

# TheVOTER

**LWV-RMA and The Rochester Alumnae Chapter of the  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. present:**



## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM**

## **WHAT LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE FIGHTING FOR**

**Monday, April 29, 2019**

**7:00 – 9:00 P.M .**

**Asbury First United Methodist Church**

**1050 East Avenue, Rochester, NY**

*Accessible Parking,*

*Building Access in the Rear*

Preregister at [www.lwv-rma.org](http://www.lwv-rma.org)

or 262-3730.

*More information on page 3*

### **LEARN ABOUT -**

Solitary Confinement Reform,  
Police Transparency and Statistics,  
Pretrial Detention Reforms,  
A Rochester Police Accountability Board,  
2019 District Attorney Election



**Share with family, friends, colleagues**

## Leadership Corner

As we move closer to the warmth of spring, there are many League members warming up for an informative spring program season and a well-informed election season. As you read this column, the March 25 Climate Change forum has concluded. We thank the panelists for their insightful comments and ideas to spur us all to become a part of this cause and truly “change the world.” As always, you can find a video of this forum on our website if you were unable to attend. If we each do a small part to combat climate change, just imagine the possibilities!

In April, our forum will focus on various aspects of criminal justice reform (*see details on page 3*). This is an opportunity to get involved in our local community. One objective of the forum is to introduce the audience to local advocacy groups that are championing reform. We hope you will come to learn more about these initiatives. Should you be interested, you will be able to get involved immediately. If you are a person of ACTION, you will like the structure of this event as it aims to educate and activate participation in the efforts within our community.

Watch for the announcement of the upcoming forum on the new election law changes. As you might expect, the Board of Elections is very busy trying to digest the legislation regarding early voting as well as the other reforms that were newly signed into law. As the plans get solidified, we hope to organize an educational session led by the Board of Elections. This will be an exciting event as it is the result of many years of hard work by Leagues across New York State. You are a key element behind these historically significant new laws and we hope you will bring your family and neighbors to hear how these changes will be implemented in Monroe County.

Finally, your next decade of governmental support and representation will be decided as a result of the 2020 Census. This critical process will be the subject of our May forum. Again, we hope to combine an educational focus partnered with an opportunity to get engaged with the process (*see details on page 3*).

Sincere thanks to the Program Committee and the many individuals who are working to organize these events. If there are ever topics you would like to see included in our community education programs, please reach out to one of the leadership team members or to Ann Carmody, Chair of the Program Committee at [ann.carmody2012@gmail.com](mailto:ann.carmody2012@gmail.com).

This letter cannot conclude without offering many thanks to those who volunteered to be a part of the Vote411 Team. This League is a model of volunteer

generosity! With your help, we will support an online education center to learn about the candidates running in the upcoming elections. While an individual could be overwhelmed with handling the maintenance of Vote411 (depending on the number of candidates running), as an old adage says, “many hands make light work.” Thank you for your many hands. With them, we will produce an exemplary repository of information.

May the spring fever catch you and activate you toward the many opportunities in the League.

In League,

**Gin Busack:** (585) 467-6131, [ginbusack@aol.com](mailto:ginbusack@aol.com)

**Kim Byers:** (585) 247-4958,  
[lwv.roc.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:lwv.roc.volunteer@gmail.com)

**Judy Weinstein:** (585) 721-8515,  
[j.weinstein.roc@gmail.com](mailto:j.weinstein.roc@gmail.com)

**LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK!** 

We know you'll “like” us!

[www.facebook.com/lwvofrma](http://www.facebook.com/lwvofrma)

### Inside this issue:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Criminal Justice Reform .....               | 1 |
| Leadership Corner .....                     | 2 |
| LWV-RMA Forums in April & May .....         | 3 |
| Criminal Justice Reform                     |   |
| Census 2020                                 |   |
| Paths for Solutions to Climate Change ..... | 4 |
| Suffragism .....                            | 5 |
| Ida B. Wells .....                          | 5 |
| LWV-RMA Annual Meeting Notice .....         | 6 |
| Calendar of Events .....                    | 7 |
| First Fridays .....                         | 7 |
| Leadership .....                            | 8 |

## LWV-RMA Forums in April and May



### CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM: WHAT LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE FIGHTING FOR

Monday April 29, 2019

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Asbury First United Methodist Church

This forum on reforming the criminal justice system, co-sponsored with the Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, will look at statewide and local Criminal Justice issues that people in our area are working on.

#### Opening Remarks:

**Simeon Banister**, *Vice President, Community Programs, Rochester Area Community Foundation*

#### Panelists, Issues and Legislation:

**Iman Abid**, *Director, Genesee Valley Chapter of New York Civil Liberties Union:*

Police Statistics and Transparency (STAT) Act and Repeal of NYS Civil Rights Law Section 50-a

**Kathleen FitzPatrick**, *Co-Chair, Criminal Justice Task Force of Rochester Alliance of Communities Transforming Society (Roc/ACTS):*

Humane Alternatives to Long Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act

**Ashley Gantt**, *Western NY Organizer, Just Leadership USA and FREEnewyork:*

Bail, Discovery and Speedy Trial Reform Bills and the 2019 District Attorney Election – role and discretionary powers of a DA.

**Pastor Wanda Wilson**, *Executive Committee, Police Accountability Board Alliance (PABA):*

Community campaign for a strong Police Accountability Board.

Information for getting involved and advocacy actions will be provided.



### Coming Soon: Census 2020: Dispelling Myths & Concerns

May 20, 6:30 P.M., FIGHT Village Community Center, 186 Ward Street, Rochester

The League is pleased to partner with the Faith Alliance of Greater Rochester to present information on Census 2020 – when it will take place and why it is important. The program will include welcomes by Bishop Willie Davis and Minister Clifford Florence.

Presenters will include Susan Perry of the U.S. Census Bureau who will provide the latest information on court decisions on inclusion of citizenship question(s).

## Paths for Solutions to Climate Change

On March 25, the League of Women Voters RMA and Rochester People's Climate Coalition (RPCC) cosponsored a discussion of "Climate Change: Paths for Solutions."

Before the program began, a choir consisting of Raging Grannies entertained participants with songs with lyrics related to global warming issues sung to familiar melodies.

**Moderator Linda Isaacson Fedele** provided an overview of RPCC, noting that it is working to achieve carbon neutrality in Monroe County by 2027, and to make the Rochester region the first in the nation to go to all electric power.

Panelists described four potential systemic solutions:

**Melissa Carlson**, member of RPCC, discussed the Community Choice Aggregation initiative, which is seeking to make electricity supplied by renewable sources and purchased by local municipalities. Locally, a cooperative plan developed by Brighton, Irondequoit, and Pittsford has been approved by the Public Service Commission.

**Barbara Grosh, PhD**, member of League of Women Voters; member of Mothers Out Front, described PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) financing which, if approved, would provide tax abatement for commercial property owners to make environmental improvements. Similar plans have been adopted by a number of NYS counties, and the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce approves the plan.

**Susan Hughes-Smith**, Adjunct Professor of Environmental Health at The College at Brockport and of Environmental Studies at RIT; Co-founder of the Rochester People's Climate Coalition, discussed four state-level governmental initiatives that would help to mitigate the effects of global warming.

**Peter Collenge**, retired Professor of Mathematics at MCC, reviewed federal attempts to develop climate control legislation since climate change has become a partisan issue.



ROBERT WITHERS PHOTOS

UPPER LEFT: Lois Winterkorn and Ida Holloran welcoming participants.

UPPER RIGHT: Members of Raging Grannies entertaining participants before the program began.

LOWER: Greeter Ann Carmody, Moderator Linda Isaacson Fidele, and Panelists Melissa Carlson, Dr. Barbara Grosh, Susan Hughes-Smith, and Peter Collenge.

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK! 

We know you'll "like" us!

[www.facebook.com/lwvofrma](http://www.facebook.com/lwvofrma)

## Suffragism



### Ida B. Wells

Journalist, suffragist and anti-lynching crusader, Ida B. Wells was a fearless activist for racial and gender equality. After witnessing the horrors of lynching in the Jim Crow South, Wells moved to Illinois and began speaking out about the racist violence being directed at African Americans. By the 1890s, Wells' anti-lynching crusade was taken up by various women's clubs across the nation, and that issue, along with women's suffrage, became the platforms upon which the National Association of Colored Women was founded in 1896. Wells also went on to establish the Alpha Suffrage Club, the largest black woman's suffrage club in Illinois, and in 1913, she defiantly marched with white suffragists in the National American Women's Suffrage Association's Washington D.C. march, despite organizers' instructions that black women remain at the back of the parade. The resulting press coverage assured black women of their place in the suffrage movement.

SOURCE: <https://www.stuffmomnevertoldyou.com/blogs/9-african-american-suffragists8.htm>



Courtesy: Memphis Commercial Appeal



To learn more about those who struggled to give women the right to vote, check out this article: Lisa Mundy. "The Long Battle for Women's Suffrage." Smithsonian Magazine. April 2019

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/long-battle-womens-suffrage-180971637/>



**It's nearly time and you will be WISE (Warmly Invited and Strongly Encouraged) to attend our Annual Meeting!**

Please plan to join us on Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at Locust Hill Country Club.

- Vote for new slate of candidates to our Board of Directors and Nominating Committee and the Budget for 2019-2020
- Honor Milestone League members
- Celebrate Carrie Chapman Catt & Making Democracy Work Award winners
- Acknowledge the members who earned You Make Us Proud Awards this year
- Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, coffee, tea, cash bar – and wonderful company!

***Cost is just \$10 again this year!***

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**





# Coming Events!



## April

- 5 First Friday (11:00 A.M., I-Square, 400 Bakers Park)
- 8 Board of Directors Meeting (Noon, Asbury First UMC, 1010 East Avenue)
- 11 Book Club (10:00 A.M., Greenhouse Café, 2271 East Main Street, Rochester) – *Fascism: A Warning* by Madeleine Albright
- 17 'A Free Enterprise Solution to Climate Change (5:00 P.M., Riverside Convention Center)
- 25 Naturalization (9:00 A.M., Minerva Deland School, Fairport)
- 29 Forum: Criminal Justice Reform. Asbury First United Methodist Church (7:00 P.M.)
- 30 League Lobby Day (NYS Museum, Albany)
- 30 Naturalization (1:00 P.M., Rochester City Hall)

## May

- 2 Naturalization (1:00 P.M., RIT)
- 3 First Friday (11:00 A.M., I-Square, 400 Bakers Park)
- 9 Naturalization (10:00 A.M., Monroe County Office)
- 13 Board of Directors Meeting (Noon, Asbury First UMC, 1010 East Avenue)
- 20 Forum: Census 2020: Dispelling Myths & Concerns, (6:30 P.M. FIGHT Village Community Center, 186 Ward Street, Rochester)

# VOTE.



*Be sure to check your email and our website for other events as they are scheduled!*

## Don't Miss First Fridays with LWV-RMA

Join League colleagues for lunch or a mid-day coffee break each First Friday of the month, 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. at I-Square, 400 Bakers Park, at Titus Avenue, Irondequoit, NY 14617.

No need to RSVP. Pencil us in on your calendar and join when you can!

There's a place at the table for you!

May 3  
June 7



Board of Directors meets monthly on the second Monday of each month from noon - 2:00 P.M. at Asbury First UMC. Board meetings are open to all members.

Government Committee meets monthly. For details, call Elaine Schmidt at 530-7414.

Naturalization ceremonies are usually held on second Thursday of each month. Check League website for updated info each month.

Forums are open to the public. Calendar information is subject to change.

For more complete information, consult our website at [www.LWV-RMA.org](http://www.LWV-RMA.org), call 262-3730 or e-mail us at [info@lwv-rma.org](mailto:info@lwv-rma.org)

PO Box 10573  
Rochester, NY 14610  
585-262-3730  
[www.LWV-RMA.org](http://www.LWV-RMA.org)

A Monthly Publication of the  
League of Women Voters/Rochester Metropolitan Area

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Leadership Team**

Gin Busack (2018-2019)  
Kim Byers (2018-2019)  
Judy Weinstein (2018-2019)

**Treasurer** Elaine Schmidt (2017-2019)  
**Recording Secretary** Judy Sternberg (2018-2020)  
**Corresponding Secretary** Marion O'Connor (2017-2019)

**Director** Ann Carmody (2018-2020)  
**Director** Mary Hussong-Kallen (2018-2019)  
**Director** Barbara Kay (2017-2019)  
**Director** Kris Rogers (2018-2020)  
**Director** Gail Wilder (2018-2020)

**COMMITTEE CONTACTS**

Looking for info on a League committee or activity? Look no further!

**Advocacy/Government**, Ann Carmody  
[Advocacy@lwv-rma.org](mailto:Advocacy@lwv-rma.org)  
[government@lwv-rma.org](mailto:government@lwv-rma.org)

**Communication/PR**, Mary Hussong-Kallen  
[communications@lwv-rma.org](mailto:communications@lwv-rma.org)

**Election Services/Naturalization**, Sheila Abeling  
[Sheiler162007@gmail.com](mailto:Sheiler162007@gmail.com)

**Fair Election Practices Campaign**, Kris Rogers  
[fepc@lwv-rma.org](mailto:fepc@lwv-rma.org)

**Membership**, Mary Garfield  
[membership@lwv-rma.org](mailto:membership@lwv-rma.org)

**Programs**, Ann Carmody  
[ann.carmody2012@gmail.com](mailto:ann.carmody2012@gmail.com)

**VOTE411**, Judy Weinstein  
[vote411@lwv-rma.org](mailto:vote411@lwv-rma.org)

**Voter Services**, Gin Busack  
[voterservices@lwv-rma.org](mailto:voterservices@lwv-rma.org)

*The Voter is a  
monthly publication  
of the LWV-RMA*

*Editor,  
Judy Wadsworth*

*Layout/Design,  
Chris Burleigh*

**MAY VOTER  
DEADLINE IS APRIL 15!**

**League of Women Voters-Rochester Metro Area  
Mission Statement**

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

Voter education is one of the League's most important functions, and the League encourages all citizens to register and to cast an informed vote.

The League does not support political parties or candidates, but does take stands on important issues after careful study and research.

Membership in the League is open to all persons who are at least 16 years of age.

Those under 16 can be associate members.

**Goals of the League of Women Voters:**

- To encourage informed citizen participation in government and politics
- To influence public policy through education and advocacy

**Join the League Today!**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Level of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

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: [www.lwv-rma.org/join.php](http://www.lwv-rma.org/join.php)

**MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:**

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Individual/Associate . . . . .  | \$75              |
| Household . . . . .   | \$105             |
| Susan B. Anthony/Frederick Douglass . . . . .                               | \$150             |
| Carrie Chapman Catt . . . . .   | \$200             |
| Student . . . . .   | FREE              |
| Low income, call office at 262-3730 . . . . .                               | \$sliding \$scale |
| or send an email to: <a href="mailto:info@lwv-rma.org">info@lwv-rma.org</a> |                   |