been named a first-place winner for a nonprofit education and literacy platform in the 4th Annual Anthem Awards. Click [here](#) to read more.

ERA Toolkit - In this toolkit, you will find talking points and resources for us to use in our nationwide push for ERA inclusion in the Constitution. Click [here](#) to explore the toolkit.

For more information on the ERA, click [here](#) for FAQ's.

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Donors are the foundation that allows the League to continue its important work. Please consider making a gift today- setting up a monthly or one-time donation is easy here:

[Donate to LWNYS](#)

This fiscal year, the League of Women Voters of New York Education Foundation has seen an increase in new donors! Perhaps you're a first-time donor yourself. Join us in supporting the League's work with a gift today.

Together, we can keep pushing forward, supporting the League's mission in every way possible. Let's turn hope into action, anger into progress, and uncertainty into strength.

[Donate to LWNYS Education Foundation](#)

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