

Promoting Principles of Democracy

May 18-21, 2025

League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation, Inc. The Blake, 1 Steuben Place Albany, New York 12207 518-465-4162 www.lwvny.org

Learning Objectives

- ♦ To increase students' awareness of their responsibility in representative government and provide the tools necessary for meeting that responsibility.
- To improve student understanding of the framework through which public policy is determined in New York State.
- ♦ To enhance student understanding of the roles of various forces seeking to impact New York State legislation and policy development, enactment and change.
- To demonstrate to the student the value of their vote.
- ♦ To promote an increased understanding of New York State's legislative process through legislative shadowing experiences.
- To promote civic participation as a lifelong process.



"The most important political office is that of the private citizen." **Louis D. Brandeis**

As an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Louis Dembitz Brandeis (1856-1941) tried to reconcile the developing powers of modern government and society with the maintenance of individual liberties and opportunities for personal development.



SUNDAY, May 18

TIME	ACTIVITY
2:00-5:00	Registration/Hotel Room Assignments
5:30-6:00	Welcome and Agenda Overview Erica Smitka, Executive Director League of Women Voters of New York State (LWVNYS)
6:15	Dinner
7:00 – 7:30	Ice Breaker
7:30-8:30	How Does New York State Government Work? Erica Smitka, LWVNYS Executive Director
8:30 – 10:00	Hospitality Room
10:00	BED CHECK

MONDAY, May 19

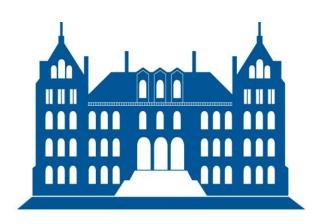
TIME	ACTIVITY
7:00-8:30	Breakfast in the Lobby
8:30	Meet in Hotel Lobby
9:00-10:00	Tour of NYS Capitol
10:30-11:30	Tips for Being a Successful Citizen Lobbyist Erica Smitka, Executive Director, LWVNYS With Special Guests: • Assemblymember John McDonald III • Assemblymember Rebecca Kassay
11:30-12:15	Lunch
12:30	Meet by Front Doors of Hotel; Walk to Court of Appeals
12:45-1:30	Role of the Court in Policy Making NYS Court of Appeals
2:00-5:00	SHADOW ASSEMBLY
6:15-7:00	Dinner and Speaker
7:00-8:30	 Media Discussion Xavia Francis, Program and Office Coordinator, LWVNYS Dan Clark, Reporter, Times Union Alex Gault, Reporter, Watertown Daily Times and Johnson Newspapers
8:30 – 10:00	Hospitality Room
10:00	BED CHECK

TUESDAY, May 20

TIME	ACTIVITY
7:00-8:45	Breakfast in the Lobby
9:00 – 10:00	Political Activism: How Citizens Make a Difference Clyanna Lightbourn LWVNY, Campaign Director
10:15-11:15	Political Activism (continued) Kayla Mumtaz Alliance for Quality Education, Legislative Affairs and Community Engagement Specialist
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00	Meet in Hotel Lobby
2:00 - 5:00	SHADOW SENATE
5:15	Meet at the North End of the Concourse
6:15 – 7:00	Dinner
7:00-8:30	Running for Office Xavia Francis, Program and Office Coordinator, LWVNYS Deborah Zamer, Albany Common Council Assemblymember Gabriella Romero, NYS Assembly
8:35	Meet in Hotel Lobby
9:00-10:30	Bowling
11:00	BED CHECK

WEDNESDAY, May 21

TIME	ACTIVITY
8:30	BREAKFAST ROOM Bring Suitcase to the Meeting Room
9:00-10:00	How Does NYS Government WorkFinal Question and Answer Period
10:00-10:30	Voter Registration Erica Smitka, LWVNYS Executive Director
10:30-11:15	Recognition Ceremony
11:30	Boxed Lunch



2025 STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY CONFERENCE

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