

TheVOTER



**On Tuesday, October 12,
at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom,
learn about the propositions
on the November ballot.**



2021 Ballot Propositions



1

**Amend
process for
determining
congressional
and state
legislative
districts**

2

**Add the right
to clean air,
clean water,
and healthy
environment
to NYS Bill
of Rights**

3

**Eliminate
10-day
advance
voter
registration
requirement**

4

**Authorize
no-excuse
absentee
ballot voting**

5

**Increase
jurisdiction
of NYC Civil
Court to
decide claims
for \$50,000
or less**



Register to join us on October 12 at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TYBh3lqiQZGtyr7gGeWJKQ
See page 3 to learn more.

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President's Corner

Redistricting: Too Important to Rush

The Monroe County Legislature began the redistricting process with the appointment of a Legislative District Revision Commission on September 14. The County Charter mandates that the Commission must recommend a redistricting plan to the Legislature within 90 days and the Legislature then has 90 days to call a public hearing, consider revisions to the plan and vote to adopt the plan. No minimum days are specified, which means the process could be completed before year's end. The League of Women Voters of Rochester believes that such a compressed schedule will not serve the residents of Monroe County well.

There is no hurry to redistrict. New district lines for the County Legislature are not needed until January 2023. An ideal process for redrawing the lines would allow:

- **Public feedback on how the current district lines have worked for them.** The type of issues that might get aired: District 25 is mainly on the west side of the river but contains some isolated neighborhoods in the South Wedge which feel unrepresented. District 18 contains neighborhoods in East Rochester where the median income is close to the median property tax bill in its wealthier Perinton neighborhoods. How well are these disparate communities of interest represented by combining them? District 26 is roughly 1,500 feet wide and over 7 miles long. Whose interests are served by drawing such an odd-shaped district?
- **Careful work.** Districts, according to law, should be compact, contiguous, not divide up communities of interest, and have the same population as each other. Those criteria can be difficult to fulfill in the best of circumstances, and they conflict to some degree. Communities of interest are not all equal in population and creating districts which are equal without creating neighborhoods which feel cut off from those whose interests they share can be impossible. It requires both time and patience to draw good lines and compromises will be made.
- **Time for the public to study the proposed plan and respond.** Given the inevitable compromises, it is inevitable that certain problems will be overlooked by the commission. Therefore time for the community to examine the plan and express themselves to the Commission is essential to arrive at a plan which will not leave parts of the community poorly represented.
- **Time for revision.** The value of a hearing to get public feedback is negated if there is no time for the commission to use that feedback and revise the maps. This is where the compressed time frame that seems to be unrolling worries us.

The Monroe County Charter is not detailed in what it lays out about the redistricting process, yet it is consistent with the sound process outlined above. The charter requires a public hearing after the Commission releases the recommended plan. Why would that be required if incorporating the feedback weren't intended by the Charter's framers as well?

The process has been set in motion and can't be reversed. Monroe County has a Legislative District Revision Commission, and it has its requirement: maps must be presented within 90 days. The League is concerned that the plan may be to compress the entire process to complete it by December 31. If the maps are announced in mid-November and are to be acted upon before the end of the year, allowing time to override a possible veto from the County Executive, there will be little time for the public to study and respond to the proposed maps or for the commission to revise them.

How best can we citizens now respond to ensure the process is fair? We suggest:

- **Give your feedback on the old maps now.** Let the commission know the problems your community of interest has experienced. Don't be overlooked.
- **Tell your legislator how you feel.** While the accelerated timetable was initiated by the Republicans who currently hold the majority in the Legislature, we note with disappointment that no legislator from any party spoke against it. The legislators need to hear know that the public expects more effective representation. The campaign season is a great time to demand better of your legislator.
- **Speak up about the process.** Let the chair of the commission, Dr. Joseph Carbone, know that you want time to study the proposals and you want the commission to have time to consider your feedback and make revisions. Demand that the Commission release shape maps and demographic information as well as visual maps when the plan is unveiled, to enable rapid and intelligent public response to the proposals. His email address is legislatorcarbone@gmail.com.
- **Know the process and be ready to use it.** The Commission will recommend a plan to the Legislature, which must hold public hearings on it and then enact it by passing legislation. Such legislation can be vetoed by the County Executive. The legislation can also be challenged by a public referendum, which would require a lot of signatures in a short time. It can also be challenged in court should it violate the requirements of redistricting.

There is room for effective citizen action at every step, but time is short.

Barbara Grosh, President, League of Women Voters of the Rochester Metropolitan Area

president@lww-rma.org

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FORUM: Five Proposals to Amend the New York Constitution

Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom

On October 12, we will consider the ballot proposals that all New Yorkers will find on the back of their ballots this fall. In many elections there are no ballot proposals, in some there are one or two. This year, we have five chances to change the New York Constitution.

In order to get on our ballots, these proposals were passed by two successive legislatures. To become law, they require our approval via this referendum.

Proposal 1 is the longest and most complicated and defies easy summary. It revises the amendment that was passed in 2014 to create the Independent Redistricting Commission which is currently at work attempting to draw our new electoral lines without partisan gerrymandering. The 2014 amendment, now part of the NYS Constitution, contains several rules designed to ensure that it's not possible for one party to control the whole process, even if it holds a majority in both houses. Proposal 1 would undo some of the complicated rules put in place to protect the minority party. Other changes would add to the Constitution requirements that incarcerated individuals shall be counted as living in their last place of residence, and not prison, for purposes of redistricting (it is currently state law) and that NYS shall count non-citizen and Native American residents for purposes of redistricting, in case the Federal Census fails to include them in its count.

For the October 12 Zoom meeting, we will have with us Jennifer Wilson, our New York State League Deputy Director and in-house lobbyist, who will help us understand the proposal and its consequences.

Proposal 2 would give us all the right to clean air, clean water, and a clean environment. At our forum, we will be joined by Abby McHugh-Grifa, Executive Director of the Climate Solutions Accelerator. LWVNYS has endorsed this proposal.

Proposal 3 would eliminate the requirement in our constitution for voters to register ten days in advance, opening the possibility for same-day voter registration.

Proposal 4 would allow anyone to vote absentee, with no excuse required.

Proposal 5 would change the cap on claims that can be heard in NYC's Civil Court.

Join us on October 12 to learn more. Register to attend at

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TYBh3lqiQZGtyr7gGeWJKQ.

New York State Redistricting

September 14, 2021

LWV LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS®
 ROCHESTER METRO AREA



Excitement Comes to New York's Redistricting Process

On September 15, New York's brand-new Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) was due to release its recommended maps for NY's new Congressional, Assembly and NYS Senate seats. This much-awaited announcement was made all the more remarkable for the fact that the IRC announced it was unable to reach a consensus and thus announced two sets of maps, one from the Republicans and a different one from the Democrats. (See page 5 for more info.)

On September 14, LWV-RMA hosted a public forum via Zoom on the redistricting process that is currently underway. LWV-RMA member Cathy Kane, member of the League's committee on redistricting, led a discussion of the redistricting process that follows the national Census every ten years. The content of her presentation included:

- A review of NYS constitutional rules regarding the establishment of election districts for U.S. Congress, NYS Assembly, and NYS Senate;
- Issues raised by unfair redistricting (gerrymandering);
- The new process being used by the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission to re-draw election districts;
- The timeline for determining election districts; and
- Ways to communicate with the Independent Redistricting Commission about its recommended election districts.

LWV-RMA members Judy Sternberg and Judy Weinstein, who also serve on the League's redistricting committee, served as panelists to help answer questions raised by participants.

Also during the session, LWV-RMA President Barbara Grosh introduced our two Redistricting Awareness Spokespersons, former Rochester Mayor William A. Johnson, Jr. (D) and former Gates Town Supervisor Mark Assini (R).

More redistricting information as well as directions for submitting testimony to the Independent Redistricting Commission can be found at: <https://www.lwv-rma.org/redistricting.php>



TOP: LWV-RMA President Barbara Grosh with Redistricting Awareness Spokespersons Mark Assini and William A. Johnson, Jr.
 BOTTOM: Presenter Cathy Kane with Panelists Judy Sternberg and Judy Weinstein.

REDISTRICTING UPDATES: NY Independent Redistricting Commission (NYIRC) and MC Legislative Revision Commission

The **NYIRC** released two sets of draft Congressional, NYS Senate, and Assembly district maps on September 15. As the commissioners could not reach agreement on one set of maps, the Republicans and Democrats have each submitted their own plans. In the Democratic set, the districts are labeled with assigned names, in the Republican set the districts are labeled with assigned letters. The maps can be accessed in a user-friendly format that includes current 2012 districts at <https://bit.ly/nyircmaps>. The maps can also be found on the NYIRC website, www.nyirc.gov, but downloading from there has been challenging.

The Commission has scheduled a series of public hearings around the state to receive feedback on the maps. The hearings will be held October 20 through November 23. After the hearings, the maps may undergo revisions and the commissioners could possibly reach consensus on a single plan. The NYIRC must submit a plan by January 15, 2022, or if consensus is not reached, more than one plan can be submitted to the NYS Legislature, which following specified rules, will take over from there. If the NYIRC submits a plan, the Legislature and Governor will approve or reject the plan. If the first plan is rejected, the NYIRC can submit a second plan. If that plan is rejected, the Legislature will draw the maps, following specified rules.

Rochester's hearing is scheduled for October 21, at 4:00 P.M. at the Rochester EOC, 161 Chestnut St, Rochester 14604. NYIRC members will hear oral testimony and accept written testimony. Those who wish to testify in-person or virtually need to register at <https://nyirc.gov/participate> by October 19 at 4:00 P.M. Written testimony, including any recommended alternative maps, should be submitted at that same site. Tips on giving testimony, as well as other resources, can be found on the lww-rma.org Redistricting 2021 page <https://www.lww-rma.org/redistricting.php>

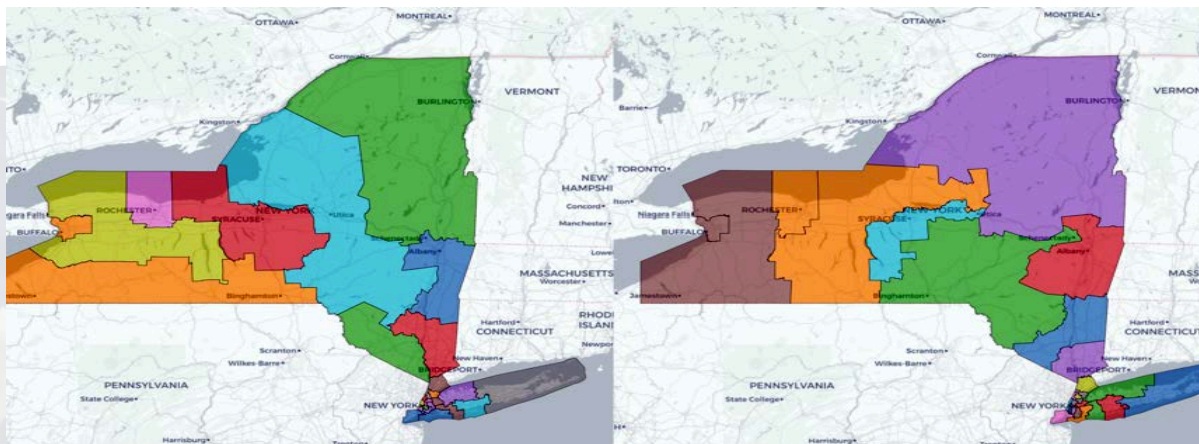
While it appears that the independent, non-partisan principles on which the commission was formed are being threatened by partisan concerns, the League urges residents to proceed with giving feedback, speaking up for their own interests.

The **Monroe County Legislature** appointed a Legislative District Revision Commission on September 14. The County Charter specifies that this Commission be appointed within 6 months after release of the official decennial census data (released on August 12, 2021). The Commission is to include the President of the Legislature, the two Monroe County Elections Commissioners, a Republican Party legislator and a Democratic Party legislator. The appointed members include MC Legislature President Joe Carbone (R), MC Elections Commissioner Lisa Nicolay (R), MC Elections Commissioner Jackie Ortiz (D), Legislator Steve Brew (R), and Legislator Joshua Bauroth (D). The Charter further states that the Commission must release a proposed district plan within three months of its formation, in this case no later than December 14. Within three months after release of a proposed plan a public hearing is to be held, followed by a vote of the full legislature. Any adopted plan can be challenged by citizens through a petition and ballot referendum process. Court challenges are also possible. The League will notify members and the public when the Commission's draft maps and hearing schedule are available.

Address any questions or inquire about joining our efforts at redistricting@lww-rma.org.

Judy Sternberg

LWV-RMA Redistricting Campaign Team



Republican (left) and Democratic (right) Congressional redistricting maps from the NYIRC website, www.nyirc.gov.

LWV-RMA hosting Candidate Forums



LWV-RMA scheduled 22 virtual Candidate Forums for every contested election in Monroe County! This enormous commitment was possible because several members volunteered to help moderate the debates. Training for potential moderators was presented on September 9 and 10 by Paul Schwarz from the LWV of Westchester. Further local training for moderators, tech assistants, and timekeepers was organized by Judy Weinstein on September 22. Members can help during the October meetings by serving as timekeeper or technology assistant or in the development of questions of interest to voters served by the particular candidates. If you can assist with any of these responsibilities or any of the forums, please sign up at League of Women Voters 20210417: Candidate Debates for November 2021 (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080948a4a722a7fc1-candidate>).

The Forums for Chili, Clarkson, Gates, Greece Town, Hamlin, Henrietta, Ogden, and Rush were scheduled for September. The schedule for October Candidate Forums is to the right.

All debates are virtual using Zoom. Registration is required. All debates are being recorded and posted to our YouTube channel.

BRIGHTON	Member of Town Council (2) Town Clerk	10/21 7:00 P.M.
EAST ROCHESTER	Village Trustee (2) County Leg District 10	10/5 5:30 P.M.
GREECE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS	County Leg Districts 6, 7, 19	10/4 7:00 P.M.
IRONDEQUOIT	Supervisor Member of Town Council (2) County Leg Districts 16 & 17	10/7 7:00 P.M.
MENDON	Supervisor, Town Justice, Member of Town Council (2)	10/11 7:00 P.M.
PERINTON	Town Clerk, Town Justice, Member of Town Council (2) County Leg Districts 11 & 18	10/14 7:00 P.M.
PITTSFORD	Supervisor, Town Justice, Member of Town Council (2)	10/13 7:00 P.M.
ROCHESTER	City Council at-large	10/18 7:00 P.M.
SWEDEN	Member of Town Council (2) Town Justice County Leg District 20	10/5 7:30 P.M.
WEBSTER	Supervisor, Town Justice, Member of Town Council (2) County Leg Districts 8 & 15	10/19 7:00 P.M.
COUNTY LEG DEBATES I	County Leg Districts 4, 9, 13, 14	10/6 7:00 P.M.
COUNTY LEG DEBATES	County Leg Districts 24, 25, 26, 27	10/17 7:00 P.M.



Instructor Paul Schwarz and LWV-RMA members who attended one of the moderator training sessions he led. Organizer Judy Weinstein with moderators, tech assistants, and timekeepers who met on September 22.



Voter Registration Activities in Full Swing

Thank you to all the volunteers who have participated in voter registration efforts in August and September – at the Greece School District Back-to-School Bash, Nazareth College, RIT, the Clothesline Arts Festival, and four branch libraries in Rochester. These occasions allowed our volunteers to share information on voter registration, the Child Tax Credit, and the five propositions on the November ballot.



Seen at voter registration activities in September:

TOP: Elaine Schmidt at the Greece Back-to-School Bash; Jazzmyn Ivery-Robinson (Coordinator, Center for Civic Engagement, Nazareth College), Myra Pelz, and Susan Steepy at Nazareth College's Welcome Back Fair.

MIDDLE: Susan Steepy, Elaine Schmidt, Mary Jo Bonin, and Scott Forsyth at MAG's Clothesline Arts Festival.

BOTTOM: Elaine Schmidt and Barbara Grosh at a Stop the Violence gathering in Jones Park.



Vote411.org is Live for Our Local Elections!

Vote411.org, the League of Women Voters voter information website, provides information on the candidates who will appear on your ballot as well as on the five ballot propositions. The Monroe County races, from Sheriff down through town and village offices, have all been published. The more than 200 local candidates were asked to provide their positions on issues that LWV-RMA considers important to the community. At the time I am writing this in mid-September, 67 candidates have submitted their responses, with more coming in daily.

When you visit Vote411.org to research the candidates, if you see a candidate who has not posted responses, please reach out to the candidate to express your displeasure.

Judy Weinstein, *Vote411.org* Director

Position Update Studies

The process of reviewing and updating all 12 of our local League Positions began over a year ago and resulted in the dropping of seven of those Positions (due to redundancy with state or national Positions) and approval to conduct update studies on the remaining five Positions. This is an important undertaking as we rely on relevant Positions in order to authorize undertaking of local advocacy and actions.

To start the process the Board approved an ad hoc planning group, composed of last year's Local Position Review Group members, to provide guidance and recruit members for five separate Local Position Study Committees. The group began meeting in early September and prepared a recruitment letter which went out to members via email on September 24th. The letter provided information on the mission of the committees and on the five Positions. Further information will be provided to members who express interest or have questions. It is expected that some committees will form in October. Members of the ad hoc group will provide guidance and support to the committees.

The five Positions to be studied and updated are in the areas of:

- Planning and Zoning
- Governmental Structures and Procedures
- Budget Process
- Equitable Sales Tax Distribution
- Police Services

Please consider joining a committee to research and update one of these positions. This is an opportunity to make a contribution to support one of the most fundamental of the League's missions: advocacy on issues of important public policy.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Judy Sternberg at jsternberg3b@gmail.com

Planning Group for Local Position Study Committees:

Barbara Murphy, Myra Pelz, Judy Sternberg, Judy Wadsworth, Judy Weinstein

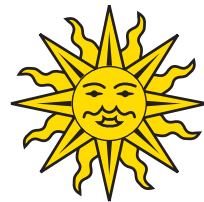


Members of the ad hoc group guiding the study of our local positions during their meeting on September 1.

FEPC Up and Running

The League of Women Voters-Rochester Metro Area and The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) have started the 2021 Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC) for the General Election. All General Election candidates were asked to sign a Fair Campaign Pledge. Candidates who signed the Pledge for the Primary Elections in the spring and who made it onto the General Election ballot will have those Pledges honored for the General Election season. Pledges were due by September 20, after which a press release was issued announcing all who have signed. Complaints of violations of fair elections practices will be heard by the Hearing Committee starting September 21. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with the Campaign may call Kris Rogers at 585-746-6157.

Sunshine Corner



COMIDA MEETING, AUGUST 17, 2021

OBSERVED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON

Public Comments: Grant Malone, President of the Rochester Building Trades Council, communicated his concern about the number of out of state laborers working on COMIDA projects. He wanted to make the Board aware of his organization and offered to help address labor issues that may arise in the future.

New Business:

The following requests were approved:

- Home Leasing LLC, requested sales and mortgage recording tax exemptions and real property tax abatement for the acquisition and renovation of the Hickey Freeman property in northeast Rochester. The building will include 134 affordable apartments for low-income adults aged 55 and older and manufacturing space for Hickey Freeman operations.
- * DeMarte Companies Inc. requested sales and mortgage recording tax exemptions and real property tax abatement for acquiring land and building a manufacturing structure on Regency Oaks Boulevard in Ogden. The facility will manufacture equipment and robotics for the automotive, energy, medical, and consumer markets.

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:

- Facility 4 for the addition of a new manufacturing line;
- Howitt-Paul Road, LLC for a senior housing community;
- Dell 3750 Monroe Avenue Associates, LLC for renovation of a manufacturing building;
- ProAm Pac Rochester, LLC for a manufacturing facility;
- Hamister Real Estate Equity Fund, LLC for the assumption of benefits for a property they are purchasing;
- The Marketplace Mall for the main mall parcel and Macy's parcel only.

Other Business:

The following requests were approved:

- The Governance Committee recommended approval of the county Empower workforce development training program at MCC for three years.
- Erica Fee, President of Rochester Fringe Festival, requested \$30,000 support for 25 employees to receive training in conjunction with the Festival.
- Rochester Summer Soul Music Festival requested \$7500 support for a job fair being held at the Festival.
- Monroe County Finger Lakes Procurement Technical Assistance Center provides networking, training and one-on-one counseling to businesses who want to sell to local, state, and federal governments and the military. A program audit recommended streamlining funding, with COMIDA being the sponsoring agency and funding source. The funding was approved for the fiscal year ending August 2022.

An Executive Session was held to discuss staffing issues. Following the session, an administrative assistant position was approved and Robin Finnerty was approved as Deputy Director of COMIDA.

Full minutes of COMIDA meetings are accessible at

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

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POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD, AUGUST 26, 2021

OBSERVED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON

Rosabel Antonetti, Chief of Operations for PAB, conducted the meeting. The new public meeting format includes staff updates followed by a public question and answer session. Board deliberations will no longer be included.

Chairperson Shani Wilson explained that although in-person meetings are required due to the suspension of the public pandemic emergency, PAB and other agencies have requested that Governor Hochul reverse this decision due to concern over the COVID variant. Pending a response from the Governor, PAB will conduct remote meetings only via Facebook Live and/or Zoom. A meeting schedule was not announced.



Executive Director Reynolds presented an overview of what PAB has been working on and the path forward. It is hoped that PAB's investigative processes will be functioning early next year.

The budget process and related hiring issues were reviewed. In the budget revised by the Mayor and approved by City Council, funds were put in the services line and not in the salaries line. The impetus was encouragement of a new staffing model that would include use of outside agencies, consultants, and full-time staff, to ramp up quickly and change spending plans as demand dictates. PAB researched these issues and refined their plan to identify three administrative sections: external public affairs, internal operations, and the executive office. Additional adjustments were made to hiring plans, including salaries and the timing of hires. Rather than hiring all 50 staff positions over the summer, hires will be phased-in across the year. The new structure will allow for more flexible staffing and the ability to refine the Board's vision. Many layers of approval are needed before job descriptions can be approved and posted. With a focus on investigative positions and senior staffing, PAB now has approval for 20 positions across ten staffing categories. Job descriptions will be posted on www.ROCpab.org, a website being developed.

These changes necessitate outside help to perform near-term tasks, however. SMK Consultants, national experts in PAB functions, have been selected to help write investigative procedures and rules, and to create a training program for staff. Local partnerships include CauseWave (formerly Ad Council) to devise and deploy a public communication strategy. Arrangements with other firms will be announced in the future.

A Q&A session followed. Many questions involved the job postings. The positions are full time with good wages and benefits to include health insurance, education benefits, and relocation costs. The decision to require Civil service exams is pending but exams are not required in the interim. Hires must reside in the city within one year of their employment date. This is typically required for city government positions with the exception of the police force.

PAB, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

OBSERVED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON

Prompted by the change in state law allowing remote meetings through the end of January 2022, PAB will be conducting meetings via Facebook live until further notice.

Executive Director Reynolds gave an update on hiring, planning, and consulting work. The leaders for these projects are staff members Rosabel Antonetti and Natalie Banks with assistance from Marene Donnelly. Pipelines to diverse community groups are being established to publicize job openings. The www.ROCPAB.org website is under development and should be on-line soon. Natalie Banks is working with Causewave to develop a public communication strategy. A professional services contract is nearing completion and a hotline is being established. Consultants will be developing on-boarding and training programs for staff. Language translation services are being investigated.

Among PAB's hiring priorities are finding diverse people from Rochester who are committed to working for transparency and accountability, offering good wages, focusing on investigatory staff, and continual improvement and flexibility through experience. The following positions were approved by the Civil Service Commission in August: Chief of investigations and two investigation teams composed of attorneys; a senior attorney for policy and oversight and policy analysts; a digital media manager; a web master; general counsel; and a secretary to the Board and staff.

A second phase hiring plan was submitted to the City government for review and approval. Included in this phase are: a case officer; a policy and oversight leader; press relations staff; deputy chiefs of community engagement; a director of staff and development, human resources; a staff support analyst; a deputy chief of

Sunshine Corner continued from page 10



case management; staff for a third team of investigators and evidentiary staff. A tentative third wave of hires may include paralegals, investigators, and non-attorney senior evidentiary analysts. Services, equipment, etc. are also being secured.

The Rochester Police Department recently issued new policies regarding the handcuffing of children, treatment of juveniles, and the overall use of force. PAB's position is that these policies reinforce the need for the involvement of dedicated policy staff in developing policies that will increase community safety and allow officers to do their work.

PAB has become aware of contract negotiations between City government and the police Locust Club. PAB advocates for public disclosure of such negotiations. SUNY Buffalo and Yale Law School students will be working with PAB again this semester to craft guidelines concerning police union transparency throughout the bargaining process. They will provide updates on their progress.

An executive session was held to discuss specific hiring concerns and numerous legal items including pending litigation and contracts with potential partners.

Full minutes of Police Accountability Board meetings are accessible at

www.City of Rochester | Police Accountability Board

MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT PER VIDEO

Public Forum

Demond Wilson of Ruby Exploratory Committee, which is "looking at reparations and universal basic income", spoke in support of reparations to communities affected by systemic harm "when the time comes."

Shirley Thompson spoke for Team Lakaya, a group of concerned women of color, to ask that sexual harassment be identified as a major violation of Monroe County code of ethics and that the number of members of the county's board of ethics be increased to 5 or 7 with gender balance, bipartisanship, and diverse representation.

Lakaya Sinclair asked for the resignation of a county legislator.

Several speakers supported the "Covered Lives" childhood early intervention bill at the state level. They asked that the legislators use their influence on state lawmakers to get the bill passed.

A public hearing on the local law entitled "to Establish the Food Delivery Fairness Act" was scheduled for October 12 at 6:15 P.M.

The following individuals were appointed to the Monroe County Library System Board of Trustees with terms to expire June 30, 2026: Ms. Emily Hessney Lynch, Ms. Lois Geiss, and Ms. Marjorie Shelly.

The following individuals were appointed to the Monroe County Traffic Safety Board with terms to expire June 30, 2024: Mr. Jeffrey J. Krywy, Mr. Mark Philippy, and Mr. Ronald Bajorek.

A special committee to examine and revise the Monroe County Code of Ethics was created by unanimous vote.

The following individuals were appointed to the Monroe County Recycling Advisory Committee with terms to expire June 30, 2023: Andrea Cusenz, Foodlink; Dennis Zink; and Christopher Foote, Wegmans Food Markets.

The following individual was appointed to the Monroe County Board of Health with a term to expire August 31, 2025: Elizabeth A. Kiss.

The following individuals were appointed to the Legislative District Revision Commission (see Redistricting article on page 5) by unanimous vote: Dr. Joseph Carbone, Legislator Steve Brew, Legislator Joshua Bauroth, Lisa Nicolay, and Jackie Ortiz.

Full minutes of Monroe County Legislature meetings are accessible at

www.Agendas & Minutes | Monroe County, NY

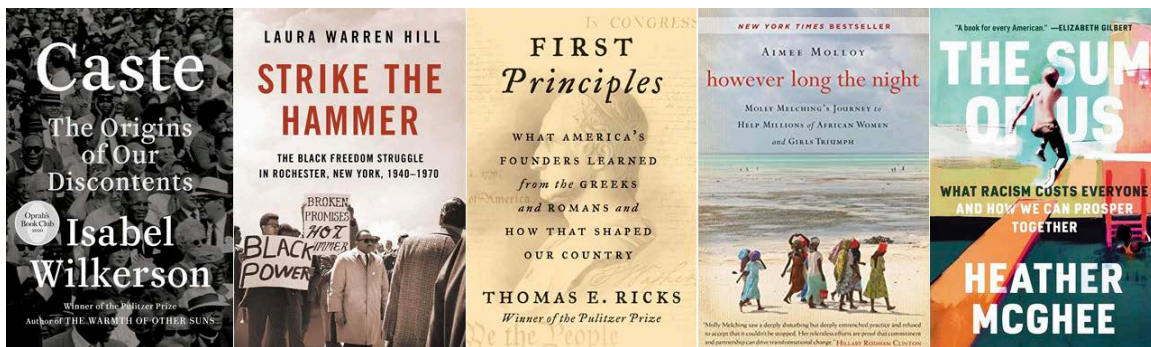
Book Club Update

The LWV-RMA book club meets at 4:30 P.M., usually on the third Thursday of the month. 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. Below is the reading and meeting schedule for October through January. Books for later in the year are yet to be determined.



Book club members meeting via Zoom on September 23 to discuss the book, *CASTE*, by Isabel Wilkerson.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| October 21 | Strike the Hammer by Laura Warren Hill – discussion led by Elaine Schmidt |
| November 18 | First Principles by Thomas E. Ricks – discussion led by Georgia DiGregorio |
| December 16 | However Long the Night by Aimee Molloy – discussion led by Judy Wadsworth |
| January 20 | The Sum of Us 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).



Recommended Reading

Era of Easier Voting for Disabled People is Already Over

Last year, states passed pandemic-driven reforms that made voting easier for everyone. Thanks to absentee ballots, drop-off boxes, and curbside voting, people with disabilities turned out in record numbers in the 2020 election. That's likely to change. Now policy makers in many states, citing exaggerated concerns about fraud, are passing bills that will make it harder for disabled people to vote.

Sarah Katz "The Era of Easier Voting for Disabled People Is Over." *Route Fifty*. August 24, 2021

The Era of Easier Voting for Disabled People Is Over - *Route Fifty* (<https://www.route-fifty.com/management/2021/08/era-easier-voting-disabled-people-over/184865/>)

Rochester's Experiment in 'Black Capitalism'

In the wake of nationwide protests, corporate America has pledged to fight racism and support Black Americans. But a similar initiative started decades ago in Rochester shows it is a promise that is difficult to sustain. This article reviews Rochester's attempts, and failures, at providing business opportunities to Black entrepreneurs.

Michael Corkery. "'Black Capitalism' Promised a Better City for Everyone. What Happened?" *New York Times*. September 12, 2021

https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/12/business/rochester-black-companies-eltrex.html?unlocked_article_code=AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAACEIPuonUktbfqohkQVUaASbfQMMmqBCdnr_Vx7c8i2TiITLQOzJLxOdQCI-F407LZKd4ItY3wy6WVJIBLLorDrRU_9NoAnZMGUOUS4fW39MMOTk0ooa-GTg6gp-WDe00tGPnYDf8dbx2nvi1sRmIdTS8XKGM2XV2JFoy8YB3Ng3_gQx-zabEGuN13dR7zK1hUsg8HWFcEXHM6_r4CBx-OMGEZgXc4mQ1UuJZXTLQnb2M-u5KMWUSWR-dEiQJsStr48hcOdguIK79MxYhHcL0ir4WAWRrR5y7A3slt1hLv47jSLxr1sBkHw&smid=url-share

Calendar

October

- 1 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.) Join us in person on the roof at I-Square or via Zoom; look for an email notification.
- 8 Last day to register to vote
- 12 LWV-RMA forum: 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.)
- 28 LWV-RMA Book Club (4:30 – 5:30 P.M. via Zoom) - *Strike the Hammer* by Laura Warren Hill.

November

- 2 ELECTION DAY! Last day to postmark absentee ballot
- 5 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.) Join us via Zoom; look for an email notification.
- 17 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (6:00 – 8:00 P.M.)
- 18 LWV-RMA Book Club (4:30 – 5:30 P.M. via Zoom) - *First Principles* by Thomas E. Ricks

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!

Join First Friday!

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:

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



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

NOVEMBER VOTER DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 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.

Rochester VOTER

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

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

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

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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	