

TheVOTER



Head to the polls and cast your vote early! A day filled with fun, music, and activities for all ages.

Saturday,
October 26, 2024
12pm-3pm

Parcel 5,
285 E. Main St.
Rochester, NY 14604



Hosted by
Yolanda Smilez



Sticker Contest Update

Our "I Voted" sticker design contest yielded 23 entries from around Monroe County. See the 6 finalists on page 8.

Now you can weigh in. Rank all six of them and we'll decide the winner using Ranked Choice Voting.

Voting ends on October 8.

In this Issue:

Page 2	President's Report
Page 3	Girl Scout Collaboration
Page 4	Election Security
Page 5	Voter Services Update
Page 6	RIT Voter Registration
Page 7	Naturalization
	Candidate Forums
	Welcome New Members
Page 8	Sticker Contest
Page 9	Book Group
	Calendar

Celebrate 100 Years of LWV-RMA at an Early Voting Celebration

As of 2024, our local League has been active for 100 years. When I realized that last year, I thought we needed to plan a suitable celebration of all the work we've done and continue to do. That celebration will be happening at Parcel 5, on October 26 from noon - 3:00 P.M.

The 26th is a wonderful day to gather, because it is the first day of early voting, as well as the last day to register for the general election. The first day of day of early voting has been labeled the Golden Day. The Flower City Pride Band will help warm the crowd up with some marching-style music and whoever wishes can march together to the County Office Building which is 4/10 of a mile away. We'll also have a shuttle bus making loops between the park at Parcel 5 and the Board of Elections offices so that people can easily vote throughout the party.

There will be food trucks (free food for the first 200 people), hot beverages, music, a host, children's choirs and performers, line dancing, and more. Everyone will receive an "I Voted" sticker bearing the winning design from our contest. There will be face-painting and a photo booth and kids will be casting ballots in a mock election. Several churches will be helping us by transporting people from their neighborhoods to the park. Two different radio stations are helping to promote the event, and you should be seeing it on early morning local news shows (if you're the kind of person who gets up early).

I'm super happy with the wonderful partners we're working with to make this event happen this year, and hopefully again every year. They include SEIU, RocACTS, the NAACP, several of the Divine Nine sororities and fraternities, Vocal-NY, the National Association of Black Nurses and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. It's a tribute to our hard work and networking throughout the Rochester community to be working with these great groups.

Barbara Grosh

president@lwg-rma.org



An Opportunity:

Help Educate the Next Generation of Informed Voters and Future Members of the LWV-RMA



The LWVUS and the Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) are teaming up to build civically engaged girls of courage, confidence, and character. This will be a great opportunity to acquaint young girls and women with LWV-RMA and to provide education and experiences to reinforce civic responsibility.

Some activities are already happening locally. A Scout leader asked Deborah Gordon for our help with 4th graders after the election. Cathy Kane worked with a Girl Scout troop at Wilson Academy earlier in the year. Monroe County Girl Scout leaders distributed information about our sticker contest to the troops in Monroe County.

Per the GSUSA announcement on the national initiative, some ideas for collaboration with LWV are:

- The Promote the Vote service project: LWV volunteers and troop leadership partner to help a Girl Scout troop complete the Promote the Vote service project, help to get out the vote, and encourage individuals in their communities to make a plan to vote.
- Girl Scouts' Civics Badges: Partner to help Girl Scouts earn badges related to civics and democracy.
- Co-Host Events: Local Leagues and Girl Scout councils or service units co-hosting educational events, badge workshops, and voter registration drives.

This program can be whatever the LWV-RMA volunteers and the local Girl Scout Leaders involved want to make it.

This is a great opportunity for LWV-RMA to help educate future voters and encourage future membership in our organization. We will miss this opportunity without a core group of members willing to work with the local Girl Scout leadership to organize and maintain the collaboration.

**Please consider volunteering to participate in this exciting new endeavor.
Contact Theresa McFarland-Porter at 333tess@gmail.com with questions and/or to
volunteer.**

New York State Election Security

This information from the NYS Board of Elections website and the Monroe County Board of Elections (BOE) will address any concerns you, or voters you interact with, may have about the validity of the elections.

Bipartisan Teams: New York is one of 10 states where all facets of elections are conducted by bipartisan teams. This extends from the state Commissioners to the County Boards of Election to all functions at each polling place.

Ensuring only eligible citizens vote: When registering someone to vote, the Board of Elections checks the identity of the voter, through the voter's provided DMV number (driver's license number or non-driver ID number), or the last four digits of their social security number.

If the voter does not have a DMV or social security number, they may use some other government document that shows their name and address.

If the Board is unable to verify a voter's identity before Election Day, they will be asked for ID when voting for the first time.

Machine testing and security: Before any voting system is eligible for purchase in New York State, it must meet the strict requirements.

Notable security measures include:

- A protective counter which records the number of times the machine has been operated since it was built and a public counter which records the number of persons who have voted on the machine at each separate election;
- A lock which will absolutely secure the voting or registering mechanism and prevent the recording of additional votes;
- Prohibiting any device or functionality potentially capable of externally transmitting or receiving data via the internet or via radio waves or via other wireless means.



Pre-Election Audit: At least annually, County Boards of Election test each machine. Tests include verification of the programming and recording of votes to determine if such machine accurately records such votes.

At polling sites: Each polling site is overseen by both a Republican and a Democrat Site Chair who both must sign paperwork confirming that all activities were performed in accordance with guidelines. Bipartisan teams of poll workers work together to 1) set up ballot machines ensuring that each starts with 0 ballots recorded; 2) sign voters in, ensuring they are registered and that they provide ID if required; 3) provide the correct paper ballot and instructions; and 4) monitor the voting machines (without touching ballots).

At the end of the night a bipartisan team 1) prints and signs reports from each machine showing the total ballots cast for each candidate; 2) removes one machine memory card and puts it in a locked bag for transport to the BOE and ensures the other card is sealed in the machine; 3) accounts for all paper ballots provided to the site. The ballots are transported (in sealed bins) to a location separate from the place where the memory card and printed reports are delivered.

Post-Election Audits: Within 15 days after each general or special election, within 13 days after every primary election, and within 7 days after every village election conducted by the Board of Elections, the BOE audits the records from three percent of voting machines.

Each impacted candidate, political party or independent body is entitled to appoint watchers to observe the audit.

Voter Services Update

Voter Registration Events

LWV-RMA volunteers, both members and non members, continue to provide voting information and registration services at many events. We are distributing Proposition One – NYS ERA information during events. The great majority of people are still unaware of the proposition so continued communication and publicity is required.

These were among the events and locations where we were represented during September:

- 9/7 – Trinity Emmanuel Breakfast
- 9/14 - A Call to Women of Color
- 9/15 – Lush Cosmetics at Eastview Mall
(Lush Cosmetics is a new partnership for LWV-RMA. Its primary customer base is young people, so it is a great opportunity to meet new voters.)
- 9/17 – National Voter Registration Day – Central Library
- 9/17 – National Voter Registration Day – Big M Grocery Store
- 9/18 – MCC student group
- 9/20 – RIT Resource Fair
- 9/22 – Wilmot Warrior Walk/Run
- 9/28 - Book Culture Shop
- 9/30 – House of Mercy

Many October events are pending finalization, but the following are confirmed:

- 10/3 – Sulley Branch Library
- 10/4 – Henrietta Library
- 10/27-Halloween at the Public Market

Those who have signed up to participate will be seeing more information about how to volunteer for these events approximately 14 days prior to the event. Please continue to monitor your emails for updated lists of events.

Several new members and non-member volunteers have joined us over the past month. We thank them for their energy and commitment to defending democracy.

Get Out The Vote Events

- Barbara Brody held an event on 9/13 at Golden Harvest Café in Henrietta to write postcards for Center for Common Ground.
- Patricia Partridge and Elizabeth Laidlaw from the Third Presbyterian Anti-Racism Team have gathered people at Equal Grounds on South Avenue for several months on Mondays at noon. They will have 3,000 postcards done to be sent to Black Women in Florida around October 1st.
Third Presbyterian is paying the postage at about 50 cents a card.
- At the Third Friday event on September 20, attendees wrote Happy Birthday postcards to those who have recently turned 18 and were registered to vote.

Thanks to the Third Presbyterian Anti Racism team and all our post card writers for these outstanding efforts!

Submitted by Deborah Gordon and Cathy Kane



At table: Beth Feldman at Project TIPS - Improving Communications Between Law Enforcement and the Community. Insert: Kathy Murphy on the left, Evelyn Jennings on the right and store manager Katie White.



ROAR the Vote

The Rochester Institute of Technology's (RIT) ROAR the Vote group (2024 recipients of the LWV-RMA *Making Democracy Work Award*) held a Voter Registration event on September 17.

The ROAR the Vote initiative supports students' involvement in electoral politics by helping to ensure that students understand the voting process — including voter registration and absentee ballots, as well as the importance of voting in local, state, and national elections.

The ROAR the Vote initiative is led by the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement and the Office of Government and Community Relations. The group is a unique mix of students, staff, and faculty who are passionate about voter advocacy.

Shown here, counting the days to the election, is Igor Polotai, a LWV-RMA student member.

Submitted by Tess McFarland-Porter





Judge Geraci and new citizens at the August ceremony.

Naturalization Ceremonies

The League continues to attend naturalization ceremonies in Monroe County. On August 20, Liz Kmiecinski and Margaret Supinski helped candidates for citizenship learn about voting and register to vote. Judge Frank O. Geraci officiated the ceremony with 38 new citizens.

David Newman and Marcia Eisenberg helped 94 new citizens from 44 countries on September 17.

There will be two ceremonies on October 15, one at the Monroe County Office Building at 11:00 A.M and then at the Federal Building at 2:00 P.M.

Anyone who is interested in observing a ceremony or volunteering to help the League with ceremonies, please contact Sheila Abeling at sheiler162007@gmail.com. You won't be disappointed.

Submitted by Sheila Abeling

Candidate Forums

The League is sponsoring two candidate forums that will be broadcast on WROC:

- 10/23/2024 7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
25th Congressional District Debate between Joseph Morelle and Greg Sadwick
- 10/24/2024 7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
24th Congressional District Debate between Claudia Tenney and David Wagenhauser

Events will be added to the LWV-RMA [Calendar](#) when scheduled.

Welcome New Members

The following have joined the LWV-RMA over the past month.

- Joanne Facci
- Donna Galloway
- Ky'Johnna Jamison
- Margaret Lamark
- MaryBeth MacKenzie
- Igor Polotai
- Lea Theuer



Vote for Your Favorite "I Voted" Sticker

Our "I Voted" sticker design contest yielded 23 entries from around Monroe County. Our special panel of judges narrowed the field down to 6 finalists. Now you can weigh in. Which "I Voted" sticker do you like best? Rank all six of them and we'll decide the winner using Ranked Choice Voting. **Voting ends on October 8.**

How Can I Get a Sticker?

The League will print a few thousand stickers. They will be available to all at Roc the Vote, a community celebration of voting on October 26. Meet at Parcel 5 downtown from Noon - 3:00 P.M. Enjoy music, DJ's entertainment, food, face painting, and the chance to cast your vote nearby. SPECIAL NOTE: On October 26 only, you can register to vote and then cast your vote, both at the same time.

You might find them at other locations, such as the mock elections at MCC and perhaps on Election Day at Mount Hope Cemetery at Susan B Anthony's grave. If you have a great idea for where to distribute them, share your thoughts by sending a message to stickers@lww-rma.org.

What is Ranked Choice Voting?

In Ranked Choice Voting, each voter ranks all the available choices. This is important whenever there are more than two choices, because it avoids the possibility of one candidate winning with a minority of the votes. If no one gets a majority of votes after the first round of voting, the candidate with fewest votes is eliminated, and their ballots are reallocated to those voters' second choice. This process continues for as many rounds as it takes to get a winner with a majority of votes.



LWV-RMA Book Club

On September 19 eight members of the LWV-RMA met via Zoom to discuss *Enough*, a memoir by Cassidy Hutchinson, a member of former President Trump's administration.



The group will meet next on November 21 at 4:30 P.M. via Zoom to discuss *The Confidante* by Christopher Gorham.

The program for the remainder of the 2024-2025 season is:

January 17: *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer

March 20: *Gallop Toward the Sun* by Peter Stark

May 15: *The Art of Power* - new book by Nancy Pelosi

July 17: *Distorting Democracy* by Carolyn Renee Dupont

The Book Club is open to both members and non members.

Contact bookclub@lwv-rma.org if you wish to attend a future meeting.

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.

Within the calendar, you can click on an event to obtain information and register

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

Access the Calendar [here](#).



ANNOUNCEMENT

In October there will be TWO Events:

First Friday AND Third Friday

- At I-Square in Irondequoit
- 11:30 to ? Come and go as you can
- No agenda but much gets done
- Great way to make new contacts

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

**NEXT VOTER DEADLINE:
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.

Board of Directors:

President	Barbara Grosh (23-25)
Vice President	
Treasurer	Constance Flahive (23-25)
Secretary	Michele Coxander
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

President: Barbara Grosh

President@LWV-RMA.org

Book Club: Judy Weinstein

bookclub@LWV-RMA.org

Communication/PR:

communications@LWV-RMA.org

Election Services / Naturalization: Shirley Abeling

Sheiler162007@gmail.com

Advocacy: Barb Murphy / Scott Forsythe

advocacy@LWV-RMA.org

Membership: Deb Leary

membership@LWV-RMA.org

Nominating: Mary Hussong-Kallen

nominations@LWV-RMA.org

Programs: Barbara Grosh

President@LWV-RMA.org

Vote411: Isobel Gillen

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