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# INSIDE THE LEAGUE

## From the Co-Presidents

### Volunteering with the League Is Good for New Yorkers and for Your Health

As we approach the November 5th general election, we are pleased to share an update on our efforts to meet the growing demand for voter registration and Get Out The Vote (GOTV) activities. Your enthusiasm and support have inspired us to enhance and expand our outreach, ensuring that every New Yorker has the opportunity to participate in our democracy.

You, our dedicated volunteers, are critical to the League and achieving our goals. We always look to attract new volunteers and build our reach through our partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs), corporations, schools, and fellow civic leaders across the city.

According to research by Eric S. Kim, a psychology professor at the University of British Columbia Vancouver, there is a strong connection between volunteering and more positive emotions and social support, and less loneliness. New Yorkers trust and rely on the voting and election information provided by LWWNYC — so as you help New Yorkers navigate voting and elections, you are also helping yourselves.

Looking beyond the November election, we are steadfast in our commitment to keeping New Yorkers engaged and informed. Our work doesn't stop after the general election; it is crucial that we continue to foster a culture of civic participation. Through continued education, outreach, and advocacy, we aim to ensure that New Yorkers remain active participants in our democratic process. All of these activities need volunteers, so we ask you to help New Yorkers and **sign up to volunteer with the League.**

Together, we can make a significant impact on voter turnout and civic engagement in our city. Let's keep working towards a more inclusive and participatory democracy.

With gratitude for your support and determination,



**Kai Rosenthal**  
president@lwwnyc.org



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

## SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 25, 2025

2025 Tribute Award and Fundraising Luncheon  
THE LEAGUE JOINS BROADWAY IN HONORING  
A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

Meet and greet  
**Shaina Taub**

Tony Award Winning Creator of the Musical "Suffs"

# Celebrating the League's 105th Birthday

By Barb Ettington, LWVNYC Board Director

Thank you to everyone who joined us on June 5th for our Founders Day tour of the New York City Library and the after party! It was wonderful to gather to learn about one of NYC's crown jewels and then socialize with new and old friends to discuss how we continue to honor the League's legacy and mission to serve all New Yorkers.

Carrying yellow roses throughout the tour, members reflected on the history of the final vote cast in the Tennessee State House in 1920 to ensure the passage of the 19th amendment. At that time, anti-suffragists wore red roses and the suffragists wore yellow roses. Then Representative Harry Burn wore a red rose and had voted to table the amendment. But the morning of the final vote he received a letter from his mother, Febb Burn, who told him to "...vote for suffrage and don't keep them in doubt... Don't forget to be a good boy and help put the 'rat' in ratification." And he did.

Special thanks to Nina Liebman and Hilda Jaffe for organizing and leading the tours to give an inside look at NYPL's great collection from the women who wrote history.



The Program Committee's May Lunch with the League, "Voting in Jail," featured Attorney and Author, Hazel Weiser.

L to R:  
LWVNYC Co-President Kai Rosenthal, Thais Rutledge, Hazel Weiser, Jan Combopiano, Pharein Griffith, and Vivione Marshall

# Keeping Democracy Strong: LWV Members Convene in D.C.

By Diane Burrows, LWVNYC Board Director

The League of Women Voters National Convention hosted twelve hundred delegates, both in person and remotely, representing every state in the U.S., as well as the District of Columbia on June 27-30. The energy was electric as we reaffirmed our support for statehood for Washington, D.C., reproductive justice, and the abolition of the Electoral College, and readopted "Make Democracy Work." LWVNYC was represented by Kai Rosenthal, Karen Wharton, Karol Robinson, Laurie Pauker, and Diane Burrows.



New York Delegation to the 2024 LWV National Convention

The delegates also passed resolutions to support and protect public libraries and librarians and ensure that censorship of libraries will be eliminated. We passed resolutions on immigration reform and ethics in government.

Under the guidance of LWVNYC member Jane Colvin, we voted to support the Convention to End Discrimination against Women (CDAW). This is a United Nations Convention that has not yet been adopted by the United States. We need to gain support for this resolution "city-by-city" as Jane explained. We also passed a concurrence with Washington State to encourage the survival and revitalization of local media.

The national LWV announced a vibrant new partnership with the Girl Scouts of America to encourage the scouts to complete their civics badges and engage in their local communities.

The delegates also felt a sense of urgency to approve a study of the United States Judiciary. This will be a one-year pilot study to determine if a study can be completed and voted on by the membership within the framework of one year.

Lastly, we paid tribute to Dr. Deborah Turner, our national League president who tragically died last year. Her family attended and Dr. Deb was fondly remembered by many League members.



New LWVUS CEO Celina Stewart



L to R: Karol Robinson, Karen Wharton, Diane Burrows, Kai Rosenthal, and Laurie Pauker of LWVNYC

# Vote Louder: The Birth of a Call to Arms

By Ruth S. Altman, Past President

On a winter day in January 2017, a group from the New York City League of Women Voters joined the “Women’s March,” as so many other groups did, to support democracy. Over 400,000 people gathered in NYC and followed the historic trail blazed by suffragists up Fifth Avenue. At one point, Barb Ettington, one of the organizers of the League’s group, started a chant... “When I say ‘Vote’ – you say ‘Louder.’” Our crowd responded and the chant grew in volume as the marchers yelled, “VOTE LOUDER.” Later, when thinking about the chant, it hit me that it was a great two-word phrase with a lot of meaning. The thought hit me that we should use it as the League’s trademark, and therein started a seven-year effort to obtain the approval of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

We enlisted James Cotins, our Pro Bono lawyer at that time, and he brought in another attorney in his firm who specialized in trademarking. Lara Holzman, expert in Intellectual Properties, agreed to join — also pro-bono. In filing the papers, she was advised by the U.S. Patent Office that another organization had a similar trademark, and we could not use the one we wanted. With the help of our lawyer, we reached out to the other organization, which ironically was also a not-for-profit group, to ask their approval for our phrase. The organization never responded. According to the rules of the federal agency, we would have to wait 5 years, and if that organization did not use or renew their license, we could then apply.

Lara advised us to use the phrase in our communications during the waiting period to show proof of our intent. Lara and I kept in



Barb Ettington at the 2017 Women’s March



touch throughout this time, even as I stepped down as Co-President and she moved to another law firm. She brought our case with her and continued to help us to the end. As a donation to the League, I paid all the filing fees with the U.S. Trademark Office.

At long last we finally received the official document in June 2024, effective as of April 20, 2024. And so, now the phrase **VOTE LOUDER**® exclusively belongs to the League of Women Voters of the City of New York. I couldn’t be more thrilled to have helped this become a reality and am so proud to see it being used in all of our work to engage voters.



Ruth S. Altman displaying “Vote Louder” registration certificate



LWVNYC at 2017 Women’s March

# Multi-Lingual Opportunities for LWVNYC Speakers Bureau

By Diane Burrows, Speakers Bureau Chair

The League is continually expanding our outreach to the many diverse communities in NYC. On Monday, August 5, the Speakers Bureau had a unique opportunity to present at the Homecrest Community Center in Brooklyn. This community center runs programs for Mandarin and Cantonese senior citizens. Our presentation, "How to Create Your Voting Action Plan," used a slide deck created by our summer interns and translated by LiveOnNY. The presentation was also simultaneously translated into Chinese.

This same model was replicated in the Bengali community in Jamaica at the India Home Desi Older Adult Center on August 12. We will be presenting in a Korean community later this summer.



Diane Burrows presenting at the Homecrest Community Center in Brooklyn



Diane Burrows with Interns at Columbia University's ESL Student Program

# First to Vote

By Suzanne Surbeck



It is commonly accepted that women in much of the United States first voted in 1920. This was after a long fight which ended with the ratification of the 19th amendment. However, this was not the first time women had the right to vote in the United States. In 1790, women in New Jersey became the first women whose voting rights were protected by law.

In 1790, the New Jersey Assembly adopted a new election law which clarified voting eligibility and specifically referred to voters as "he or she." By including the female pronoun in the new law, the assembly clearly granted women the right to vote where they resided in the state. However, only landowners were included and therefore only single women could vote, as married women could not own property. The new law also enhanced voter protections, including adopting a ballot system and voting by location.

Then, in 1807, the New Jersey State Legislature stripped women of the right to vote along with people of color and recent immigrants. There were several reasons why this occurred, above and beyond voting irregularities. They included the rise in party politics, issues over slavery in the state, intimidation of voters at polling places, fear of overseas involvement, and a clear backlash against women and people of color.

Although they temporarily lost their right to vote, these New Jersey women served as an inspiration for the Suffrage movement. New Jersey ultimately ratified the 19th amendment in February 1920.

# Honoring Shirley Chisholm Sept 7th in Prospect Park, Brooklyn

By Barb Ettington, LWN NYC Board Director

Did you know that Shirley Chisholm became the first black candidate for a major-party nomination for President of the United States, and the first woman to run for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination? Did you know that Shirley Chisholm was the first African American woman ever to be elected to Congress where she represented her home of Brooklyn for seven terms?

Did you know that Shirley Chisholm was a member of the New York City League of Women Voters — and that one of our past presidents, Nicki Heller, was her campaign manager? Did you know that Shirley was also a member of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority?

Thanks to our DEI committee members, Karen Wharton and Laurie Pauker, the NYC League will be partnering with Brooklyn Delta Sigma Theta and the Brooklyn Prospect Park Alliance to proudly co-sponsor the production of the



one-woman play "*Shirley Chisholm: Unbossed & Unbowed – A One-Woman Show*," written and performed by Ingrid Griffith.

The show will be held at the New York City landmark, Lefferts Historic House, in Prospect Park. The park's re-imagining initiative includes cultural performances to introduce visitors to the history of this 18th-century Flatbush farmhouse and its legacy of slavery and oppression.

This award-winning production should draw a crowd! Join us to celebrate and honor the great champion of women and fighter for equal rights. Tickets are free!

**"Shirley Chisholm: Unbossed & Unbowed"**

**September 7 at 3:00 pm**

**Lefferts Historic House, Prospect Park, Brooklyn**

**Running time: 1 hour and 20 minutes without intermission.**

**Tickets are free. JOIN US.**

To Learn more about the show, visit: [www.unbossedunbowed.com](http://www.unbossedunbowed.com)

Prospect Park Lefferts House events visit:

<https://www.prospectpark.org/events/list/?tribe-bar-date=2024-09-07>

## LWN NYC DEI Committee Hosts Screening and Discussion of *My Name is Pauli Murray*

By Laura Quigg, Karen Wharton and Sherletta McCaskill, DEI Committee Co-Chairs

Who is Pauli Murray? The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray was a civil rights activist, advocate, legal scholar and theorist, author, and Episcopal priest, whose work greatly expanded legal protections for gender and racial equality. The excellent documentary of her life, *My Name is Pauli Murray*, seemed to be an inspired choice for a screening and discussion for the League, hosted by the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee.

On April 25, we invited members and guests to share catfish and salad, and watch the

film, followed by a hybrid discussion led by Salonee Bhaman, Ph.D., the Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in Women's and Public History at the New York Historical Society. As Pauli Murray embodied the struggles of so many, the film generated much thoughtful discussion about her struggles and many of our own. She made the world a better place, but clearly, there are more lessons we can glean from her activism that will guide us in our work and our lives.



# Summer Internship Program

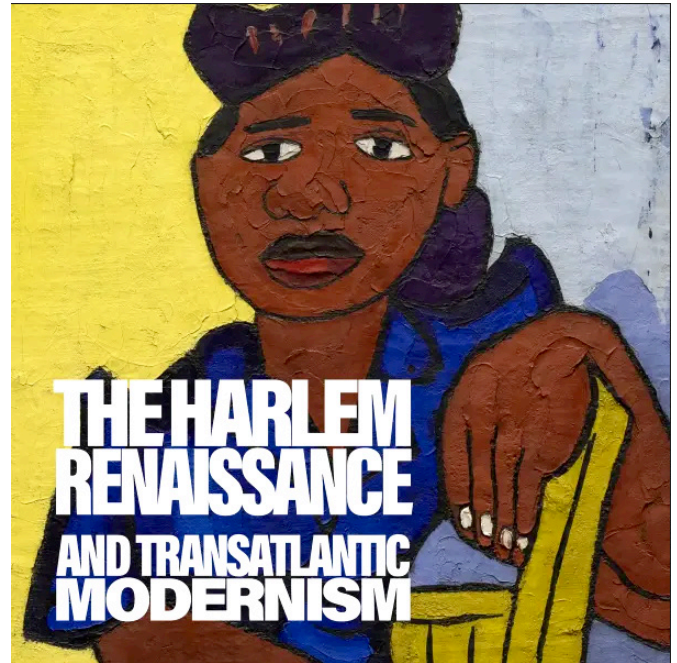
By Diane Burrows, LWVNYC Board Director and Speakers Bureau Chair

The summer intern program welcomed 24 college and high school students to LWVNYC. The program kicked off on Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, with our opening seminar at the office. Every Tuesday the group welcomed a League committee chair or partner to learn about the work of that committee or organization and interns were invited to volunteer to assist that group on a summer project. Some of the projects included:

- Research with the Voting Reform Committee on the history of funding for the Board of Elections, organized by Bella Wang
- Creation of a social media campaign to promote the NY ERA Amendment on the ballot in November under the leadership of Diane Drew
- Creation of a social media campaign for the use of the Ballot Marking Device (BMD) with Kathy Collins
- Research on legislators' positions on criminal justice reform issues led by Hazel Weiser
- Development of Erased Suffragists biographies for the League website organized by Cathy Gray
- Strategies for High School outreach led by Talia Miele
- Creation of a spreadsheet of summer festivals around the city that can be used by Voter Services, led by Tara Pehush
- Collaboration with the New York Public Library to create social media content on "How to Create Your Voting Action Plan," initiated by Laura Deering of the NYPL
- Collaboration with LiveOnNY to encourage voters to sign up for "Organ Donation Registry" – introduced by Shani Audain of LiveOnNY.

In addition to these projects, the students also collected ballots for Participatory Budgeting with Danielle Mowery, and attended voter registration drives at senior centers, Liberty basketball games, and civic fairs. They observed Speakers Bureau events, and even observed part of the National LWV Convention. They met with other League activists including Michael Price and Sarah Erdos, Chairs of the Transportation Committee, Karen Wharton, who shared information about dis/mis information, Nancy Seng and Jane Hatterer to discuss AI, and our Co-Presidents, Deb Brodheim and Kai Rosenthal. They met with former interns to discuss how to continue their activism on campus this fall.

I would like to thank all League members and partners who mentored and guided the interns this summer. Your time and energy devoted to this internship program supports our mission to educate and engage young people of the city of New York. We can be confident that we are sending these students back to campus this fall ready to engage in their college communities and beyond.



## LWVNYC DEI Committee Hosts Tour of The Harlem Renaissance and Transatlantic Modernism at the Met

Laura Quigg, Karen Wharton and Sherletta McCaskill, DEI Committee Co-Chairs

The League of Women Voters of the City of New York has served the people of NYC for over one hundred years, and has always sought to gain a deeper understanding of our great city's historical and artistic roots. To that end, the LWVNYC DEI Committee invited our community to a guided tour of the exceptional exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art: The Harlem Renaissance and Transatlantic Modernism. It was a delightful time — 12 of us gathered, guided by two very knowledgeable and generous museum docents, who led us around the exhibit for an hour. We learned a great deal and shared in the joys and challenges of the many prominent artists of that time, peppered with some of our own experiences.

### Intern Reflections: Summer 2024

#### Sheila Djurkovic

I am a rising Senior at the University of Connecticut. I am a Political Science major, Urban and Community Studies minor, and enrolled in the Fast Track Program for Public Administration and Policy. My time spent at the League has been an experience I will cherish. It was my first glimpse into the realm of nonprofit organizations, and I absolutely admire the work and effort put forth in this organization.



This summer, like many interns, I was balancing a couple of jobs. The project I chose to work on was one that I was devoted to putting all my efforts into and one where I could provide the very best of my capabilities. Four other interns and myself worked with Bella Wang to present our "Voting Reform Project." Within the project, we worked collaboratively to research and dissect trends and patterns from the last 15 years, regarding the budgetary process for the Board of Elections (NYC). We delved into the facts and numbers, seeing where the majority of the funds were allocated and where they could be reallocated to create the most satisfactory election process. We laid out a presentation that included our research on a variety of topics and provided the committee with a number of proposed solutions. We suggested implementing voting hubs in NYC to streamline the process and reduce costs, funding permanent ramps and other accessibility improvements, expanding Language Assistance Programs, and much more.

Additionally, I spent time this summer volunteering as much as I could to contribute to civic engagement. I particularly found that volunteering at a senior home (The Apsley) was a moving experience. Many residents did not realize that they needed to re-register because of their change in residency. I take satisfaction in knowing that the work I participated in was influential to the betterment of our democracy. I will always take with me the efforts put into expanding the rights and accessibility to certain rights to everyone, because that is what makes a true democracy. I could not thank Diane Burrows enough for the experience and involvement in all of our work. Once a League member, always a League member!

#### Colette Drinkard

During my League internship this summer, I worked on several great projects. First, I collaborated with the Voting Reform Committee, where my peers and I analyzed reports from the Board of Elections presented to the City Council between 2010 and 2024. We identified trends, recurring budgetary requests, financial needs, and controversies, ultimately creating a final presentation for Bella Wang, the Chair of the League's Voting Reform Committee.



I also contributed to the Equal Rights Amendment Project, focusing on raising awareness about the ERA, which will be on the ballot in November in New York. Our team researched leadership initiatives and groups across NYC colleges, and developed slide decks for the ERA's social media campaign.

Lastly, I was involved in the Criminal Justice Reform Project, where we investigated the positions of various local legislators on criminal justice reform and voting accessibility. This internship, alongside the inspiring interns and speakers, left a lasting impact on me and made me realize just how important the work of the League truly is!

#### Sinclair Harris

I am a rising sophomore at Brown University, double majoring in History and International Affairs.

During the course of my internship, I participated in a variety of projects and events. These experiences allowed me to learn about how to boost civic engagement by approaching it through many different lenses. Toward the beginning of the internship, I worked on the project to spread awareness and urge New York City residents to vote on their neighborhood Participatory Budgeting ballot, taking to Central Park to inform voters and gather votes. I also contributed to a project seeking to spread awareness of the New York State Equal Rights Amendment proposition on the ballot this upcoming election. This involved a social media campaign to urge eligible voters to "flip the



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## Intern Corner

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ballot” in addition to brainstorming partnerships with college and university organizations. Lastly, I contributed to a Criminal Justice Reform project that sought to bring awareness to the voting rights of individuals held in NYC jails.

### Mathilda Simons

I am a rising senior at the High School of American Studies at Lehman College. After reaching out to the League during the school year and organizing a presentation about civic engagement, I began as an intern this summer.

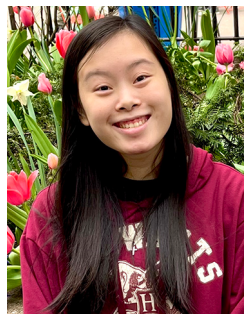


I have researched legislators to propose meetings to present legislation that would ensure that jails have programs in place for those who are eligible to vote. I have also learned about the privacy concerns facing women in domestic violence shelters and how this interferes with voting. While the Address Confidentiality Program addresses this, not all shelters prioritize providing these voting resources. I am working on reaching out to shelters to improve this issue.

This summer has been an incredibly empowering experience. I now understand the meticulous details that must be considered when approaching changemaking. For example, which legislator is most receptive to our proposal? I have learned how to take action to address matters of great importance. Especially as someone without the ability to vote, and during such a contentious time in politics, interning has given me the opportunity to have an impact and participate in facilitating democracy.

### Olivia Wong

Interning with the League this summer gave me an inside look into the workings of a nonpartisan nonprofit focused on promoting civic engagement. I admire the League’s adherence to non-partisanship as I think we need more organizations to simply promote people’s rights to vote without influencing them to vote for a particular party. I liked learning about how the national and state Leagues influence our city League and how the city League has a say in the League’s



position through the national convention. That convention really proved to me that Americans can have civil discourse without being rude or disrespectful, and I think the rest of the country can learn from the League’s example. So many things can get done when everyone respects each other, regardless if they agree with them or not.

An internship with the League is also unique because you can see how you, as an intern, can make a tangible difference. From research to social media campaigns, to visiting different government offices, everything we do helps the League accomplish its goals in palpable ways. Although it sometimes felt slow-going, everything we did had a positive impact and it’s very rewarding to see the results of our hard work. I liked trying to incorporate League branding with the Disability Pride flag, and also consulting different people for feedback on my designs. I learned a lot through the feedback people gave me, which helped to improve readability and ensure objectiveness.

My work on the Disability Rights project taught me so much about the struggles of the disabled community, and how the Ballot Marking Device (BMD) aims to break down some of the obstacles around voting. We decided to create two social media posts and one street-interview video to spread awareness about BMDs. I think our intern team did a great job of making a comprehensive guide to what the BMD is and how to use it. The interview video was also such a great idea, and I hope both will bring more awareness to the BMD and the struggles the disabled community has with voting as a whole. I will definitely continue to use what I learned in my future designs.

The unique challenges the League faces was also interesting to see and try to solve, such as the difficulty in promoting civic engagement in high schools or finding places to table for voter registration. This showed me the importance of having networks because you can use those to spread your influence through a mutually beneficial relationship with another organization or group. I really liked problem-solving with the other interns and using their networks and my own to promote voter advocacy in different places. This internship has really taught me how teamwork and collaboration can solve virtually any problem.

# LWVNYC Committee Updates

Please feel free to email the Committees if you're interested in learning more and/or would like to get involved. Visit [lwnyc.org](http://lwnyc.org) for more information about our Committees.

## CITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

By Susie Gomes, Co-Chair

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

The City Affairs Committee continues to make inroads and connections with the New York City Council. Our outreach and efforts most recently included the Committee Chair, Susie Gomes, joining Councilmembers Farah Louis, Chair of the Committee on Women and Gender Equity, and Councilmember Linda Lee, Chair of the Committee on Mental Health, Addiction and Disabilities for a press conference at City Hall Park before a hearing to introduce a series of bills aimed at supporting the physical and mental health of expecting and new parents. Susie spoke about the League's extensive track record of advocating for women's and individuals' healthcare rights, including mental health parity which has been a League priority since 1999.

At the state level, the League advocated for, and saw signed, the 2022 bill "Beyond the 4th Trimester," which increases New York State Medicaid coverage from 60 days post-partum to one year — because maternal and infant mortality can be reduced by consistent regular healthcare for mothers and infants.

The League also worked in coalition to support the creation and funding, in the State budget, of the Maternal Mortality Review Board to investigate the disparity in pregnancy outcomes for women of color and rural women as compared with the general population. We were absolutely thrilled to be part of such an important initiative and are most thankful to the Councilmembers for including us.

This is certainly one culmination point for the efforts of this committee that has worked hard in its first year to break through to the council and showcase the worth of the League and our ability to be a partner and support in helping to improve the lives of all New Yorkers.

## DEI COMMITTEE

By Laura Quigg, Karen Wharton and Sherletta McCaskill, Co-Chairs

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

This quarter, the LWVNYC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee has largely moved along two tracks. We have hosted events celebrating our diversity to foster a more inclusive and welcoming atmosphere. We began with a screening and discussion of the film *My Name is Pauli Murray* in

April, followed by a tour of *The Harlem Renaissance and Transatlantic Modernism* exhibit at the Met in June, and we have scheduled a book discussion group of *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins in September.

More structurally, our goal is to improve communications throughout the many disparate groupings and committees. To that end, we have reached out to each of the League's committees and the Board to ask them to join us in various capacities. Many committees have designated liaisons to the DEI Committee, and we encourage others to do so. We also requested that committees and their liaisons complete a survey we designed to better understand the DEI goals of each committee. We have started to receive and sort through the responses to help guide discussions about what we can do to help committees view their work at the League through a DEI lens and better serve our diverse NYC community.

## VOTING REFORM COMMITTEE

By Stacey Lesser for Bella Wong, Chair

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

Each year the League identifies one local issue on which to focus and study. In Fiscal Year 2023/24, the issue was: The Timing of New York City Elections. The Voting Reform Committee led the project, conducting a comprehensive study engaging good governance groups, other local Leagues across the country, and academic researchers to examine aligning local elections with federal elections in even-numbered years.

The research showed greater voter participation and a more representative electorate in even-year elections. Importantly, younger voters and underrepresented racial and ethnic groups are more likely to vote during these years. We also learned that consolidating elections to even-numbered years reduces administrative costs and voter fatigue, and increases civic engagement and investment in local government. Additionally, candidates tend to address a broader electorate, leading to policies that better represent the entire community.

Most good government groups, such as Citizens Union and the Brennan Center, favor realigning New York City elections with federal elections.

On May 22, 2024, the League membership voted overwhelmingly to adopt the following position: The League supports holding

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## LWVNYC Committee Updates

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local elections in even-numbered years to coincide with federal election dates. Voters should receive the protections provided by the Help America Vote Act during local and state elections, just

as they do in federal elections. Adequate funding should be allocated for training, equipment, staff, and voter education to ensure equal focus and support for local elections held concurrently with state and federal elections.

### MZ Wallace Selects the League for Funding

By Barb Ettington, LWVNYC Board Director

Each year, MZ Wallace gives a donation to a worthy cause. This year, they selected the League of Women Voters of the City of New York!

Monica Zwirner and Lucy Wallace Eustice, founders of MZ Wallace in Soho, NY, are clothing accessory designers and fashion stylists with a mission: to empower our community through Education, Equal Opportunity, and Environmental Stewardship by raising funds and awareness for nonprofit and humanitarian organizations dedicated to positive change.

They continued their partnership with Lingua Franca on the design of a limited-edition Metro Tote. 100% of the net proceeds from the sale of each bag go to the League. In the past, organizations such as “She Should Run,” a non-partisan organization that supports women running for office, and “Girls Who Code,” whose mission is to close the gender gap in technology, and the New York Public Library have been recipients of their donations.

Visit our website [Vote Store](#) to see and purchase the bag.



### Change in Membership & Dues Structure — February 2025

Beginning in February 2025, there will be changes in the League membership and dues structure.

Currently, each local League is responsible for maintaining their own system for members to join and renew. Each League sets their own dues amount and sends a portion of the dues received on to state and national. Each League also manages the renewal process with its members.

Going forward, the national League, LWVUS, will implement a single system to manage the membership process for all Leagues, including the renewal process. With this change, a significant bookkeeping burden should be lifted from the shoulders of local Leagues.

Individuals will be encouraged to pay the standard membership rate of \$75, with optional higher “join tiers.” But unlike today, where any amount paid above the \$75 rate is considered a donation to the New York City League, going forward all dues will be divided between local, state and national. If our members wish to support the New York City League, **they must choose a separate option to donate directly to us.**

Of note, the student and the household memberships will be discontinued in favor of a “pay-what-you-can” option. The goal is to reduce barriers to joining, thereby broadening the appeal and the diversity of League of Women Voters. With this change, more money will flow to local and state Leagues:

- 20% to Local Leagues
- 47% to State Leagues
- 33% to National League

The larger flow of money to state Leagues will build their capacity to exercise power within their legislatures, build organizing strength, and support paid staff. Local Leagues will retain a larger percentage of dues to support their local work. LWVUS expects 3/4 of local Leagues to come out financially ahead, but will make up any shortfall for the first 2 years of the program.

# Upcoming Events

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

**National Voter Registration Day / Constitution Day: September 17th**  
**Mail-in & In-Person Voter Registration Deadline: October 26th**  
**Early Voting: October 26th-November 3rd**  
**General Election: November 5th**

For information on Mail-in or Absentee Ballots,  
see: <https://elections.ny.gov/request-ballot>

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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

- City Affairs Committee: Contact [cityaffairs@lwnyc.org](mailto:cityaffairs@lwnyc.org)
- Committee for Criminal Justice Reform: Contact [criminaljustice@lwnyc.org](mailto:criminaljustice@lwnyc.org)
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee: Contact [dei@lwnyc.org](mailto:dei@lwnyc.org)
- Education Committee: 2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm.  
Contact [education@lwnyc.org](mailto:education@lwnyc.org) for more information
- Program Committee: Meets on the first Monday of the month at either 10:30am or 6:00pm to accommodate preferences of committee members.  
Email [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 Committee: Contact [voting.reform@lwnyc.org](mailto:voting.reform@lwnyc.org)

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