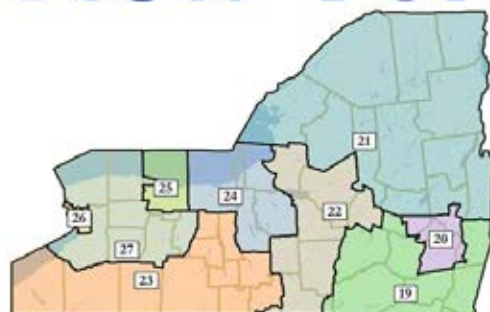


TheVOTER

New York State



2012 Congressional districts

*September 14, 2021
7:00 P.M.
Via Zoom*

**What will
it mean
for you?**

**What part
can you play?**

2022 Congressional & legislative districts ???

Redistricting

Go to our website - <https://lwv-rma.org/> to register for the Zoom meeting.

More about this forum is found on page 3.

Inside this issue:

NYS Redistricting Forum	1	Vote411 and Candidate Forums	9
President's Corner	2	Committee Meets with Local Delegation to Albany	9
How is the LWV Nonpartisan?	2	Voter Registration Activities	10
NYS Redistricting Forum	3	Sunshine Corner	11-14
Remembrance: Jane and John Schmitt	3	Recent History of Women's Rights	15
Ballot Proposals on NYS Ballots in November 2021	4	Book Club Selects Readings for September-January	16
Voter Registration Details and Deadlines	5	Thank You to Contributors	16
Helping Families Who Need the Child Tax Credit	6	Calendar	17
NYS Senate Elections Committee Holds Hearing in Rochester	7	First Friday - Live and In Person	17
Redistricting Campaign Team	8	Leadership	18
FEPC Update	8		

President's Corner:

Debates, debates, debates

This fall there are contested elections in 16 towns and 20 Monroe County Legislature districts, as well as the Rochester City Council, RCSD Board of Education and Monroe County judges. I can't remember a time when there were so many actual local two-party contested elections.

The LWV-RMA is going to attempt to organize (or co-sponsor) debates for all or most of the contested elections. This is a huge undertaking! The debates should pretty much happen in October, before early voting begins, so we may even have to do two debates per day to fit them all in.

We are beginning to plan and struggling with all the usual issues: Virtual or in-person? Who will moderate each debate? Who will draft the questions for each debate? Who will serve as timekeeper (and question-collectors in case we have in-person debates)? How will we publicize them? Will we record them to make them available online? So much work to do to pull this all together.

I'm really excited to see how many people are willing to step up and run for office, and I think the League has a real contribution to make. Turnout has traditionally been extremely low in these local elections. In 2017, it was 38%. The turnout in the June primary was well below the level from 2017. This fall, there will be only one candidate on the top of the ballot lines: the mayoral race in the city and the sheriff's race in the county. Without top-level contests to drive turnout, we need to work harder than ever to be sure that voters know they have choices.

We will be reaching out to League members in the various jurisdictions for help in answering some of these questions. If you have thoughts, please speak up!

In League,
Barbara Grosh
President, LWV-RMA

How is the LWV Nonpartisan?

The League is a nonpartisan political organization. The LWV itself does not endorse candidates or parties. We DO take positions (lots of them) on a broad range of policy issues. Members of the board of LWV-RMA sign a nonpartisan policy agreement not to work actively on campaigns or for a party, as that could be misunderstood as a LWV endorsement. Aside from board members or others with high-profile League responsibilities, League members are FREE AND ENCOURAGED to participate in politics in any way they wish.





Legislative District maps that will impact our area's representation in Albany and Washington, D.C., for the next 10 years are currently being drawn.

Join us to learn crucial information about:

- The new process utilizing an Independent Redistricting Commission
- The Commission's scope (State Assembly, State Senate, and U.S. Congressional Districts)
- The timeline
- Current 2012 maps and issues with them
- Public Hearings for feedback on the Commission's draft maps.

These issues and more will be presented by Cathy Kane, member of the redistricting committee. We'll also be introducing our Redistricting Awareness Spokespersons, former Rochester Mayor William A. Johnson, Jr. (D) and former Gates Supervisor Mark Assini (R).

Go to our LWV-RMA website - <https://lww-rma.org/> to register for the Zoom meeting.

Remembrance: Jane and John Schmitt

Jane and John Schmitt, both former officers of LWV-RMA, died within days of each other last month. For local League members who were fortunate enough to know them, reading the obituaries brought to mind a couple devoted to their community.

Their quiet, warm, reassuring ways – backed by a broad range of knowledge and 21st Century skills in communication and advocacy – enriched LWV-RMA for many years. Jane served as Acting Secretary and editor of *The Voter*, and was an active member of the Environment Committee, using her years working at the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to inform its work. We'll remember her hands-on demonstrations for school age children on how wetlands work and their importance. John served as Treasurer and advisor to several LWV-RMA presidents.

They were recipients of our Carrie Chapman Catt Award, recognizing their contributions to LWV-RMA as well as many other community organizations.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated on September 25 at 10:00 A.M. at St. John Fisher College Chapel.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/john-schmitt-obituary?id=6240645>

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/obituaries/rdc161357>



Katherine Smith

Former LWV-RMA President

Ballot Proposals on New York Ballots in November 2021

Proposal 1: Amending the Apportionment and Redistricting Process

PROPOSAL 1 as it will appear on the ballot:

The proposed constitutional amendment would freeze the number of state senators at 63, amend the process for the counting of the state's population, delete certain provisions that violate the United States Constitution, repeal and amend certain requirements for the appointment of the co-executive directors of the redistricting commission and amend the manner of drawing district lines for congressional and state legislative offices. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

FURTHER INFORMATION ON PROPOSAL 1

- Amends and repeals parts of the NYS constitution that created an Independent Redistricting Commission, reducing the role of the Commission.
- Requires that the redistricting commission complete its work two months earlier than the timeline set in the 2014 constitutional amendment. If the commission does not reach a decision by November 1, 2021, the Legislature can introduce its own redistricting plans.
- Repeals the special legislative voting rules put in place in case one party controls both legislative houses, which were designed to protect the minority party.
- Counts incarcerated people at their place of last residence.

Proposal 2: Right to Clean Air, Clean Water, and a Healthful Environment

PROPOSAL 2 as it will appear on the ballot:

The proposed amendment to Article 1 of the New York Constitution would establish the right of each person to clean air and water and a healthful environment. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

Proposal 3: Eliminating Ten-Day-Advance Voter Registration Requirement

PROPOSAL 3 as it will appear on the ballot:

The proposed amendment would delete the current requirement in Article 2 subsection 5 that a citizen be registered to vote at least ten days before an election and would allow the Legislature to enact laws permitting a citizen to register less than ten days before the election. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

Proposal 4: Authorizing No-Excuse Absentee Ballot Voting

PROPOSAL 4 as it will appear on the ballot:

The proposed amendment would delete from the current provision on absentee ballots the requirement that an absentee voter must be unable to appear at the polls by reason of absence from the county or illness or physical disability. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

Proposal 5: Increasing the Jurisdiction of the New York City Civil Court

PROPOSAL 5 as it will appear on the ballot:

The proposed amendment would increase the New York City Civil Courts jurisdiction by allowing it to hear and decide claims for up to \$50,000 instead of the current jurisdictional limit of \$25,000. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

The LWV-RMA will be distributing flyers with this information in both Spanish and English. The flyers were abridged from material developed by LWVNYS. The Spanish translation of the flyer was prepared by our friends at Latino Voter Protection, Inc. You can access the LWVNYS brochure with more information on the ballot proposals at <https://lwny.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Voters-Guide-2-2021-Aug2r1.pdf>, including pros and cons of each.

WATCH FOR MORE INFO ON OUR UPCOMING OCTOBER 12 VIRTUAL FORUM!

Voter Registration Details and Deadlines

TO VOTE YOU MUST:

- be a United States citizen
- be 18 years old by the date of the election
- live at your present address at least 30 days before an election
- not be in prison for a felony conviction
- not be adjudged mentally incompetent by a court
- not claim the right to vote elsewhere
- be registered to vote

HOW DO I REGISTER?

- Online through NYS Department of Motor Vehicles website: voterreg.dmv.ny.gov/MotorVoter (must have a valid NYS Driver's License, Learner Permit or Non-Driver ID)
- In-person on any business day at your county Board of Elections (BOEs) or any state agency participating in the National Voter Registration Act (including State University and City University campuses)
- By mail by completing a voter registration form available at BOEs, libraries, town halls and post offices. You can find the New York State Registration form addressed to the Monroe County Board of Elections at <https://www.monroecounty.gov/elections-registration>. For a form that you can use for any county in New York, go to <https://on.ny.gov/2XMGPBt>
- To request a Registration Form in Monroe County, call 585-753-1550 and a registration form will be sent to you in the mail to complete and return or email your request for a registration form to mcboe@monroecounty.gov. Be sure to include your mailing address.

DEADLINES:

October 8 - Last day to postmark voter registration forms or register in person at Board of Elections. Note that mailed registration form must also be received by Board of Elections by October 13.

October 13 - Change of address submitted on Voter Registration forms received by this date must be processed.

October 23 - If you have been honorably discharged from the US Military or have become a naturalized US citizen after October 8, 2021, you may register in person at the Board of Elections.



VOTING:
100% MORE EFFECTIVE THAN
COMPLAINING ON THE INTERNET

Helping Families Who Need the Child Tax Credit

A July 14 webinar led by LWV-RMA President Barbara Grosh and CASH Tax Site Coordinator Ellen Oberton focused on how to help families obtain the Child Tax Credit they are entitled to receive between now and December 31, 2021.

The Child Tax Credit is part of the stimulus legislation to help our economy recover from the pandemic. American families will receive \$300/month for children aged 0-5 and \$250/month for children 6-17. Children age 18, and full-time college students aged 19 to 24, qualify for up to \$500.

The money will be deposited by the IRS into the bank accounts of families known to the IRS. However, about one third of families living in poverty have income so low that they are not required to file income tax returns. In our area, that's about 3,500-4,000 very poor families. The IRS is unable to send money to these families unless they file a return giving their children's Social Security numbers and giving their address or bank account information.

The CASH program (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) of the Empire Justice Center serves people in Monroe County who are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit as part of an IRS-sponsored effort to provide volunteer income tax assistance. Clients are recommended to CASH from other agencies serving families in need, such as the Department of Social Services, Childcare Council, etc. CASH is seeking volunteers to help these low-income clients.

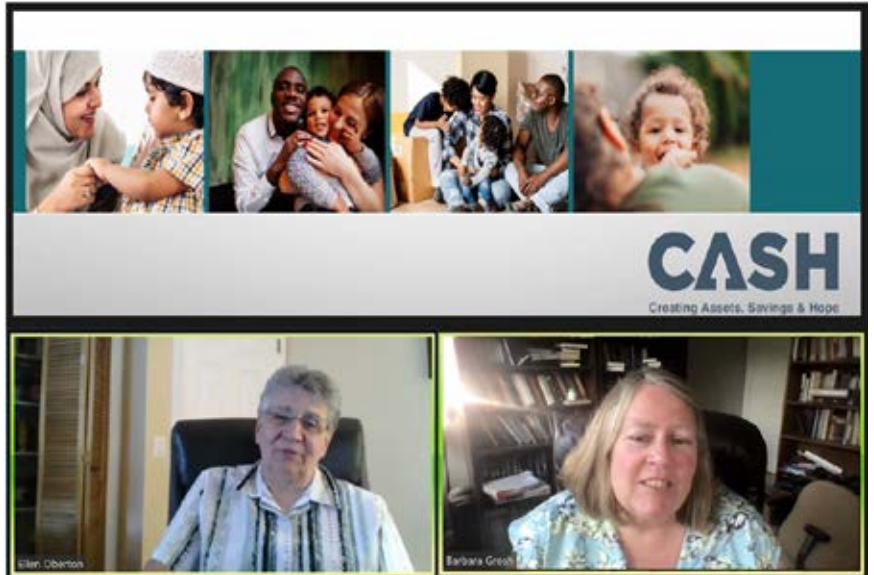
The CASH program (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) of the Empire Justice Center serves people in Monroe County who are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit as part of an IRS-sponsored effort to provide volunteer income tax assistance. Clients are recommended to CASH from other agencies serving families in need, such as the Department of Social Services, Childcare Council, etc. CASH is seeking volunteers to help these low-income clients.

To learn more about the CASH program or how you might help, contact one of the following:

Yversha Roman, Director, CASH Program, yroman@empirejustice.org, (585) 900-1005

Lee Ana Hess, Volunteer Program Manager, lhess@empirejustice.org, (585) 900-1678

Ellen Oberton, Tax Site Coordinator, eoberton@empirejustice.org, (585) 454-4060.



The expanded
Child Tax Credit
 could cut childhood
 poverty in half. But
 only families who file
 with the IRS get the
 money. One third of
 the poorest families
 don't.

Help find them!





Scott Forsyth testifying; NYS Senators Edward Rath, III, Zellnor Myrie, and Samra Brouk.

On August 5, the NYS Senate Standing Committee on Elections held a public hearing in the Monroe County Legislature Chamber to gather local input about the 2020 and 2021 elections. Representing the Senate Committee were Committee Chair Zellnor Myrie of Kings County; Samra Brouk, Senator of the 55th Senate District including part of Monroe County; and Ranking Minority Member Edward Rath, III. Among those testifying was LWV-RMA member Scott Forsyth. Among the issues presented were absentee ballot access, voter registration deadlines, voting location options, and a recommendation to move from election day to election week. The hearing can be accessed at <https://youtu.be/0X-e68HNHMo>

LWV-RMA President Barbara Grosh submitted written testimony which included the following:

- **Electronic Poll Pad Sign-In Process is a significant improvement over the Paper Voter Registration List.**
The poll pad easily finds a voter in the registry, locates a voter's poll site, and validates the voter's party registration.
- **Signatures Prove themselves as an Audit of Identification**
Our experience as election inspectors has found that signatures can be easily matched to signatures on file. Even as people age, distinctive traits of their signature remain.
- **Ballot Redesign would Enhance Voter Experience**
 - * Clearly separate individual races on a ballot
 - * Boldface lines around each individual race. Place each race in a separate column on the ballot.
- **Improve the Voting Process for the Disabled Voter and the Election Inspector**
The process for the disabled is long and laborious for the voter and intimidating to election inspectors.
- **Simplify Paperwork for Poll Closing**
More could be done to help election inspectors accurately complete the required documentation. Consider color coding paperwork to make it easier to identify whether paperwork should go in the **BLUE** bag, the **GREEN** bag, or the Machine (BLACK).
- **No Excuse Absentee Ballots and Mail-in Voting**
We support the processes that allow a voter to send in an absentee ballot and the controls that the Board of Election put in place to enable a voter to change his/her mind and cast a ballot at the poll, without double counting her/his vote.
- **Internet Connectivity and Risk of Hacking**
It is reassuring that voting machines are not connected to the internet, so are protected from on-line tampering. Given the prevalence of electronic hacking, we encourage increased vigilance of centralized records and increased security protocols surrounding voter records.

LWV-RMA member Kim Byers helped to prepare the testimony.

Redistricting Campaign Team

The redistricting team has been busy. This ad hoc group was formed to ensure that LWV concerns about redistricting are known to the community and the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC).

We've been encouraging community stakeholders to participate in the IRC's hearings. The hearing for our region was held on August 12. A number of local people testified. In addition, several others submitted written testimony.

This first phase of our efforts was recognized by the LWWNYS during its annual convention. The LWV-RMA received a \$500 award for our informational campaign targeting community stakeholders.

While the level of participation has been good, we're hoping to improve on it. The Commission will unveil its proposed maps for Assembly, NY Senate, and US House in the fall. If you or someone you know would like to testify, we are here to help at redistricting@lwv-rma.org.

On September 14, we'll host a virtual forum to explain the redistricting process in detail, and explain how people can participate in the redrawing of their districts. You'll find details on page 3.

The news media are beginning to cover redistricting, and we want to see more. We invited former Rochester Mayor Bill Johnson and former Gates Supervisor and Congressional candidate Mark Assini to us help spread the word. Look for our spokespersons, in partnership with LWV-RMA, as they discuss redistricting. *Their message: redistricting is important and every voice deserves to be heard.*

Still on the horizon is local redistricting of the County Legislature, Rochester City Council, and Greece Town Board. We're watching, and we'll let you know about any developments.

Would you like to join our effort? The redistricting team meets every 1-2 weeks, so far by Zoom. Please contact redistricting@lwv-rma.org to be added to our notification list.

Dave Garretson

davegarretson363@gmail.com



LWV-RMA members testifying at the Independent Redistricting Commission's local hearing on August 12 were Barbara Grosh, Judy Sternberg, and Dave Garretson.

FEPC Update

The League of Women Voters-Rochester Metro Area and The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) are organizing the 2021 Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC) for the General Election. Upon issuance of the certified list of primary candidates on September 9, all candidates will be requested to sign a Fair Campaign Pledge to publicly commit to running positive, issues-oriented campaigns. The names of all candidates who sign the Pledge will be listed on the League's website. A press release will then be issued to publicly acknowledge candidates for signing the Pledge. A Fair Election Practices Hearing Committee is established to review properly filed complaints from candidates who sign the Pledge and allege violations of the Pledge by their opponents. The Committee issues decisions regarding the complaints ahead of the elections, which are released to the media and posted on the League website and social media accounts.

If you are interested in assisting with the FEPC or learning more about the process, please contact Kris Rogers at FEPC@lwv-rma.org.

Vote411 and Candidate Forums

We've been preparing for the General Election since the preliminary list of primary results was posted. We aim to publish the Monroe County candidates on Vote411.org shortly after the Monroe County Board of Elections publishes the certified list of candidates. Vote411.org - the League of Women Voters interactive, community-specific online voter's guide - provides information on all candidates on a voter's ballot as well as the ballot issues.

Under the leadership of LWV-RMA President Barbara Grosh, we are working to hold candidate forums for all contested elections in Monroe County. The plan is to hold a virtual forum for each town with candidates for town offices and for county legislator(s). To make this goal a reality, we plan on collaborating with community organizations. If you know of a community or civic organization (nonpartisan, of course) in a Monroe County town that you think might be interested in working with us, please send an email to candidate.events@lww-rma.org. We will need volunteers to serve as moderators and timekeepers; to coordinate with co-sponsoring organizations; and to coordinate with candidates. If you are interested in helping with one town or more, please send an email to candidate.events@lww-rma.org. Training and assistance will be provided.

The League encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. When it gets closer to the election, visit Vote411.org and view our Candidate forums. In the meantime, tell others about the League's voter information services.

Judy Weinstein,
 Government/Advocacy Chair

Committee Meets with Local Delegation to Albany

Members of the LWV-RMA Government/Advocacy Committee met with state lawmakers in July via zoom to discuss the recently completed legislative term and goals for coming sessions.

TOP TWO ROWS: Lawmakers who met with LWV-RMA members in July.

BOTTOM TWO ROWS: LWV-RMA members who met with the lawmakers.



Voter Registration Activities

Those of us with email capabilities receive occasional messages from Kim Byers that look like this:



Group Organizing Made Easy

Hello!

You have been invited by Kimberly Byers to sign up for "Voter Registration Events." Please click on the button below to view the online signup sheet.

Click on the link below to find the best day/time combination for you. Mask up and keep the smile going!
Kim

These notices have resulted in volunteers helping with voter registration at multiple events, including the following in August and September:

- *August 6 - screening of "Black Panther" at Parcel 5 (East Main at Clinton Ave.)
- *August 19 - all-day event at University of Rochester
- *August 21 - Puerto Rican Festival at Parcel 5
- *August 26 - Nazareth College new student move-in day
- *August 26 - Greece Central School District Back to School Bash
- *August 30 - Nazareth College voter registration table, Schulz Center hallway
- *September 10 - RIT Voter Registration at Community Service Fair in Campus Center
- *September 11 & 12 - Clothesline Arts Festival at Memorial Art Gallery
- *Saturday mornings throughout September - The Rochester Public Market

Thanks to those who volunteered to assist!!

Elaine Schmidt and Anne Schepp distributed voter registration information at a "Movies With a View of Downtown" screening, in Parcel 5. Inset shows two attendees.



Seen during a canvass on August 21 are members of LWV-RMA as well as Men Made Better and the Center for Youth. The canvass was organized by William Robinson (third from left), League member and member of Men Made Better. The group walked the streets of several of Rochester's poorest neighborhoods, offering information about jobs, apprenticeship programs, the Child Tax Credit, and outreach to homeless youth, as well as voter registration.



Shown at the Puerto Rican Festival on August 21 are Anne Schepp, Elaine Schmidt, Carlos Rodriguez, Dr. Miriam Jurado, and Elia Collazo-Vara. In the background is Dr. Jurado's husband.

Sunshine Corner



RCSD BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR BUSINESS MEETINGS ON JUNE 24 AND JULY 22 REPORTED BY CONSTANCE FLAHIVE

(The June 24 meeting was a virtual meeting; the July 22 and future Board meetings will return to in-person as directed by the state.)

Reports were presented by the Student Leadership Congress (SLC), the Parent Leadership Advisory Council (PLAC), the Human Resources Committee as well as the standing Board committees and the superintendent reports.

The key issues from the reports involved the importance of providing timely processes to engage parents and hear the voices of the community. An example of lack of timely and informed inclusion was the renaming of School 3. PLAC also discussed the importance of including parent and caregiver voices in the decision-making process for allocating the American Rescue Plan dollars. The leaders of PLAC encouraged families to engage by attending meetings and submitting questions for the Virtual Summer Forum planned for August 14.

Superintendent Leslie Myers-Small's July 22 presentation addressed these issues by noting the feedback received to date and timeline for the process of allocating the funds; and she provided her plans for ongoing engagement of parents and caregivers on a regular basis. Her informative presentation is available online as part of the streamed Board of Education meeting (about 3.5 hours in) and in various places on her webpage.

Also of note, CFO Carleen Pierce announced that the RCSD has been given S & P and Moody's ratings of stable. Following those upgrades JP Morgan indicated that RCSD/City of Rochester now have a record low interest rate of 0.086% for the 2022-23 year. The previous short-term loans (RANs) have been paid in full and no new ones are expected for the 2021-22 school year. Good news!

A NOTE ON THE COMMISSION ON RACIAL AND STRUCTURAL EQUITY COMMUNITY (RASE) BY CONSTANCE FLAHIVE

Dr. Cephas Archie, Chief Equity Officer for the City of Rochester, and Dr. Candice Lucas, executive director of St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center and co-chair of the Racial Equity and Justice Initiative, are leading County efforts to implement the recommendations in the RASE report of March 16, 2021. The efforts are in a second phase asking for community leadership to work in a collaborative and inclusive way to determine next steps. Several of the original committees, such as the Education group, have held Forums sponsored by area organizations.

COUNTY LEGISLATURE MEETING ON JULY 13, 2021 REPORTED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT

Public speakers brought some important items before the legislature.

- * Hillary Olson, CEO of Rochester Museum and Science Center, stated that funds are needed to maintain the museum's extensive collections. The museum maintains the writings of Frederick Douglass and the largest collection of Susan B Anthony items in the world. The county supports 14% of the Museum's budget per an agreement with the county to support the museum as a resource for citizens in the county.
- * Randy Cimino, President of Gates to Recovery, sought county support to deal with the opioid crisis.
- * Iris Banister said young women should not have to be afraid to interface with a legislator for fear of being harassed sexually. She urged the legislature to act against sexual harassment.

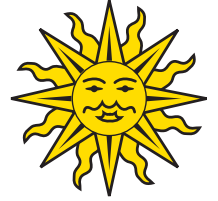
The Legislature authorized an increase in the per diem rate for members of the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors from \$10 to \$60 per day. They increased the per diem rate of the chairperson from \$10 to \$85 per day.

Dataworks Plus was awarded a contract for fingerprint and mugshot capture and data exchange software system and installation services for law enforcement in the amount of \$597,800.00.

The county received \$2,393,213.00 from New York State for services for Raise the Age legislation.

Funds for the "space utilization and renovation project of City Place" were reduced from \$9 million to \$374,400.

Sunshine Corner *continued from page 11*



LaBella Associates was contracted to provide professional design service for the project. Further decisions will be made after the design services are completed.

New York State granted \$130,000 to the Monroe County Youth Bureau to support small grassroots organizations to help decrease violence in neighborhoods.

A public hearing regarding approving the 2021 - 2022 Monroe Community College operating budget was scheduled for July 27 at 6:00 P.M. in the Legislative Chambers.

The following appointments were made:

- * Gary A. Brandt to the Board of Trustees of the Monroe County Library System, term to expire June 30, 2026;
- * David Michael Barry as the new Clerk of the Monroe County Legislature;
- * George J. Herbert as the majority party representative to the internal audit committee, term to expire December 31, 2021.

COUNTY LEGISLATURE AGENDA / CHARTER COMMITTEE ON JULY 26, 2021 REPORTED BY JUDY WEINSTEIN VIA YOUTUBE VIDEO

Background: At the July 13, 2021 County Legislature meeting, Republican Leader Steve Brew introduced legislation that would change the County's Code of Ethics. There were two provisions. The first would prohibit, without exception, outside employment by County employees in the Management and Professional classification. The second provision would prohibit release of the board's advisory opinions without approval of the legislature. Doing so could result in penalties for a maximum \$1,500 fine and/or 15 days in jail for "unauthorized disclosure." This proposal was met with public outcry.

During the July 26 session, Legislator Steve Brew said that further examination showed that the Monroe County Code of Ethics does not conform with the NYS Model Code of Ethics. He asked the President of the Legislature to form a subcommittee to thoroughly compare the state's and county's model codes. The President agreed to do this as a matter of urgency and will request the County Executive to identify funding to hire an outside attorney who specializes in ethics practice to serve as ethics counsel to the subcommittee. This will allow the subcommittee to perform an objective review to modernize one of the county's most important documents. Legislator Brew made a motion to table the law that had been introduced and it was adopted.

Full minutes of Monroe County Legislature meetings are accessible at

[Agendas & Minutes | Monroe County, NY](#)

COMIDA MEETING SUMMARIES FOR JULY 2021 REPORTED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON COMIDA GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, ON JULY 6

An Executive Session was held to discuss the hiring of a firm for legal representation.

COMIDA COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, ON JULY 15

An annual tracking report for approved projects was discussed. The tracking is used to ensure that the approved dollar amounts on sales tax exemptions have not been exceeded. If they have been exceeded, New York State has to be reimbursed the overage amount.

Active projects are required to submit annual update reports. Approximately fifty reports had not been submitted as of March. Some reports have subsequently been submitted while other companies have failed to respond to inquiries. Final letters will be sent stating the project will be subject to penalty and/or termination if the requirement is not met.

A discussion of compliance with the local labor requirement was deferred to an Executive Session. Several waivers were granted following the Session.

A representative of the Rush-Henrietta School District (RHSD) requested that COMIDA activate a 25% tax recapture provision contained in the pilot agreement made with Delphi Corporation due to the early

Sunshine Corner continued from page 12



termination of their project at 5500 West Henrietta Road. Legal representation for Delphi Corporation disputed the RHSD claim that the tax recapture was appropriate under the pilot agreement. After a discussion in Executive Session, the Board voted to authorize the tax jurisdictions to enforce the capture provisions of the agreement with Delphi Corporation.

COMIDA BOARD MEETING SUMMARY FOR JULY 20

In response to the decision made by the Board on July 15 concerning the tax recapture from Delphi Corporation, Delphi representatives presented additional information and requested that the Board consult their legal counsel and reconsider their decision.

NEW BUSINESS:

145 LLC requested sales and mortgage recording tax exemptions and real property tax abatement for a new 50-unit apartment project in Rochester's Neighborhood of the Arts. Five units would be reserved for those with incomes equal to or less than 50% of the area median income. The requests were granted subject to 10% of the livable square footage being allocated for affordable units.

Innovation Arts Management LLC requested a sales tax exemption to renovate the theater at Innovation Square in the former Xerox building to a mid-sized performing arts center.

36 West Main Street LLC requested sales and mortgage recording tax exemptions for the renovation and conversion of the Executive Building at that address to a residential/office mixed use facility. As presented, the anticipated rents for 20-30% of the units would be affordable for those people with incomes of 80% or less of the median household income in Rochester. The request was granted with the provision that the Board will monitor the project for adherence to the income requirements for 20% of the units until 2023.

Base Build LLC requested sales and mortgage recording tax exemptions for renovation of a building on South Avenue, Rochester into mixed use facility with office suites and two residential units.

The following project modifications for an extension or increase of sales or mortgage recording tax exemptions or real property tax abatements were approved:

- * Extension until December 31, 2021:
 - Mendon Renewables for a solar energy project in Mendon.
 - Clarkson Renewables for a solar energy project in Clarkson.
 - 93 Marsh Street LLC for a residential project in Rochester.
 - Magna Real Property Acquisition Company LLC for an manufacturing space project in Rochester.
- * Extension until June 30, 2022:
 - SDF Medical Supply for a facility expansion in Henrietta.
 - Sibley Commercial LLC for redevelopment of the former Sibley Store in Rochester.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Compliance Committee deliberations of July 15 were reviewed. Motions supporting the local labor requirement waivers, notices to projects not in compliance with the annual report and tax overage requirements and the decision to authorize tax jurisdictions to enforce the capture provisions of the agreement with Delphi Corporation were approved.

The Governance Committee recommended that Harris Beach PLLC be retained as legal counsel. The Board approved the motion.

MARL Accelerator 5G requested a grant of \$150,000 to support their Model 5G accelerator program in the Rochester area. The company will invest \$2.5 million over three years to approximately 50 start-ups working in various 5G applications. The Board approved the request.

Full minutes of COMIDA meetings are accessible at

[Board Meetings | Monroe County Economic Development \(monroecountybusiness.org\)](https://monroecountybusiness.org/BoardMeetings)

Sunshine Corner *continued from page 13*



POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD (PAB) MEETING SUMMARIES FOR JULY 2021 REPORTED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON

PAB MEETING ON JUNE 30

The PAB announced the hiring of two individuals for management positions. Natalie L. Banks is the Chief of Public Affairs and Rosabel Antonetti is the Chief of Operations.

PAB MEETING ON JULY 8

The following summary is taken from draft meeting minutes provided to the LWV-RMA.

PAB included the following note in their draft minutes: "This meeting was the first in-person meeting held by the Board in over a year. At the time New York State decided to require in-person meetings of public boards, the City had not established the technological infrastructure to videorecord and livestream in-person meetings to the public. As such, no videorecording exists of this meeting. The Board expects that its future in-person meetings will be videorecorded and livestreamed to the public in line with recent prior practice."

Executive Director Reynolds discussed the submission of job descriptions to the City's Human Resources Division, the effort to find more office space, the development of a new PAB website, and the need for comprehensive training program for both the Board and staff. Proposals to adequately staff the Civilian Review Board enabling them to fully function while PAB is establishing its investigatory procedures and processes were also discussed.

The Board voted for its senior leadership positions. Shani Wilson was elected Chair and Danielle Tucker was elected Vice Chair. The Board also voted to hold regular meetings on the third Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be held on August 19.

An Executive Session was called to discuss the following topics: state litigation over the Board's disciplinary power; potential litigation concerning Board access to information; and a pending request for an advisory opinion by the City Board of Ethics staff. The PAB Board voted to research and draft a code of conduct and potentially a statement regarding Board ethics.

Full minutes of Police Accountability Board meetings are accessible at

[City of Rochester | Police Accountability Board](#)



Recent History of Women's Rights

For those who turn up their noses at the words feminists and feminism or scoff that feminism is a dirty and utterly pointless word, please read this and realize the following list is of things a woman couldn't do in 1971.

IN 1971 WOMEN COULD NOT:

1. Get credit cards in their own names – It wasn't until 1974 that a law forced credit card companies to issue cards to married women without their husband's signature.
2. Be guaranteed that they wouldn't be unceremoniously fired for getting pregnant – That changed with the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978.
3. Serve on a jury in some states - It varied by state (Utah deemed women fit for jury duty way back in 1879; in New York State, women were approved for jury duty in 1937), but the main reason women were kept out of jury pools was that they were considered the center of the home, which was their primary responsibility. They were also thought to be too fragile to hear the grisly details of crimes and too sympathetic by nature to be able to remain objective. In 1961, the Supreme Court unanimously upheld a Florida law that exempted women from serving on juries. It wasn't until 1973 that women could serve on juries in all 50 states.
4. Fight on the front lines – Admitted into military academies in 1976, it wasn't until 2013 that the military ban on women in combat was lifted. Prior to 1973 women were only allowed in the military as nurses or support staff.
5. Get an Ivy League education - Yale and Princeton didn't accept female students until 1969. Harvard didn't admit women until 1977 (when it merged with the all-female Radcliffe College). Brown (which merged with women's college Pembroke), Dartmouth and Columbia did not offer admission to women until 1971, 1972 and 1981, respectively.
6. Take legal action against workplace sexual harassment - The first time any court recognized office sexual harassment as grounds for any legal action was in 1977.
7. Decide not to have sex if their husband wanted to – Spousal rape wasn't criminalized in all 50 states until 1993.
8. Obtain health insurance at the same monetary rate as a man - Sex discrimination wasn't outlawed in health insurance until 2010, and today many people, including Federal elected officials, feel women don't mind paying a little more.

In addition, the birth control issue persists. Reproductive freedom and a woman's right to decide whether to have children were just beginning to be openly discussed in the 1960s. In 1957, the FDA approved of the birth control pill but only for "severe menstrual distress." In 1960, the pill was approved for use as a contraceptive. It took several more years for birth control to be approved for use by all women, regardless of marital status. Birth control meant a woman could complete her education, enter the work force and plan her own life. Prior to 1880, the age of consent for sex was set at 10 or 12 in many states; in Delaware it was 7 YEARS OLD!

Feminism is NOT just for other women.

KNOW your HERstory.

Shared from Feminist News and CNN

Contributed by Barbara Kay



Artwork by Cedric Smith. For more about this artist visit cedricsmithstudio.com.

Book Club Selects Readings for September - January

The LWV-RMA book club will meet at 4:30 P.M., for the most part on the third Thursday of the month. The first meeting, on September 23, will be held via Zoom. A link will be sent to everyone who expresses an interest to Judy Weinstein (vote411@lwv-rma.org), who serves as the group's Zoom techie. Current members met on August 12 to identify the books listed below. Books for later in the year are yet to be determined.

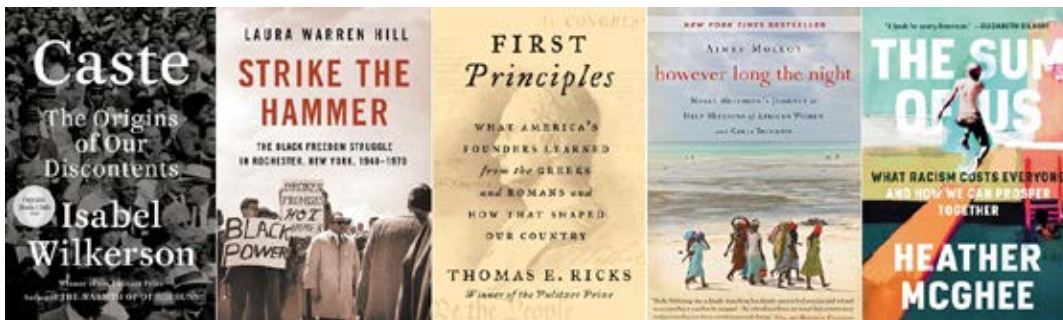


Book club members meeting via Zoom on August 12.)

LWV BOOK CLUB 2021 - 2022 (FIRST SEMESTER)

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| September 23 | <i>Caste</i> by Isobel Wilkerson – discussion led by Deb Gordon |
| October 21 | <i>Strike the Hammer</i> by Laura Warren Hill – discussion led by Elaine Schmidt |
| November 18 | <i>First Principles</i> by Thomas E. Ricks – discussion led by Georgia DiGregorio |
| December 16 | <i>However Long the Night</i> by Aimee Molloy – discussion led by Judy Wadsworth |
| January 20 | <i>The Sum of Us</i> by Heather McGhee – discussion led by Barbara Grosh |

Your suggestions are welcome for books to read February – June. Please send them to Judy Weinstein (vote411@lwv-rma.org).



THANK YOU TO CONTRIBUTORS

LWV-RMA received a \$200 payment from LWVNYS for primary election night reporting to the Associated Press by LWV-RMA members who donated their time to perform this service. We also received a \$500 unsolicited donation and several smaller donations. These are lovely tangible reminders of the value people see in the services we are rendering.

Other contributions are made in time and energy. Many members respond regularly to Kim Byers' Signup Genius requests. Such gifts are particularly important during the election campaign season.

LWV-RMA is not eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions; however, the League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation (LWVNYSEF) maintains a Grants Management Account for us which can accept tax-deductible contributions for us. We can use those funds for Voter Services and other educational activities.

If you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution for the use of LWV-RMA, you can write a check to LWVNYSEF with "for support of LWV-RMA" written on the memo line and mail it to LWV-RMA EF

P.O. Box 10573

Rochester, NY 14610

You can also make a tax-deductible contribution online via <https://bit.ly/385kMrn>.

Tax-deductible funds cannot be used for lobbying, our administrative expenses, or sending our delegates to LWVNYS and LWVUS conventions, so we also appreciate donations made directly to LWV-RMA.

Please remember that dues are not tax-deductible and must be paid to LWV-RMA.

Calendar

September

- 3 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.) Join us in person on the roof at I-Square
- 14 LWV-RMA Forum (virtual): NY State Redistricting (7:00 P.M. via Zoom); registration is required at lwv-rma.org
- 15 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (6:00 – 8:00 P.M.)
- 28 National Voter Registration Day

October

- 1 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.) Join us in person on the roof at I-Square
- 8 Last day to register to vote
- 12 LWV-RMA Forum (virtual): Ballot Proposals in 2021: What's on your ballot?
- 20 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (6:00 – 8:00 P.M.)
- 23 – 31 Early Voting
- 26 Last day to postmark application for absentee ballot. (November 1 is last day to apply in person at BOE)

There are no scheduled public Naturalization Ceremonies for 2021 in Monroe County due to the pandemic.

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK!



We know you'll "like" us!

www.facebook.com/lwvofrma

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

First Friday – Live and Person on the roof at I-Square on August 6

Join First Friday Either In Person or via Zoom.

In September and October we will meet at I-Square. Join the group for informal conversations on any or all of the dates listed— for a few minutes or for the full two hours, your choice:

September 3
October 1

November 5
December 3



Board of Directors meetings are currently via Zoom. Board meetings are open to all members. See calendar for dates and times and contact Barbara Grosh for link.

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



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Barbara Grosh (2021-2023)
Vice President	Myra Pelz (2021-2023)
Treasurer	Linda Saalman (2021-2023)
Secretary	Kris Rogers (2020-2022)
Director	Mary Hussong-Kallen (2020-2022)
Director	Theresa McFarland-Porter (2021-2023)
Director	Tiffany Moore-Corteville (2021-2023)
Director	Beverly Pringle (2021-2023)
Director	Sarah Sandler (2020-2022)
Director	Judy Sternberg (2021-2023)

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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

President Barbara Grosh
president@lwv-rma.org

Book Club Judy Weinstein
vote411@lwv-rma.org

Communication/PR Mary Hussong-Kallen
communications@lwv-rma.org

Election Services/Naturalization Sheila Abeling
Sheiler162007@gmail.com

Fair Election Practices Campaign Kris Rogers
fepc@lwv-rma.org

Government Judy Weinstein
vote411@lwv-rma.org

Membership Sarah Sandler
membership@lwv-rma.org

Nominating Sheila Abeling
nominations@lwv-rma.org

Programs Barbara Grosh
president@lwv-rma.org

VOTE411 Judy Weinstein
vote411@lwv-rma.org

Voter Services Elaine Schmidt
voterservices@lwv-rma.org

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

*Editor,
Judy Wadsworth*

*Layout/Design,
Chris Burleigh*

OCTOBER VOTER DEADLINE IS 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.

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

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Individual/Associate	\$75
Household	\$105
Susan B. Anthony/Frederick Douglass	\$150
Carrie Chapman Catt	\$200
Student (full or part time at an accredited institution)	FREE
Low income, call office at 262-3730	Sliding Scale
or send an email to: info@lwv-rma.org	