

## Forum Tuesday in Rochester to focus on Voting Rights Act

Written by Staff reports

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The League of Women Voters of the Rochester Metropolitan Area will host a forum Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on a recent U.S. [Supreme Court ruling](#) that invalidated a key portion of the U.S. Voting Rights Act and what action might be taken in response to the decision.

A panel of speakers is expected to include Monroe County Board of Elections Commissioners Peter Quinn and Thomas Ferrarese; Patricia Larke, district director for U.S. Rep. Louise Slaughter, D-Fairport; and Marvin McMickle, president of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School.

The event will be at Asbury First Methodist Church, 1050 East Ave.

Speakers will trace the history of the 1963 Voting Rights Act, describe how the Supreme Court ruling affects voters in New York and outline steps Congress could take to respond to the decision.

The ruling in June dealt with part of the law that required certain states and other jurisdictions with a history of discrimination to clear any changes in their voting districts with federal authorities. The decision did not strike down the requirement altogether, but invalidated a formula used to determine which states it covers.

A League of Women Voters' announcement said because of the ruling, "the remaining processes for a citizen to file a discrimination claim about voting are more complex, costly and lengthy."

The opinion left open the option for Congress to rewrite the formula — an idea that the League of Women Voters supports.

Anyone planning to attend Tuesday's forum is asked to pre-register online at [lww-rma.org](http://lww-rma.org).