

Vote Like Our Democracy Depends On It
November 2026

Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to our members for your outstanding commitment and tireless efforts to protect the integrity of our elections and safeguard our democracy. Through dedicated leadership, collaboration, vigilance, and proactive measures, NYS continues to demonstrate the importance of ensuring that every eligible voter can participate freely, safely, and confidently in the electoral process. These efforts reflect a shared commitment to defending the foundations of our democracy, strengthening public trust, and ensuring that every voice and every vote matters. We proudly recognize and celebrate everyone whose hard work and dedication make election protection a priority.



State Leaders Message

Nancy Rosenthal, President,
nancyrosenthal9@gmail.com
Erica Smitka, Executive Director, erica@lwvny.org

For most of you reading this upon receipt, tomorrow is Election Day! Many of you will be serving as poll workers, poll watchers, election observers, and in so many other ways working to ensure our elections go smoothly.



As Leaguers, we protect and fight for democracy every day, whether there is an election tomorrow or not. Our work is 24/7! Yes, we rest when we need to (and should!), but we are always listening, watching for mis- and disinformation, informing, educating, and empowering voters. This is who we are. This is what we do. And the work continues long after the polls close.

If you or anyone you know has problems voting tomorrow tell them to call 1-866-OUR-VOTE. We'll be on the other side ensuring every voter in NYS is able cast a ballot.

Thank you for all that you do, every single day, to protect our democracy!

In League,
Nancy and Erica

LWVNYS Board Announcements

Voter Services

Jane Colvin, 2nd Vice President/ Voter Services

ELECTION DAY IS (FINALLY) HERE!!

CONGRATULATIONS on all your efforts to educate, engage, and empower voters because **it's working**: early voting numbers in 2026 have soared past 2022 numbers. According to The Times Union, approximately 485,200 New Yorkers voted in the opening weekend of early voting, an **85% increase** from 2022. Those totals have only increased this week with over 1.4 million New Yorkers voting early as of last Thursday.

Just in case there are still questions for you, here are some reminders about important dates:

- Monday, November 2 – Last day to request an early mail/absentee ballot in person at a BOE
- Tuesday, November 3 - ELECTION DAY Polls are open 6am - 9:00pm

And if voters have lingering concerns about their rights, you can reassure them they can:

- **Vote without showing photo ID** - unless they are voting for the first time and did not provide identification when they registered.
- **Cast an affidavit ballot** if there name is not on the voter list
- **Stay in line** and still vote if the polls close
- **Vote with a criminal record** unless they are currently incarcerated for a felony conviction

(see NYS AG Letitia James guidance **here**)

Halloween has come and gone, but ghouls remain out there with tricks and scare tactics using mis- and dis- information. Unsure as to whether the content is true or false?

- **Consider the source.** Does the URL look strange?
- **Check the date.** Is the story old news?
- **Cross check information.** Are reputable news sources reporting it?
- **Read past the headline.**
- **Question emotionally charged content.**

And here's what to do and **NOT** do once you've confirmed it:
DO share accurate information. Without mentioning the wrong info, set the record straight by sharing the correct messages
DO report & block. Report inaccurate info to social media platforms, group administrators & election officials. Block users you don't know who share mis or disinformation.
DON'T click or share. If you quote the bad information, you help spread it.
DON'T engage publicly. If someone you know is sharing bad info, message them privately & ask them to take it down.

Thank you so much for everything you do! Take a bow, you deserve it!!

Nominating Committee

Judie Gorenstein, Chair

The LWV New York State (LWVNYS) Nominating Committee is hard at work putting together the slate of Officers and Board Directors you will vote on at the LWVNYS Convention in June of 2027.

We write to you now to ask if you have interest in serving on the LWVNYS Board for the 2027 - 2029 term. We will carefully consider any response you send us.
If you don't want to recommend yourself for the board- suggest someone else whom you believe would make a strong candidate!

Prerequisites for board service are the ability to abide by the LWV nonpartisan and DEI policies; a willingness to make a commitment to the state board and to prioritize the work and mission of the LWVNYS.

Serving on the state board means that you will be able to expand the use of skills you have developed at your local league and you will have the opportunity to work with other league leaders from all over the state. You get to be a member of a working board, committed to saving and defending our democracy.

The Nominating process is careful and deliberate. Accordingly, please know that a self-nomination or recommendation does not guarantee a position on the slate.

Reach out to any one of us at our mobile phone numbers if you have questions. Please fill out the Nominating Form with any input by November 30th. **LINK**

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Judie Gorenstein, Chair 631-988-3312
Mary Croxton 716-673-5197
Kate Doran 347-678-2107
Lori Robinson 716-604-6920
Regina Tillman 518-229-1548

Updates from the State League

New Members Orientation

Welcome to the League!
Calling all new members for a time to get connected!



Join us for our New Members Orientation on **Wednesday, December 9th from 6 PM** on Zoom.

Meet League members from across New York State, learn about the role of the state League along with our mission and impact, learn how local, state, and national leagues work together, and discover how you can get involved in statewide advocacy and education.

December 9, 2026 at 6pm:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/KjK5mlq8SNKB709MILd3zg

Pre-register for 2027 New Member Orientations:
July 13, 2027 at 6pm:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/jEPNTRTDQealy7EhwO5ebw
December 8, 2027 at 6pm:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/MbI0r2OaSJaVnITCoSw5pw

Democracy Under Siege and our Election Protection Coalition

The work of the LWVNYS Democracy Under Siege Campaign and Election Protection Coalition was empowering! Our Democracy Under Siege campaign included representatives from 35 of our 38 local Leagues. We shared get out the vote strategies, resources, and key information across the state. Thank you to all who participated and shared!

Our Election Protection Coalition (in partnership with Common Cause NY, NAACP NYS Conference, Make the Road, AALDEF, 1199 SEIU, Generation Vote, and more) is getting ready to send over 1,000 volunteers into the field tomorrow to be nonpartisan observers in the field on Election Day. If you or anyone you know has trouble at the polls tomorrow tell them to call **1-866-OUR-VOTE. Also available in Spanish (888-VE-Y-**

VOTA), Arabic (844-YALLA-US), a variety of API languages (888-API-VOTE), and American Sign Language (301-818-VOTE).



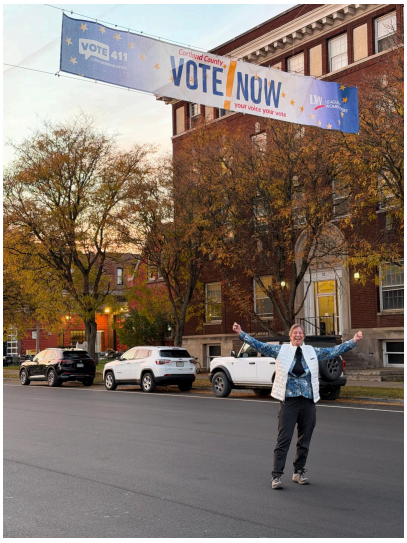
Student Inside Albany 2027

Thank you for attending our Students Inside Albany Kick Off Meeting! We are super excited to welcome our 2027 Cohort to the Capitol Region this coming May.

The NYS League has provided additional materials for your Local League to recruit students this season. If you have any questions on the process or are interested in volunteering during our 4-day youth conference in Albany, contact our Program and Office Coordinator, Xavia Francis, at **xavia@lwvny.org**.

Local League Happenings

Check out these updates from our Local Leagues!





The League of Women Voters of Cortland County- On **Nov. 9th**, LWV Cortland will have a Dinner & Discussion event focused on Fake News! The discussion will be led by two outstanding executive directors from regional library systems.

LWV Cortland also had a banner raised to commemorate the start of Early Voting in Cortland County. This is the first year we've collaborated with Common Cause and NYPIRG on Election Protection work during early voting and election day. We look forward to more collaborations in the future!

The League of Women Voters of New Castle- It's been a busy month of GOTV activities for the League of Women Voters of New Castle! In addition to featuring daily messaging on our Facebook page (**@LWVNewCastleNY**), LWV New Castle hosted a number of in person events to encourage community members to get out and vote! On October 13, LWV New Castle members were invited to Pace University to host a voter registration/engagement event for college students. They loved engaging with the students and answering questions about how best to vote as a student.

To mark the start of early voting and to encourage our community to believe that voting matters, LWVNC partnered with the Chappaqua Library to host a screening



of the film Democracy Noir. This film highlights the importance and impact of citizen participation in a democracy by telling the story of Viktor Orban and Hungary. Showing how individuals can be an agent of change was an important message on the day early voting began in New York this election season. This documentary directed by Connie Field is now available for individual viewing on a variety of platforms.

LWVNC is also looking forward rounding out election season by hosting a post-election wine tasting on **Friday, November 6** at Chappaqua Wine and Spirits. They'll gather to discuss the election and the results, taste some wine for the upcoming holidays and hear some musical selections with a suffragette theme by Counterpoint, a women's a capella group featuring one of our Board members. All are welcome to join us from 5 to 7 pm for a little civic cheer!

The League of Women Voters of Albany County- The League of Women Voters of Albany County and the Government Law Center at Albany Law School presented a memorial lecture in Honor of Richard Rifkin, who was a career public servant, former Legal Director of the Government Law Center, member of the LWVAC board of directors, and active with LWVNYS advocacy. LWVNYS's Erica Smitka was one of three panelists who discussed Richard's legacy of public service.





The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island & North Fork- The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island & North Fork did extensive publicity to the media, community groups and its membership to publicize Early Voting. On October 23, both the Brookhaven League's and our League's Voter Services chairs were interviewed by radio host Gianna Volpe in a WLIW 88.3 FM radio segment that covered Early Voting and other election topics. Both our Voter Services Committee and our Youth Committee used VAN to work on getting out the vote to thousands of 18-25 year old registered voters and others in the Towns of East Hampton, Southampton, Southold and Shelter Island.

The League of Women Voters Buffalo/Niagara- On October 20th the League of Women Voters Buffalo-Niagara hosted an event celebrating voting called "Voting is Your Superpower" It was held at the Buffalo History Museum and about 100 people attended.

The night featured three voting themed activity stations that tested participants' civic knowledge, taught them about voting rights, and gave them the opportunity to tell their voting stories.

We also had a special guest speaker, Melissa Parker Leonard, who gave the speech "The Power of a Voice." Melissa is an educator, researcher, and public historian of

Tonawanda Seneca descent. She is the founder of 7th Gen Cultural Resources, President of the Board of Managers of The Buffalo History Museum, a founding board member of Indigenous Women's Initiatives, and an instructor at Buffalo State University.





League of Women Voters Port Washington-Manhasset- On October 17th, our Port Washington-Manhasset League partnered with the Campaign for New York Health, and other local organizations to hold a rally at their County Legislature building to inform the community about how federal healthcare cuts are affecting us and how the New York Health Act can solve those challenges.

It was a blisteringly cold day but speakers held listeners riveted — they learned how the bill would benefit all NYS residents; help local governments avoid cutting services and staff, and/or raising property taxes; protect people with chronic conditions; heal physicians and nurses who are suffering burnout; and save hospitals facing closure and layoffs after the OBBBA. They also heard from small business owners and criminal justice advocates and from people whose for-profit insurance didn't cover them when they most needed it.

LWV Port Washington Manhasset partnered with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Shelter Rock, Long Island Progressive Coalition, Together We Will Long Island, the New York Progressive Action Network, PEER, Nassau Progressives, Suffolk Progressives, the LI Health Equity Working Group Coalition, and others who urged the crowd to "vote like your healthcare depends on it." Multiple Nassau County police officers on duty during the rally commented they wanted to learn more about the bill since every year their union health benefits were requiring higher contributions and delivering less coverage.

League of Women Voters Mid- Hudson Region-The Mid-Hudson Region had a busy fall connecting with the next generation of voters! They kicked off our **2026 Fall College and High School Engagement Tour** at Bard College in August and continued throughout the fall with visits to Vassar College, Dutchess Community College, SUNY Ulster, the Culinary Institute of America, John Jay High School, Roy C. Ketcham High School, FDR High School, and finally, Beacon High School!

The results? 346 new voter registrations — 105 college students and 241 high school students!

Along the way, they met so many enthusiastic, curious, and engaged young people — our future voters, leaders, and changemakers! From helping students register to vote to answering their questions and discussing the importance of civic participation, every stop reinforced why our work matters.



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