



The League of Women Voters of New York State
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**THE LEAGUE
 OF WOMEN VOTERS**
of New York State

State Board Updates
August 2018

Local League To Do's (email: lwvny@lwvny.org or call 518-465-4162)

- Complete and return the Youth Programs Survey asap(see attached).
- **VotingNewYork.org is LIVE!** Toolkit with press release, logo, link, etc is attached. Share widely!

President's Report: Dare Thompson, darethompson@gmail.com



I'm writing this at the State Fair - at the League's voter registration corner in the Art and Home Center. I'm surrounded by flyers, forms, stickers, and buttons that Laura and Jen set up earlier, and there's a big list of League people from all over who've signed up for shifts during the next twelve days. Thanks to all of you on that list! (18 year old registering to vote in photo on right)



I know that even if you don't register voters here you may well have been doing it somewhere else, so thanks for that too. Of course, the even more challenging job will come with candidate events and get out the vote (GOTV) efforts this fall.

And that's got me thinking. With white people no longer the majority of Americans, what are we really doing to make sure we're serving all voters effectively? We know that we're more comfortable with America's changing demographics than many groups and in fact welcome the cultural diversity, but are we stretching ourselves out of our comfort zone to embrace this new reality?

As if reading my mind ErinLeigh Darnley (Syracuse LWV) came by the table a couple hours ago and mentioned that besides working at the League's state fair table later this week, she's also working at the NAACP's voter registration table. I asked how much they did together and she said there's an "Onondaga Votes" organization with lots of groups working together to get everyone voting. Could we all do something like this where we live? And what would the work entail? Candidate events too, I hope.

ErinLeigh had her husband and three kids with her and had to keep moving or I'd tell you more about the groups (many of which are non-white) and what else they do, but we can all start to imagine. Wouldn't this naturally lead to doing other events together - say, around issues? Ultimately might the League start to look like America?

I'd love to hear more from those of you already well down this road. Please share your successes, lessons, suggestions and whatever else you've got with me at darethompson@gmail.com and I'll share with everyone

next month. Being relevant in the 21st century clearly means being diverse, and I think we all know we are capable of more. We have so much to learn from one another! Let's get to it.

Executive Director: Laura Ladd Bierman, Laura@lwvny.org

VotingNewYork.org is LIVE!

The state League's electronic voter guide is now live for the September primary. Only candidates that are included in the primary are in the guide. All candidates for the November election will be included after the primary. A Toolkit with sample press releases, logo, links, etc is attached – share and use widely! Also, if a candidate hasn't responded to our questions, please urge him/her to do so immediately – we'll update them as we receive them.

Voter Guide Part II

The Voter Guide Part II which will include candidate information for the races for Governor, Attorney General and Comptroller will be available in late September (we have to wait until after the primary to get them finalized and printed). An order form is attached; please complete and return by Sept 10 so we be sure to order enough to be printed. The organ donor registration grant has ended so all local Leagues will need to pay for the supply that they order.

2019 Students Inside Albany Conference

The 2019 Students Inside Albany Conference will be held May 19-22, 2019 at the Hampton Inn in downtown Albany. Recruitment materials will be mailed to all local Leagues later in September. If you haven't done so already, please email the state office with the Youth Chair for your local League.

Voter Services: Judie Gorenstein, judiel728@aol.com

Leagues throughout New York are extremely busy preparing and running voter registration drives, candidate events, and hopefully working on ways to turn out the vote. To help in this very challenging year, an edited and updated Road to the Voting Booth Part II and also Toolkit for running candidate events has been emailed to all voter service chairs and a hard copy has been mailed to the presidents. Voter service chairs and presidents have also received a Toolkit for voter registration drives. Much of the information that has been included comes from questions leagues have asked or ideas they have submitted. We all learn from one another. Leagues are looking for different venues and are encouraged to share their experiences.

When the LWV of Mid-Hudson Region was asked to engage a group of adults with intellectual disabilities, they created and presented a voter issue educational game. They chose an easy and fun issue "should we have dessert before dinner?" After the group laughter subsided, they discussed pros and cons of eating dessert first, and then voted on ballots, which were then collected and counted. The "no dessert before dinner" won. Would this have been the case if they had not discussed the pros and cons before voting? How was this similar to a real election? In both, there is more to an issue that first appears and it is important to educate self. Although many in this group could not read well and some not at all, it was kept simple and colorful, while talking of ways to find out about candidates. Those who had not yet been registered to vote, registered. In the end, each participant was given a sticker "I Voted" and encouraged to be voters each Election Day.

What is your league doing to educate and engage voters? How will your league turn out the vote? What can you as an individual do?

Here is some information I think is important for our members to know and share:

- The Reform Party allows voters who are not enrolled in any party to vote in the Reform Party Primary. They changed their by laws last year to allow this to happen.
- When a student goes away to college, if they chose to register in that state rather than vote absentee in NY, they will not meet residency requirements to run for a NYS political office upon their return

to our state. The requirements for running for NYS Senator or Assemblyman or Gov., LT Gov, AG, or Comptroller is being a resident of the state 5 years immediately preceding the election.

As LWV members empower voters and defend our democracy. Our democracy works best when everyone participates.

National Voter Registration Day is September 25, 2018. Make sure you register your local League as a partner – and start planning events and registration drives for that day! [Click here to register.](#)

Legislative Director: Jennifer Wilson, Jennifer@lwvny.org

In 2017/2018 21 Leagues held approximately **109 voter registration drives** where they **registered approximately 3,665 voters**. They participated in **123 naturalization ceremonies** where they registered **10,026 new voters**. Additionally, Leagues have been making major strides to engage with more high schools – Leagues visited approximately **28 high schools** where they registered **713 new voters**. These numbers total to **14,404 voters registered!!**

Based on the Leagues I did not hear from and those who did not track, **I estimate the actual total to be over 20,000 voter registrations** – that is a HUGE deal!

The state League would like to begin tracking our voter registration numbers. We want to make this as easy as possible for Leagues. Attached is a very brief and easy-to-fill-out tally form. Leagues can also feel free to create their own tally sheet for volunteers. Instead of only being able to send the data via fax or email, I have also created an online entry form that can be accessed here: <https://goo.gl/forms/eVZfHxt90HWCNWsc2> .

If you don't like the paper form or the online form, you can simply email Jennifer your totals. Thanks for your help!

Youth Programs: Betty Ann King, bettyannking4@gmail.com

Thanks to all of you who have submitted your Youth Surveys – they are very interesting and we'll share the results when we gather some more. See attached survey. Please complete and return to the state League by asap. We've extended the deadline to get more responses!

From LWVUS

Leagues nationwide are excited to once again take part in [National Voter Registration Day](#), a nationwide, nonpartisan effort to register hundreds of thousands of voters on one single day – September 25th, 2018 – and we hope you'll join us!

On September 25th, thousands of volunteers from hundreds of diverse organizations will unleash a nationwide field effort to register voters where they are – on their way to work, on campus, in the community, and online. The message is simple: now is the time to register, or update your registration, in time for Election Day.

Now we need your help.

We're asking every state and local League to take part in [National Voter Registration Day](#) (NVRD) by signing up as an official partner and hosting a registration event on September 25th. NVRD has been a huge success for hundreds of participating local Leagues in the last six years. The League has been the single-largest NVRD partner on the ground since 2012, helping to build our organization's visibility among tens of thousands of new voters and thousands of partners. It has led to hundreds of local and regional news stories covering the League's important work.

Our 2018 goal is to have 400 local Leagues sign on as partners for the day, and *we're just over halfway there!* Your participation is critical to pushing us over the top. Make sure you're part of the National Voter Registration Day effort by [signing up your League as a partner](#). **If you sign up by August 26, you'll receive free stickers and posters, media templates, training opportunities, and more.** You can also join the online conversation by following #NationalVoterRegistrationDay and #MidtermsOnMyTerms on social media.

This election isn't just about politics; it's about the future of our country. We know you and your League colleagues are dedicated to making sure every eligible voter has a chance to participate. Voter registration is the key to making sure Americans of all backgrounds—especially first-time young voters, new citizens, people who have moved recently, and those living in underrepresented communities—have their say this November.