



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK

STATE VOTER

Voting Today for a Better Tomorrow July 2026

Thank you to everyone who supported voter registration efforts and helped voters prepare for the primary election. As election season continues, we encourage you to keep the momentum going by volunteering, educating voters, and participating in League activities. Together, we can help ensure every eligible voter has the information and opportunity to make their voice heard.



State Leaders Message

Nancy Rosenthal, President,

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In just a few days, the calendar will mark July 4th and the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding. It is a moment that invites celebration, reflection, and honesty about the full American story.

The ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the Constitution are foundational to our democracy. Yet for centuries, those rights and freedoms have not been experienced equally by all Americans. It is important to acknowledge that the promises of our founding documents have too often been denied, restricted, or violently withheld from fellow citizens who are systemically disadvantaged.

So, what do we celebrate this July 4th? We celebrate League members and League leaders, ordinary people doing extraordinary things. We celebrate the thousands of ways Leagues across New York, and the country educate, engage, and empower voters. We celebrate our voter service work because we know deeply that a vote touches everything. We celebrate the League's continued commitment to protecting democracy, including the many legal efforts Leagues across the country have undertaken to defend voting rights and ensure that every eligible voter has a voice.

Our work is imperative. Today, we continue to witness challenges to voting rights, efforts to restrict reproductive freedom, attacks on LGBTQ+ communities, and increasing scrutiny of organizations dedicated to civic engagement and democracy. We have spoken out, organized, educated, advocated, and worked every day to protect the rights and freedoms that define our democracy. League members know that Democracy has always depended on ordinary people willing to stand up, speak out, and continue the work even when the path ahead is uncertain.



That is what gives us hope in the work we do together with League members and leaders across New York and beyond. We see hope not simply as

a feeling, but as a choice: a decision to act, to participate, to stand up, and to continue the work even when the path ahead is challenging.

This July 4th, we celebrate all the people who choose hope through action and who continue the essential work of democracy.

In League,
Nancy and Erica

LWVNYS Board Announcements

Local League Support

Marjorie McIntosh, 4th Vice President/ Local League Support

On behalf of the **Local League Support Committee (LLSC)** and all regional facilitators, Jane Colvin, Mary Croxton, Judie Gorenstein, Kathleen Stein and Dare Thompson, we wish every LWV chapter and all members a very Happy 4th of July!

As with many commemorative holidays, this one has become so much more than the original purpose and many people concentrate on the family picnics, fireworks, retail sales, time off, etc. rather than remembering what we need to celebrate and hold dear. For instance, more than 1.5 million hot dogs are consumed in America on the 4th of July, a dubious statistic to highlight, for sure!

As LWV members, we know how strong, yet tenuous our Constitution and societal norms can be and how vigilant we must be to preserve and protect our democracy. We continuously look back to know where we've been and look forward to how far we still have to go to make our imperfect union a little more perfect for everyone.

The LLSC May quarterly meetings have all been completed and as always, we are inspired by all the innovative and educational activities toward voter registration and engagement that are being held over the summer all over NYS. Each group is encouraged to share their successes and concerns within their regional group, but also among all the regions, often through their respective facilitators. There is definitely strength in numbers, as we all know! The next group of meetings will be held in August and we can't wait to hear more from each region!

Timothy Priano, Board Member

On August 8th, the League will host civic engagement actions across the country in honor of the anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. In New York State, communities will come together for ***Conversations Along the Canal***, as a commemoration of a historic civil rights achievement and a call to action.

We are asking every League to be part of this important day: Create an event that reflects your community and inspires civic participation; Gather neighbors; Start conversations; Build partnerships; ***Help people understand why their vote matters.***

Activities can include:

- Registering voters
- Helping voters make a voting plan
- Sharing personal stories about why voting matters
- Recruiting volunteers
- Connecting residents with local civic organizations and resources

It is also an opportunity for Leagues to strengthen the partnerships that make our democracy stronger. Invite neighborhood associations, libraries, faith communities, labor organizations, schools, veterans' groups, cultural organizations, local businesses, and other community partners to stand together in support of civic participation.

On August 8, let's honor the history of the Voting Rights Act by investing in the future of democracy. President's if your local League has not yet signed up to participate in

August 8th day of action, please do so [here](#) and check out the toolkit for ideas [here](#).

Every conversation matters. Every vote matters.

Updates from the State League

LWVNYS Internship Opportunities

The League of Women Voters of New York accepts intern applications on a rolling basis and provides flexible hours in a supportive work environment. Interns will gain experience in areas such as grassroots membership outreach, elections and voter information, communications, and development.

If you or someone you know is interested, please fill out this [form](#) or submit your resume to Program and Office Coordinator, Xavia Francis at xavia@lwny.org



VAN/GOTV with Monica Ferguson

The webinar on **Using VAN to GOTV in the 2026 Election** with Monica Ferguson (LWVNYS VAN Chair) was an excellent demonstration of how to best use this valuable tool to increase voter turnout, particularly in communities where turnout numbers are historically low.

We will be hosting two additional summer training sessions on VAN. Register [here](#) to attend the next VAN/ GOTV training on **July 8th at 6pm**. Please reach out with any VAN questions to Monica, our LWVNYS VAN Chair, at lwny-van@gmail.com.

Hands Off Our Vote: Election Protection Work

This summer we invite our members to join us in participating in the Election Protection program co-led by Common Cause and the NAACP. This effort is comprised of more than 100 local, state and national partners and will work throughout the primary and general election to ensure eligible voters can cast their ballots and know they are counted. Sign up [here](#) for more information.

On Primary Day we launched the New York State Command Center for the 1-866-OUR-VOTE Hotline. Working with our partners at Common Cause, the NAACP, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund we responded to issues from voters across the state that came in via the hotline. In addition to hotline issues, we also had reports coming in from Election Protection volunteers working 76 shifts at 66 poll sites across New York City. For the general election, we'll have election protection volunteers on the ground across the state and will start hosting virtual trainings soon!

For the most part our elections ran quite smoothly across the state. As always, we saw bouts of electioneering, especially in NYC, and there were a few power issues in Western NY and on Long Island. These power issues did not significantly impact voter access to the ballot in either location.

Student's Inside Albany Student's Featured on NPR!

Two of LWVAC's SIA students gave outstanding presentations at the League's Annual Meeting last week. After the meeting, Cailin Brown, Commentary Editor at WAMC, saw league member's, Mary Rosch, social media post featuring the students and contacted her. As a result, Dylan Mabee's commentary has been published by WAMC.

Click [here](#) to read Dylan's published piece.

2026 LWVUS National Convention Update

Convention 2026 in Columbus, Ohio (June 25-28) was a rich and meaningful experience for both our in-person and virtual delegates. New York was represented by approximately 40 in-person delegates and 25 virtual delegates, creating opportunities for connection, learning, and engagement. Convention 2026 offered incredible opportunities for connection and growth. When we come together, we strengthen not only our individual Leagues but the League as a whole.



Two important items that were passed at Convention include the adoption of a new program called "Defending a Democracy Under Siege". This program will focus on voting rights, protecting elections, redistricting, immigration, individual rights, and the presidency.

Delegates also passed the proposed concurrence with the LWV Washington state Protecting the Rights of Immigrants position—in-brief, which reads:

The League of Women Voters believes that all residents of the United States, regardless of immigration status or citizenship, should be treated with dignity and respect. This means that all residents, regardless of immigration status or citizenship, should have access to essential federal, state, and local funded services, have the opportunity to avail themselves of legal representation in court and immigration proceedings, and have the opportunity to live and work in safety. The League encourages all elected officials and government leaders in the United States to take action to ensure these fundamental rights. It also means that political leaders have an obligation to condemn xenophobia, discrimination, and anti-immigrant rhetoric.

Local League 2026-2027 Executive Contact Form

If your league has not done so already, please fill out the [Local League Updated Contact Information form](#) with your Local Leagues' executive contact information for proper communication during the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Local League Happenings

Check out these updates from our Local Leagues!

League of Women Voters Buffalo/ Niagara- The Erie County Bar Association of WNY honored our Chapter with their Liberty Bell Award on Law Day. Twenty Members of our Chapter participated in LWVNY Training Sessions held in Rochester, and we welcomed three new Board Members at our Annual Meeting in June while offering awards from our Chapter to the following:

Recipients for our Awards:

1. Students Inside Albany - Clair Lanthier 2026 SIA Summary
2. Joan K. Bozer Leadership Award: Alan or Julia Bozer presented this award to Cynthia Havey
3. League LEE Award: Presented by Deborah Shiffner to Kathleen McCormick
4. Making Democracy Work Awards: Presented by Dr. Leah Angel Daniels to Dr. Eileen Scannell and Presented by Tyrell Ford to Jessica Williams.

The League of Women Voters of the Cooperstown- The Susan B. Anthony Speaks event was a tremendous success, thanks to Laura Wetzel's vision and planning, the support of many board members, and the generosity of the Rotary Foundation, the

Otsego County America 250 Fund, and 12 co-sponsoring organizations. The evening featured live early American folk music, a captivating portrayal of Susan B. Anthony by Linda McKenney, and presentations by Christine Heller, Martha Membrino, Ashley Hopkins Benton of the New York State Museum, and Pastor Jess Lambert. Nearly 100 people attended, enjoying the exhibits, fellowship, and Jim Havner's pop-up Green Toad Bookstore. The event also launched the Defending Democracy at Home campaign, with a goal of raising \$10,000 to support voter outreach.

Thanks to all for making this an event that inspired all to reflect on the history and commitment to defending democracy.



The League of Women Voters of the Brookhaven-
The League remained active throughout the summer with a series of voter engagement and public education events. In early June, members assembled and distributed voter information packets ahead of the primary election at three locations over three weeks. On June 16, members supported the Southampton League's fundraiser and met with a representative from the local public radio station. Looking ahead, the League will march in the Patchogue Fourth of July

Parade on **July 4** in full regalia, register new voters following a naturalization ceremony on **July 16**, and present the Suffrage Cantata on August 8. Originally written by Andrea Ramsey and performed at Carnegie Hall, the production combines music and narration to trace the fight for women's rights while highlighting the ongoing struggle for equality. An encore performance is scheduled for September 13.

The League of Women Voter New York City- In June, the New York City League of Women Voters kicked off its summer internship program. Twice a week through August, 25 high school and college students meet in the office for educational seminars, learning about the work the League and its partners do around New York City as well as working on their own projects to support the League's mission and further their own civic and educational interests.



LWVNYC also worked with Legal Aid and Council Member Gale Brewer to publish an OpEd in support of voting access for detainees on Rikers Island following the City Council hearing that Brewer recently chaired addressing voting in Rikers. It was published in AMNY, linked [HERE](#).

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