

LWVNEW FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

2024 President's Message

Our League recently co-sponsored a program about the Medical Aid in Dying Act and we are co-sponsoring, with AAUW, a program about the NYERA. This NY Constitutional amendment has passed twice in the NY state assembly as well as NY state senate and will now appear on the ballot, in November, for every voter in New York to decide.

These are women's and human rights issues.

Programs are a great vehicle for the LWV to be seen in the community and to provide Voter Education on issues that impact people. Of course, putting on programs requires ideas, energy, and people power. We manage to do the important work of holding candidate forums, gathering candidate information for the League's Vote411 website, and conducting voter registration at the schools. Maybe that is enough for our group for now. Programs we get involved with, going forward, will likely continue to be co-sponsorships

while we focus our energy on Voter Services.

I think we as a League are better suited to working to register students to vote and working to help with candidate forums. If we get a request to participate in a forum, as we recently did from the Bedford school district, I will send it to the membership to see if there are folks who want to participate. If not, we decline involvement.

We can also continue our involvement with the very successful Students Inside Albany program and build on our work to register the formerly incarcerated to vote.

We, LWVNEW, need to focus on what we can do and do it well. We have shown we have the ability to register, inform, and educate area voters and I look forward to your help with these efforts.

~ In League,

Susan Ferris Rights

VOTER SERVICE**IMPORTANT FEBRUARY 14 DEADLINE!**

New York State has TWO primary elections this year: the April Presidential Primary and the June Primary for Congress, NYS Senate & NYS Assembly.

DID YOU KNOW THAT, IN NEW YORK'S CLOSED PRIMARY SYSTEM, YOU MUST BE REGISTERED WITH A POLITICAL PARTY TO VOTE IN THAT PARTY'S PRIMARIES?

We can discuss the merits and drawbacks of a closed primary system but that is our reality. So, the next question is...

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE DEADLINE TO DESIGNATE OR CHANGE YOUR POLITICAL PARTY IN TIME TO VOTE IN ANY OF THIS YEAR'S PRIMARIES IS



FEBRUARY 14?

Many of us are already registered with a party, so this may not be a message for you...BUT there has *definitely* been a trend among newly-registered voters to choose the "No Party" option on their voter registration forms. Check in with the young people in your life and help spread the word about the February 14 deadline.

2024 PRIMARY ELECTION DATES

Presidential: Tuesday, April 2
(with Early Voting March 23-30)

Congressional and NYS Senate & Assembly: Tuesday, June 25
(with Early Voting June 15-23)

APRIL PRIMARY DATES & DEADLINES

>Saturday, March 23 (Golden Day): Last day [voter registration form](#) must be received by the Board of Election by mail or in person. Those with a NY.Gov ID may register using the new [NYS Board of Elections Online Voter Registration portal](#). Check your voter registration status at the [NYS Voter Registration Database Search](#). Last day for an application for a mailed absentee ballot to be received by the Board of Elections. Applications may be made via email, fax, or electronically through the [New York State Absentee Ballot Application Portal](#). See the [New York State Board of Elections website](#) or the [Westchester Board of Elections website](#) for additional details.

>Monday, April 1: Last day to apply in person at the Westchester Board of Elections (25 Quarropas Street, White Plains, NY 10601) for an absentee ballot.

>Tuesday, April 2: Last day to postmark a completed absentee ballot (must be received by Tuesday April 9, 2024) or to submit an absentee ballot in person to the Westchester Board of Elections or any polling site throughout Westchester County by the close of the polls.

STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION

A new law has gone into effect statewide, requiring school districts to offer voter registration and preregistration to eligible students. Since we already offer voter registration at several area high schools, we are reaching out to them to see if the League can play a part in their compliance with the new law. We expect to continue to offer registration at the schools again this spring. Watch this space.

SPRING SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Believe it or not, we've already had one of our local school districts (Bedford) reach out to set a date for their school board candidate forum! We have May 1 set aside and have reached out to LWV Westchester for a moderator. For those of you who don't know or who need a refresher...we typically help two area school districts moderate candidate forums in the event of a contested school board race. While Katonah-Lewisboro prefers to handle their school board forums in-house, the Bedford and North Salem districts turn to us for moderators when they have a contested election.

PROGRAMS OF INTEREST***MARK YOUR CALENDARS!*****LEGISLATIVE HOT TOPICS EVENT****FEBRUARY 3RD, 10 AM**

Join the State League's issue specialists for a virtual event about the 2024 legislative session. This program will take a look at how the New York State League adopts and takes action on issues and sets legislative priorities. We will also introduce the various state issue specialists, how members can get engaged in their work, and what the expected hot topics are for the 2024 legislative session.

Register here: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

**PASSING THE NEW YORK STATE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT****MARCH 9TH, 10:30 AM**

This hybrid program is being presented by the AAUW (American Association of University Women) and the speaker is Erica Smitka, Deputy Director of the League of Women Voters of New York State.

The NY ERA will be on our ballots this fall. LWVNYS supports its passage and we have a few members working toward that outcome.

Learn more about NY's ERA!

Registration is required for both in-person and online attendance: [AAUW - Passing the NYS Equal Rights Amendment - League of Women Voters - Greenburgh Public Library Libcal - Greenburgh Public Library](#)

LWVNY REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Each Saturday in March, LWVNY Regional Trainings are happening throughout the state. All Board members, chairs of committees, and any and all members are encouraged to attend one of the workshops.

Mar 2 Regional Workshops in Rochester

Mar 9 Workshops in Port Washington

Mar 16 Regional Workshops in Cortland

Mar 23 Regional Workshops in Albany

This is when League members will gather to discuss so many topics: DEI, GOTV, building leadership and membership, determining mis- and dis-information, and advocacy.

Staff and state board members will travel the state to highlight information on how best to navigate these next important and very crucial months for our democracy. Please sign up and come for a very engaging day.

Register online here: [League of Women Voters of New York State · Regional Trainings 2024 \(lgwforms.com\)](https://www.lgwforms.com)

Or download, print and mail this form: [b3543622-bbe7-4bff-92a9-d1259b347d22.pdf](https://www.constantcontact.com/forms/b3543622-bbe7-4bff-92a9-d1259b347d22) ([constantcontact.com](https://www.constantcontact.com))

New York is a big state and it looks like the closest locations for us would be Port Washington (Long Island) or Albany. Could be a field trip...

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

The *Elections & Voting* page of our website has been updated with primary election information.

Check out the relevant dates and deadlines:

www.LWVNEW.org/elections-voting

Find us and follow us on social media!

Facebook: LWVNEW

Twitter/X: @LWVNEW

OTHER**THE LEAGUE'S BIRTHDAY**

Yes, February 14th is Valentine's Day...but it's also the League's birthday. The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 by suffragists from the National American Woman Suffrage Association, about six months before the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

A League history timeline is available here:

[History | League of Women Voters \(lwv.org\)](https://www.lwv.org/history)

Happy 104th, LWV!

LWVNEW BOARD MEETINGS 2023-24

Here’s the remaining schedule:

TUES MAR 12 Board & Committee Chairs
7 pm on ZOOM

TUES APR 9
12:30 pm at 10 Deer Ridge Rd

MAY TBD
ANNUAL MEETING

TUES JUN 11 Board & Committee Chairs
7 pm on ZOOM

(A reminder that ANY MEMBER is welcome to attend our monthly Board meetings.)

LWVNEW’S STRUCTURE

Each May, we look ahead to the next League year. At the Annual Meeting this May, we will vote on the proposed slate, programs, and budget for the coming July 2024-June 2025 year. Members will receive these proposals in April.

Here is a glimpse at LWVNEW’s leadership structure, the Board. Many of these positions will expire at the end of this League year and be on the slate at the Annual Meeting.

| BOARD POSITION | TERM | METHOD OF APPOINTMENT |
|------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| President | 2 YRS | VOTE at Annual Meeting |
| 1st VP - Voter Service Chair | 2 YRS | VOTE at Annual Meeting |
| 2nd VP - Membership | 1 YR | VOTE at Annual Meeting |
| Treasurer | 2 YRS | VOTE at Annual Meeting |

| | | |
|-----------|-------|------------------------|
| Secretary | 1 YR | VOTE at Annual Meeting |
| Director | 2 YRS | VOTE at Annual Meeting |
| Director | 2 YRS | VOTE at Annual Meeting |
| Director | 1 YR | VOTE at Annual Meeting |
| Director | 1 YR | VOTE at Annual Meeting |

*Note: Additional Directors may be appointed by the Board.

Separate from the Board is the Nominating Committee. This committee works to form the slate of Board candidates each year. The Nominating Committee is made up of elected members and appointed ones, so you will see some Nominating Committee seats on the slate as well.

| COMMITTEE | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Nominating Committee Member 1 | VOTE at Annual Meeting |
| Nominating Committee Member 2 | VOTE at Annual Meeting |
| Nominating Committee Member 3 | VOTE at Annual Meeting |
| Nominating Committee Member 4 | APPOINTED (Member of the Board) |
| Nominating Committee Member 5 | APPOINTED (Member of the Board) |

*Note: Chair is selected by the five committee members

We mourn the passing of
LWVUS President
Dr. Deborah Turner,
who died suddenly
on January 28.

LWVUS Statement on the death of Dr. Turner: [League Mourns Loss of LWVUS President Dr. Deborah Ann Turner | League of Women Voters](#)

In her own words: [Inspiration From Late LWV President Dr. Deborah Ann Turner | League of Women Voters](#)