LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Summer/Fall 2026

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INSIDE THE LEAGUE

From the Co-Presidents

Dear League Members and Friends,

As we head into another election, being registered to vote is just the beginning. Being prepared to vote means knowing what will be on your ballot, understanding your options for casting it, and making a plan: when, where, and how will you vote?

This year, that preparation is especially important. Across the country, legal challenges involving election administration and voting rules continue, while conflicting claims and efforts meant to create uncertainty about elections can make it harder for voters to know what to believe or what to expect. The League of Women Voters and other voting rights and good government organizations continue to (successfully!) use the courts to challenge actions to unlawfully interfere with election administration and voting access.

But there is something each of us can do: be ready to vote—and help someone else be ready, too.



Intern Raina Marega VR tabling with Diane Burrows, LWVNYC Board Director



Take a few minutes to check your voter registration—especially if you've moved or haven't voted recently. Look at your ballot before Election Day. Learn about the candidates and ballot questions. If you plan to vote by mail, make sure you understand the application and know if return deadlines have changed. Find your poll site and decide when you will go. And consider helping a family member, friend, neighbor, or colleague do the same.

That is where the League comes in. Our amazing volunteers provide the **trusted, nonpartisan information** New Yorkers need to participate in our elections—from voter registration and Vote411 to information about candidates, ballot proposals, poll sites, voting options, and election deadlines.

Democracy depends not only on the right to vote, but on voters being able to exercise that right with accurate information and a clear plan. With so much attention focused on our elections, each of us can help make sure that New Yorkers are prepared, informed, and able to make their voices heard.

Thank you for being part of the League—and for helping us make sure that your neighbors, friends, and family are ready, too.

We are Defending Democracy Together!

Kai Rosenthal
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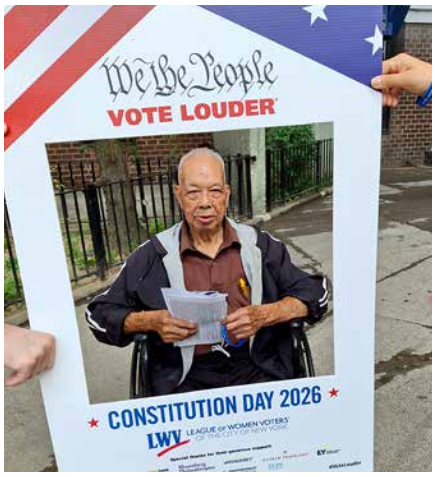
2026 Constitution Day—All Year Long

20,000 U.S. Constitutions were handed to New Yorkers this year: 15,000 distributed during Constitution Week 2026, 5,000 throughout the year.



Last year, the League of Women Voters declared that the United States was in a ***constitutional crisis.*** The New York City League ran with that message and worked to provide New Yorkers with their own copy of the U.S. Constitution so they can know their rights and understand the framework of our government. The League is now actively filing lawsuits to challenge laws or executive actions that violate the U.S. Constitution.

As the League reaches out to New Yorkers to encourage informed and active participation in government, the U.S. Constitution sparks interest and conversation. Through dialogue and action, we can defend democracy together.







What Constitution Day brings:

Informed Voters:

From Susie Gomes in the Bronx:

"A woman who was smoking a joint wasn't so sure about voting, though happily took the book. We talked about what changes can be made by voting—i.e., that joint is now legal. She said that's not the important stuff. So, we talked about who's on the ballot and how they can help fix the big stuff. I sent her to VOTE411 and she is a convert. THIS is why we are out there!"

Voting Rights Information:

From Kate Gill, ESOL teacher at Riverside Immigration Services:

"THANK YOU for making it possible for me to come to the LWV office to pick up copies of the Constitution in English and Spanish, which I gave to Riverside students last week—just in time for their graduation from six-weeks in their English language immersion classes.

How lucky to meet & chat with you about LWV's robust outreach."

New Volunteers to the League:

Deb Brodheim at Co-Op City:

"Our volunteers were really engaged, since most are local to Co-op City.

Monique Coleman and Lisa Wade-Stewart were wonderful, committed, and stayed the entire 10am–3pm day! And both want to do more with the League."

Community and Corporate Partners:

A volunteer from Amalgamated Bank:

"It was a pleasure to be able to volunteer today. It was a truly wonderful experience. I am grateful for what the League of Women Voters does for my community. Plus, I was able to register as a voter, so all around win in my book."

A volunteer from PURE Insurance:

"We were **so** glad to be part of it."

Our thanks to the generous support from:

Speakers Bureau: Educating NYC Communities

Diane Burrows, LWVNYC Board Director

This election season has been busy, as usual, for the Speakers Bureau. One of the most requested programs has been *Voter Registration Training*. We have been invited to train groups as diverse as the Brooklyn Borough President's office, civic alliances on the Lower East Side and law firms. This presentation focuses on helping voters create a voting action plan. We want participants to understand that voter registration is just the first step to creating active and engaged voters. When they conduct their voter registration drives, we provide them with the non-partisan materials they need to successfully create new and active voters.

The other highly sought after presentation is *Three Pillars of Democracy*. During this presentation, we discuss how a person can use their voice to keep democracy alive. We focus on voting, advocacy and lobbying, and community engagement. If the workshop is presented during the day, we take the time during the event to encourage the participants to reach out to their elected officials and have a conversation about concerns they have in their own communities. This interaction empowers and energizes the participants in amazing ways.

Our pool of experienced presenters has grown, and we are always looking for proficient public speakers to increase our capacity to reach more communities in NYC. Please contact Diane Burrows at **speakers@lwvnyc.org** if you are interested in volunteering as a speaker.



Diane Burrows (3rd from left), at a Lobbying and Advocacy Workship in the LWVNYC office with high school students and their advisors from Guardians of Democracy



Diane Burrows giving a "Three Pillars of Democracy" presentation in Brooklyn

Democracy Doesn't Just Happen at Election Time

Barb Ettington, LWVNYC Board Member

As the year comes to a close, we're asking you to make a year-end gift to the League of Women Voters of NYC.

Your support makes it possible for our volunteers to do the work of democracy **all year long**—in schools, neighborhoods, and communities across New York City. We conduct workshops and speaking engagements, provide reliable voter information, register new voters, and help New Yorkers understand how their voices and votes can make a difference.

The League is powered by volunteers, but our year-round work depends on the generosity of individual donors like you.

Please consider making a year-end gift today**.** Your contribution helps keep this work going throughout the year—not just when an election is on the calendar.

And please save the date for our **City Joy Luncheon on March 22**, when we'll come together to celebrate organizations that bring joy to NYC and build stronger communities.

Your support keeps democracy in motion—every day of the year.



Start a Constitution Conversation

By Barb Ettington, LWVNYC Board Member

"Thought provoking." "So interesting." "I want to learn more."

Those are just some of the reactions from people who have participated in a **Constitution Conversation**.

During this 250th anniversary year of our country, it's a perfect time to revisit this founding document: **Is the Constitution still relevant? What rights does it guarantee? What would you change or add if you could?** These conversations are happening—and you can start one too.

The League's **Constitution Conversations Starter Kit** makes it easy to bring the conversation to your dinner table, classroom, or community. The kit includes a short video featuring Broadway playwright Heidi Schreck (*What the Constitution Means to Me*) and legal scholar Ally Coll of CUNY School of Law, engaging young people in a candid discussion about what the Constitution means today.



Reflect. Discuss. Connect.

Start your conversation.
Visit **lwvnyc.org** to download the free kit.

Help Write the Next Chapter of the League of Women Voters of NYC

We're looking for a volunteer leader to serve as our next Vice President of Development.

The League of Women Voters of NYC is powered by people who believe an informed, engaged citizenry is essential to a strong democracy. We're seeking someone who wants to put that belief into action—and help build the resources to expand our work.

Our Development Committee has a strong foundation. We've organized fundraising events, launched year-end appeals, written grants, and built relationships with individuals, corporations, and foundations.

Now we need a team leader to bring people together, set priorities, and imagine what's possible.

The next chapter hasn't been written yet. You can help write it. Bring your ideas, experience, relationships, and energy to an organization committed to civic engagement, voter information, and democracy.

Contact Barb Ettington at **boarddirector3@lwvnyc.org** for more information.

You've Got Mail

News From National

By Kristen Young, LWVNYC Communications Committee

It may officially be fall, but this season, the League of Women Voters is trading Meg Ryan for mail-in voting. On September 14, the Supreme Court ruled on **League of Women Voters of Massachusetts v. Trump**, protecting the preliminary injunction barring the United States Postal Service from enforcing a restrictive new voting rule that would critically constrain voting by mail.

On March 31, 2026, President Trump signed Executive Order 14399, which would require the United States Postal Service to work with states and government agencies to undertake intensive rulemaking on mail-in voting.

On April 2, 2026, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts and the League of Women Voters of the United States, alongside several voting rights groups, filed a lawsuit challenging the aforementioned order, arguing it unconstitutionally targets mail voting and voter eligibility.

As of September 14, 2026, eligible voters will be able to vote by mail during the upcoming November 3rd election. Whether opting for a mail-in ballot because of a medical condition or simply because of personal preferences, voters everywhere will be able to hear three little words: "You've got mail."

Local Program: Sanctuary Cities

By Laura Quigg, LWVNYC Treasurer and Rebecca Reeve, LWVNYC Board Director

At the 2026 Annual Meeting of Members in June, the membership of the League of Women Voters of the City of New York approved the following Local Program for the fiscal year 2026-2027:

"Study of New York City Laws and Policies Commonly Referred to as 'Sanctuary City' Framework"

To conduct this work, the League has formed a Study Committee which has begun to engage in the following:

- Review relevant laws and regulations in NYC and NY State as well as other Sanctuary Cities/States
- Review work done at other LWV local and state chapters and LWVUS, as well as from academics
- Invite outside speakers to inform and educate about how Sanctuary City policy helps or hinders the NYC community
- Determine whether LWVNYC should develop a position on Sanctuary City

The League's effectiveness rests on the public's trust in our nonpartisan work. Committee members are expected to approach their work with an open mind. League committee work must be grounded in facts, balanced research, and respectful discussion. Members should be willing to examine evidence wherever it leads rather than begin with predetermined positions. **Join us in this important and timely work!**

For more information contact: **rebecca@lwvnyc.org** or call (212) 725-3541.









Summer Intern Reflections

Memorable Intern Moments from the Summer of 2026:

One of my favorite parts of this summer was being constantly surrounded by intelligent women who are interested in the same things as I am. I learned as much from daily conversations with them as I did in my project research, which was incredibly rewarding and only made me more excited to pursue my political science studies in my next 3 undergraduate years.

– Elsa Maroney

One of the most memorable internship trips I went on was to Columbia University, where I spoke with international students about the American government. As a Columbia undergraduate myself, it was especially rewarding to sit on the other side of that conversation and help students who are new to this country. Watching their curiosity and hearing their questions gave me a new appreciation for how much groundwork actually goes into civic participation.

– Emma Stanislavsky

Connecting the League's history, quilting traditions, and the women who taught me to sew and quilt. As someone from outside New York, I found that the project allowed me to build connections with people from diverse backgrounds and perspectives while finding hope in collaborative civic action. Now on display at the League's new office, the quilt serves as a reminder that democracy is not simply an institution or an election. Still, something we collectively imagine, create, and strengthen.

– Lillian Gale



Lillian Gale with Civic Quilt



Natalie Brzeziak presenting at The Watermark

My presentation at the senior center, The Watermark, exceeded everything I had hoped for. Rather than being a simple 30-minute lecture, the presentation transformed into an interactive discussion where participants shared their concerns, experiences, questions, and fears about the changing role of technology in our lives. Standing on the podium, I did not feel like a teacher delivering information to an audience. Instead, I felt like a member of a community working to better understand a rapidly changing world. The experience reminded me that civic engagement is not just about answering questions but also about creating spaces where people feel comfortable asking questions, sharing perspectives, and learning from one another.

– Natalie Brzeziak

Some of my favorite experiences throughout the summer were the opportunities to table in different communities and at events, such as the disability fair in Central Park and the West 71st Street Association. Through these tabling opportunities, I had the chance to speak with New Yorkers from all walks of life and meet them where they were in their civic journey.

– Mia Goldblum

Working on these projects meant that I was communicating with not only fellow interns, but representatives of other organizations such as WithDirection, NYC Votes, O.U.R. Place, and Creative Art Works. I reached out to many of these organizations on my own initiative and worked to create relationships with them on behalf of LWVNYC.

– Paige Klings

(continued on next page)

Summer Intern Reflections

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Summer Interns at Common Cause presentation

Several times this summer I was filled with joy from simply being in a room with so many inspiring, powerful, and like-minded women. So first and foremost, thank you Diane, Talia, and Katie for creating a unique environment for us to collaborate, forge new bonds, and learn from each other. Especially in today's political climate, where it feels like there is a permanent storm cloud overhead, this internship has provided me with a safe haven and outlet to discuss the current threats to democracy.

– Sam Poillucci



Summer Interns at LiveOnNY

Expanding Our Reach: Fall Intern Program

Diane Burrows and Talia Miele, LWVNYC Board Directors

After a very successful summer internship program, we welcomed about 15 fall interns to the League. These included several summer interns who expressed interest in continuing their work with us.

The goal of the fall and spring internships is to encourage high school and college students to become League ambassadors to their communities. We meet with them remotely once a week and share ideas about how to partner their schools, clubs, community centers, and faith organizations with the League.

Some projects have included doing voter registration training for school clubs so they can do a VR drive at school. We have also been invited into classes for civic presentations and worked with clubs and community groups on civic projects. We have helped our interns organize "Civics Clubs" on campus. Of course, as new members of the League, they are also invited to participate in any League event. The students' energy and commitment inspire us.

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 lwvnyc.org for more information about our Committees.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NYC LAUNCHES A NEW CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE!

Laura Quigg, Chair

civilrights@lwvnyc.org

Civil rights are at the core of the League's focus and mission, embodied in our work to engage voters, advocate for legislation, and explore social justice issues in its many forms. Many of these issues are already addressed by existing committees, but to broaden the aperture a bit, the NYC League has started a new Civil Rights Committee beginning in September of this year.

The committee will provide opportunities to learn, research, discuss, and recommend League action consistent with League positions. Initial areas of focus include immigration, free speech, religious freedom, and criminal justice reform (building on the work of the current Criminal Justice Committee), but we are open to pursuing other areas depending on interests, expertise and resources.

Our goal is to plan educational programs, organize public forums and discussions, invite expert speakers, conduct outreach in our community, and advocate for key issues in accordance with League positions. Committee members are encouraged to bring their experience, expertise, and perspectives while approaching the committee's work with an open mind. Research, discussion, and recommendations are guided by evidence and the League's established study and consensus process rather than predetermined conclusions.

Our first event will be held on November 18, 2026, when I will moderate a virtual forum conducted by Susan Martin and Lydia Zepeda of LWV Washington State. We will discuss how state and local Leagues can use the new position on Immigrant Rights adopted by the LWVUS at the national convention in June for advocacy. Attendees welcome!

For more information, contact: civilrights@lwvnyc.org.

CITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Susie Gomes, Chair

cityaffairs@lwvnyc.org

Ballot Propositions PROs/CONs

Back in 2024, the League started a new tradition on writing PROs/CONs for the five ballot propositions that Mayor Adam's Charter Commission had formulated. Whereas other good government groups had either simply supported or opposed the proposals, we felt it was reasonable to give more detail behind the 80-word description that voters would see at the ballot box and further explain both the positives and negatives of each proposal being passed.

This approach gained us a great response! AMNY provided a review of the proposals before the election and sent their readers to our website for more information. We got over 65,000 hits on our site that election cycle, and last year we received over 107,000 hits, which is a strong response for sure!

This year we took the same PRO/CON approach to the five ballot propositions that were submitted by COGE (Mayor Mamdani's Charter Commission on Government Efficiency) and will be on the ballot in the upcoming election.

The commission held 10 hearings—2 per borough—and heard both written and oral testimony from thousands of New Yorkers on how to make NYC more efficient in myriad ways. They synthesized these learnings into five ballot props which we then did further analysis on and developed our PROs/CONs that are now available to view on our League website at: **https://lwvnyc.org/proposals-2026/**

VOTE411

Once again, the City Affairs Committee has committed itself to helping support and populate the League's **VOTE411** website. As you may know, the VOTE411 website is a National League site which then trickles down to the state and local levels, providing voters across the nation with information on validating their registration, locating their polling sites and polling dates, and WHO and WHAT is on their particular ballots. Included in this WHO portion is a questionnaire sent to all candidates so that constituents can learn more about their potential elected leaders: their background, platform, goals, etc.

Our committee aids this VOTE411 process by contacting all candidates who have not yet provided answers to these questionnaires urging them to provide the information so that voters have access to it and can make an informed voting decision.

This process includes both emails and follow-up phone calls. It is time intensive but honestly, the candidates are truly awesome when you get them on the phone realizing that we are providing such an enormous service to the community. It is truly gratifying work.

(Updates continued on next page)

LWVNYC Committee Updates

NEXTGEN COMMITTEE

Talia Miele, Chair

nextgen@lwvnyc.org

NextGen has been busy working away all summer in partnership with the Class of '26 Summer Interns. One intern, Paige Klings, spent the summer meeting with local agencies hoping to find ways to move the ball forward on our massive "ASL Project." The goal is to create an ASL video series featuring voter registration and other pertinent information to the exceptionally large Deaf community here in NYC who often do not read or write English. We believe voting should be inclusive and accessible to all. We are now working to find grants and donations to fund this extremely important project and are happy for any assistance.

We also created our very own **Substack** to feature pieces written by our Millennial and Gen Z League members about issues that are important to them. Their pieces have been thoughtful and pertinent to the country we live in today, as well as offered insight into their worries and hopes for the future.

Our group also continues to work toward holding our "Vote Louder Art Contest," an homage to the **graffiti piece commissioned by LWVNYC from Lady Pink**, which is now on display at the New York Historical's Democracy wing. We continue to search for an art gallery willing to donate space to feature the young contestants' submissions of art with their interpretation of what it means to "Vote Louder."

A group of NextGeners is also creating a one-page handout explaining and promoting the use of the Ballot Marking Device (BMD) at all polling places. The hope is to encourage young people with all disabilities, including learning disabilities, to use the assistance available to them without fear or shame.

Most importantly, we welcomed our new Co-Chair, Madison Curtis, to work hand in hand with existing Chair, Talia Miele. After finishing her time in our summer internship program, Madison continues to contribute to the mission of the League, informed by her passion for equity in democracy. Her ideas and enthusiasm have already been a true gift to our committee, and we are very excited to have her!

Please know that NextGen is open to all genders and generations!

VOTING REFORM COMMITTEE

Bella Wang, Chair

voting.reform@lwvnyc.org

The Voting Reform Committee is coming back from a restful summer, after our spring lobbying push with our New York State legislators. We met with 9 Assembly Members and Senators this year, persevering despite difficulties in scheduling caused by the unusually slow budgeting process this year in Albany.

This year, we moved the ball forward on the Democracy During Detention Act and helped pass a bill to extend polling hours for significant election disruptions. As the next step in protecting our democracy from election interference, we are looking to advocate with our federal legislators this fall.

SAVE THE DATE!

City Joy • Monday, March 22

Join the League of Women Voters of NYC for a special luncheon celebrating the organizations that bring **joy to New York City and build stronger communities**.

We're planning a wonderful afternoon,
and we're excited to announce our honorees and location soon.

For now, save the date!

Monday, March 22 • City Joy Luncheon

More details to come.

Upcoming Events

Please contact office@lwvnyc.org to confirm meeting dates!
For more information on Meetings and Events, please visit www.lwvnyc.org

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Saturday, October 24th
Last day to register; Last day to request a mail-in ballot; First day of Early Voting

Tuesday, November 3rd
General Election Day

MAIL ALERT: Mail-in ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 3rd; however USPS no longer postmarks on the day you send. ***Be sure to mail at least one week prior to election day.***

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

- City Affairs Committee: Contact **cityaffairs@lwvnyc.org**
- Civil Rights Committee: Contact **civilrights@lwvnyc.org**
- Criminal Justice Reform Committee: Contact **lindsey.reynolds@live.law.cuny.edu**
- Communications Committee: Contact **communications@lwvnyc.org**
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee: Contact **dei@lwvnyc.org**
- Education Committee: Contact **education@lwvnyc.org**
- Housing Committee: Contact **president@lwvnyc.org**
- Lunch with the League Committee: Contact **office@lwvnyc.org**
- Membership Committee: Contact **membership@lwvnyc.org**
- NextGen Committee: Contact **nextgen@lwvnyc.org**
- Transportation Committee: Contact **transportation@lwvnyc.org**
- Voter & Information Services Committee: Contact **voter.services@lwvnyc.org**
- Voting Reform Committee: Contact **voting.reform@lwvnyc.org**

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LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
VOTE LOUDER®

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