

LWVNEW MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By voting to disband June 30 instead of effective immediately, the Board was acknowledging the work left to do this year. We have since conducted two student voter registrations and held a school board candidate forum. There is another forum in Somers on May 12. (We are still in need of a timekeeper for that; please help!)

In two weeks, we send our student to the *Students Inside Albany* conference. I'm so glad this league is finishing up with voter service and student engagement. Very fitting.

--Lisa P

VOTER SERVICE

SCHOOL BOARD & BUDGET VOTES

School board elections and budget votes take place on Tuesday, May 20. The voter registration deadline for this election is Thursday, May 15.

Click on the link to your district for more information about the proposed budget and ballot propositions.

>Bedford Central Schools:
[2025 Budget Vote and Trustee Election - Bedford Central School District](#)

>Katonah-Lewisboro Schools:
[Annual Budget Vote and Election Information | Katonah-Lewisboro School District](#)

>North Salem Central Schools:
[Annual Budget](#)

>Somers Central Schools:
[SCSD Budget - Somers Central School District](#)

SCHOOL BOARD FORUMS BEDFORD

A Bedford School Board Candidate Forum was held on May 1, featuring seven candidates running for four seats. In accordance with League rules, we were assigned a moderator outside of the voting district: Marcia Brewster, from the Rivertowns League. Kay Tyler served as the timekeeper. Katherine Dering and Susan Ferris Rights curated the questions, which had been submitted in advance by BCSD voters. *This forum could not have happened without these volunteers. Thank you so much!*

The forum is now available for viewing on-demand. There is a link on our website:
[www.LWVNEW.org/events-1.](http://www.LWVNEW.org/events-1)



We had full participation at the BCSD forum. It was hard to get all seven candidates in the photo! Left to right: Robert Mazurek; Amal Shady; Blakely Lowry; Prasad Krishnan; Eric Florio; Leo Sposato; Gilian Klein.

SOMERS

The Somers School Board Candidate Forum is Monday, May 12, in the Somers Middle School Library. The event starts at 7 pm; it is free and open to the public. The election in this school district also features seven candidates but for three seats. It is co-sponsored again this year with the Somers PTA Council. Another way to watch the forum that night is by viewing the livestream on the Somers district website's YouTube feed. It will also be available to watch on-demand at the same site, in the run-up to the election: www.somersschools.org Many thanks to Susan Polos, who will help with the final preparations

and be the face of the League that night. The moderator is Alice McNamara of the New Rochelle League. **A timekeeper is still needed for this event. It's an important job but not a hard one -- especially at this forum, where every statement/response is one minute!** Contact us asap if you can help: LWVNEW@gmail.com.

STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION

Thank you to Anice Mills and Kimberly Morella for organizing the spring voter registration drives.

LWVNEW volunteers Maura Rosenthal and Diane Weingarten registered new voters at John Jay High School on Friday, April 25. A week later, on May 2, Anice Mills and Lisa Pizzurro were on hand at Fox Lane High School to register students there.

Spring registrations are typically slower than those in the fall and that was the case again this year. We had 13 completed registrations at John Jay and 5 at Fox Lane, for a total of 18; additionally, seven students took blank forms with them. The advantage of leaving completed forms with us is that we take them all down to the Board of Elections in White Plains and hand them in on the students' behalf.



Diane & Maura at John Jay



Anice assists a Fox Lane student

For those of you who enjoy conducting student voter registration, the opportunity to do so will still exist, likely under the auspices of the Westchester County League. This is some of the information we will get to our members before June 30. (Typically, the County League likes to cover, where possible, areas not served by a local league.) Student voter registration is quick, easy, and enjoyable; the kids are great and some of them are so demonstrably excited about registering to vote. And they love walking away wearing their / *Registered to Vote* stickers!

NEW YORK STATE PRIMARY

Looking ahead, the date of New York State's primary election is Tuesday, June 24. Early Voting will be available from Saturday, June 14 to Sunday, June 22. As always, we will have the Early Voting polling places and schedule on our website at www.LWVNEW.org/elections-voting. There will be a congressional primary election in our area. The League of Women Voters of Westchester usually handles congressional candidate forums and we will keep you posted on any arrangements that are made. As of this newsletter, we don't know of any.

The deadline to register to vote in time for the primary is June 14. (A reminder that New York has a closed primary system; to vote in a political party's primary, you must be a member of that party.)

MEMBERS & MEMBERSHIP

A MEMBER IS HONORED

We are thrilled to spread the word that Gail Pantezzi, the LWVNEW Board Director who was willing to serve as next year's President, has been nominated for a Congressional District 17 2025 *Women of Distinction Changemaker Award*. She will be recognized by Congressman Mike Lawler at a May 12 ceremony in Rockland County. *Congratulations, Gail!*

MEMBER GUIDANCE

LWVNYS will send letters to all members of LWVNEW and provide the option to join another League within the state OR to join LWVNYS. Between now and then: If your membership renewal date passes -- or has already passed -- you can either let your membership expire or you can renew as a Member-at-Large of the New York State League. You can also join another local league. (Keep in mind that other local leagues will not specifically service the towns currently covered by ours.)

This can all be done by going to [LWV Member Portal · LWV Member Portal](#).

OTHER

LWV WESTCHESTER ANNUAL MEETING/CONVENTION

Sadly, our 2025 Annual Meeting will not be necessary; however, the County League will be holding its end-of-year Convention on Thursday, June 5. Things kick off at 5 pm with the annual business meeting, which is very similar to our Annual Meeting. LWVNEW is allotted 3 voting delegates for the meeting, which will be followed by a buffet supper and speaker: Spencer Reynolds, Senior Counsel in the Brennan Center for Justice's Liberty & National Security Program. The topic sounds interesting: *Protecting Liberty & Security and Bolstering Checks & Balances*.

You can read more about the opportunity at www.lwww.org/events. If you are interested in serving as one of our three voting delegates, LWVNEW will cover the \$50 cost of dinner and speaker. Please send an email to the LWVNEW email address, indicating your interest in attending as a delegate; you must let us know, as we must report our delegation to the County League ahead of the event.

Of course, anyone is free to attend the dinner & speaker portion of the evening! That requires no internal communication; just go ahead and register at www.lwww.org/events. Delegates will sign up and pay there as well, **once we have confirmed with them that they are attending in that capacity**. Again, we will reimburse voting delegates the \$50.

STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY

In just two weeks, Fox Lane junior Caitlin O'Connor leaves for the Albany conference. We're so excited for her! SIA 2025 runs from May 18 to May 21.

SIA is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation, Inc. The program is designed to increase students' awareness of their responsibility in representative government and provide the tools necessary for meeting that responsibility. The interactive conference brings together high school students from across the state to learn about New York's government and the process by which citizens can participate in the policy making arena. As part of this program, students will tour the Capitol and observe both the Senate and Assembly in action by spending

an afternoon shadowing their legislator.

For a look back, photos of SIA 2014-2021 can be found on the *Galleries* page of our website, www.LWVNEW.org/projecto-1. 2022-2025 SIA information is on the *Student Outreach* page, www.LWVNEW.org/student-outreach.

MODERATOR TRAINING

The League of Women Voters of Westchester is always in need of new moderators.

Candidate forums are so important -- and they cannot be conducted without trained moderators.

In addition to the vital role that moderating plays in informing and educating voters, it's a valuable skill that can be applied in other areas.

Consider adding it to your own personal or professional resumé.

If you are interested in League moderator training – or would like to learn more – let us know and we'll put you in touch with the County League's Moderator Coordinator, Alice McNamara.

