



# League of Women Voters of NYS **STATE VOTER**

February 2020

*Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.*

## CORRECTED VERSION

We seem to be doing a lot of corrections today! So sorry for any confusion! Here's a corrected version. The Issues and Advocacy section has now been updated for this month's news.

### President's Message



#### **PARTY! PARTY!**

Join us, Tuesday, March 10, 5:30-8:30 PM, in Albany to celebrate and honor our former Legislative Director, Barbara Bartoletti. All of the funds raised will support the advocacy and education initiatives of the Leagues Education Foundation. Click [here](#) to make your reservation.

#### **MEET-UP: Regional Training Workshops**

LWVNYS is hosting regional conversations to make our grass roots stronger starting:  
March 7, New York City,  
March 14, Rochester,  
March 21, Binghamton, and  
March 28, Albany

This is an opportunity to meet with your LWVNYS leaders and join the conversations about the resources we have and the resources you need to support your Local League's activities to get out the vote, engage our youth in voting and open the doors to new members and supporters and diversify our outreach and our organization to be more inclusive of the people in our communities. Come to regional trainings to share your stories with other Leagues in your region and ask your state Leaders questions. We have a lot to do this year with 3 elections, keeping up the pace to further election and ethics reforms and educating our communities about the census and redistricting. I hope to see you all. [Register here](#).

[JUNE 25-28, 2020 LWVUS CONVENTION](#) in Washington DC. Choose your delegates now and book your hotel through the LWVUS website. I will host a call for all NY delegates, one month before the convention to answer, or get answers to any questions you may have before we get to convention.

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### Champion of Change: Barbara Bartoletti



**Tickets are Still Available!**

**2020 March Event to Honor Barbara Bartoletti**

On March 10, 2020, at the NYS Museum, we will honor Barbara Bartoletti for her over 40 years as a volunteer lobbyist for the League. The NYS Archives Partnership Trust is co-sponsoring the event with us. Liz Benjamin, former host of *Capitol Tonight*, will interview Barbara in an informal conversation about Barbara's many years of service. [Buy your ticket online now here.](#)

### Annual Advocacy Training Day

#### **Save the Date!**

The state League's annual advocacy training and lobby day is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5. Watch for more details.

## Regional Training Workshops

### **ALL MEMBERS SHOULD COME LEARN AND MEET OTHER LEAGUE MEMBERS!**

The League of Women Voters of NYS invites **all** members to come to training workshops being held throughout the state on **Saturdays from 9:30-3:00 in March**. All members are invited to attend any

or all of the workshops. All local League board members are **strongly** encouraged to attend at least part of the day. Lunch will be provided and will allow for informal networking among the attendees.

#### Locations and Dates:

- March 7, **New York City**, 4 West 43rd Street, New York, \$35
- March 14, **Rochester Area**, Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word, 597 East Ave, Rochester, \$25
- March 21, **Binghamton Area**, Union Presbyterian Church, 200 East Main Street, Endicott, \$25
- March 28, **Albany Area**, McKownville Methodist Church, 1565 Western Ave, Albany, \$25

#### Topics:

9:30 Registration and Welcome

10-11 am Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Beyond Just Race: How do we include more?

11:15 to 12:15 Two workshop sessions

Get Out the Vote: How do we get more people to vote?

After Parkland: How to keep the youth engaged?

12:30-1:45 Lunch and networking and legislative update

2:00 - 3:00 Two workshop sessions

Stats and Lines: Get everyone counted and represented fairly

Hot, Hot, Hot: Attracting and engaging your community with the League

All members are welcome to register online at: [https://secure.lglforms.com/form\\_engine/s/HOhq-CqnO8wQHzms7-w8Kg](https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/HOhq-CqnO8wQHzms7-w8Kg) or [click here](#) to download the registration form and mail it in to the state office. These are a great opportunity to hear what other Leagues are doing and how you can accomplish even more!

## Issues and Advocacy

**Sally Robinson**, [sally.s.robinson@gmail.com](mailto:sally.s.robinson@gmail.com), and **Jennifer Wilson**, [jennifer@lwvny.org](mailto:jennifer@lwvny.org)



### Constitutional Convention Position Update

At the State Convention in June, the delegates approved an update to the State League's position on a Constitutional Convention. The purpose of this update is to determine whether there is member agreement on deleting the first sentence of the League's 1993 Constitutional Convention position, as revised June 2015.



The first sentence to be deleted is below:

"The League of Women Voters of New York State does not support or oppose the holding of a constitutional convention."

Attached you will find the materials for consideration by your local League of this update:

- Current Constitutional Convention Position
- Background and Other Information
- Update Form to be Returned to the State League office by March 1, 2020
- A new document with more detailed explanation of what a vote NO or a vote YES means on this position.

### Individual Responses on Constitutional Convention Position Update

With the adoption by the state League Board of a new process for consensus and concurrence, individuals may now participate in these processes, such as the Con Con position update, as an individual if their local League is not participating. See the attached document for the reporting form to be completed by individuals participating.

### National Day of Action

On February 14<sup>th</sup> the New York State League took part in a nationwide day of action in celebration of the US League's 100th anniversary. In New York State, League members and individuals took action by advocating for funding for early voting in our state budget. The NY League created a [Take Action](#)

[Toolkit](#) to empower our members to take action using sample social media posts, graphics, and sample call scripts and emails to legislators to advocate for increased funding in the state budget for early voting. We held a member-wide webinar and a post day of action survey. We heard from local Leagues from around the state about their actions calling, emailing, and writing their legislators and using social media to share information about the importance of funding early voting in New York State.

### **Advocacy Around Governor's Executive Budget Proposal**

Following the January State of the State, the Governor released his executive budget proposal for FY 2020-2021. In February, the New York State League testified and submitted testimony regarding [financing education](#), [funding for voting and elections](#), and [New York's first independent redistricting commission](#) to the joint legislative budget committees.

In addition to providing testimony, the League encouraged local Leagues to meet with their state representatives over the February break to discuss our priority issues in the executive budget proposal. Issues in the [legislative packet](#) included funding for voting, ethics and campaign finance, the independent redistricting commission, and court reform. We are continuing to collect responses and will share a report after all lobbying forms have been collected.

### **February Lobby Days**

On February 25<sup>th</sup> the League participated in a court simplification lobby day hosted by the Simplify the Courts coalition. The League partnered with social service organizations, legal reform groups, and other good government partners to advocate for the restructuring of New York State's courts.

Yesterday the League participated in a lobby day to support the Anti-Corruption amendment, an amendment to establish a thirteen-member commission that would replace both the Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE) and the Legislative Ethics Commission LEC, to oversee the legislative and executive branches. The league participated in a press conference and attended meetings with legislators to urge them support of the legislation.

### **LWVNYS Advocacy Training and Lobby Day: May 5th**

The League's annual lobby day is scheduled for May 5th in Albany NY. We will be lobbying on a number of different reforms ranging from voting rights, government ethics, campaign finance, health care, education, and more. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for our sign up form.

### **Explanation of League's Position on Proposed Voting Systems**

The League's explanation for not taking an immediate position on the request by ES&S for certification of a new voting system to the State Board of Elections is [here](#).

## **Voter Services**

**Judie Gorenstein, [judieL728@aol.com](mailto:judieL728@aol.com)**



The calls by members of LWVNYS voter service committee to all local leagues and MAL Units have been made and very well received. The calls enable us to all work together in reaching our goals of registering voters, educating them, and then turning out the vote.

This is what leagues conveyed to us:

- They appreciate the outreach and think developing this working relationship with one committee person will be helpful.
- They are all aware of importance of being and being perceived as being nonpartisan.
- They are planning their voter registration drives and candidate events.
- They requested more templates to be used for printouts.
- They have found toolkits helpful and if they had not looked at them, will do so.
- They know GOTV (Get Out the Vote) is important and either have plans or will begin thinking of how to GOTV.
- They want to GOTV but many feel lack of resources( both financial and or volunteers).
- They want ideas to help them recruit new members and a larger media presence.

This is what LWWNYS Voter Service is doing in response:

- We will continue to have follow up calls and send emails.
- We have updated toolkits with new voter registration form .
- We created a new one page flyer [IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR VOTERS](#)
- We have shared templates leagues have created; i.e., palm cards for Suffolk County ILO and posters from LWV of Albany
- We are applying for grant from LWVUS to get resources to help us and you GOTV
- We will be having a GOTV workshop and a session for recruiting new members at each of the four regional training meetings .

This is what we need leagues and MAL Units to do

- Share with us now what you are doing or ideas you have to GOTV. (These will be added to GOTV toolkit)
- Attend GOTV workshop at regional meetings and bring your ideas and come ready to brainstorm with others.

Together we will meet the challenges facing us this year. We will maintain our gold standard in registering and educating voters and in addition will GOTV!

## **2020 Election Dates and Deadlines**

### **Presidential Primary April 28, 2020**

Early Voting April 18 - April 26

Deadline for Voter Registration April 3 in person and/or postmarked

Applications for Absentee Ballot April 21 postmarked; April 27 in person

### **Congressional and State Primaries June 23, 2020**

Early Voting June 13 - June 21

Deadline for Voter Registration May 29 in person and/or postmarked

Application for Absentee Ballot June 16 postmarked; June 22 in person

### **General Election November 3, 2020**

Early Voting October 24 - November 1

Deadline for Voter Registration October 9 in person and postmarked

Application for Absentee Ballot October 27 postmarked; November 2 in person

## **Local League News**

The state League office has been incredibly busy recently with the legislative activity and budgets, the March 10 event honoring Barbara Bartoletti, planning the regional training workshops in 4 locations across the state, planning for Students Inside Albany, applying for and finding grant money to share with all of our local Leagues for the 2020 elections (more about that later), and more!

So, we apologize but didn't get to collating local League news items this month. But, if your local League has been sending your own newsletters to [bulletins@lwwny.org](mailto:bulletins@lwwny.org) as we have suggested, you can read everyone's newsletter and great accomplishments right from our state website at: <https://my.lww.org/new-york-state/news/nys-local-league-bulletins>.

Hope you're all getting ready for a busy year - 3 elections with 30 days of voting and lots more!

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