

Democracy Wins When We Mobilize the Vote

October 2026

We're grateful to our League members for their continued work to ensure voters are informed, supported, and protected throughout the upcoming election season. Stay confident in the strength of our democracy as we continue building informed, engaged, and empowered communities. Together, let's keep championing civic engagement and ensuring every voter has the opportunity to participate.



State Leaders Message

Nancy Rosenthal, President, nancyrosenthal9@gmail.com
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Our efforts for the next 34 days (yep, that is how many days until Election Day!) are about GOTV.

The State League has been hosting bi-weekly **Democracy Under Siege** calls to collaborate on get out the vote and election protection efforts in the lead up to the November election. If you are interested in getting involved reach out to your local League President.

In these final weeks, it's important to have early voting dates, times, and locations for your county readily available. This could be a handout you are always now carrying with you! Voters crave this information. Hand it out and ask the question: "What's your plan to vote in the midterm election?"

Midterms typically have lower voter turnout in New York State at about 42% of eligible voters in the last midterm election, compared with about 61% in the last presidential election. As Leaguers, we know that all elections are important.



So let's stress the importance of voting with our friends, neighbors, our dentist, the postal worker, our coworkers, and the people we serve with on committees.

Start the conversation with: "What's your plan for voting on November 3rd?" Then listen and respond. Share what we know about voting, including early voting dates, times, and locations, and remind people why participating in every election matters.

Sometimes, all it takes is starting the conversation. Every conversation is an opportunity to make sure voters have the information they need (and want) to participate in the Democracy we are Defending!

In League,
Nancy and Erica

LWVNYS Board Announcements

Voter Services

Jane Colvin, 2nd Vice President/ Voter Services

What's Your Plan To Vote?
That is **THE** question to ask as we approach the final days before October 24 when Early Voting starts. Well, maybe a few other questions, too, like "Are you certain that your voter registration is still valid?" "Do you know where your poll site is?". If you're not sure you can check www.vote411.org.

The hard fact is that even at this late date and despite all our activities, events, and messaging, we simply can't assume that voters are ready to go to the polls. Only 49% of Americans answered "Yes" when asked "Do you expect that the upcoming midterm elections held in November 2026 will be free and fair elections?" In a new national survey conducted by UC San Diego from September 1-9, 2026. 23% responded "No" and 28% said "I don't know." Mis and disinformation about the elections is already spreading. So, it's **now**, during the final run up to Early Voting, that we need to press forward with our information blitzes to make sure voters know the essential dates, times, and places to vote. Remember the following:

- Our elections are run by States- not the federal government. There have been no changes to how NYS elections are run or to how you can vote in November
- There are 4 ways to vote in NYS: early in person, in person on election day, absentee ballot, or mail in ballot.
- If you are voting via mail- apply early and return your ballot as soon as possible.
- Make a plan to vote and get 3 friends to do the same!

Check with your local BOE to see if they have a voting schedule that can be duplicated and distributed. We've also added links to some GOTV flyers that you can use. Let us know if you're looking for something else and we'll get back to you! Thank you all for everything you're doing and keep up the great work!

Click **here** to view materials.

Local League Support

Marjorie McIntosh, 4th Vice President/ Local League Support

The year of 2026 is absolutely flying by and after monumental efforts by the League over the last few months to register, educate voters and GOTV, the midterm elections will be over in the blink of an eye. The last round of Local League Support quarterly meetings for 2026 will be in November and Holidays will follow very quickly. Then, it's another year and we will do it all over again, plus so much more!

As a reminder, the quarterly meetings are for local presidents and designees as a way to get to know other leagues within each of the five regions across NYS. Each one highlights activities, questions and issues within the respective regions, but often are shared with the entire state, as well as the LWV Board of Directors of NYS. There is strength in numbers, as we all know, and good ideas and strategies are often successfully shared. Zoom presentations and webinars are particularly suitable for a wide audience, as we have learned over the last few years. The meetings are well attended and bonds are continuously being formed.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all local leagues who participate and to their leaders who facilitate the balance of conversation, planning and action so well.

- Capital Region, led by Kathleen Stein

- WNY/Southern Tier, led by Mary Croxton
- Long Island Region, led by Judie Gorenstein
- Capital Region, led by Dare Thompson
- Westchester Region, led by Jane Colvin

Important Election Information

Below are key election dates and information to share with voters:

Registration	Voter Registration deadline is **October 24, 2026** Check status **here**
Mail In Ballot Options	Mail-In Ballot or Absentee Ballot Apply by **Oct 24th** and submit by **Nov 3rd (or as soon as possible!)** Request Ballot **here**
Early Voting	Early Voting **(Oct. 24-Nov. 1)** Find Early Voting Site **here**
2026 General Election	**November 3rd, 2026** Polls open **6am-9pm** Check status and find polling site **here**

National Voter Education Week

National Voter Education Week is **October 5-9**! During this week, it is our responsibility to take the time to make sure people are prepared and registered, know their ballot, and have a plan during this upcoming election.

Here are the themes to help guide us through the week:

- **Register to Vote** (Oct. 5): Check registration and absentee/mail ballot tracker: **https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/**
- **Get to Know Your Ballot** (Oct. 6): Check out the LWV Voter Guide: **www.vote411.org**
- **Make a Plan to Vote** (Oct. 7): Find resources and a timeline here:1-866-OUR-VOTE: **https://866ourvote.org/** or at **www.vote411.org.**
- **Understand the Process** (Oct. 8): Click **here** for more information on the election process in NYS
- **Share with Your Friends and Family** (Oct. 9): Make sure loved ones are in the know too. Share accurate information with this link **here**.

PowHer The Vote



We invite you to join the PowHer The Vote series of weekly virtual sessions - running every Tuesday, September 29 through October 27 - with in-depth presentations around key issues, and opportunities for questions and discussion. Each session will include an overview of the issue, insight into current policies and questions for candidates to help voters determine where candidates stand on these issues. Programs will be live from 1-2pm Tuesday afternoons. Those who register for a program will also receive, within 48 hours, a direct link to the recording of that session.

The PowHerNY Network brings together representatives from 100+ organizations throughout New York State who share a commitment to inclusive gender equity. Some of

our leading organizations have worked hard to provide a sharp focus on timely issues that could be directly impacted by these election results. Please join us, and engage your friends and colleagues as well, so we can PowHer the Vote this year.

Click Here for More Information

Order the 2026 Voter Guide

The 2026 Voter Guide, Part 1 is still available for purchase in English and Spanish. If your local League has not yet placed an order, please complete the **purchase request form** to reserve your copies.

Make a Plan to Vote Cards

Check out our make a plan to vote cards for the 2026 Election **here**! These are available and will be sent out to local Leagues to be used as a flyer to get out the vote this November.



LWV NYS Election Handouts for Voters

We'd like to boost the following materials available on the LWVNYS website as helpful tools for voters.

- First Vote: **English** and **Spanish**
- Your Right to Vote: **Individuals with Disabilities**
- Your Right to Vote: **College Students**
- Your Right to Vote: **Individuals Experiencing Homelessness**
- Your Right to Vote: **Individuals with Criminal Convictions**
- Voter Guide Part I: **English** and **Spanish**
- Election Security: **Why NYS elections are safe and secure**
- Election Security: **What happens to your ballot?**

Updates from the State League

Democracy Defenders: Mis & Dis Information Training



Join us in becoming a Democracy Defender! The League of Women Voters of New York State invites you to our next virtual training. On **October 13th at 6pm** we will be hosting a Mis and Dis Information Training.

Election season brings a flood of information. It is our job to fact check and be sure we are sharing accurate information. During this training learn practical ways to recognize, question, and navigate misinformation and disinformation, so you can make sense of what you see and share.

Click **here** to register for our virtual training.
To view all previous episodes of the Democracy Defenders Webinar series, click **here**.

Observer Corps

Join us for our next Statewide Observer Corps meeting on **October 22nd**. These meetings will focus on helping you and your local League to grow your Observer Corps as well to share efforts and observations from across the State. Register **here**.



Student Inside Albany 2027

As we enter the fall season, we are much closer to having our 2027 cohort of Students Inside Albany join us in the spring. To make sure that all of our Local Leagues' SIA leadership is prepared we will be hosting our Students Inside Albany Kick Off zoom call. During this call we will provide tips on how to recruit, what the State league will need your assistance with and answer any other questions you may have prior to recruiting your student.

This call will take place, **Monday, October 26th from 6-7pm**. This meeting is for SIA Coordinators, Youth Program Coordinators and LL Presidents. Click **here** to register today.

Election Protection Press Conference

Our Election Protection efforts across the state have been in full swing. Today our Election Protection Coalition participated in a press conference and rally with Hands Off NYC and partner organizations like NYCLU, Make the Road, NAACP, Common Cause, Strong Economy for All and more. During the rally members of the coalition spoke with the press on the election protection efforts that are taking place around the state as we prepare for the 2026 Election, including the actions to ensure that all eligible voters are able to participate.

A huge thanks to members from LWV of the City of New York who showed up to represent the League!





Local League Happenings

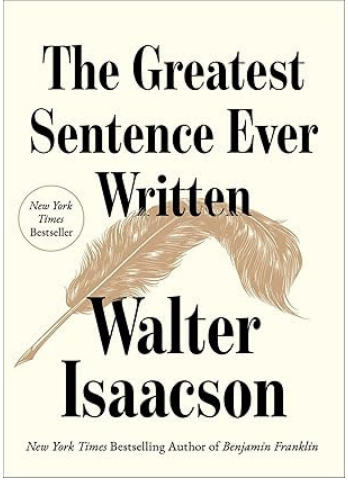
Check out these updates from our Local Leagues!

The League of Women Voters of Cooperstown Area- In partnership with The Village Library, League of Women Voters of Cooperstown Area invites you to a reading and discussion of Walter Isaacson's best-selling book, The Greatest Sentence Ever Written. The book offers a short, engaging analysis of one of history's most powerful statements:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

The event will feature guest readers sharing excerpts from Isaacson's work, followed by a discussion and Q&A led by Zachary McKenney, Professor of Sociology at the Hartwick Institute of Public Service, to help place these words in historical context.

The Greatest Sentence Ever Written
Sunday, October 4th, 1-3pm
Village Library, 22 Main Street, Cooperstown
This event is free and open to the public



The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island & North Fork- The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island & North Fork organized extensive voter information tabling all over the South Fork, North Fork, Shelter Island & Riverhead for National Voter Registration Day on September 15, organized by their Voter Services Committee co-chair, Tracy Grathwohl, for tabling. On September 28 we held a virtual debate on Southampton SeaTV's YouTube for the NYS Senate candidates, 1st S.D., Anthony Palumbo and Christopher Murray. On September 30 we held a virtual forum there on "Voting Rights & the 2026 Midterms: Election Challenges, Threats & Integrity," with two noted election law experts, David Becker and Jerry Goldfeder, led by our Government Committee chair, Andrea Gabor. You can still access both events at **www.youtube.com/c/SeaTVSouthampton**

All of the events received considerable coverage in the local print and online media. On October 17th we're planning more voter information tabling in Riverhead, to promote early voting and increase voter turnout there.



The League of Women Voters Chautauqua- On September 16, the League of Women Voters of Chautauqua county co-presented a program on Constitution Day, "A Compact History of the Constitution: A Different Perspective", Cory McCann, producer and reporter with Buffalo Toronto, Public media explored overlooked voices and perspective in the nation's founding and consider how they continue to shape her understanding of the constitution and American democracy. On the same day there was a program called "Public Media and Democracy: Why It Matters". This was presented by President and CEO of public Toronto Public Media, Tom Calderon, and faculty and students from SUNY Fredonia. They had an informal conversation about public media, reliable information, civic engagement, and the importance of an informed public.

On October 13th at the Robert H Jackson Center in Jamestown, the League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County will be present at a naturalization ceremony and have the opportunity to register new citizens and present them information about the League of Women Voters.

The League of Women Voters of Albany County- On National Voter Registration Day, 9/15/26, thirty two volunteers tabled at Price Chopper, Market 32 and Shop n Save - 13 stores in all. They helped carry out our mission, ensuring an informed electorate and registering eligible persons. Some comments from our volunteers:

• "We met 2 individuals who were once incarcerated, who did not know that they may now be eligible to vote!"
• "We did many address changes both online and on registration forms with people who hadn't updated their addresses and needed to know where they could vote based on the

new address."
• "We didn't get as many registrations as I expected, but I felt so great helping people clarify the 4 ways to vote."

Many other volunteers had never done voter registration, but came out of the experience feeling that it was a rewarding, educational opportunity to meet the public with about 700 people contacted among all the stores.





The League of Women Voters of the City of New York- In September, the NYC League of Women Voters celebrated Constitution Day for the sixth year in a row, engaging dozens of volunteers to distribute thousands of U.S. Constitutions to New Yorkers in all five boroughs.

On September 15th, the NYC League also celebrated National Voter Registration Day, partnering with the YMCA to register and engage voters at several locations around the city. They were also thrilled to work with the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership to register voters at Dancing for Democracy, a community celebration of the power of participation focused on helping New Yorkers get informed, get registered, and get ready to vote. Danielle Mowery, VP of Membership, along with veteran volunteer Nina Liebman, hosted a New Member orientation at their offices to share their broad range of activities and opportunities to get involved in NYC.

After a summer break, Lunch with the League returned for another season, with Kesi Foster, Director of Co-Governance at the Mayor's Office of Mass Engagement, who joined the League to share his insights into how the city plans to involve New Yorkers in governance, and what meaningful success looks like for his office.

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