

TheVOTER



Panel Discussion:

Criminal Justice & Our Youth

September 24, 2024 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
New Hope Free Methodist Church
62 N. Union Street, Rochester 14605

- ★ Learn about the interplay between the challenges facing our community's youth and criminal justice.
- ★ Learn what is being done locally to address issues for youth charged with crimes.

Co-sponsors:



See page 3 to learn more.



FLIP YOUR BALLOT
& VOTE YES
ON PROP 1!

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President's Corner

Ready, Set, Sticker Contest!

The time is upon us to run the "I Voted" sticker contest we announced in June. We'll be promoting the contest at local colleges and the teen and children's sections of public libraries. A committee of judges will screen the submissions and select the finalists.

The Fun Part! Voting!

We'll put the finalists on our website, with a form that permits visitors to vote, using Ranked Choice Voting. How educational is that? People will be allowed to vote once per day. We'll encourage those who enter the contest to help Get Out the Vote (GOTV). Clever, no? Getting young people to get their friends and relations to vote about a voting sticker. It might just promote election awareness too.

In-Person Voting

Most votes will come in over the internet (much faster to tabulate), but we've decided to permit some limited in-person voting. We'll be offering the children's librarians a program, where we will present a short lesson on elections and voting rights, culminating in how to use Ranked Choice Voting to choose their favorite sticker design. If you like kids and you like to promote voting, perhaps you'd like to volunteer to present one of them.

Also, the Stickers

We're thinking we'll print about 5000 stickers. Our first point of distribution will be at the big joint GOTV event we're planning together with SEIU, RocACTS and some other groups for October 26. Maybe the Board of Elections (BOE) will join the fun and pass out leftovers during early voting. If we still have supplies on election day, maybe we can go to Susan B. Anthony's grave and give them away to the pilgrims who go there every year. Ideas welcome!

If you have ideas or would like to help with the contest, email us at stickers@lww-rma.org.





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62 N. Union Street, Rochester 14605



Panel discussion with:

- **Assistant Chief of Probation Cynthia Smith**
- **Maureen Polen, Esq.**
- **Judge Deral Givens**
- **Melanie Funchess**
- **Michael Green Esq.**
- **Facilitators Judge Patricia Marks and Pastor Fredrick Johnson, Sr.**

We are co-sponsoring this program with the Monroe County Bar Association Presidents' Commission on Access to Justice, and the Coalition for Racial and Social Justice. This will present the complicated interplay of challenges facing young people in our community and related criminal justice involvement, including a discussion of what is being done and what can be done to help the youth address these issues.

There has been some information circulating in the community that implies a connection between Raise the Age and Bail Reform and the uptick in certain types of crimes since COVID that does not do justice to the complicated situation. Visiting Assistant Professor Mike Green, Esq. in the RIT Department of Criminal Justice in the College of Liberal Arts, who is also the former Monroe County DA and head of the State Division of Criminal Justice, will present on the actual data, which do not support such a connection.

Assistant Chief Probation Officer of the Monroe County Office of Probation—Community Corrections Cynthia Smith will talk about the Juvenile Enhanced Diversion Stabilization (JEDS) initiative put in place after the nationwide rise in car thefts and how it has borne local results.

Maureen Polen, Esq., Program Director, Attorney for the Child Program of the Legal Aid Society, and Monroe County Family Court Judge Deral Givens will discuss what happens in family court and the youth part of criminal court so that people can understand when a youth would go to which court, why, and what happens there.

Voter Services Update



Pat Willis at Front Porch Festival

It has been a very busy time for Voter Services since the primary elections. The general election is only a few months away and we are helping more and more voters to register. During our tabling events, people are stopping by to ask how they can become involved in our work and to request voter registration events for their organizations.

Judging from the number of requests we are receiving, it will be an "all hands-on deck" scenario until election day. We encourage members and non-members to check their emails for volunteer opportunities. We cannot meet the demand without you!!



Barb Murphy and Jo Ann Kane-DeMott at the 8/13 Clarissa Street Reunion.

Multiple registration events have been held since last month's issue. They include a birthday celebration, five naturalization ceremonies, Jordan Health's Front Porch Festival, Sullivan's Chat and Chew, and the Monroe County Hall of Justice Community Connection Desk. We also provided registration services at the South Wedge Festival, the Clarissa Street Reunion, the Celebrating Creative Women event at the Susan B. Anthony Park, and the University of Rochester Resource Fair.

September 17th is National Voter Registration Day and we are working with the Central Library to offer a registration event there. Stay tuned for the details. On September 22, we will be at the Wilmot Warrior Walk/Run. And more events are in the works.

Our Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts are another hub of activity. Barbara Brody held postcard writing events on 7/19 and 8/9 at Golden Harvest Café in Henrietta. Patricia Partridge distributes cards to various churches and can provide the needed supplies for anyone who would like to work to write postcards at home.

We are meeting with the advertising partner for Regional Transit Service (RTS) to display voting information in the RTS Transit Center and at two bus shelters in low turnout neighborhoods.

We greatly appreciate our volunteers' time and talents in reaching out to voters. First time volunteers will find our team to be welcoming and supportive. We invite you all to join us in this important work.

Submitted by Deb Gordon and Cathy Kane



Volunteer Marilyn Rosen and visitor Patricia McHugh of the Susan B. Anthony Neighborhood Association. Patricia made her sash and has been a life-long proponent of voting. This was the "Celebrating Creative Women" event at Susan B. Anthony Park in honor of the 104th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment.



Naturalization Ceremonies

LWV-RMA volunteers continue to meet new citizens as they take the Oath of Allegiance at naturalization ceremonies. The volunteers provide information on voting and assist in registering the new citizens. Try to attend a naturalization ceremony sometime; our volunteers find them very rewarding.

July 16 brought Marcia Eisenberg to the Monroe County Office Building for a ceremony with 26 candidates. Also, on July 16, there was a ceremony at the Federal Building. Margret Roberts welcomed 26 candidates and helped register them for voting.

On July 23, there was a ceremony at the George Eastman Museum. JoAnn Kane-DeMott, David Newman and Marcia Eisenberg represented the League. There were 94 candidates from 40 countries. Judge Pedersen and Judge Warren officiated at the ceremony.

If any member is interested in attending a naturalization ceremony, please contact Sheila Abeling at sheiler162007@gmail.com.

Submitted by Sheila Abeling





Introducing the LWV-RMA's new Secretary

At the August Board meeting, Michele Coxander, PhD, was elected as Secretary by LWV-RMA's Board of Directors.

Michele said, "I am eager to join the Board of the League of Women Voters of the Rochester Metro Area as Secretary.

I see this as a valuable learning opportunity to understand how an organization such as this operates. My attention to detail will allow me to manage the responsibilities of the role effectively and be an asset to the Board."

Michele is a neuroscientist. Her research focuses on how the visual system integrates sensory information with ongoing perceptual, motor, and cognitive processes. Her discoveries have been published in top peer-reviewed scientific journals and covered by national and international media outlets, including NPR's Science Friday.

In addition to her scientific research, Michele and her attorney husband founded MIRA Legal, an immigration law firm in Nashville, TN. She is especially proud of MIRA's naturalization and asylum work. Asylum protects immigrants who would be seriously harmed if they were returned to their home country due to their political or religious beliefs, gender expression, or sexual orientation.

Michele also has a passion for civic engagement. She believes that the strength of our democracy depends on individual enfranchisement. She has volunteered with various grassroots organizations to strengthen voting rights and reform the way elections are funded.

Celebrate Successes

There are many good things happening within LWV-RMA. While we need all hands on-deck to "Empower Voters and Defend Democracy" we should also take time to celebrate our successes, such as:

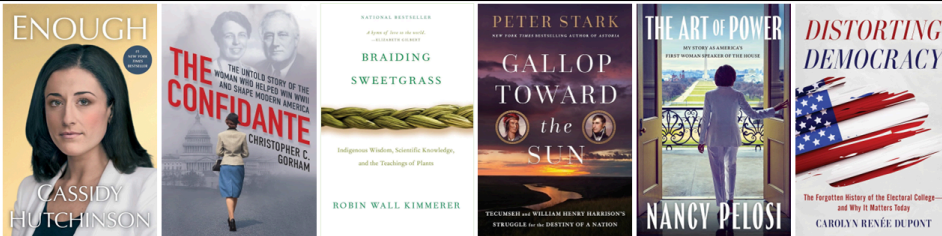
- 4 new members have joined us recently! Jona Jacobson, Janice McKae, Alice Messenger & Ginny Maier
- An RIT student, Papa Kwaku Sanaah-Faried, recently volunteered to help with data work. He has developed the monthly mailing lists for our Birthday Postcards for 18-year-olds.
- The ERA pins and flyers are being distributed widely by volunteers including in areas that we do not traditionally reach.



Book Club Program for 2024-2025

Members of the LWV-RMA Book Club met via Zoom on August 12 to identify books to read during the 2024-2025 program year. Books selected will be discussed via Zoom on the third Thursday of the month at 4:30 P.M. If you would like to participate in a particular discussion, or join the Book Club, email bookclub@lwv-rma.org. Selected were the following:

- September 19: *Enough* by Cassidy Hutchinson
- November 21: *The Confidante* by Christopher Gorham
- January 16: *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer
- March 20: *Gallop toward the Sun* by Peter Stark
- May 15: *Art of Power* by Nancy Pelosi
- July 17: *Distorting Democracy* by Carolyn Renee Dupont.



Calendar of LWV-RMA Upcoming Activities

The best way to be informed about various League events is to use the on-line calendar. You can click on an event and obtain information and register. You do not need to be a member, or sign in, to access the calendar. The on-line calendar is updated frequently and is more current than a newsletter can be. You can see future (or past) months activities by easily using the < > buttons. Access the Calendar [here](#).

In September there will be TWO Events:

First Friday AND Third Friday

- At I-Square in Irondequoit
- 11:30 to ? Come and go as you can
- No agenda but lots get done
- Great way to make new contacts



PO Box 10573
Rochester, NY 14610
585-262-3730
www.LWV-RMA.org

**NEXT VOTER DEADLINE:
September 15**

League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, political organization which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

The League of Women Voters is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in principal and in practice.

League membership is open to any person who subscribes to the League's purposes and policies.

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Board of Directors:

President	Barbara Grosh (23-25)
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Director	Karen Morris (24-26)

Committee Contacts

President: Barbara Grosh

President@LWV-RMA.org

Book Club: Judy Weinstein

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Communication/PR:

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Membership: Deb Leary

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Nominating: Mary Hussong-Kallen

nominations@LWV-RMA.org

Programs: Barbara Grosh

President@LWV-RMA.org

Vote411: Isobel Gillen

vote411@LWV-RMA.org

Voter Services: Deb Gordon / Cathy Kane

Voterservices@LWV-RMA.org

Join the League Today!



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ Email _____

Check Amount: _____

Membership Level: _____

Please send this form and your check payable to
League of Women Voters/RMA to:
LWV-RMA
PO Box 10573
Rochester, NY 14610
Or join us online at:

https://members.lwv-rma.org/members/newmem/new-mem-reg.php?org_id=LWVR

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Individual / Associate	\$75.00
Household	\$105.00
Susan B. Anthony / Frederick Douglas	\$150.00
Carrie Chapman Catt	\$200.00
Student (full or part time at accredited institution)	FREE
Low income, call office at 585-262-3730 or send email to info@lwv-rma.org	Sliding