

TheVOTER

Early Voting Comes to New York State This Fall!

**One of the key reforms
supported by the LWV:
—early voting—
begins this fall.**

New York State



**Early
Voting**

See page 3 for more.

Leadership Corner

What does it mean to you to be a member of the League of Women Voters? While this is a personal question for you to consider, does one or more of the following answer this question for you?

- Protecting the future of democracy
- Promoting expanded voter participation and equipping voters with essential information about elections and the voting process
- Defending and expanding the rights of voters
- Supporting free, fair and accessible elections

This publication will report on the many ways in which the members of the Rochester League are taking actions to address these topics.

The voice of the League helped pass early voting, which will go into effect with the upcoming election. Now, we stand ready to raise our voice and our hands to support the Complete Count initiative for the Census. We recently hosted members of the Rochester-Monroe County Complete Count Committee at an educational forum (see coverage of this event on page 4). Consider joining the voices heard at this event to become active in achieving the goals of this Census initiative.

The People Powered Fair Maps Campaign is the next opportunity to raise our voices. This is a national redistricting campaign that is focused on creating fair political maps nationwide. In New York state, the goal is to pass or protect state laws implementing a fair redistricting process. This approach includes looking for opportunities to improve public input in the redistricting process and to move forward laws that increase transparency. See page 9 and the LWV US website for more details on this program (<https://www.lwv.org/redistricting/people-powered-fair-maps-campaign>) and look for upcoming opportunities to participate in this advocacy initiative.

What does it mean to you to be a member of the League of Women Voters?

The voice of the League is heard in your actions, in your support, in your volunteerism, in your financial commitment. That sound you hear is your voice, compounded with the voices of your fellow members in LWV-RMA. May the sound continue to grow and the community impact continue to speak to the strength of civic engagement.

We would love to hear your voice. Contact us with ideas and suggestions.

In League, your Co-Presidents

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OUR LIVES BEGIN TO END THE DAY WE BECOME SILENT ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER.

Martin Luther King Jr.



Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|----|
| Early Voting Comes to New York | 1 |
| Leadership Corner | 2 |
| Be a Voter: NYS Now has Early Voting | 3 |
| September LWV Census Forum | 4 |
| Pay Equity Update | 5 |
| Fair Election Practices Campaign Pledge Recognition Ceremony | 6 |
| Naturalization Ceremonies | 6 |
| Vote411 Update | 7 |
| Voter Services | 8 |
| LWVUS Campaign to Focus on Redistricting | 9 |
| 2019-2020 Book Club Selections | 10 |
| Election Commissioner Tom Ferrarese Retires | 11 |
| Annual Suffragist City Parade and Block Party 2019 | 11 |
| City Council Candidate Forums Cancelled | 12 |
| LWV-RMA Speaks Up on Behalf of Clean Renewable Energy | 12 |
| Calendar | 13 |
| First Fridays | 13 |
| Leadership | 14 |

be a Voter!

***New York State now has Early Voting!
Vote at any of these locations or times!***

Voting is about to get easier for New Yorkers. One of the key reforms adopted this year by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor is the provision for early voting across the state.

General Election Day is November 5, 2019, but for those who wish, early voting is now being offered October 26 – November 3.

EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Saturday, October 26 | 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. |
| Sunday, October 27 | 1:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. |
| Monday, October 28 | 7:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. |
| Tuesday, October 29 | Noon – 8:00 P.M. |
| Wednesday, October 30 | Noon – 8:00 P.M. |
| Thursday, October 31 | 7:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. |
| Friday, November 1 | 7:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. |
| Saturday, November 2 | 1:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. |
| Sunday, November 3 | 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. |

EARLY VOTING SITES

As of September 16, seven locations for early voting have been identified:

Greece Town Hall, 3 Vince Tofany Blvd.

Ogden Town Hall, 269 Ogden Center Road

Monroe Community College Downtown Campus, 321 State Street

Penfield Town Hall, 3100 Atlantic Avenue

The Marketplace Mall, 1 Miracle Drive

Ridge Culver Plaza (former Fallas store), 2255 East Ridge Road

SUNY Empire State College, 680 Westfall Road.

Voters who are registered anywhere in Monroe County may vote in any of the seven locations.

Remember: If you choose to vote on November 5, you can only vote at your designated voting location, as in previous elections.

There is a proposal to increase the number of voting sites to 15. Watch news coverage as October 26 approaches to learn if more sites become available.

To learn more, visit the LWVNYS website, nyearlyvoting.org.

This resource features an FAQ section and access to a brochure on early voting.

SOURCES:

LWVNYS

Matthew Leonard. "Early voting is here: What you need to know." Rochester Democrat & Chronicle. September 15, 2019, page 4A.

Melting Logo Draws Attention to Global Warming



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF ROCHESTER METROPOLITAN AREA



Our "melting logo" demonstrates that LWV-RMA has accepted the challenge from Rochester People's Climate Coalition (RPCC) to raise awareness in our community and to unite to fight climate change. The LWV-RMA logo on our Facebook page has been "melted" for one week to show our support.

September LWV Census Forum

LWV CENSUS FORUM: CENSUS IS SAFE, EASY, & IMPORTANT

On September 23, LWV-RMA hosted a forum on the importance of the 2020 Census in determining political representation and the allocation of federal funds – and on ways to ensure that ALL people are counted (once and in the right place). A panel representing groups involved in the 2020 Census in Monroe County provided an overview of steps being taken locally to ensure an accurate Census count.

Susan Perry, Partnership Specialist at the U.S. Census Bureau, reviewed the purpose of the Census. She noted that:

- People may respond in 2020 using the Internet, phone, paper, or personal visit by a Census employee;
- Personal information collected by the Census Bureau cannot by law be used against respondents by any government agency or court (including ICE);
- LWV-RMA members can help by promoting Census participation within our communities and by promoting the availability of Census jobs.

Alex Yudelson of the Rochester-Monroe County Complete Count Committee discussed how this group is concentrating on reaching hard to count populations in our region, both urban and rural,

since federal aid formulas are based on numbers of people. He sought LWV-RMA help in promoting Census involvement.

Sherry Johnson, Executive Director of Monroe County School Boards Association, used graphics to explain the dependence of federal and state education aid formulas on data collected by the Census.

Cynthia Dana, a representative of Monroe County Librarians, shared ways that libraries in our county are preparing to help people complete the census forms electronically using computers in libraries, via extended hours, mobile community libraries, and shuttle busing.

In addition, those in attendance met at tables to discuss other strategies that could be used to ensure that hard to count residents in our county participate in the 2020 Census.

To learn more, please contact:

www.census.gov (census purposes)

www.2020census.gov/jobs (available census jobs)

[uscensusbureau](https://www.uscensusbureau.com) (via Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram)

eitan.sirkovich@cityofrochester.gov (Rochester Monroe Complete County Committee)



TOP: Panelists Susan Perry, Alex Yudelson, Sherry Johnson, and Cynthia Dana.

INSETS: LWV Members Elaine Schmidt videotaping the session to post on the LWV-RMA website, and Ann Carmody moderating the forum.

BOTTOM: Meeting participants discussing additional ways to reach hard-to-count residents.

Pay Equity Update

Earlier this year, the NYS Government passed legislation supporting pay equity. Now comes the hard work of implementing that legislation. We need to keep on top of this as the gaps in pay have increased since 2018, as shown in the graphic at the right.

In 2018, the League joined the Pay Equity Coalition (PayEquityCoalition.com) which includes Action for A Better Community (ABC), American Association of University Women (AAUW), Citizen Action, Ibero-American Action League, La Cumbre, National Organization of Women of Greater Rochester (NOW), St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center Inc., The Children's Agenda, and the Urban League of Rochester.

Since 2018, the coalition has held Equal Pay Day events for Latinas, Black/African American women, and all women. September 23 marked the day in 2019 when Native American Women would earn what white, non-Hispanic men doing the same work earned in 2018. For Latinas in the Rochester Metropolitan Area, Latina Equal Pay Day is not until November 20, almost three weeks later than it was in 2018 because the pay gap became worse.

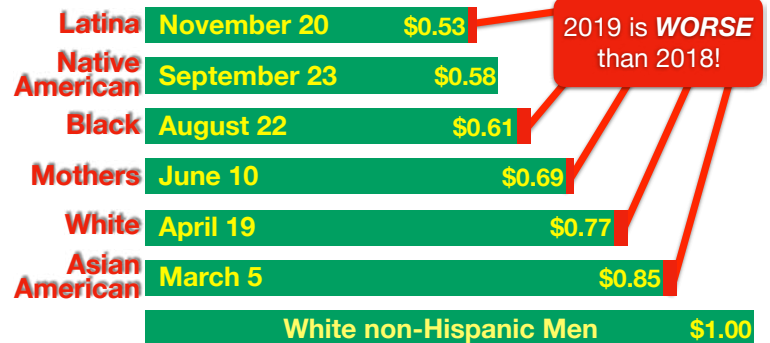
The pictures below were taken at the August 22 Equal Pay Rally for Black/African American women, one of few events of this kind in the nation. They showcase some of the more than 100 men and women attending, as well as some of the city, county, and state officials who spoke.

Watch social media and the LWV-RMA calendar for the Latina Equal Pay Day event of November 20, designed to educate and activate advocates. See the 2019 Latina Equal Pay Day Rally & Press Conference (<https://bit.ly/2OGZ8mz>) for details. Plan to join the rally to show your support.

Ida Holloran hollorai@gmail.com

Julie Damerell Julie.damerell@gmail.com

Every Day is Noncents! 2019 Equal Pay Days



equalpaytoday.org/equalpaydays



TOP LEFT: Officials who addressed the August 22 rally. TOP RIGHT: Gin Busack with a placard. BOTTOM LEFT: Kim Byers with a sign. BOTTOM RIGHT: Media covering the rally.

Fair Election Practices Campaign Pledge Recognition Ceremony

120 CANDIDATES COMMIT TO FAIR ELECTION PRACTICES

The LWV-RMA and The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) held a ceremony on September 12 in the atrium of the Monroe County Office Building, recognizing candidates who signed the Fair Campaign Pledge for this year's General Election. A total of 120 candidates in County-wide and local races have signed the Pledge, committing to running positive, issue-oriented campaigns. The names of all candidates who signed the Pledge are listed on the League of Women Voters' website at www.lwv-rma.org.

The Fair Election Practices Hearing Panel accepts properly filed complaints from candidates who signed the Pledge and will continue to hear complaints until November 4, the day before Election Day. Hearing decisions will be released to the media and posted on the League of Women Voters' website.

For more information about the Fair Campaign Pledge and the FEPC, please visit the League of Women Voters' website or contact Kristina Rogers at fepec@lwv-rma.org.

LWV-RMA Co-President Judy Sternberg reading the names of candidates who signed the FEPC pledge; County Executive candidates Cheryl Dinolfo and Adam Bello signing the FEPC pledge; and FEPC Chair Kris Rogers leading the FEPC ceremony.

Naturalization Ceremonies

LWV-RMA members attended two naturalization ceremonies in August. On August 8, Marcia Eisenberg welcomed 45 new citizens during the naturalization rite at the Monroe County Office Building led by the Honorable Judith Sinclair. Margaret Supinski helped register new citizens to vote at the Federal Building on August 29 during naturalization ceremonies led by the Honorable David Larimer for 53 new citizens.

Thank you to all of our Naturalization volunteers! We could not be there for all the naturalized citizens if it wasn't for your dedication to this project.

Sheila Abeling sheiler162007@gmail.com



New citizens with Justice David Larimer on August 29.



Vote411 Update

Vote411, the League voter information website, has a new look. It will take fewer clicks to see the candidates on your ballot and view their responses to League questions. As of mid-September, more than 100 candidates had posted and several others indicated that they planned on posting before the Monroe County races went live on September 23. Please check out your ballot and note which of your candidates have responded. When you see candidates or their representatives, either thank them for posting or ask why they haven't.

We posed several questions to the candidates for each office. Here are some of them:

- How would you balance the promotion of development in our town with protection of the environment? Please discuss Community Choice Aggregation and/or other specific proposals. (Town Supervisor and Councilmembers)
- The City of Rochester Climate Action Plan (CAP) was endorsed by City Council in May 2017. (<http://www.cityofrochester.gov/climateactionplan/>) How high a priority would you give addressing Climate Change in our county? And what specific measures would you take to coordinate City and County efforts to address and mitigate Climate Change in our county? (County Executive and County Legislators).
- What recommendations of the 2019 Rochester Distinguished Educator Report would you support for 2019-2020 school year? (Rochester Commissioner of Schools)
- Identify one initiative that City Council could propose to address youth crime. (Rochester City Council).

Many thanks to the committee members for their assistance: Christine Booth, Julie Damerell, Renee Frazier, Deborah Gordon, Judy Hartmann, Myra Pelz, Chris Pryor and Gail Wilder.

Visit Vote411 for the Election Information You Need!

Judy Weinstein, *Vote411 Chair*

j.weinstein.roc@gmail.com

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK!



We know you'll "like" us!

www.facebook.com/lwvofrma



ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED
**BE INFORMED.
VOTE
INFORMED.**

TO GET INFORMATION
ABOUT CANDIDATES ON
YOUR BALLOT VISIT
VOTE411.ORG



Not voting is not a statement.

It's rendering yourself invisible.

It is silencing your own voice.

It is self-marginalization.

It's allowing your future to be determined by other people and pretending that's a victory.

Register.

Vote.

Make a statement.

Voter Services

SPOTLIGHT ON LWV-RMA GOTV TEAM

LWV Voting Videos: 4 short videos are in various stages of production from completed, being edited, to in-planning. They cover "How to Vote", "Choose a Political Party", "Parolee Voting Rights", and "Early Voting". When done they will be made widely available through our website, social media pages, LWV-RMA YouTube Channel, as well as through the Board of Elections, and multiple community organizations. The first three of these will be released by the end of September. Major thanks to Barbara Grosh who has produced, written, directed and edited the videos. Elaine Schmidt and Rocky Coomber shot the live action videos and had input in the editing.

Postcards: 1,000 voting info and reminder postcards will be sent to randomly selected registered voters who did not vote in 2016 or who have newly registered since then. All recipients will be from a single, low-turnout district within Monroe County. Results of 2019 turnout will later be compared to a similarly low-turnout district that did not receive the targeted postcards to assess for effectiveness. College students will be helping with personalized messages on the cards. Julie Damerell, Myra Pelz, Ann Carmody, Judy Hartmann and Gail Wilder are involved in this effort.

Text Messaging Service: Text messaging to voluntarily enrolled registered voters will start going out a couple of weeks before the Early Voting period, October 26 - November 3. Initial messages will include links to Vote411.org and to our voting videos. These will be followed by prompts to make a plan for when, where and how a voter will go to the polls. Finally, there will be day-of reminders with day-to-day Early Voting hours. Team members are Barbara Grosh, Judy Sternberg and Myra Pelz.

Lawn Signs: "I'm a Voter – Join Me" signs will be distributed in early October to proud voters who are willing to be neighborhood influencers.

Hospitals Affidavit Voting: Expansion of a service begun last year in collaboration with the Board of Elections and an attorney volunteer. On November 4th, League volunteers will circulate in participating hospitals (likely two) and obtain requests for affidavit ballots from in-patients. Those volunteers will return on November 5th, with the ballots for those hospitalized voters and see that the completed ballots get returned to the BOE. Attorneys will participate to oversee and validate the process. Gin Busack and Barbara Grosh head up this effort.

Additional active team members are: David Newman, Deb Leary, and Diane Stengel.

Voter Registration Month – September

National Voter Registration Day this year was September 24th, but it seems with all the voter registration activity that takes place in September the entire month should be recognized. On the 24th, we conducted five registration events and one training session on conducting voter registration. In addition, Kim Byers wrote and submitted a Letter to the Editor of the D&C. Totals for the month were twelve events, several of those on college campuses, including Nazareth, Eastman School of Music, RIT, and MCC-Brighton. Other events took place at the Rochester Public Market, Maplewood Branch Library, Henrietta Library, Suffragist City Parade and Block Party, and at the NYS Association For Affordable Housing Conference. Upcoming in October are another day at the Public Market on October 5, the Autumn Roots Festival on October 5, Project Homeless Connect on October 15, and Halloween at the Market on October 27.

Thanks to our September voter registration volunteers: Deb Leary, Kim Byers, Joan Al den, Jane Beck, Rosina Curren, Tanya Davis, Georgia DeGregorio, Deb Gordon, Carole Haas, Rebecca Johnson, Patrick Macey, Kathy Mock, Marion O'Connor, Joan Rosenthal, Elaine Schmidt, Clare Shea, Katherine Smith, Diane Stengel, Judy Sternberg, Elaine Walker, Susan Weinberg, Gail Wilder, and Donna Williams.

Additional Voter Services Activities

Voter Services is also active in responding to inquiries from assorted individuals, organizations and other Leagues. In September:

- We participated in the LWV of Schuyler County Early Voting Forum. Katherine Smith and Elaine Schmidt graciously traveled to Watkins Glen on September 11 to be presenters for that program.
- We contributed to the new LWV-NYS GOTV toolkit featuring local league GOTV initiatives. Barbara Grosh is our GOTV contact person.
- We provided voter registration training and support to NYS Disability Rights Advocates and to NYS Association For Affordable Housing Property Managers.

Judy Sternberg, jsternberg3b@gmail.com

The League hopes to include an advocacy component in each of its educational forums this year.

LWVUS Campaign to Focus on Redistricting: People Powered Fair Maps (PPFM)

The LWVUS has developed the "People Powered Fair Maps (PPFM): A National Redistricting Campaign for All Levels of League." LWVUS leaders call the initiative a powerful collaboration between national, state, and local Leagues aimed at building power in communities across the country. They see the initiative as a way to focus redistricting work with a reform plan that allows entry by all levels of LWV and a way to build capacity around a single topic.

PPFM "Areas of Focus" include the following:

- Ballot Initiative and Referendums – Develop educational materials, recruit volunteers, collect signatures, organize at the state level using workgroups with LWV member experts.
- State Constitutional Options – Develop educational materials, conduct public dialogues, meet with lawmakers, develop grassroots and grass-tops advocacy, build coalitions, consult with dedicated legal partners.
- State Legislative Fixes – Develop action alerts, write letters and op ed columns, provide training in areas such as testifying, train members for advocacy, develop power mapping, support legislation drafting.
- Federal Legislative Fixes – Promote Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019 (VRAA), For the People Act (to protect First Amendment rights), in-state advocacy campaigns, a media campaign, and 'spank' and 'thank' efforts.

In September, the LWVUS presented a webinar on Policy & Action: Redistricting 202

This webinar looked at the manner in which the states are structured to conduct redistricting. New York was classified as using an Advisory Commission which was defined as a group that is appointed by the legislature; partisanship is imbedded in the committee process. The majority of the conference was focused on presentations by league members from California and Washington state.

California's completely independent and successful commission involves the following elements:

1. Politicians have no influence in drawing the lines.
2. The process is open and transparent to the public and involved many focus groups to develop.
3. Criteria, ranked by importance, were established to guide the drawing of the lines:
 - a. Reasonably equal population
 - b. Voting rights compliance

- c. Geographic contiguity
 - d. Respect for neighborhoods, city, and county boundaries, and communities of interest
 - e. Geographic compactness, as much as possible given higher criteria
 - f. Nesting, as much as possible given higher criteria
 - g. No consideration of place of residence of incumbent or candidate
4. The League spoke to the process only, monitoring and advocating for process compliance. The League did not participate in the drawing the lines.
 5. Commissioners must be trained prior to the start of the redistricting process.

The Washington state process was similar with two exceptions:

1. They did not rank the criteria, which they saw as a possible future improvement.
2. The legislature appointed the commissioners, who tended to be senior politicians. This drove compromising where the lines were drawn to balance the districts between the parties.

Next steps by LWVUS:

- The LWVUS will work with LWV state leaders to determine how to engage in the campaign at the local level.
(All states will receive a grant to support this work by November.)
- The LWVUS will report on progress coordinating through state LWVs.
- LWVUS will seek philanthropic contributions. Gifts by members and others will enable greater reach to individuals, voters, and elected officials.

The hope and expectation are that LWV members at all levels will be actively involved in the national campaign on redistricting. Look for more information on redistricting as LWVNYs formulates the NYS strategy and engages the local Leagues

To learn more now, go to <https://www.lwv.org/redistricting/people-powered-fair-maps-campaign>.
 Graphics from LWVUS presentation at: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/people-powered-fair-maps-campaign-tele-town-hall>

The Redistricting "Work"

Exercising, Enhancing, and Building Future Power



- Advocacy/Education
- Organizing & Mobilizing
- Establish Partnerships
- Implementation
- Protection/Defensive Action
- Litigation

2019-2020 Book Club Selections Identified

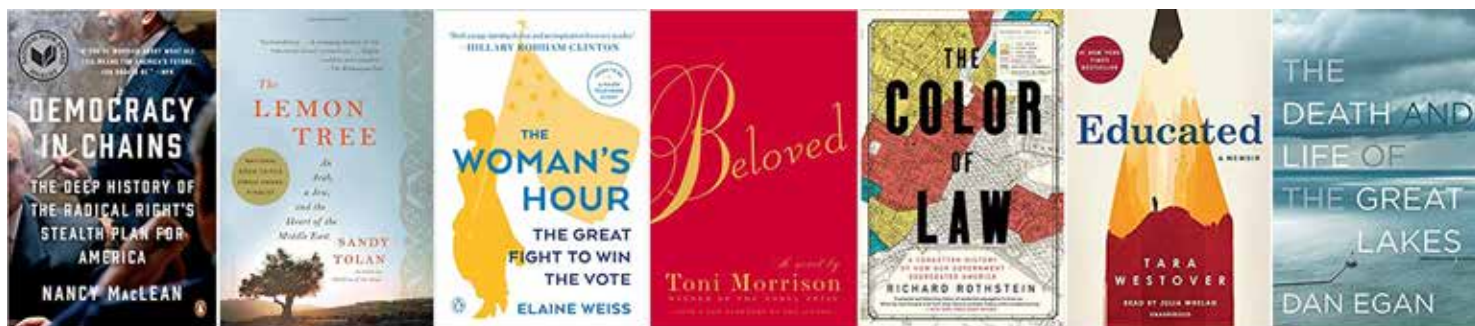
At a meeting on August 19, interested LWV-RMA members identified seven books to discuss at monthly meetings during the coming program year.

The group meets at the Greenhouse Café at 10:00 A.M. (Note: The meeting will occur on the 2nd Thursday in October). The dates, books and volunteer discussion leader are below. If there is no leader listed for a book, we need a volunteer.

All LWV-RMA members are encouraged to read the books and attend the discussions.

Judy Weinstein j.weinstein.roc@gmail.com

| Date | Title | Author | Leader |
|-------|---|-------------------|--------------------|
| 9/19 | Democracy in Chains : The Deep History of the Radical Right's Stealth Plan for America (2017) | Nancy MacLean | Chris Pryor |
| 10/10 | The Lemon Tree : An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East (2006) | Sandy Tolan | Georgia DeGregorio |
| 11/21 | Beloved (1987) | Toni Morrison | Elaine Schmidt |
| 1/16 | The Women's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote (2018) | Elaine Weiss | Judy Weinstein |
| 2/20 | The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America (2017) | Richard Rothstein | |
| 3/19 | Educated: A Memoir (2018) | Tara Westover | Ann Carmody |
| 4/16 | The Death and Life of the Great Lakes (2017) | Dan Egan | |



Election Commissioner Tom Ferrarese Retires

Tom Ferrarese, who has retired as the Monroe County Board of Elections Commissioner, will be sorely missed in the community. He has partnered with the League on many occasions, always protecting the interests of the Monroe County voter, no matter what political party affiliation. During his tenure since his appointment in 2002, Tom oversaw the biggest change in the voting processes in Monroe County with the transition of the lever machine to the electronic system. Whenever the League needed assistance or information about voting/elections, Tom was always willing to help.

The League wishes Tom the very best in his retirement. We have presented him with the League Service Appreciation plaque as well as an engraved money clip. Tom sent LWV-RMA a note which said, among other things,

"It has been my pleasure to work with the League over so many years...(T)he League has done such a great job to informing the community regarding the many issues we are faced with...what an amazing gift you have given to this community."



Annual Suffragist City Parade and Block Party 2019

The annual Suffragist Parade and Block Party is sponsored by the National Susan B. Anthony Museum and House in honor of Rochester's key role in the Women's Suffrage fight and in celebration of today's organizations and individuals who carry on that spirit in their work to protect and further both human and voting rights. This year LWV-RMA was represented by Tanya Davis, Deb Gordon, Marion O'Connor, Myra Pelz, Kris Rogers, Elaine Schmidt, Judy Sternberg, and Donna Williams. Voter registration and information were provided by these LWV-RMA members at the afterparty in the park.



Note our new LWV-RMA T-shirts! The message on the back is "Your Vote is Your Voice! Vote". We have a few t-shirts in inventory. If you would like to purchase one for \$12.50, send an email to info@lww-rma.org or call 585.262.3730.



Views from the Equality for All People Parade.

The photo in the center shows LWV-RMA members Myra Pelz, Kris Rogers, Deb Gordon, Marion O'Connor, and Elaine Schmidt lining up for the parade.

City Council Candidate Forum

The League of Women Voters has a long history of organizing and hosting candidate events in order to:

- Educate the public about the issues in campaigns
- Provide an opportunity for voters to witness candidates discuss those issues face-to-face;
- Stimulate public interest, and participation, in election; and,
- Provide an opportunity for the public to engage the candidates.

LWV-RMA and the Rochester People's Climate Coalition planned a Candidate Forum for the three City Council districts with contested races. In support of the League's nonpartisan policy, we only hold forums when at least two candidates for an office participate. We consider each voting district to be a separate office. Because there is only one candidate on the ballot in the NW district, no forum was planned for this district.

The responses for the other districts were as follows:

East District: Mary Lupien accepted the invitation; Dave R Sutliff-Atias declined the invitation.

Northeast District: Chris Edes accepted the invitation; Michael A. Patterson did not respond to the invitation.

South District: Alexander J. White and Marcus C. Williams accepted the invitation; LaShay D. Harris did not respond to the invitation.

Note that numerous attempts were made to reach the candidates who did not respond using email, phone, first class mail, and certified mail.

In accordance with our policy, because only one candidate from each of the East and NE districts has accepted the invitation, we will not hold Candidate forums for those districts. **The League of Women Voters will hold a forum on October 16th for the two candidates in the South District who accepted our invitation.**

We regret the non-participation choices of Ms. Harris, Mr. Patterson and Mr. Sutliff-Atias. Those choices deprive voters the opportunity to hear candidates in their districts answer questions posed by the LWV-RMA, RPCC and the public on important issues. Those choices run counter to our mission of informing voters and promoting voter turnout. Shouldn't candidates welcome questions from those they seek to represent? Candidates running for public office are applying for a job. When a candidate does not respond to a request for information, what does that tell us?

Should you see any of the three candidates who were not willing to participate in our forum, please let them know that you expect candidates to take part in voter education activities.

Forum will be held October 16, 7:00 P.M. location to be announced.

Our complete media release is on our website at <http://www.lwv-rma.org/>

Judy Weinstein, j.weinstein.roc@gmail.com

LWV-RMA Speaks Up on Behalf of Clean Renewable Energy

On August 26, 2019 LWV-RMA entered a statement on RG&E's rate increase proposal to the NYS Public Service Commission during their public comment period. The statement led with an overview of the League of Women Voters' long history of advocating for policies that protect our state, nation and planet from the serious threat of climate change. It went on to state:

"Based on the above, and on the goals of the newly adopted New York State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, LWV-RMA believes this is the time for RG&E to prioritize the transition to renewable energy resources and upgrading of the electric grid, and not the time to be making major investments in natural gas infrastructure and fossil fuel technologies. Further, we support:

- more RG&E funding for beneficial electrification and income-based incentives for heat pumps.
- a decrease in RG&E's electricity fixed charge which, at \$21.38, is the highest in the state and unfairly impacts low income residents.

LWV-RMA supports the call for NYS Public Service Commission to require a performance-based incentive structure for RG&E, linked to the achievement of affordable green energy goals, instead of approving a guaranteed increase in RG&E's rate of return from 9% to 9.5%.

NYS Public Service Commission has an obligation to act on behalf of the public. Please use your power here."

Judy Sternberg, js Sternberg3b@gmail.com



Coming Events!



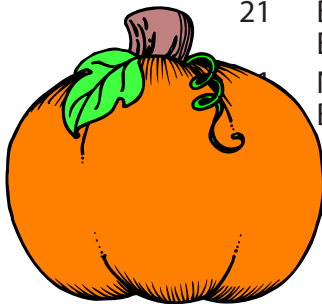
OCTOBER

- 4 First Friday (11:00 A.M., I-Square, 400 Bakers Park)
- 9 LWV-RMA Board (Noon – 2:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)
- 10 Book Club (10:00 A.M., Greenhouse Café, 2271 E. Main Street)
- 16 Candidate Forum: City Council-South District 7:00 P.M. with candidates Alexander White and Marcus Williams. Location TBA.
- 17 Naturalization (10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M., Monroe County Office Building)
- 29 Naturalization (1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M., Rochester City Hall)

- 29 Forum: Court Simplification MOVED (see November 11)

November

- 1 First Friday (11:00 A.M., I-Square, 400 Bakers Park)
- 8 Naturalization (1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M., George Eastman Museum, 900 East Avenue)
- 11 Forum: Court Simplification (7:00P.M. - 9:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)
- 13 LWV-RMA Board (Noon - 2:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)
- 14 Naturalization (10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M., Monroe County Office Building)
- 21 Book Club (10:00 A.M., Greenhouse Café, 2271 E. Main Street)
- Naturalization (1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M., Federal Building 100 State Street)



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!

| | |
|------------|---------|
| October 4 | March 6 |
| November 1 | April 3 |
| December 6 | May 1 |
| January 3 | June 5 |
| February 7 | |



Board of Directors meetings are held at Asbury First UMC. Board meetings are open to all members. See calendar for dates and times.

Advocacy/Government Committee meets monthly. For details, call Ann Carmody at (585) 748-5848.

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, call 262-3730 or e-mail us at info@lwv-rma.org

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

NOVEMBER VOTER DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 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

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leadership Team

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Treasurer Judy Weinstein (2019-2021)

Secretary Julie Damerell (2019-2020)

Director Ann Carmody (2018-2020)

Director Myra Pelz (2019-2021)

Director Kris Rogers (2018-2020)

Director Gail Wilder (2018-2020)

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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

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Judy Wadsworth*

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Chris Burleigh*

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: info@lwv-rma.org | |