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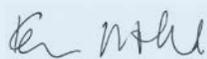
# INSIDE THE LEAGUE

## From the Co-Presidents The Future of the League

We are proud and honored to have been elected the new Co-Presidents of the League of Women Voters of the City of New York. We extend sincere thanks to Diane and Lesley for their leadership, encouragement, and enthusiasm during the past two years and to the recent League Officers who have helped advance the organization's mission to make a difference for all New Yorkers.

This year, an important goal will be to reconnect with our membership, volunteer base, and partnerships, while continuing to expand our reach into more communities across NYC to ensure that all voices are heard. We anticipate that in-person events and meetings will return in the fall, but plan to always offer a hybrid option. We are working to raise the League's profile within City Hall, the City Council, and local media, establishing the League as an expert partner and resource on elections and voting. We will augment and reinforce our programs, especially our Get Out the Vote efforts, Adults Civic Education, and a pilot program, *Students Inside City Hall*. We are updating our website and technology capabilities and will aim to broaden our communications and work diligently on strengthening our financial health to ensure we continue our success.

We will achieve all of this with the continued support of you—our members, volunteers, Board, partner organizations, Advisory Board, donors, and corporate sponsors. Thank you for your continued confidence, passion, and dedication to our mission. This is an exciting time to be involved with the League, and we look forward to working with all of you to build on our legacy for the future.



Kai Rosenthal  
president@lwwnyc.org



Deborah Brodheim  
co-president@lwwnyc.org

## A Farewell from Our Former Co-Presidents

By Lesley Sigall and Diane Burrows

As we handed the gavel to Deb Brodheim and Kai Rosenthal at the end of the Annual Meeting of Members on June 16, Lesley and I reflected on all that the League accomplished during the two years of our presidency—and on how fragile our democracy really is right now.



Diane Burrows and Lesley Sigall  
attending the 2022 Awards Breakfast

The balance between success and failure has never been more tenuous. We know that we, the League, are well-positioned for success. But we also know how hard this work will be.

We know New Yorkers register to vote. They register at our VR drives and at their schools, community centers, and through the DMV. But they don't vote regularly, and too often they do not have all the information they need to vote. Our platform, **VOTE411**, provides the timely information voters need to make their voting decisions.

We know that New Yorkers believe that elections in New York are fair and open. But there are forces at work in New York that are trying to whittle away at election laws. In 2021, on the ballot proposals, we feared that we had lost out on establishing "10-Day" voter registration and the right to vote absentee without reason. With hard work, we gained them back in this past legislative session.

We know that a woman's right to pay equity, reproductive choice, and health care for herself and her children are still guaranteed in New York. But we also know that there are those who work to limit those choices and restrict access to these rights. We are fighting back. We support reproductive choice. We support pay equity here in New York City and we have established, as our Local Program this year, a dedication to affordable childcare.

The challenges are many, but the energy of League members and volunteers is limitless. Under the new leadership of Kai and Deb, our organization will continue to educate and engage New Yorkers and advocate for issues that matter to all of us.

## Meet Our New Board

**At the Annual Meeting in June, the Nominating Committee proposed a slate of eight officers to be elected for a two-year term in even numbered years as stated in the bylaws. Please join us in welcoming this year's slate of officers, both new and returning.**

### Deborah Brodheim, Co-President



Deborah has been a volunteer with the League since 2020 and Board Member since 2021, supporting corporate and foundation fundraising events and efforts, as well as the updating of the League's publications. She has over 25 years of global experience as a Senior Relationship

Executive in the financial services industry. Over the last 10 years she has served on non-profit boards and volunteered as a financial literacy tutor. Deborah joined the non-profit sector full-time in 2017 as the Regional Director of Development for the educational non-profit Playworks, supporting its mission to improve the health and well-being of children by creating opportunities for safe, meaningful play. Deborah began her career at JP Morgan after graduating from Harvard College with an A.B. in East Asian Studies.

### Kai Rosenthal, Co-President



Kai has been an active member of LWVNYC since 2017, serving on the Development, Education, and Voting Reform Committees. She has been a Board Director for two years and Board Chair for the past year. In 2021, she led the Healthcare Consensus Committee

that reviewed the updated State positions and managed the consensus process. Previously, Kai has worked on several key projects including the NYC Youth Civics Initiative (now the YCI) and Constitution Day, and as an influencer of other league projects. She has more than 25 years of experience in marketing communications, leading teams to develop successful campaigns that feature creative storytelling and messaging, social, digital and traditional media plans, and memorable events. She graduated from Colgate University with a BA in Political Science. She is also a volunteer tutor with Hour Children's after school program.

### Laura Quigg, Treasurer



Laura is a LWVNYC Board Member, as well as the Co-Chair of the League's DEI Committee, the Voter Services Committee, the Census and Redistricting Committee, and numerous other committees. Laura was an Assistant Professor of Finance at University of Illinois Urbana/Champaign,

but left the Midwest to move to NYC, where she worked in fixed income research at Lehman Brothers and JP Morgan, then as a portfolio manager at Sanford Bernstein, where she later became a Partner until she left the industry. She earned a Ph.D. in Finance from U.C. Berkeley and advanced degrees in economics and finance from Georgetown and Columbia. She volunteers with God's Love We Deliver and numerous other organizations. She has lived in NYC for 30 years with her husband and two daughters.

### Jacqueline Elkort, Secretary



Jacqueline has volunteered with the League for the past couple of years serving on the Development Committee, helping with event ideation and social media. Jacqueline works as the social media lead at Con Edison, and has previously worked with Birkenstock as well as at several

media agencies. As a social media professional, she is always aiming to see issues from various perspectives and come to equitable solutions and ways of expressing them, and creating digital connections between brands and consumers. She grew up in Nassau, Long Island. Representation and democracy are central to her values.

## Meet Our New Board

### Amy Matthews, VP Membership



Amy has served as LWVNYC's Board Secretary since 2017 and also chaired the Telephone Information Service Committee during the 2020 election year. She has participated in voter registration drives and trainings as well as strategic planning and other organizational functions for the League. Amy was a Managing Director at Risk Management Solutions, a catastrophe modeling firm focusing on the insurance and reinsurance sectors. She managed the US Client Services team. Amy graduated from Brown University and received an MBA at the University of Rochester Simon School of Business.

### Susie Gomes, VP Development



Susie has served as VP of Development since 2020, working on expanding the League's events, funding sources, and Advisory Board. Prior to this role, she was a co-chair of the Voter Services Committee for two years. Susie joined the League in 2016 and is passionate about civics and voter empowerment. She holds a BA in Economics and Political Science from the University of Rochester, and an MS in Statistics from NYU Stern School of Business. She lives in New York City with her husband and two children, who are in college.

### Sherletta McCaskill, VP Communications



Sherletta has been a LWVNYC Board Member for the past year and volunteered with the Voter Services Committee for the past two years. She is currently co-chair of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee working to instill best practices in the League's day-to-day work and programs. She has worked in social services and social justice in NYC for more than thirty years. Currently, she is the Training Director for the Coalition of Institutionalized Aged and Disabled.

### Caroline Smith, VP Technology



Caroline has served as the VP of Technology for the past year, working on upgrading the League's website and back-office infrastructure. A graduate of Georgetown University, Caroline works in Communications in the technology industry in New York. She previously was a board member for Democracy Works' TurboVote Challenge, an initiative that encouraged technology companies to support and enable improvements to the voting experience. A native Californian, she now lives in Brooklyn, NY.

## Recognizing Founders Day 2022

By Barb Ettington, LWVNYC Board Member

Happy 103rd Birthday to the League of Women Voters of the City of New York! To recognize this milestone, League members were encouraged to share their thoughts on why they support the League. You can see their full videos on our [YouTube page](#).

**Pat Manning**, Board of Directors, stated, "I am pleased that the protection of the vote and increasing the vote remains a high priority for the League at all levels."

**Sherletta McCaskill**, Board of Directors, declared, "I am proud because I know that the work we do will help New Yorkers right now and for generations to come."

**Joseph Dibenedetto**, League Member, said, "Thank you to the League for everything you've done and also, given that it's pride month, to share how important the work that the

League is doing given all the anti-LGBTQ legislation that's been cropping up around the nation."

We also encouraged a look back at what our Founders wrote in 1848 in [The Declaration of Sentiments](#). It is amazing to reflect on how many fights have been set aside—and how many issues of equality we are still fighting. Our work is never done!

The League raised over \$2,000 in donations for this Founders Day Campaign. Donors who gave \$103 were provided a thank-you gift from the League.

Another way to recognize the work of the League is to remember the League in your will or trust, or designate funds for your IRA rollover. Visit our [Donate](#) page, under "Planned Giving" to see the options. Your gift will support voter education and engagement into the future.

# LWVNYC and BronxNet: Keeping the City Informed

By Michele Figueroa, CCJR Co-Chair

The League of Women Voters of the City of New York partnered with BronxNet Community Television to prepare a Public Service Announcement (PSA) to help educate all New Yorkers about the upcoming elections.

The PSA included input by the community in the Bronx, which was facilitated by League of Women Voters interns, Eleni Gonzalez-Molina and Iza Choudrey. Eleni and Iza conducted onsite interviews with members of the community, stopping pedestrians on the street and asking them questions about primary dates, general election dates, and eligible voter criteria. Their answers were included in the PSA. The PSA also provided information to the community regarding the upcoming primary and general election and educated voters on the difference between a special election, primary election, and a general election. Michele Figueroa, Co-Chair of the Committee for Criminal Justice Reform (CCJR) for the League, served as host of the PSA.

The goal of the PSA was to encourage New York City voters to remember that when we don't vote, we take power away, not just from ourselves, but from our communities as well. The PSA began running on BronxNet Community Television on June 18, 2022 and ran through the primary election on June 28, 2022!



Our team of man-on-the-street interviewers captured conversations with Bronx residents



LWVNYC Interns Eleni Gonzalez-Molina and Iza Choudrey speak with Bronx residents

# A Visit with Kosovo Delegates

By Bella Wang, Voting Reform Initiative Committee Chair

The League was honored to host a delegation of female public servants from Kosovo for lunch, as part of their United States tour with the State Department. Our goal was to share our experience as a woman-led civic organization to help them generate ideas for how to deepen civic engagement in Kosovo, while we in turn learn from Kosovo's example to see where we can deepen democracy in New York City.

Our Co-President, Diane Burrows, began by introducing the board members, committee chairs, and interns who described the City League's current activities, including voter registration and advocacy. Former Co-President Cathy Gray presented an inspiring history of the League, including its lineage from the women's suffrage and abolitionist movements.

Over a delicious Mediterranean meal, the dialogue continued. The Kosovo delegates shared that in Kosovo, all citizens are automatically given a voter card for voting, rather than having to register, and that they have a gender quota in their legislature that ensures a minimum proportion of women among their elected officials. We shared that NYC had just achieved a majority-female City Council for the first time ever. We both lamented our voter turnout and traded tips on increasing voter motivation.

In a culture shock moment, our guests were aghast at how difficult it is to find a place to smoke in New York City. We are (sort of) sorry about that, but we hope they had a good time and that they enjoyed their subsequent trip to Disney!



LWVNYC representatives met with Kosovo delegates at our midtown office

# A Visit to the National Convention

By Renuka Balakrishnan and Anjali Joshi-Dave, LWVNYC Interns

The League of Women Voters National Convention was hosted in Denver, CO from June 23rd to the 26th. Members were able to attend virtually or in-person to hear seminars on topics like Digital Equity and Immigration Reform and attend plenaries to vote on motions.

The Convention opened with a keynote address from Valerie Jensen, J.D., the Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) at Planned Parenthood. Jensen argued that to succeed in DEI work we must be comfortable with discomfort, be truthful and non-judgmental, and accept that ending racism is not possible—we must simply do our best to continue the fight against it.

Friday included various seminars and the first plenary. One of the resolutions that passed on Friday was the Reproductive Rights Resolution. Sadly, this day was also the day that the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. In-person attendees marched to Denver’s capitol to protest the decision.

On Sunday, members attended the final plenary, where they heard closing remarks and voted on all remaining motions. Several motions passed, including healthcare and criminal justice concurrences, and a program advocating for the abolition of the electoral college. One impactful moment from Sunday’s plenary was a young delegate’s statement supporting the abolition of an age requirement for voting membership in the League. She argued that an age requirement is antithetical to the League’s values of DEI. Ultimately, this motion did not pass, but her words were inspiring nonetheless.

Overall, we are so happy we got to attend the Convention. If you are a League member and get the chance, you should definitely go to the next one! For a full summary of Convention events and motions, you can click [here](#).



LWVUS President Dr. Deborah Turner addresses the crowd in Denver



Former LWVNYC Co-President Diane Burrows and Board Member Laura Quigg, along with other Convention attendees, march on Denver’s capitol building to protest the Supreme Court’s overturning of *Roe v. Wade*



A delegate speaks in favor of a motion

## Access to the Ballot Box

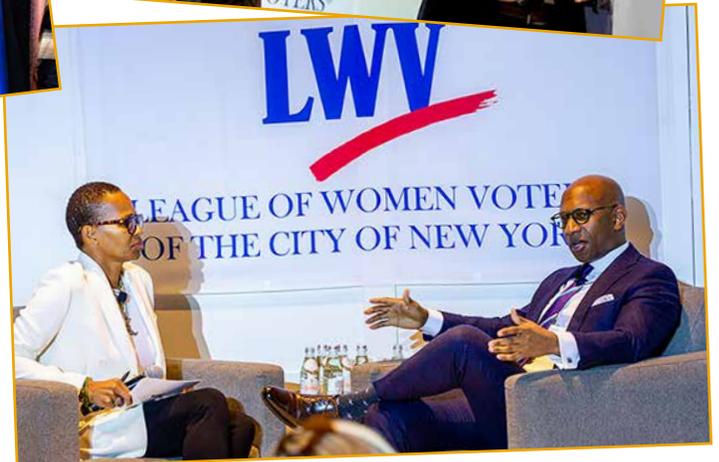
Fighting to defend democracy



Featuring a robust conversation about voting rights with Special Guest Jeanine Liburd of BET and David Clunie, Executive Director, Black Economic Alliance

## 2022 Awards Breakfast

Our March 2022 Breakfast honoring the Black Economic Alliance was a great success. We'd like to share some of the photos taken at that event that didn't make it into the Spring newsletter.



# New York City Parks and the League

By Suzanne Surbeck, LWVNYC member

The League of Women Voters of the City of New York has long recognized the crucial role played by the New York City Parks system, which was officially formed in 1898. This has been particularly true during difficult times for the city. During the Great Depression, the League advocated for the ongoing maintenance of the city parks, which were considered essential havens for unemployed people. The park system played a similar crucial role during the recent pandemic, offering New Yorkers throughout the city a critical respite from quarantine and a place to meet outdoors.

This past June, the League celebrated the longstanding importance of our parks. Volunteers gathered near the reservoir in Central Park, now a national historical landmark, to picnic



Laura Quigg and Karen Wharton



Bella Wang and her daughter, Lillian

and discuss a wide range of topics, including the current state of voting and the importance of upcoming League drives.

League member and event organizer, Bess Steiger, noted, "Ten of us, including Voting Reform Committee Chair, Bella Wang and her daughter Lillian, the youngest member of LWVNYC, spent a relaxing afternoon in Central Park at our inaugural Volunteer Picnic. Even a little rain didn't dampen our spirits. Thank you to all who participated."

## Introducing Our New Membership Levels

By Amy Matthews, LWVNYC Vice President of Membership

The League's Board of Directors recently approved a change in the dues structure, effective as of July 1, 2022. The goal is to make membership more affordable and accessible for all. One way to improve affordability is to have a monthly payment option, rather than requiring a larger single payment.

For people who are interested in joining the League, but cannot afford dues at all, a new Membership Fund has been established. This fund is supported by the higher dues levels. If someone joins at one of the higher levels, a portion of their dues are set aside to support those who would like to join but cannot afford it. In this way, the League can actively recruit new members from schools, communities, and partner organizations that would welcome the financial assistance to membership.

There are potentially even more changes on the way in the years to come, as the National League of Women Voters has proposed a centralized membership process.

### BASIC MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- Touchpoint – \$75
- Touchpoint Automatic – \$7 per month
- Impact – \$100
- Student – \$5

### MEMBERSHIP FUND LEVELS

- \$250 – supports up to 2 new members for one year
- \$500 – supports up to 5 new members for one year

### Why does voting matter?

#### Mia Bouillonec

I am a student at the University of Richmond intending to major in Global Studies. I want to develop my interest in human rights issues into a professional career of protecting these rights. As this is the first year that I am eligible to vote, I am extremely excited to finally have a voice in my representation. Voting allows me to empower those who protect my rights and the rights of those around me. A vote is a step towards ensuring that your community and beliefs are valued.

#### Renuka Balakrishnan

I'm a rising third-year at Barnard College studying history and political science. I'm passionate about increasing accessibility and broadening opportunities within the political world. As young people, I believe that it is essential we exercise our right to vote. Many young people I know who are eligible to vote often do not do so, yet they frequently complain about their elected officials. Voting is an easy first step toward making change in our communities—the policies passed by the people we elect have a direct impact on our future.

#### Gabrielle Mazza

Voting matters to me because it allows me to have a say in government and in what I think matters. Voting gives me the ability to help choose who will represent me and represent what I find important. Throughout history, the right to vote has been such a hard won right for many. With that right, I have the responsibility to have a say. I am also granted the ability to create a change with my vote for the betterment of the people in my community. Everything around us is affected by the power of the vote, and with that power I am able to use my vote for good.

#### Lauren Lovett

Voting is a fundamental part of the United States government, with its appearance in Article 1 of the Constitution. Through voting, a person's voice can be heard and an opinion can be given. Though some Americans believe that one vote is unlikely to be heard or make a difference, this is untrue. When votes are extremely close between two candidates, it is the individual vote that matters most. It is our responsibility to ensure the government works towards goals that our generation believes in. When it comes to climate change, it is our generation who will be living with the repercussions of the government's current decisions. Decisions being made now will have a drastic effect on the future, therefore it is vital that American youth go out to vote. Once I turned 18, I signed up to vote so that my voice could be heard in the 2020 Presidential election.

#### Anjali Joshi-Dave

The list of pressing issues facing our nation today seems endless. Sometimes I can feel overwhelmed and helpless. But voting allows each of us to make a difference and allow our opinions to be heard through voting on certain bills, leaders, and more. With your vote, you can pave the way for impactful change within the issues that matter to you!

#### Annie Jewel Kong

I'm a junior at NYU majoring in Politics and minoring in Law and Society. I'm from Atlanta and have previously interned at the ACLU of Georgia and Fair Fight Action. Being from Georgia, I've seen the multitude of tactics used to complicate the voting process. Voting matters to me because it is a direct method to engage in politics and to amplify the issues most important to constituents.

#### Hassanatou Barry

I am soon to be a graduate of Guttman Community College and will be transferring to Hunter College for the fall. I am passionate about advocacy for climate change and human rights. Voting matters because it is a simple thing we citizens can do to participate in our democracy and fight for change. By going out and voting for the right people with the same interest as us who have the power to make the actual change, that is how we start addressing some of these social issues as a nation. And it is also a way to be the voice of the voiceless and those who are not eligible to vote but are affected the most by government decisions.

#### Grace Hall

I am a rising senior at the University of Arizona. I am majoring in eSocieties and currently focusing on studying digital storytelling, visual literacy, and user experience. When I am not in school, I enjoy photography, playing guitar, and spending time with my dog. I am originally from Seattle, Washington but I have been living in New York since 2016. When you have the right to vote, it is important that you do so. A vote is meant to reflect a given group of people's decisions and the fewer people that participate in voting, the less the final decisions being voted on will reflect the needs and wants of that group of people. In order to see that decisions are made that benefit the majority of a community, everyone must give their input by voting.

#### Katie O'Shea

Your vote matters. Voting is a right that makes changes on local and federal levels, especially if you live in a competitive district. Your vote is a way of getting your voice heard, impacting

## Ask an Intern

representation, holding the elected politicians accountable, and forming a government that represents your views and prioritizes your interests. These representatives make policy decisions that directly impact their constituents, so it is important that they are held accountable by and elected by those constituents. By voting you are influencing issues that impact your day-to-day life and have the power to make changes for what you believe in.

### Fatima Hussain

I am a chemical engineering major at Manhattan College. A large-scale mistake I've noticed in recent elections, which I, too, have fallen victim to, is the lack of faith in my vote. Often we forget the impact of a single vote, wondering if our vote would make a difference. Remember that democracy starts with the people and their hand-picked elected officials. Your vote may

be the one to change policies, catering to all backgrounds. The world is certainly not perfect, but voting is our chance to make a difference in our community. Help your local communities by voting in the upcoming elections!

### Lucy Hafitz

Political participation is important at all levels of government because it encourages policy change and supports the United States' democratic system. As a rising senior at the University of Michigan, I exercise my right to vote in local, state, and federal elections so that I can contribute my opinion of the candidates and their proposed policies. Members of the government function to support the preferences and ideas of the public, which is why I vote for people who share my vision for the future!

## Bronx Primary Debates for the 81st and 82nd Assembly Districts

By Crystal Joseph. LWVNYC member

Despite the ongoing pandemic and Bronx residents' uncertainty about fundamental concerns for the borough, Gary Axelbank, host of BronxBuzz and BronxTalk, led two very exciting forums for candidates on the ballot in the 81st and 82nd Assembly Districts. Participants included Michael Benedetto, Al Quattlebaum, and Jonathan Soto for the 82nd Assembly District, and Jessica Altgracia-Woolford and Jeffrey Dinowitz for the 81st Assembly District.

Both debates were available on the Optimum and Fios networks and streamed live on [BronxNet.TV](#). The League of Women Voters of the City of New York served as one of the four debate co-sponsors with the Bronx Times, Norwood News, and City Limits. During both sessions, candidates shared conceptual views on the goals for both districts in the borough. While contenders often did not agree on implementation, strategy or even their advocacy perspective, there was one common thread throughout their arguments: a desire to dial back the inherent fear brought on by the pandemic. Without being too direct about what their vision for the Bronx would be, candidates shared an understanding that they want to find ways to curb increased crime, agreed on the necessity for increased funding in public education, and made calls to action for the state of

mental health services in the borough. All of these goals should be accomplished through what one candidate termed "common sense legislation."

A note of thanks to Gary Axelbank and the BronxNet production team at Lehman College, CUNY. In his classic moderation style, Mr. Axelbank allowed candidates to have both opening and closing statements along with the typical thirty and sixty second response or rebuttal, to allow each of the candidates the opportunity to share their thoughts.



Virtual backstage with Bronxnet as 81st AD candidates speak with Gary Axelbank

# LWVNYC Committee Updates

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

## Committees Working Together – Returning Citizen Project

### VOTER SERVICES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

By Laura Quigg

Voter Services and the Criminal Justice Reform Committee have been working together on the “Returning Citizens Project”—reaching out to formerly incarcerated persons to encourage them to register to vote and become involved in their communities. Using a grant from LWVUS, the Voter Services Committee is creating adult civics programs in partnership with other organizations that work exclusively with persons coming out of prison. This initiative dovetails with the League’s broader civics education program, where we are actively working on creating PSAs and other video/social media presentations and experimenting with different formats and modules.

### CITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

By Tavonia Davis and Anne O’Beirne, Co-Chairs

The newly launched City Affairs Committee refined its mission to amplify the League’s presence with New York City Council Members. We discussed ways our committee can get involved with meeting council members and influencing legislation. We welcome additional members to join as the committee continues to take shape.

### COMMITTEE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

By Akyla Tomlinson, Vivione Marshall, Tiffany Khan, and Michele Figueroa, Co-Chairs

[criminaljustice@lwnyc.org](mailto:criminaljustice@lwnyc.org)

The Committee for Criminal Justice Reform would like to welcome its newest co-chair, Tiffany Khan. We would also like to announce the departure of former co-chair, Vivione Marshall. We thank her for all the hard work she has done in the year she served on the committee, and we wish her all the best in her new role as the Chair of the Statewide Criminal Justice Reform Committee for NYS.

The Committee’s mission is to advocate for individuals vulnerable to the criminal justice system and to lobby for legislation and policies that will correct the unfair system we now have. With this in mind, we plan to continue to work towards our goal of making NYC a leader in criminal justice reform. With the help of our Chairs and partner organizations,

the committee’s focus will be on advocating for the closing of Rikers Island. In addition, we plan to collaborate with the Voter Services Committee on voter registration initiatives for those who are incarcerated.

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

By Jane Hatterer, Chair

[education@lwnyc.org](mailto:education@lwnyc.org)

The Education Committee continued its work promoting civic education, media literacy, and youth civic action through its committee work in DemocracyReadyNY and as adult allies of Youth Civics Initiative (YCI). We helped to inform and promote NY state media literacy bills, engaged youth members in advocating for a bill to protect student journalists’ First Amendment rights, and provided input on a joint NY State School Board Association/Coalition project for teachers on why and how to discuss controversial issues in the classroom. We also are proud to announce that our youth partners at YCI were invited to become independent members of the Coalition.

As adult allies of YCI, we continued to mentor YCI leadership and advise our journalists who work with YCI’s movement correspondents. We supported their outreach to community-based organizations, including the Boys Club of New York and Girls for Gender Equity (GGE).

We continue to advocate for public education and are now involved in efforts to help restore the city’s public education budget cuts.

Finally, as a member of the State Committee for Youth Chairs, we contributed resources to the NY State Youth Program toolkit and continue to provide input into how best to promote youth civic engagement and participation in the League.

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Joanna Leefer, Chair

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

The LWVNYC Program Committee completed its spring session with a series of inspiring speaker events. One memorable event was a discussion of “critical race theory,” focused on its actual meaning and the misinformation surrounding it. Other topics included the issue of closing Rikers Island, and the challenges of educating our city’s homeless children. All these programs were

## LWVNYC Committee Updates

presented online due to the League's concerns about COVID-19. This September, we will resume live events at the New York Society for Ethical Culture. This first in-person program will be a conversation with Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg on September 13.

### VOTING REFORM COMMITTEE

By Bella Wang, Chair

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

The Voting Reform Committee has wrapped up a successful legislative lobbying season. We met with 25 Senators and Assembly Members this year, blowing our previous record out of the water. One of our members even got a call back from an Assembly Member's office to share the good news on the passage of the New York State Voting Rights Act. Victories this year included the Voting Rights Act, assuring counting of affidavit ballots cast at the wrong poll site, a shortening of the registration deadline, and money for both early voting poll sites on college campuses and absentee voting postage.

### VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE

By Laura Quigg, Gerry Russo, and Diane Burrows, Co-Chairs

[voter.services@lwvny.org](mailto:voter.services@lwvny.org)

It's been a busy time in Voter Services! This quarter we held 22 voter registration/GOTV events, informing prospective voters ahead of our complicated primary election season. Our volunteers registered nearly 300 voters and handed out hundreds of our informational palm cards. We also hosted

16 voter registration training sessions and election law updates for both new and more experienced volunteers and gave about a dozen talks on civics and the importance of voting. In addition, by training a group of students at Bronx Science High School in February, we empowered them to register over 200 of their classmates at their own drive!

Our new LWVNYC member, Nina Liebman, has been most helpful in bringing in new venues and partners for VR/GOTV events, and Suzanne Surbeck, our longer-time member and "Parks Ambassador," is responsible for several more, including many repeat events at Governor's Island.

With another primary coming very soon, and the city's distressingly low voter turnout, our committee will stay very active! We welcome your ideas and contacts for events.

**Join us—all are welcome!**



Volunteer Nataline de Lisle-Vanderberg registers voters at Governors Island



Interns Brianna Luisi and Renuka Balakrishnan with Joyce Gallagher register voters at Barclay's Center for the NY Liberty

# Upcoming Events

All trainings and meetings held over Zoom.  
Please contact [admin@lwnyc.org](mailto:admin@lwnyc.org) to confirm meeting dates!  
For more information on Committees and Events,  
please visit [www.lwnyc.org](http://www.lwnyc.org)

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- City Affairs Committee: check the website calendar for upcoming meetings
- Committee for Criminal Justice Reform: check the website calendar for upcoming meetings
- Education Committee: 2nd Wed. of the month; 5:30–7:00pm
- Voter Services Committee: 3rd Wed. of the month; 6:00–7:30pm
- Voting Reform Initiative Committee: check the website calendar for upcoming meetings

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