

## LWVNEW FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

### LWVNEW

#### GET INVOLVED!

We are looking for a few more members to join our board. LWVNEW board members currently meet once a month, via Zoom, from the comfort of their own homes. It would be great to have some new faces and fresh perspectives.

Want to hear more? Contact LWVNEW president Eileen Nadelson:  
[judgenadelson@gmail.com](mailto:judgenadelson@gmail.com)

#### IMPORTANT DEADLINE!

If you wish to change your party enrollment in time for New York State's Primary Election, the deadline to do so is soon: February 14<sup>th</sup>! You can use a voter registration form to make the change.

Downloadable forms available here:  
[Register to Vote \(westchestergov.com\)](https://www.westchestergov.com)

Need more information? It can be confusing. Contact the Westchester County Board of Elections: 914-995-5700.

### NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS (LWVUS)

#### THE FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

The 117<sup>th</sup> Congress has prioritized the passage of the *For The People Act* – known as H.R. 1 in the House of Representatives and S. 1 in the Senate. The League continues to support this bill and important provisions, which include the *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act*, fair redistricting, and D.C. statehood.

Read the League statement: [LWVUS Supports the Return of H.R. 1 in the 117th Congress | League of Women Voters](#)

#### LEAGUE SENDS LIST OF ITS PRIORITIES TO THE NEW ADMINISTRATION

These include voting rights, climate change, healthcare, immigration, and more.

Read about it here: [LWVUS Priorities in the New Biden Administration | League of Women Voters](#)

#### RENEWED HOPE FOR THE E.R.A.

The House and Senate have introduced legislation to remove the time limit on the Equal Rights Amendment. The League has supported ratification since the ERA was first passed by Congress in 1972 and has worked for decades to see ratification by the states. Last year, Virginia ratified the ERA, making it the required 38<sup>th</sup> state. Now is the time for the legislative branch to pass it and *finally* include women in the U.S. Constitution.

### STATE LEAGUE NEWS (LWVNY)

#### STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY

The 2021 *Students Inside Albany Conference (SIA)* will happen this year, albeit virtually. The conference will be held on Friday, May 21st from 4 to 6 pm, and on Saturday, May 22nd from 10 am to 4 :30 pm.

#### GOOD GOVERNMENT

Before the legislative session convened, the League signed onto a letter urging legislative leaders to implement rules reforms that would ensure the legislature remain open and transparent while operating remotely. Recommendations included: providing internet and phone

options to listen and participate, to accommodate different levels of technology literacy and internet access; providing a fast and intuitive process for signing up to speak, and include an opportunity to request language or ADA accommodation; enabling some chat feature or a phone number to allow participants to report technical problems or send in clarifying questions; and providing visible information on the number of viewers watching, and allow hearing attendees to connect with other participants via chat or other forms to help recreate some of the experience of participating in person. To date it does not appear that either house has followed the recommendations. LWVNY will continue to monitor the issue of remote transparency and may provide additional follow up to the legislature if issues arise.

#### **ELECTION LAW**

The State Senate passed a package of absentee voting reforms, including (once again) constitutional amendments to allow for no-excuse absentee voting and same day voter registration. The League has sent a request to the new Chair of the Assembly Election Law Committee to see if when these bills may be taken up in the Assembly.

#### ***Participate from home opportunities!***

##### **>LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

##### **PRE-BUDGET LOBBY TRAINING**

Thursday, Feb 11, 6:30-7:30pm

LWVNY's Deputy Director will give an update on what issues have passed and what's left to be done in 2021. LWVNY will also share what the League is advocating for in the state budget and how to conduct remote lobby visits on those issues.

**Click here: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)**

##### **>REDISTRICTING WEBINAR**

On Thursday, January 28, the League held a panel discussion about involving New Yorkers in redistricting in 2021. The panel featured expert speakers: Rosalind Gold, Chief Public Policy Officer for NALEO Educational Fund; Jerry G. Vattamala Director, Democracy Program, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund; and Jeff Wice, Adjunct Professor & Senior Fellow, New York Law School. The panel discussed the current status of New York's Redistricting Commission and the release of census data, how community groups can unite to create unity maps, and how individuals can participate in the redistricting process in New York.

**Watch here: [Meeting the Challenges of Community Engaged Redistricting Webinar Recording - YouTube](#)**

##### **HEALTHCARE POSITION UPDATE**

The LWVNY position on the financing of healthcare needs updating; it was originally adopted in 1985 and most recently revised in 1991. Particular consideration needs to be given to the manner in which single-payer legislation, such as the *NY Health Act*, could be fiscally viable.

Two new sections have been added to the proposed position on the financing of healthcare: 1) feasibility criteria for single-payer financing in NYS and 2) favored cost-control methods appropriate to guide any healthcare reform.

LWVNY is requesting that all local leagues hold concurrence meetings with their members to explain the positions, share data, and make two decisions after comparing the proposed new position to the current position.

**LWVNEW**

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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.

**Our Voting Districts**

**Bedford**

US Congressional: 18 (Maloney-D)

State Senate: 37 (Mayer-D)

State Assembly: 93 (Burdick-D)

County Legislative: 2 (Covill-D)

**Lewisboro**

US Congressional: 18 (Maloney-D)

State Senate: 40 (Harckham-D)

State Assembly: 93 (Burdick-D)

County Legislative: 2 (Covill-D)

**Mount Kisco**

US Congressional: 17 (Jones-D)

State Senate: 40 (Harckham-D)

State Assembly: 93 (Burdick-D)

County Legislative: 2 (Covill-D)

**North Salem**

US Congressional: 18 (Maloney-D)

State Senate: 40 (Harckham-D)

State Assembly: 93 (Burdick-D)

County Legislative: 2 (Covill-D)

**Pound Ridge**

US Congressional: 18 (Maloney-D)

State Senate: 40 (Harckham-D)

State Assembly: 93 (Burdick-D)

County Legislative: 2 (Covill-D)



at *League of Women Voters of North East Westchester*



at **LWVNEW**