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# INSIDE THE LEAGUE

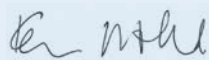
## From the Co-Presidents

### It's Voter Engagement, not Registration

Welcome to fall and another election season! During every election cycle, League volunteers provide training, resources, and opportunities to register new voters in NYC. Our work, and that of our dedicated partners and other organizations, has been rewarded—NYC boasts about 90% voter registration of eligible New Yorkers. Now the issues we face are engaging voters and turning out the vote. We are working to address these challenges with activities such as civic engagement presentations from our Speakers Bureau, Constitution Day outreach, clear actionable voting information on our website and social media channels, and prioritizing Get Out the Vote initiatives on the Voter Services Committee among other actions.

We need your help to increase NYC voting numbers. Ask ten friends, family members, colleagues, or neighbors if they are registered to vote and have a voting plan. And contact three people to go to the polls together.

All City Council Districts are on the ballot in November and City Council Members are our voice in how NYC is run. These elected officials write and pass local laws that affect every aspect of life in NYC. The League will always register voters, but we need to assure voters that their voices count and matter. The change will take time, but collectively, with your passion and commitment, we can accomplish this goal.



**Kai Rosenthal**  
president@lwvny.org



**Deborah Brodheim**  
co-president@lwvny.org

## VOTING CALENDAR

MON, OCTOBER 23, 2023

### Deadline to update your address

If you move, you must notify the Board of Elections of your new address by this date to vote in the general election.

MON, OCTOBER 23, 2023

### Absentee ballot request deadline (online or by mail)

The Board of Elections must receive your absentee ballot request by this date.

SAT, OCTOBER 28, 2023

### Voter Registration Deadline

NYC/NYS partnered with **TurboVote** to make registration easy.

SAT, OCTOBER 28, 2023 - SUN, NOVEMBER 5, 2023

### Early Voting

Vote early in person before Election Day! Find your early voting site and hours.

MON, NOVEMBER 6, 2023

### Absentee ballot request deadline (in person)

Deadline to request an absentee ballot in person. Find your borough Board of Elections office.

TUE, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

### General Election Day

Polls are open 6am-9pm. Find your poll site.  
Last day to postmark your absentee ballot or drop it off at a poll site. Find your poll site.

TUE, NOVEMBER 14, 2023

### Deadline for Board of Elections to receive absentee ballots

The Board of Elections must receive your absentee ballot by this date. However, your ballot must be postmarked by November 7 to be valid.

For more information on voter registration, voting, and Board of Elections locations and phone numbers, go to [vote.nyc](https://vote.nyc)

# 2023 Constitution Day Results in Huge Outreach

By Barb Ettington, LWVNYC Board Director

Reaching across four boroughs, ten city council districts, and twelve libraries, 75 League of Women Voters volunteers distributed almost **9,000** free copies of the U.S. Constitution in English and Spanish.

The pocket-sized books included a handout describing the Constitution's role in protecting the right to vote, and the

League's focus on promoting the power of a vote in local elections.

The outreach focused on low-voter turnout districts. League volunteers set up at local libraries and health fairs, stood outside of greenmarkets, hospitals, post offices, and grocery stores, and walked into laundromats, hair salons, and bodegas

to distribute the books. Most people were happy to accept the outreach and many wanted to talk about their neighborhoods and their elected officials. One storekeeper asked for more books as she said her customers would be delighted to get their copy as many are studying for their citizenship exams.



Volunteers stirred up the excitement using selfie frames to capture smiles, children's activity sheets to attract parents, and always the bowl of candies at the table.



One man seated on a park bench in South Ozone Park was delighted when approached by a volunteer to receive his copy and asked for more to hand out to his friends and family. "Everyone should have this book—it is so important."



Teachers stopped by the Brownsville Library and were grateful for the resources to share with their students.



Constitution Day Prep



Michelen Karnacewicz and Rhoda Kleinman at Uptown Night Market in West Harlem



## 2023 Constitution Day Results in Huge Outreach *continued*

Our volunteers also provided support for those interested in registering to vote. One young man didn't know that he could register to vote because he had spent time in prison on a felony charge. He was overjoyed to learn that the law had changed to allow former felons their right to register/re-register to vote after serving their prison term.

Story after story, interaction after interaction, conversation after conversation... League volunteers understand the power of personal interactions when discussing the importance of voting.

WABC-TV helped augment the stories with coverage of the event—and placement of the story on the 12:00 news and on their website. Our thanks to WABC-TV, Pure Insurance, and Lyft for helping to underwrite the costs of the tremendous outreach.

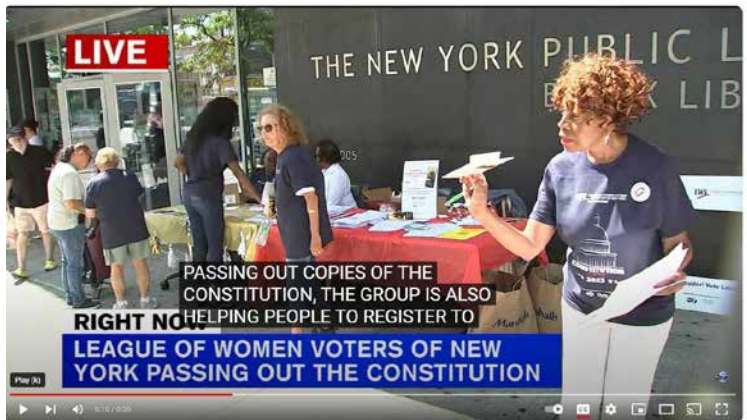
*Our thanks to our many volunteers!*



Judith Dieckmann and Joan Alexander-Bakiriddin setting up their table in Brooklyn



Volunteer at the Sheepshead Bay Library in Brooklyn



Christine Doyle, Aisha Gomez, Ruth Altman at the Boriken Health Fair in East Harlem

# Voting Machines: A Controversial Topic

By Kate Doran, LWVNYC Election Specialist

Here's a review of where things stand in NYC and NYS.

Voters in NY State have been using Hand Marked Paper Ballots, and Optical Scanners since 2010. This system was never expected to have the life expectancy of the Lever Machines, which were used for Primaries and General Elections beginning in the 1960s. The Lever machines were replaced not because they were worn out, but because votes on them could not be recounted, and because they were inaccessible for disabled voters.

Commissioners of Elections in NYC had estimated an approximate ten-year life span for our ES&S DS-200 scanners. The scanners are actually holding up pretty well. It's the BMDs (Ballot Marking Devices) that need to be upgraded, or replaced. Many users of the BMDs have noticed that those machines are showing their age. More frequent breakdowns are being reported at poll sites. In addition, the BMDs must store audio files of all the races and propositions on the ballot in all the covered languages. The model in current use has limited memory capacity.

So... you might think that the Commissioners in NYC should just check with the City Council as to how much money they can spend, and then go shopping for voting machines. Nope! Can't do that. Election Law is state law, and it governs all activities of the NYC Board of Elections.

## *Section 7-201 of NY State EL*

*"1. Any person or corporation owning or being interested in any voting machine or system may apply to have the state board of elections examine such machine or system.*

*Such applicant shall pay to the board before the examination a fee equal to the cost of such examination.*

*The state board of elections shall cause the machine or system to be examined and a report of the examination to be made and filed in the office of the state board."*

The way this plays out is that vendors who want to sell certain, particular, voting machines and/or systems to Counties in NY State bring those machines to the SBOE (State Board of Elections), which must accept them for examination.

ES&S is the manufacturer of the AutoMark, the BMD used in NYC. ES&S did not bring an updated BMD, or Scanner, to the SBOE for approval. Instead, ES&S asked for approval for the controversial Express VoteXL. The Express VoteXL was reviewed

and tested. Then at a meeting of the SBOE Commissioners, held on Wednesday, August 2, 2023, it was approved. The meeting was long, and at times contentious. There are 4 Commissioners: 2 Democrats and 2 Republicans. The vote to approve was 3 to 1. Other machines approved at the same meeting were: the Dominion Suite including the ICX, and the Clear Ballot Scanner & BMD.

Now that new machines have been approved, NY State Counties can buy them. (The 5 Counties of NYC operate as one Board of Elections). The NYC BOE has committed to NOT buying any new voting machines, or changing the way we vote, before the 2024 Presidential Election. The NYC BOE has also said that they will offer opportunities to the public to examine any machine that may be considered. We should look forward to these demonstrations, but not before 2025.

At this time the State LWV has no position supporting or opposing any voting machines that have recently been approved, or may be approved in the future. The State League has formed a committee to study the New York State process for approving voting machines & systems. The committee has begun its work, and hopes to have materials for Local Leagues to review and debate by March 2024.

Stay tuned!

## "Note to Vote"

By Barb Ettington, LWVNYC Board Director

This announcement was heard over the public address system during two home games of the NY Liberty Women Basketball:

"If you live in New York City, you have an important election coming up this Fall. Your City Council has the power to make New York City run well. You have the power to elect. New York Liberty and the League of Women Voters are teaming up to help you remember to vote this Fall. It is called **Note to Vote**. Stop by the League of Women Voters table



to write a **Note to Vote** to yourself. Just fill out the postcard, address it to yourself, and the League will mail it to you in time for the next election. Enter for a chance to win tickets to see another NY Liberty game when you complete your **Note to Vote**."

Over 160 postcards were completed and handed into the ten League volunteers who enjoyed interacting with the NY Liberty's fan base.



# Visit to the Founders for Founders Day

By Laurie Pauker, LWN NYC VP, Development

Over forty League members and friends commemorated the NYC League’s Founders Day with a visit to our Founders via a Trolley Tour at Woodlawn Cemetery & Conservancy in the Bronx on Wednesday, June 21st. The theme of the event was “Experience History” and the docents who led the tour provided a fun and educational opportunity to celebrate the suffragists and women who fought for the rights we hold today.

Woodlawn Cemetery is a National Historic Landmark, certified arboretum, outdoor museum, and active, 400-acre cemetery. Our tour included many notable women who helped to shape our culture—including the League’s founder, Carrie Chapman Catt, as well as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Alva Vanderbilt Belmont, and America’s first female self-made millionaire, Madam C.J. Walker.



After the tours the crowd gathered to share cupcakes and celebrate the League’s 104th birthday. Speaking to the crowd, past President and long-time LWN NYC member Gladys Krasner focused on the work the League has left to do. She called for everyone’s attention on the Equal Rights Amendment and the renewed and upcoming struggles we face to make that a reality.





# I Am Woman, Hear Me Roar

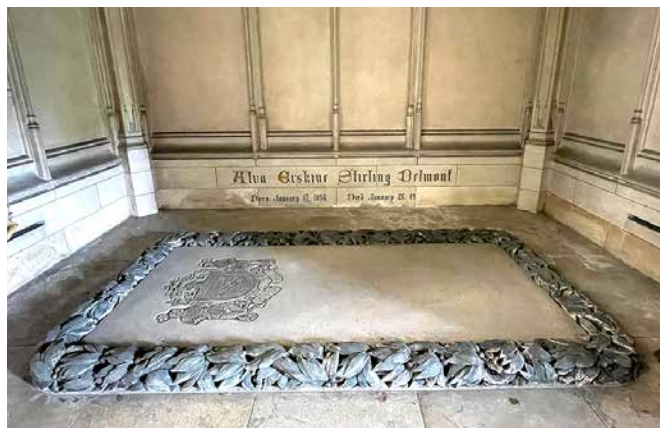
By Suzanne Surbeck

When the members of the League of Women Voters of NYC visited Woodlawn Cemetery to celebrate Founders Day, they stopped by the graves of these women who not only struggled to get women the right to vote, they were also leaders in the fight for women to become full members of society.

**Elizabeth Cady Stanton** was famous for her fight to get women the right to vote. Her struggle for women's rights also extended to liberalized divorce laws, reproductive rights protection, and increased legal rights for women.

**Alva Vanderbilt Belmont**, a member of the wealthy Vanderbilt family, was a strong supporter of and main financial backer for the women's movement. She also worked to get votes for politicians who supported women getting the vote.

**Elizabeth Cochran Seaman**, better known by her pen name Nellie Bly, is considered by some to be America's first investigative reporter. In addition to serving as both a local reporter and as a foreign correspondent, including covering WWI, she posed as a patient in an insane asylum and then exposed the conditions in her groundbreaking book, "Ten Days in A Madhouse."



**Madam C.J. Walker**, is considered to be America's first self-made black female millionaire. Known as Sarah Breedlove, she made her fortune by selling and marketing hair products for black women. She was also known for her philanthropy and activism.

**Florence Mills** was a celebrated cabaret singer who performed as the "Queen of Happiness." She broke down racial barriers by appealing to both black and white audiences.

**Gertrud Ederle** was an Olympic gold medalist and, in 1926, the first woman to swim the English Channel. She was also the world record holder in several events along with being one of America's most celebrated sports figures in the 1920's.

**Margaret Rudkin**, founder of the Pepperidge Farm brand, was a business leader along with being the first woman to serve on the board of the Campbell Soup company. She was also a pioneer in the use of natural ingredients in food.

**Dorothy Parker**, poet, writer, critic, and satirist was best known for her sarcastic wit. Published in *The New Yorker* and other literary outlets, she was a founding member of the Algonquin Round Table. One of her most famous poems was titled "On Being a Woman," a humorous but satirical view of the role of women.

**Celia Cruz "Queen of Salsa"** helped bring Cuba's salsa music to mainstream audiences and popularized the genre in what had been a male-dominated field. Cruz recorded more than 70 albums and songs, many of which went gold or platinum, and won five Grammy Awards.

# Protecting Voting Rights in NY State

By Kai Rosenthal, LWVNYC Co-President

The League of Women Voters of New York State and New York City joined other good government groups to celebrate Governor Hochul's bill signing on September 20, 2023. The new laws she signed into being will improve and protect voting rights in New York. LWVNYC was instrumental in championing these bills in the recent legislative session.

## The new laws include:

- The New York Early Mail Voter Act
- Taped absentee ballots will be counted
- Create a "Golden Day"—the first day of early voting when New Yorkers can register and vote on the same day
- Establish a deadline for changing early voting poll site locations
- Require local jails to inform individuals being released of voting rights and provide them with voter registration forms
- Require NY State Board of Elections to develop and provide a program for poll worker training
- Require local Boards of Education and non-public schools to promote student voter registration and pre-registration
- Set the Presidential Primary Election for April 2, 2024
- Prohibit "forum shopping" in constitutional challenges for election cases
- Prohibit "faithless electors" in presidential elections



Governor Hochul (2nd from right) with League members



(L to R): Jarret Berg, Vote Early NY; Kai Rosenthal, LWVNYC Co-President; Kate Doran, LWVNYC Elections Specialist; Ben Weinberg, Citizens Union



League members with Assemblymember Latrice Walker, Chair of the Committee on Election Law (4th from right)

Congratulations to all the groups that worked so diligently to ensure passage of these bills! For more details, please read the [Governor's press release](#) on the historic day.



## A Story of the League

### What Exactly Does the LWNYC Do?

By Stacey Lesser

When most people think of the League of Women Voters of the City of New York, they think voter registration. And, yes, we activate voters—make sure people are registered to vote, and get to the polls when it's time to have their voices heard. However, we're involved much earlier in the process; we're out in the schools, visiting high school juniors and seniors—those on the precipice of voting—to make sure they understand how and why to use their voices. In other words, we're creating voters. How do we do that? How do we turn these adolescents into citizens of their communities who want to make their voices heard?

Let us introduce you to the LWNYC program: Active Civics. In Active Civics, League volunteers are visiting classrooms across the five boroughs and mentoring students in the art of becoming active members of their communities. In these visits we encourage students to consider the issues they care about.

Next, we introduce them to how to use their voices to impact the issues they care about: to create the change they want to see. With the mantra *"Your voice is loudest locally"* we direct them to **"Who Represents Me? NYC"**—the very valuable tool created and managed by the League of Women Voters of the City of New York in collaboration with CUNY. This extensive

listing provides instant insight into who represents each of us, easily organized by home address. It's the place where every New Yorker can go to learn who our representatives are, what their positions are on issues, and determine how their issues align with theirs.

Finally, we encourage students to reach out to their representatives, identify themselves as constituents, and voice their ideas for improving their neighborhood. Once that connection is made, a voter is born. That's the impact of the League of Women Voters of the City of New York



Diane Burrows (right), Chair of the LWNYC Speakers Bureau and League Volunteer Joan Hawkins (left), recently did a civics presentation at Union Baptist Church in Harlem. They were joined by the church's Reverend Claretha P. Moore, Director of the Christian Education Council.

### Pat Manning selected as a "Do-Er" in NYC

By Barb Ettington, LWNYC Board Director

The campaign We ❤️ NYC will be featuring Patricia Manning as a "Do-ER" in their effort to highlight individuals in NYC who take action to help their neighbors and their city. Nominated by Barb Ettington and Laurie Pauker for all the work Pat does on the Development Committee, this recognition goes far beyond that. In addition to orchestrating much of the Constitution Day logistics year after year, Pat also is a member of the Voter Services Committee and takes charge of all outreach in the Bronx. She has even nicknamed her dedicated group of volunteers the "Bronx Bombers."

Patricia joined the League after retiring from a career filled with civic engagement and public service. She served for 32 years at the Bronx Community Board 8, where she was hired as a Community Associate, and went on to be hired as the Board's 3rd District Manager. As District Manager she was charged with advocating for delivery of city services and resources to ensure the stabilization and viability of a culturally



diverse community district with a population of 104,000 citizens.

Previously Patricia was employed by not-for-profit organizations including New York Foundling Hospital's Bronx Teen Parenting Program, which

provided support services to teen parents to make

it possible for them to continue their education and to be able to work; and Developing Arts for the Bronx, which was dedicated to showcasing the talents of local Bronx artists. Patricia has always taken her civic responsibilities seriously. She is a graduate of New York City Citizen Police Academy and has served for many years as President of Baychester Neighborhood Block Watchers Association.

Look for the release of the campaign on the We ❤️ NYC website soon ([welovenyc.nyc](http://welovenyc.nyc)). Congratulations to Pat!





# Keeping Voters Informed: Updating Who Represents Me? NYC

By Stacey Lesser

**Who Represents Me? NYC** is a free website that provides up-to-date contact information for elected officials at all levels of government for every location in New York City.

The Center for Urban Research CUNY launched the current version of the Who Represents Me site almost 10 years ago in partnership with the League of Women Voters of the City of New York with grant support from the New York Community Trust—and it's time for an update. Happily, the LWVNYC has again been selected to participate in this important endeavor.

The site displays interactive maps of legislative districts and NYC Community Boards, and allows users to search by address to display a list of all their elected representatives. Importantly, Who Represents Me provides contact information for local district offices and displays links for more information such as email addresses, individual websites, Twitter (X) feeds, and Facebook pages of elected officials. Who Represents Me is the only unified online source of information for all elected officials in New York City, designed specifically for New Yorkers, with features not available at other websites. In addition to being a resource for voters, it is used extensively by public officials, advocacy groups, service organizations, journalists, and members of the public.

Ongoing revisions to the site include:

- Updating elected official contact information
- Adding a new category of elected representatives: District Leaders
- Website language translation—the site is currently only available in English

- Technological updates to integrate new online tools and techniques to make it easier to maintain the data on the site

For over 100 years, the LWVNYC has inspired city residents to make their voices heard and counted, by providing the resources they need. Who Represents Me is a critical resource in this effort, particularly as it directly addresses our mantra of *Your Voice is Loudest Locally*.

Throughout the remainder of 2023, LWVNYC will conduct extensive outreach activities to promote awareness and usage of the service, leading up to and during the 2023 municipal elections. We will track how other organizations are leveraging Who Represents Me, including linking to or embedding the service in their own websites; and we'll monitor ongoing website usage to help determine the success of our efforts. Finally, following the November 2023 municipal elections, updated representative information will be published in early 2024.

The League will use the refresh of Who Represents Me as an opportunity to invite prominent speakers for their popular "Lunch with the League/At Home with the League" programs. (See related article in this issue.) The relaunched Who Represents Me service and related events will also be promoted through the League's local broadcast and public access media partners including BronxNet, BRIC Arts Media as well as other local press outlets.

Want to help us get the word out about our new and improved **Who Represents Me? NYC** (<https://www.mygovnyc.org/>)? Contact Stacey Lesser: [staceylesser5@gmail.com](mailto:staceylesser5@gmail.com) for more information.



## Marian Bott Honored by Alliance for Quality Education

By Kai Rosenthal, LWVNYC Co-President

Dr. Marian Bott, Education Finance Specialist for the League of Women Voters of NY State, long-time LWVNYC member, and NYC education advocate, received the Champion of Education honor from the Alliance for Quality Education. Dr. Bott was recognized for her unwavering commitment to assure that all students in NY State have access to quality education. Dr. Bott was celebrated along with other honorees on October 5th in NYC. Congratulations Marian on your deserved achievement!

## What is the Equal Rights Amendment?

By Deb McEvilly

First drafted by two leaders of the Women's Suffrage movement, Alice Paul and Crystal Eastman, Women's Rights Advocates viewed the Equal Rights Amendment as the next step in helping women to rise from the level of second-class citizens.

*"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."*

Beginning in 1923, lawmakers introduced the Equal Rights Amendment in every session of Congress; the issue was that Congress was composed almost entirely of men and nothing happened for almost fifty years. Then in 1970, a new class of female lawmakers came to town. Representatives Martha Griffiths (D-MO) and Shirley Chisholm (D-NY) pressed to make the ERA a top Legislative priority. Finally, in March 1972, the amendment was passed by both chambers of Congress. Congress sent the amendment to the states for ratification, with a seven-year ratification deadline.

Thirty states ratified the amendment but then a Conservative movement, spearheaded by Phyllis Schlafly, started to campaign to stop the ERA, claiming it would make women more manly and obligated to serve in combat positions in the military. While the National Organization of Women kept pushing for it, even Gloria Steinem, founder of Ms. Magazine could not get it passed.

By 1977 only thirty-five states had ratified the ERA, and some had taken back their ratification. And so, it stalled once again for nearly another 50 years.

However, the Women's March on Washington along with the record number of women elected to both Congress and state legislatures in 2018 has revived the ERA. And there is good energy behind it.

Now the question has become, can the ERA pass after all this time. That is a question for Congress, the Judicial system, and the American people.

## My Journey to the LWVNYC Board

By Alex Yellin, LWVNYC Board Director

In 2016, I worked at a nonprofit that provided outpatient services for people with disabilities. Many of the clients I worked with began to hear about some politicians' plans to repeal Obamacare and gut Medicare—programs they relied upon to live and thrive. They began asking what they could do to make their voices heard. I asked the leader of my organization's advocacy group for people with disabilities how many members voted in 2016. The answer was none. So, I drafted a voting guide and training plan, and with our CEO's stamp of approval, launched a train-the-trainer model that continues to benefit clients to this day.



This was the beginning of my work in the civic engagement space, but it certainly wasn't the end of it. People with disabilities face obstacles that compound into a 20% lower voter turnout nationwide. The reasons are many: insufficient transportation, physical limitations,

inaccessible polling locations, anxiety. But the greatest impediment by far is education. Public civics education courses were slashed at an alarming rate starting in the 1960s, and today, a lack of foundational knowledge has left many marginalized groups voiceless. I first connected with LWVNYC as a master's student to help like-minded students get the training needed to register voters in their communities. Soon after graduating, I connected with the League once again to help lead a committee looking at non-citizen voting rights in NYC. Helping to educate people in my community about the tools available to make their voices heard has been a driving force to my career, and work I'm proud to be continuing as part of the LWVNYC Board.



# Summer 2023 Internship Program

By Diane Burrows, LWVNYC Board Director

Our college and high school internship program went into high gear this summer. The 22 students, from schools across the country, attended a weekly seminar at our office where they met League members who shared their personal advocacy experiences with the students. The students created subcommittees to work on League projects based on their interests and passions. Here is just a taste of what they accomplished:

## Eesh Jaggi



The work I did this summer involved Participatory Budget Canvassing, coordinating a voter registration drive at Vernon C. Bain Correctional Center with Legal Aid, and with a group of fellow interns, canvassing with the Urban Justice Center and Freedom Agenda to raise awareness about the closing of Rikers. I also volunteered at the NYC Disability Voting Expo.

## Janice Seong

Northwestern University

My involvement in the ERA Project allowed me to further explore my passion for history and its impact on contemporary issues. I researched the history of the Equal Rights Amendment and ongoing efforts to affirm the amendment both nationally and in New York.

## Maya Lee



This summer I primarily worked on a project to introduce voting registration at naturalization ceremonies. While doing research and reaching out to different people from different leagues across the state, the importance of this initiative became clear. New citizens are often an overlooked, yet crucial group to engage.

## Sarah Yankauer

I worked on the Equity Grant Bill. This project taught me a lot about the process by which a piece of legislation is lobbied and eventually passed. Since the project began with the Telehealth bill that was passed, we got to see multiple phases of the process.



## Madeline Doyle



I helped in data collection and checking information accuracy for the "Who Represents Me? NYC" website. I made sure all of the representatives were the current ones serving their position. I also added their social media accounts.

## Logan O'Brien, Ladder for Leaders Intern



I participated in researching odd versus even year local elections for the Voting Reform Committee, conversing with the state league on the Early Mail Voter Act. I volunteered at a NY Liberty game with the League to promote the Note to Vote campaign.

One of the most important elements of this intern program was to ensure that at the end of the summer, when they returned to campus, these students would become activists and leaders. I would like to thank everyone who assisted the students in their work, and Lynn Hall and Leslie Wright for their assistance and advice. We're already looking forward to next summer when we plan to grow the program even further.

To volunteer to help with the intern program next summer contact Diane Burrows: [speakers@lwvnyc.org](mailto:speakers@lwvnyc.org)

# LWVNYC Committee Updates

Please feel free to email the Committees if you're interested in learning more and/or would like to get involved.

## CITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

By Susie Gomes, Co-Chair

[cityaffairs@lwvnyc.org](mailto:cityaffairs@lwvnyc.org)

In our meetings this summer we established a goal to ensure that everyone on the committee is extremely knowledgeable about how city government works, with the ambition that when the new City Council is elected and sworn in January 2024, we can start working with them to help make a difference for all New Yorkers in whatever way best serves both the League and the Council.

Thus, our meetings through this fall will be a "book club"-style to review and absorb our own League book "What Makes New York City Run?" written by our own League member Adrienne Kivelson, who happens to also be on the City Affairs Committee and will be helping moderate these sessions. Our upcoming meeting later this month will be reviewing the first two chapters of the book: The City Charter and Who Makes New York City Run (the major positions within city government).

We will also be working toward creating a workshop based on this book to help educate the Council members' staffs on how city government works to equip them to be more effective for their constituents, as well as to help them appreciate the value of the League to both themselves and the city as a whole.

Our next meeting will be taking place on Thursday October 26 @ 6:00pm. It will be a hybrid meeting, but all are welcome to join with the Zoom link:

<https://disney.zoom.us/j/2678222003?pwd=dXVvUHh1aC91UE9YdFd3dLbmlhQT09>

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE

By Joanna Leefer, Chair

[programs@lwvnyc.org](mailto:programs@lwvnyc.org)

### **Speaker Line Up for this Fall's Lunch with the League**

How will NYC create 500,000 new homes in the next ten years? Are there ways to make pedestrians safer from e-vehicle traffic? What's happening with congestion pricing? These are three of the topics that are being addressed at this Fall's Lunch with the League, a monthly program in which an expert speaker is invited to discuss a social and/or political topic impacting New York City residents.

Newly appointed Deputy Mayor on Housing, Maria Torres-Springer spoke at our September luncheon on September 19. DM Torres

discussed her vision for creating much needed housing in NYC. November's program will be on e-bikes, mopeds, and motor scooters—how can the city make them safer for pedestrians?

The Program Committee welcomes ideas for topics and speakers. We invite League members to join us at our committee meetings to brainstorm speakers and be available to assist on the day of the Luncheon.

The Program Committee meets 1-2 times a month, usually on a Thursday at 4:00 p.m. Our meetings are held via Zoom. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Joanna Leefer, at [programs@lwvnyc.org](mailto:programs@lwvnyc.org)

## VOTING REFORM COMMITTEE

By Bella Wong, Chair

[voting.reform@lwvnyc.org](mailto:voting.reform@lwvnyc.org)

This summer, the Voting Reform team wrapped up another successful lobbying season as a grassroots committee supporting our State League's legislative work. As we look to the fall, we have been inspired by our membership at the Annual Meeting to continue our work through a new study.

Despite scheduling challenges due to the delayed Albany state budgeting process, our hard-working committee members helped League members meet with 15 Assembly Members and State Senators in 2023. Our members discussed issues ranging from poll worker training and same-day voter registration, to reproductive telehealth and environmental protection. We look forward to seeing bills in many of these areas become state law once they are hopefully signed by the Governor.

For the remainder of 2023, we will be taking our cue from the Annual Meeting and recent Albany legislative interest, to engage on a committee study of the timing of New York City elections. Our League currently does not have a position on whether city elections should be in odd or even years, so researching this question and potentially taking a position will allow us to use our voice as this becomes a topic of interest across the city and state.

We are only just beginning our research and plan to gather information from other good governance groups, League chapters around the nation, academic researchers, and other experts on local election timing. If you are interested in joining our study, please reach out to Bella Wang at [voting.reform@lwvnyc.org](mailto:voting.reform@lwvnyc.org)!



# Upcoming Events

Please contact [admin@lwnyc.org](mailto:admin@lwnyc.org) to confirm meeting dates!  
For more information on Events, please visit [www.lwnyc.org](http://www.lwnyc.org)

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

For information on our committees, visit  
<https://lwnyc.org/our-impact/#issues-committees>

- City Affairs Committee: The next meeting: Thursday October 26 at 6:00pm. It will be a hybrid meeting, but all are welcome to join with the Zoom link: <https://disney.zoom.us/j/2678222003?pwd=dXVvUHh1aC91UE9YdFdFd3dLbmlhQT09>
- Committee for Criminal Justice Reform: Contact [criminaljustice@lwnyc.org](mailto:criminaljustice@lwnyc.org)
- Education Committee: 2nd Wed. of the month; 5:00–6:30pm; Contact [education@lwnyc.org](mailto:education@lwnyc.org) for more information
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee: Contact [dei@lwnyc.org](mailto:dei@lwnyc.org)
- Program Committee: Meets 1–2 times a month, usually on a Thursday at 4:00pm. Our meetings are held via zoom. Contact [programs@lwnyc.org](mailto:programs@lwnyc.org) for more information
- Voter & Information Services Committee: Contact [voting.services@lwnyc.org](mailto:voting.services@lwnyc.org)
- Voting Reform Initiative: Contact [voting.reform@lwnyc.org](mailto:voting.reform@lwnyc.org)

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