



**#Metoo to Midterms:**



## ELECTION 2018 RESULTS



*A Review of the  
Political Landscape*

**Monday, November 19, 2018**

**7:00 - 8:30 P.M.**

**Asbury First United Methodist Church**

**1050 East Avenue, Rochester, NY**

*Accessible Parking & Building Access in the Rear*

Sharing their interpretations of the political climate and election outcomes will be our distinguished presenters:

**Timothy Kneeland, Ph.D.,**

Professor & Chairperson, Political Science & History, Nazareth College; and

**Adrian Hale,**

Strategic Initiatives Manager, Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce.

Preregister at [www.lwv-rma.org](http://www.lwv-rma.org) or 262-3730.

**Don't miss this!**



**SPREAD THE WORD**

## Leadership Corner

Get Out The Vote (GOTV)...a phrase on all our minds as we near the November 6 election. With a successful season of voter registration behind us, our minds shift to activities to remind citizens to VOTE. We will be trying to make this message stick at several events, including the Halloween Party at the Farmers Market on October 28, with a new sign that is meant to encourage people to take a picture and share it with their friends. What better way to send a message than with a picture that gets imprinted in your memory!



Once again, we will be out on the streets chalking the message to VOTE! We are working on opportunities to telephone citizens reminding them to vote, taking a cue from the voter turnout success of some other Leagues, as shared at the June LWV convention in Chicago.

If you have an opportunity to spread the message to vote, we hope, as a member of the League of Women Voters, you will make your voice heard.

Remember that the League’s goal is informed voters. To become an informed voter, if you weren’t able to attend our Candidate Forums for state legislative candidates cosponsored with the medical students at the University of Rochester Medical School and The Children’s Agenda or the televised debate for Congressional District 25 candidates cosponsored with WROC-TV8, we have links to them on our homepage. You can obtain comprehensive information about candidates at [www.votingnewyork.org](http://www.votingnewyork.org), the electronic voter guide of LWVNY.

While hesitating to turn our focus away from Get Out The Vote, we would be remiss if we didn’t say a few words about the recent forum “The Supreme Court: A Distinct and Independent Body”. If you weren’t able to join us for this discussion, we strongly urge you to go to the YouTube channel on our website ([www.lwv-rma.org](http://www.lwv-rma.org)) and view this discussion. Richard C. Wesley, J.D., Senior U.S. Circuit Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, provided

perspectives from the viewpoint of a judge with experience in both state and federal appellate courts, and bridged that experience to the rhetoric we hear in the national news regarding the Supreme Court. Daan Braveman, J.D., President of Nazareth College and former Dean, Syracuse University College of Law, engaged the audience with insights on how conservative and liberal views can take differing pathways from the same constitutional text. Our thanks to both of these speakers as well as Sarah Liebschutz, Ph.D., Distinguished Service Professor Emerita, The College of Brockport, who moderated the discussion. This was a discussion that you haven’t heard, a new viewpoint and conversation to incorporate into your evaluation of the political landscape.

To end this message on the theme for the month, spread the word...VOTE! Then come to our forum on November 19th for an analysis of the election results by Prof. Tim Kneeland of Nazareth College and Adrian Hale of the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce.

In League,  
**Gin, Kim, Judy**

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## The U.S. Supreme Court as a Distinct and Independent Body

On October 9, a panel of experts led a discussion of the purposes of the Supreme Court as well as the process for appointing justices to the Court and for handling Constitutional matters. The presenters were Richard C. Wesley, J.D., Senior U.S. Circuit Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and Daan Braveman, J.D., President, Nazareth College of Rochester and former Dean, Syracuse University College of Law. Sarah Liebschutz, Ph.D., Distinguished Service Professor Emerita, The College at Brockport moderated the discussion. Among their comments were the following:

- The intent of lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court is to avoid pressures by the legislative and executive branches on the judicial branch.
- The Courts were intended to be the least dangerous of the three branches of government established by the Constitution.
- Candidates for a position on the Supreme Court may be asked about previous decisions but not about cases yet to be decided.
- Justices are people exercising judgment—who bring their perspectives and experiences to their decision-making.
- Justices understand that the legitimacy of the Court rests on adherence to the Constitution.
- Originalism is the philosophy that decisions should be made based on what the original Constitutional authors intended; however, the original enactors couldn't predict today's circumstances and the process locks justices into thinking and practices of years ago.
- As to the Second Amendment, it is hard to know today what the founding fathers meant, and originalism is an issue in Second Amendment discussions.
- In many cases legislators use the Court as an arbiter. Because the Court has no power, it relies on the Executive Branch to enforce its decisions.
- After a Supreme Court decision, those opposed to that decision can litigate to erode the effects of the decision or legislate new laws.



Panelists Richard Wesley and Daan Braveman with Moderator Sarah Liebschutz (upper left) as well as some of those who attended the discussion.

# LVW-RMA Census 2020 Public Forum Summary & Q/A\*

## PANELISTS:

**Jeff Behler**, New York Regional Director, U.S. Census Bureau  
[jeff.t.behler@census.gov](mailto:jeff.t.behler@census.gov)

**Elizabeth Burakowski**, Deputy a Director of Upstate Revitalization, Governor's Office  
[Elizabeth.burakowski@nyshcr.org](mailto:Elizabeth.burakowski@nyshcr.org)

**Pete Nabozny**, Director of Policy, The Children's Agenda, Rochester, NY  
[pete@thechildrensagenda.org](mailto:pete@thechildrensagenda.org)

**Melody Lopez**, Director, NY Civic Engagement Table  
[melody@nycet.org](mailto:melody@nycet.org)

Below you will find a summary of suggested next steps as well as questions (and answers) asked during the forum.

## SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS

1. Hold Census Bureau-sponsored forums at low cost housing community centers, church sponsored forums, community health centers, and shelters (for men, women, and/or families). League should offer to co-sponsor these forums and provide organizational support.
2. Contact schools via boards of education to host census events at school open houses.
3. Host census nights at local libraries.
4. Census Bureau should contact Literacy Volunteers of Rochester to see if they would be willing to host event when literacy volunteers could assist program participants in filling out forms and/or complete on-line.
5. Encourage faith-based organizations, neighborhood and/or community organizations to form Complete Count Committees to educate and motivate participation in the Census. To learn more about Complete Count Committees contact Liz Burakowski.
6. Create AdHoc committees to explore ways to encourage participation in 2020 Census.
7. Raise community-wide awareness of the importance of the Census by writing op-ed pieces in local newspapers.
8. League should offer this forum again and target vulnerable community groups. Possibly hold at city venue.

## QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

1. How is the collected data used? What happens at end of Census collection?

*Data is collected for statistical purposes only; no specific information or household information (i.e., if household address is in building that may not be up to building codes) is reported to anyone. A summary of the data will be reported to Office of the President.*

### The Census will not ask for:

Complete Social Security numbers;  
 Bank or credit card numbers;  
 Money or donations;  
 Political party. Nor will political parties be authorized to contact you.

2. How can people encourage adequate funding for the 2020 census?

*Contact your state and federal lawmakers.*

3. Where do "snowbirds" and college students complete their census forms?

*In the state where they reside most of the year.*

4. What are Complete Count Committees (CCC). How can be they created?

*CCCs are vehicles for cooperation between tribal, state, and local governments, local communities and the U.S. Census Bureau to ensure all individuals are counted. Help in forming CCCs can be obtained by contacting Liz Burakowski of the Governor's Office. Contact information is provided above.*

5. What populations are considered hard to count?

*Young children, particularly 5 and younger;  
 Racial and ethnic minorities;  
 Persons who do not speak English fluently;  
 The poor and/or homeless;  
 Undocumented immigrants.*

6. Can Ex-pats be counted?

*Not if they are not returning to the U.S.*

**Ann Carmody**,  
 Program Committee

\* Summary of discussion at LWV-RMA forum on September 24.



## Voter Services

October activity could almost be described as a dash to the goal line with Election Day that line and our focus, a final push to GET OUT THE VOTE. With the last day to register for the General Election on October 12th, we staffed tables at the Autumn Roots Neighborhood Festival on Caroline Street, the Generation Child Care Staff Training session, Rochester Child First, the YMCA, the Maplewood and Arnett Community Libraries, and the Latina Equal Pay for Women events. Our final event for the month was our participation in the City sponsored "Halloween at the Market", where our costumed volunteers joined in the fun, passing out activity books and candy while spreading our message.

Our brand new picture poster providing a fun way to allow registered voters to make the pledge "I WILL VOTE THIS YEAR" – made its debut this year at the Autumn Roots, Latina Equal Pay and Halloween at the Market events (see photos on page 5). We also participated with the Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in a phone bank and with LaCumbre, our "VOTE TUESDAY" chalking project. We consider these new projects to be an investment in the future – since they will be available again for next year.

In addition to events, we responded to requests for six speaking engagements on the importance of the vote. Barbara Grosh presented at a Metro Justice meeting, engaged with clients at SANYS DDSO and ARC and a new citizens meeting at the Maplewood Library. Katherine Smith met with the Junior League and then with three fifth grade classes at School 17, assured by their teachers, that it is never too early to start what should be a repetitive message on the importance of each of their votes.

Our Education Study Group began its season with presentations at School Without Walls, School of the Arts and Integrated Arts & Technology High Schools.

As always, our work depends on the generosity and time commitments of our volunteers, many of them our newest members. This month's crew included Patrick Macey, Brad Freeman, Camille Clayton, Julie Damerell, Barbara Kay, Deborah Gordon, Deborah Leary, June Talerico, Judy Hartmann, Elaine Schmidt, Lakeyva Catale, Judy Sternberg, Kris Rogers, Hasana Martin, Lois Winterkorn, Ida Holloran and Gail Wilder. A special thanks to Joan Buckley who single-handedly took on two sessions at the Walmart Parking Lot in Wayne County.

"I WILL VOTE THIS YEAR" had its debut this month at the Autumn Roots Neighborhood Festival.

**Gin Busack,**  
Voter Services chair



## An Update on Voter Services on College Campuses

Services to our local colleges have expanded this year and we have been busy! Fortunately we have a cadre of new volunteers with lots of enthusiasm and we were able to be present at a variety of events to answer questions about voting and to register students.

We sent teams to The College at Brockport, MCC (Brighton campus and Damon Center), RIT, Nazareth College and all three campuses at the University of Rochester. We volunteered at events for Freshman Orientation, Constitution Day and National Voter Registration Day. In addition, we were invited to represent the League at Community Fairs on campus and engage students in conversations about the League, voting, registration and possible volunteer activities.

This is the first year we have had requests from medical students at UR and those conversations resulted in our training about 10 of them to register voters. There is an ongoing dialogue about offering a candidate forum at URMCC. We are also hoping to fulfill a request to offer a forum at Nazareth College. Our connections on the campuses are strong now and we are able to work together to share what the League has to offer. Our "First Vote" and "Rights of College Students to Vote" brochures are well-received.

For the first time Myra Pelz and I trained 120 Resident Assistants at RIT. We answered many questions about the voting process and suggested ways they might offer safe and comfortable conversations in the dorms about political topics. We teamed with Marc Goldman, the Director of Residence Life.

At some of our First Friday gatherings I have been training new members on voter registration and providing them with the literature we use at registration events. It has been so rewarding to see so many new members using SignUp Genius and volunteering everywhere!

An enormous "Thank You" to these new members: Chris Booth, Holly Brookstein, Ann Casey, Julie Damerell, Sue Eisenger, Brad Freeman, Deborah Gordon, Carol Haas, Patrick Macey, Annie McQuilken, Linda Steinberg, John Tritten, and Paula Zeman. What a team!

**Gail Wilder**  
[ggcitygirl2251@gmail.com](mailto:ggcitygirl2251@gmail.com)

*On September 26, Ida Holloran assisted during a voter registration activity at Rochester ChildFirst Network.*



## Election Services

Thank you to all who volunteered to open absentee ballots on Primary Day, September 13:

Julie Damerell, Ida Holloran, Moira Lemperle, Deb Leary, Myra Peltz, Elaine Schmidt, Judy Sternberg, Jane Tuttle, Liz Webb, and Lois Winterkorn. We appreciate your helping at this fundraiser!!

Election Day is coming November 6! Please vote!!! Help anyone who needs a ride to the polls. The Monroe County Board of Elections will have information regarding rides to the polls. Call 753-1550 for updated info. Also Lyft will be offering rides to the polls. Contact them for additional information.

**Sheila Abeling**  
*Election Services*

## Naturalization Ceremonies:

On September 13, Lois Winterkorn met 54 new citizens at the Monroe County Office Building. On Constitution Day, September 17, Marcia Eisenberg and Katherine Smith greeted 82 candidates for citizenship at The College at Brockport. At both ceremonies, the LWV-RMA helped to register new voters. Our Naturalization schedule is on our LWV-RMA website, [lwv-rma.org](http://lwv-rma.org). Everyone is welcome to attend a ceremony. Please contact Sheila Abeling at 585-223-6819 or [sheiler162007@gmail.com](mailto:sheiler162007@gmail.com) for additional info.

**Sheila Abeling**  
*Naturalization Services*

## 2018 Fair Election Practices Campaign Update

The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) and the League of Women Voters-Rochester Metropolitan Area encourage all candidates for public office to run positive, issues-oriented campaigns. The FEPC provides all candidates the opportunity to sign a Fair Campaign Pledge to publicly commit to running positive, issues-oriented campaigns. The names of all candidates who sign the Pledge are listed on the LWV-RMA website. A total of twenty-one local candidates have signed the Pledge.

The Fair Election Practices Committee will accept and hear properly filed complaints from candidates who signed the Pledge until November 5, the day before Election Day. Hearing decisions will be released to the media and posted on the LWV-RMA website. As of October 11 when this column was written, no complaints have been filed, with less than a month to go before the General Election.

**Kris Rogers**  
*Fair Election Practices Campaign*

## Sunshine Corner

MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE.  
OCTOBER 9, 2018  
PER WEBSITE AT MONROE  
COUNTY.GOV



Anthony F. Wechsler was appointed to the Genesee and Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, with the term to expire in December 2019. Thomas Ferrarese was reappointed Election Commissioner.

(To view the full minutes from this and other meetings, please click here: <http://www2.monroecounty.gov>)

COMIDA/IMAGINE MONROE.  
SEPTEMBER 18TH 2018  
OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT

Projects funded by Imagine Monroe are routinely inspected for compliance regarding Imagine Monroe's local labor policy. In August, 56 sites were visited with 4 follow-ups; 355 employees were reviewed; five people were found in non-compliance due to not being able to prove residence.

There were nine applications, all of which were approved except for one. A children's daycare program Doodlebugs, was not approved because there was no sliding fee scale for attendance at the program.

(To find out more about COMIDA, please click here: <https://www.nysedc.org/news-type/general-news/>)

(To find out more about IMAGINE MONROE, please click here: <https://www.imaginemonroe.org/news-and-resources/>)

**Elaine Schmidt**  
*Observer Corps*



## Remembering Rae Bernacki

LWV-RMA extends sympathy to the family – sons John and Thomas, and grandsons Andrew, Timothy, Peter and Elliot – of Rae Bernacki, our office secretary during the 1990s and 2000s.

This kind, generous woman gently guided six presidents of our local league for over a decade. Her skills, her knowledge and dedication to the League fostered the active participation of all our members in Making Democracy Work For All. Every two or four years Rae assisted new volunteer officers and directors in leading our community in engaging citizens in self-government—not an easy job. Rae knew how to work with many different leadership styles. She helped strong, independent people work collaboratively.



All the years Rae was an employee of LWV-RMA she was being treated for cancer(s). Her courage, her attitude about living fully every day, and her love of what the League stands for will be remembered by those fortunate enough to have known her.

## Important Reminder to Voters:

The ballot will show the office of “Representative in Congress-25th District” listed twice:

1. once for the completion of the unexpired term (until January 3, 2019), and
2. once for the two-year term beginning January 3, 2019.

Please be sure to vote for both terms.

## NEW MEMBERS, YOU ARE INVITED!

Please come to our  
**GETTING-TO-KNOW-THE-LEAGUE** event!

Sunday, November 11, 2018

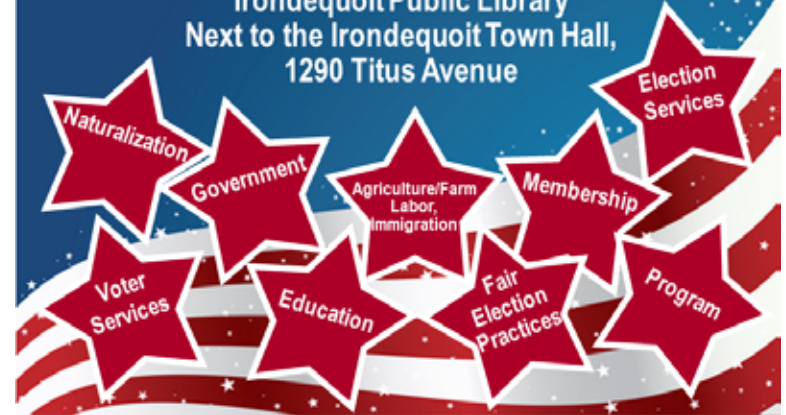
1:30-3:30 P.M.

Meeting Room,

Irondequoit Public Library

Next to the Irondequoit Town Hall,

1290 Titus Avenue



The primary work of the League, we know, is educating and registering voters. At this event, we highlight that important activity as well as all the OTHER work of the League.

Join us in the Meeting Room of the Irondequoit Library on Sunday, November 11, 2018. League committees and study groups – and more - will be on display. Visit the displays and meet the people involved. Get involved yourself!

The library is open 1-4 P.M. on Sunday. Our event is from 1:30-3:30 P.M.

Please come at 1:30 P.M. Light Refreshments.

R.S.V.P. to the Membership Committee:

[membership@lww-rma.org](mailto:membership@lww-rma.org).

By phone, Barbara Kay, Membership Co-Chair:  
244-9391.

**Democracy is not a  
spectator sport.  
Tag! You're It!**

# Coming Events!



## November

- 1 WROC-TV8 & LWV-RMA co-sponsor televised debate for Congressional District 25, between Joe Morelle and Jim Maxwell (7:00 P.M., Channel 8 and live-streamed at [www.rochesterfirst.com](http://www.rochesterfirst.com))
- 2 First Friday (11:00 A.M., I-Square, 400 Bakers Park)
- 6 Election Day**
- 8 Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 A.M., George Eastman Museum, 900 East Avenue)
- 8 Book Club (10:00 A.M., Greenhouse Café, 2271 East Main Street, Rochester) – *How the Other Half Lives* by Jacob Riis
- 12 Board Meeting (Noon, Asbury First UMC, 1010 East Avenue - red brick building)
- 15 Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 A.M., Monroe County Office Building)

## December

- 7 First Friday (11:00 A.M., I-Square, 400 Bakers Park)
- 10 Board Meeting (Noon, Location TBD)
- 13 Book Club (10:00 A.M., Greenhouse Café, 2271 East Main Street, Rochester) – *It Can't Happen Here* by Sinclair Lewis
- 13 Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 A.M., Monroe County Office Building)
- 13 Naturalization Ceremony (1:00 P.M., Federal Building)



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

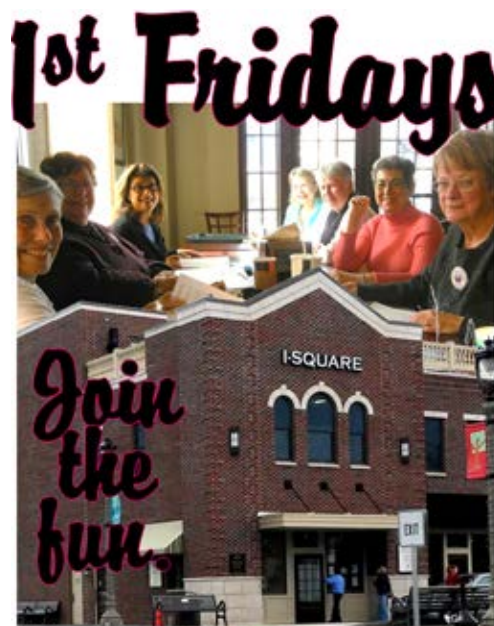
## Don't Miss First Fridays with LWV-RMA

Join League colleagues for lunch or a mid-day coffee break each First Friday of the month, 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. at I-Square, 400 Bakers Park, at Titus Avenue, Irondequoit, NY 14617.

No need to RSVP. Pencil us in on your calendar and join when you can!

There's a place at the table for you!

November 2	March 1
December 7	April 5
January 4	May 3
February 1	June 7



Board of Directors meets monthly on the second Monday of each month from noon - 2:00 P.M. at Asbury First UMC. Board meetings are open to all members.

Government Committee meets monthly. For details, call Elaine Schmidt at 530-7414.

Naturalization ceremonies are usually held on second Thursday of each month. Check League website for updated info each month.

Forums are open to the public. Calendar information is subject to change.

For more complete information, consult our website at [www.LWV-RMA.org](http://www.LWV-RMA.org), call 262-3730 or e-mail us at [info@lwv-rma.org](mailto:info@lwv-rma.org)





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
ROCHESTER METROPOLITAN AREA

PO Box 10573  
Rochester, NY 14610  
585-262-3730  
[www.LWV-RMA.org](http://www.LWV-RMA.org)

# Rochester VOTER

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

## Leadership Team

Gin Busack (2018-2019)  
Kim Byers (2018-2019)  
Judy Weinstein (2018-2019)

**Treasurer** Elaine Schmidt (2017-2019)

**Recording Secretary** Judy Sternberg (2018-2020)

**Corresponding Secretary** Marion O'Connor (2017-2019)

**Director** Ann Carmody (2018-2020)

**Director** Mary Hussong-Kallen (2018-2019)

**Director** Barbara Kay (2017-2019)

**Director** Kris Rogers (2018-2020)

**Director** Gail Wilder (2018-2020)

## DECEMBER/JANUARY VOTER DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 15!

### League of Women Voters Rochester Metro Area Mission Statement

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

Voter education is one of the League's most important functions, and the League encourages all citizens to register and to cast an informed vote.

The League does not support political parties or candidates, but does take stands on important issues after careful study and research.

Membership in the League is open to all persons who are at least 16 years of age.

Those under 16 can be associate members.

### Goals of the League of Women Voters:

- To encourage informed citizen participation in government and politics
- To influence public policy through education and advocacy

## SPEAK UP, BE HEARD, IF YOU DON'T SAY A WORD, EVERYTHING WILL STAY THE SAME WAY

*The Voter is a monthly publication of the LWV-RMA  
Editor, Judy Wadsworth  
Layout/Design, Chris Burleigh*

### 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](http://www.lwv-rma.org/join.php)

### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Individual/Associate . . . . .	\$75
Household . . . . .	\$105
Susan B. Anthony/Frederick Douglass . . . . .	\$150
Carrie Chapman Catt . . . . .	\$200
Student . . . . .	FREE
Low income, call office . . . . .	Sliding Scale