

TheVOTER



Let's talk about the NYS **Equal Rights Amendment** *It's Time!*

Wednesday,
August 7, 2024
7:00 PM via Zoom



See Page 3 for details and [Register Here](#)

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President's Corner

The League's tagline is "Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy". That is a broad and ambitious arena in which to work. With the upcoming election there is much we can be doing to meet those goals. How much we can accomplish is completely dependent on how many League members show up and put their shoulders to the wheel. We need your help!

Here is a list, ranging from big to small, and one time to ongoing, of things we need help with:

- Educate voters on the NYS ERA Amendment:
 - Join the ERA committee
 - Participate in the August 7 webinar planning session (See page 3 for details)
 - Help inform the public any place you can (clubs, church groups, etc.)
 - Contact era@lwv-rma.org to join these efforts
- Research locations where we can provide information on voting and Vote411
 - Collect a list of laundromats where we could post information on voting
 - Collect a list of fire stations that have electronic signs and would be willing to display messages about voting dates and Vote411
 - Identify high-rise, low-income buildings, senior centers, etc. where we could post information
 - Reach out to voterservices@lwv-rma.org. Help with these research tasks or others you dream up.
- Join our communications team - contact president@lwv-rma.org
 - We need people to draft email blasts and social media posts.
- Join our technical team - contact president@lwv-rma.org
 - We need a webmaster to keep the site up to date and handle email blasts
 - We need Zoom managers for our candidate forums and educational forums
- Help prepare for candidate forums and update Vote411 - contact Vote411@lwv-rma.org
 - Help us reach out to candidates to gather information and schedule forums
- Help us organize educational forums - contact president@lwv-rma.org
 - Help us reach out to speakers to organize and schedule forums
- Help us with outreach to new Americans - contact voterservices@lwv-rma.org
 - We need to ensure that they are both registered AND have voting information
- Represent us on the LWNYS criminal justice reform task force - contact president@lwv-rma.org
- Join the board. It's a great place to get to know everything that's going on
 - We need a secretary to take notes and write donation thank you notes
 - We also need additional voices at the table with ideas and enthusiasm
 - Contact nominations@lwv-rma.org

Please reach out if you'd like to help with these or other tasks. We'll find a task that meets your skills, interests and time. It takes a village!

Barbara Grosh, president@lwv-rma.org

Educational Forum: NYS Equal Rights Constitutional Amendment

Join our zoom call to learn about the proposition on the ballot this year to amend the NY Constitution. It will expand the classes protected from government discrimination to include:

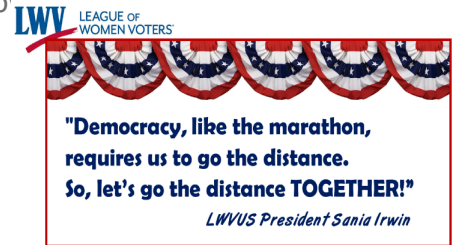
- Age
- Disability
- Ethnicity
- National Origin
- Sex (including gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation)

In addition it will

- Prohibit government actions that impede a person's reproductive freedom
- Codify abortion, miscarriage management, and gender-affirming care in our state constitution

We'll learn about what's contained in the amendment and why we need the amendment. We'll go on to spend a substantial part of the meeting discussing how they know about the amendment and understand the stakes.

Register here: [ERA Amendment](#)



National Convention Links:

Everyone is now able to view many of the presentations from the LWV-US convention on YouTube. Here are descriptions of the various topics and links to the recording:

1. **Turn Up for One Person One Vote**, a discussion about the movement to abolish the Electoral College [Electoral](#)
2. **Tribute to the life of late LWVUS Board president, Dr. Deborah Ann Turner** [Tribute](#)
3. **LWVUS outgoing President Sania Irwin** on her personal story, highlighting the power of women to persevere and make a difference in democracy [President's Remarks](#)
4. **Celina Stewart, new LWVUS CEO, remarks**, focusing on the phrase: "Together, we will." [CEO](#)
5. **Cherokee Nation Delegate to US House Kimberly Teehee** on the history of Native women in justice movements, the partnership and shared values between Native peoples and the League, and the power of Native activists [Teehee remarks](#)
6. **LWVUS Incoming President Dianna Wynn's remarks**, highlighting her background of resilient activism and emphasizing the League's nonpartisan, grassroots voice as our core strength. [Wynn](#)

See page 6 for Carolyn O'Neil's description of her time at the convention

Voter Services

Since our last update for the Voter, our volunteers have been busy registering voters and distributing information in preparation of the primary election. Highlights included:

- two Juneteenth celebrations
- the 19th Ward Square Fair
- the #End Gun Violence event
- Trinity Emmanuel Church breakfasts
- the rummage sale at Mary Magdalene Church

The people we talked with were especially appreciative of our Vote411 tool as a way to find non-partisan information on the candidates. A few thousand cards with information on the primary election were distributed at tabling events and throughout low turnout areas with the help of nonmember volunteers at The Vineyard.

Looking forward, our efforts will concentrate on the general election. Contests for national, state and local offices will be on the ballot as well as a State Equal Rights Amendment. Educating voters on the need for the amendment and the rights it would add to our state constitution will be a key focus.

Volunteers are integral to our success. We invite both members and non-members to participate. Members should be receiving emails listing upcoming events. If you are not, please contact lww.roc.volunteer@gmail.com.

Non-members should request to receive the emails by sending a note to lww.roc.volunteer@gmail.com. Following a request to be added to our distribution list, you will receive an email with login instructions. Then, please check your email for information on upcoming events and where we need volunteers. You just click on the link in the email to volunteer.

We greatly appreciate our volunteers' time and talents in reaching out to voters. We always welcome new ideas and suggestions. We hope to welcome you to our Voter Services team!"

Submitted by Deborah Gordon and Cathy Kane



Barbara Brody & Kathleen Garrant at Mary Magdalene rummage sale in East Rochester.

Board Member Dr. Carolyn O'Neil at the Juneteenth 5K in Genesee Valley Park





Naturalization Ceremonies Update

Our League volunteers have been busy in 2024 with registering to vote new citizens at Naturalization Oath Ceremonies. At each of the ceremonies listed below volunteers provided information about voting and assisted new citizens in registering to vote.

- April 16 at 11:00 A.M., at the Monroe County Office Building; volunteers: Anita Hawkins and Katherine Smith; 50 candidates for citizenship
- May 21 at 11:00 A.M., at the Monroe County Office Building; volunteers: Beth Feldman and Tamara Minter; 31 candidates for citizenship
- May 21 at 2:00 P.M., at the Federal Building; volunteers: Marilyn Rosen and Margaret Supinski; 48 candidates for citizenship
- June 18 at 11:00 A.M., at the Monroe County Office Building; volunteers: Beth Feldman and Liz Kmiecinski; 29 candidates for citizenship
- June 18 at 2:00 P.M., at the Federal Building; volunteers: Marcia Eisenberg and Margaret Supinski; 31 candidates for citizenship
- July 4 at 11:00 A.M., at the Genesee Country Museum; volunteers: Marilyn Rosen and Katherine Smith; 26 candidates for citizenship

Naturalization ceremonies are a happy, welcoming event. See the happy faces of the new citizens and our volunteers in the pictures. Any member wishing to volunteer to help at ceremonies, please contact Sheila Abeling at sheiler162007@gmail.com.

Submitted by Sheila Abeling



TURN UP AND TURN OUT: The 2024 LWVUS Convention

I enjoy conventions. I look forward to hearing various viewpoints on a variety of issues and subjects. I listen to see if there are ideas and issues presented that are so innovative that they cause the audience to sit up and take notice. This helps me to discern whether I'm in a group of thinkers - people who will push the envelope of traditionalism and challenge the organization to be forward-thinking and not to stagnate, resisting change until it overwhelms them. Therefore, I attended this convention with certain expectations.

The 2024 LWV convention did not disappoint. There were plenty of ideas and issues presented, some very thought-provoking. The idea that piqued my interest the most was a call to do a study on making the money system work for democracy. With the explosion of Bitcoin and other types of currency coming on the scene this topic generated a lot of discussion, both pro and con. This is one example of what I had hoped to encounter at this convention.

As a minister my interest has centered around conventions that have been held by my denomination. But the issues that have arisen in my community in the last few years have awakened in me a desire to impact my community on a wider, less polarizing, level. So, I got involved with the League of Women Voters in Rochester.

At the convention I wanted to go to workshops that would help me to better understand some of the changes that certain people were proposing to our voting system, so I chose workshops on challenges to the electoral college. One workshop centered around explaining the National Popular Vote (NPV). As I understand it, this type of vote means that each state will give their delegates to the person who wins the popular vote nationally. This method would bypass the electoral college and give the office to the person who garnered the most vote across all states. NYS has elected to abide by this method if it should gain the backing of enough states.

The other workshop that I want to mention was the one on Rank Choice Voting, which lets voters rank the people who are running for a particular office in their order of preference so that, effectively, the most popular candidate wins in the end. To me this would dovetail with the NPV and effectively eliminate the electoral college. NYC has recently used this process in its voting with some positive results. I enjoyed both workshops.

From the very first evening of the convention, I realized just how little I knew about the democratic process of voting that my country supposedly operates by. For instance, I could not answer the question, "How are my electors chosen in NY and who are they in 2024?". I was then reminded that the League's bread and butter is to "educate, educate, educate" which says to me that you can find assistance from the LWV to learn how it works and how to implement it in your community.

In summation, I felt that getting to the convention was worth the effort. To me, the Plenary sessions were kind of long. I thought some things could have been handled virtually before the convention gathering. Also, the convention jargon is littered with abbreviations (like NPV) which makes a newcomer feel kind of out of the loop, but all in all I left this year's convention invigorated and looking forward to working in the Rochester community to educate and excite voters to register and cast their votes.

Submitted by Carolyn L. O'Neil

Countdown to November 2024 Elections!

Early voting days	October 28 thru November 3
Register in person or online by	October 26 by close of business day
Register by mail	Must be received by BOE by October 26
Apply for absentee or 'vote early by mail' ballot in person by	November 4 by close of business day
Apply for absentee or "vote early by mail" ballot by mail or online	Must be received by BOE by October 26
Deliver ballot in person	By 9 P.M. on November 5 at any polling place or BOE
Deliver ballot by mail	Must be postmarked by November 5 and received by November 12



Book club explores *Democracy Awakening*

On July 18, LWV-RMA book club members discussed *Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America*, by historian Heather Cox Richardson. The group also reacted to a Facebook video she hosted on what we need to consider in light of the Supreme Court decision on presidential immunity. The video can be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/heathercoxrichardson/videos/1007439607634452>.

This discussion marked the end of the 2023-2024 book discussion season. Members will be polled electronically soon to identify a time for gathering to determine our readings for the 2024-2025 year.

Calendar of LWV-RMA Upcoming Activities

The best way to be informed about various League events is to use the on-line calendar.

You do not need to be a member, or sign in to access the calendar.

The on-line calendar is updated frequently and is more current than a newsletter can be.

By accessing the calendar, you can click on an event and obtain information and register

You can see future (or past) months activities by easily using the < > buttons

Access the Calendar [here](#).



First Fridays

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

The Voter

David Newman has volunteered to join The Voter team. David will be proofreading and doing the layout work previously done by Chris Burleigh. If you enjoy researching information or writing articles, you may want to consider joining the team also.

Contact me at micketeditor@gmail.com if you are interested in helping with the newsletter. Thank you, David for volunteering.

501(c)(3) Conversion Update

The LWV-RMA Board is pleased to inform our members that the first step in the process of changing our tax status has been accomplished. New York State has amended the Incorporation Certificate with the language approved at the June 10 Annual Meeting. During August the Board will be completing and submitting the IRS application document. All the Leagues that have applied have been approved. However, the review process may take from 3 to 5 months. Stay tuned for further updates.

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

**NEXT VOTER DEADLINE:
August 15**

League of Women Voters

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

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

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

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Board of Directors:

President	Barbara Grosh (23-25)
Vice President	
Treasurer	Constance Flahive (23-25)
Secretary	
Director	Cathy Kane (24-26)
Director	Tess McFarland-Porter (23-25)
Director	Mary Micket (23-25)
Director	Deb Leary (24-26)
Director	Carolyn O'Neil (24-26)
Director	Karen Morris (24-26)

Committee Contacts

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President@LWV-RMA.org

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Sheiler162007@gmail.com

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membership@LWV-RMA.org

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nominations@LWV-RMA.org

Programs: Barbara Grosh

President@LWV-RMA.org

Vote411: Tonya Brooks

vote411@LWV-RMA.org

Voter Services: Deb Gordon / Cathy Kane

Voterservices@LWV-RMA.org

Join the League Today!



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ Email _____

Check Amount: _____

Membership Level: _____

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

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

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

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