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INSIDE THE LEAGUE

From the Co-Presidents

Dear League Community,

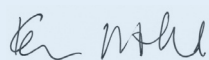
We continue to experience our rights and Constitution threatened and the League at all levels—National, State and Local—speaks out, marches, and rallies against such actions. Here in New York City, while we will offer opportunities for community, the League will focus our efforts on registering voters and ensuring voters turn out in the November election. Our democracy works best when every voice is heard, and that means encouraging New Yorkers to take an active role in their local government. This fall's citywide elections are a powerful moment to do just that.

In addition to electing leaders including Mayor, Borough Presidents, City Council Members, Comptroller, Public Advocate, two District Attorneys, and Judges (depending on your district), we will be voting on important ballot proposals that may affect how NYC handles land use and when local elections occur. The results of the November election will shape our city's future for years to come, and **your vote is your voice** in that process.

The League is starting our Get Out the Vote efforts with a celebration of **Constitution Day** on **September 20**. We will hand out more than 10,000 free, pocket-size Constitutions in all five boroughs and talk about the importance of the upcoming local election. We ask you to join us, volunteer, and help spread the word, so that every New Yorker knows how to participate and make informed choices at the polls.

Together, we can ensure that our city's future reflects the needs and aspirations of all its residents.

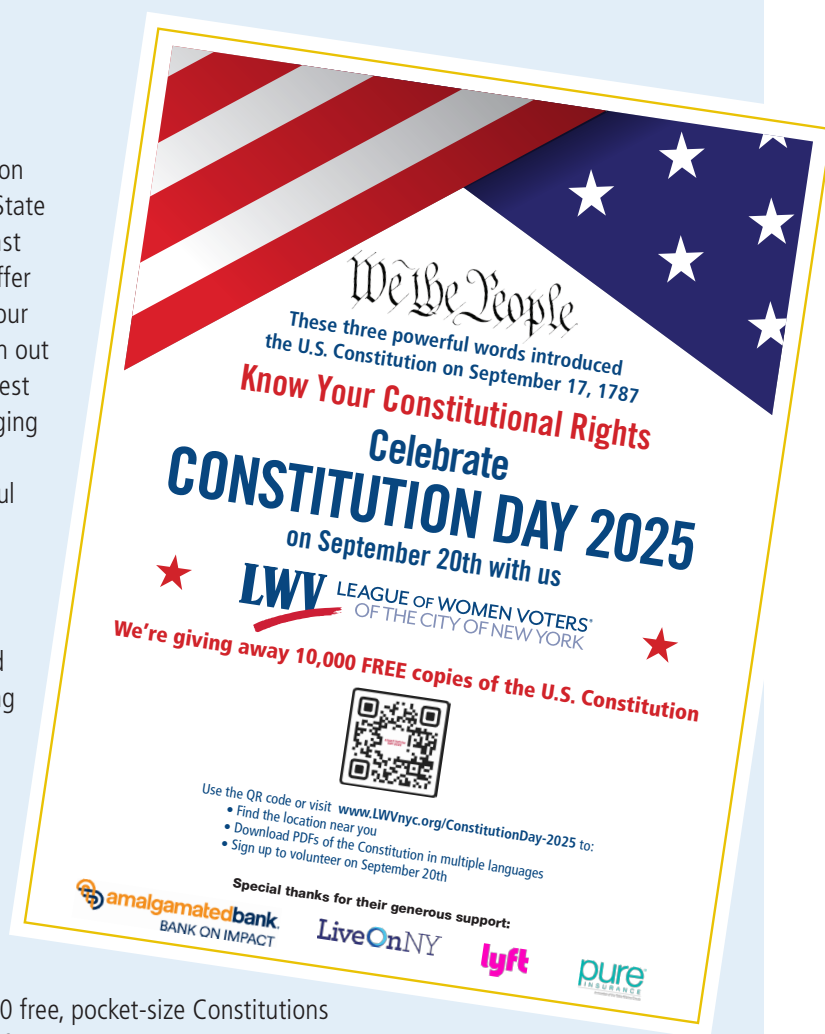
Thank you for your continued support and civic participation.



Kai Rosenthal
president@lwvnyc.org



Deborah Brodheim
co-president@lwvnyc.org



News and Views from LWV US

By Stacey Lesser, LWVNYC Vice President of Communications

EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

The League of Women Voters is a **nonpartisan, grassroots** organization working to **protect and expand voting rights** and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend democracy through **advocacy, education, and litigation**, at the local, state, and national levels.

These words welcome visitors to the landing page of the [LWV US](#) (National) website. Throughout the years, the League has actively worked to fulfill these goals, at the national, state, and local levels, and for the most part that has been a straightforward and uncontroversial objective. But in recent months, this mission has taken on new meaning, and a greater sense of urgency. And the League has stepped up its efforts to ensure that voting rights are protected, and democracy is defended.

“Our Country is in a Constitutional Crisis”

Such a warning is a strong statement from LWV but is a headline we’re seeing more and more in our inboxes. One of the issues that State and National leadership is raising concerns about are the multiple efforts of mid-cycle redistricting across

the country. “[Redistricting is at a crossroad](#). This redistricting is not intended to reflect population shifts, but ‘because politicians fear losing power. And they’re willing to rewrite the rules to keep it.’ Mid-cycle map manipulation is a high-stakes strategy to lock in control and shield those in power from voter accountability.” As stated on the LWV website, “If the political class can silence one community today, they can silence yours tomorrow.”

National has also called out unfair treatment of immigrants across the country and is lobbying congress to protect the path to citizenship and in support of the Dream Act. And in response to the President’s post committing to eliminate mail-in voting and voting machines, National countered with the following in a recent email: “The President’s pledge to put an end to mail-in voting is not just unconstitutional but is a direct attack on our democracy and freedom to vote. As an organization dedicated to empowering voters and defending democracy, we will fight to protect vote-by-mail and accessible voting systems for all.” For a full response see the [LWV Statement on Mail-in Ballots and Voting Machines](#).



Volunteer Opportunity: Join LWVNYC’s Reproductive Health Access Project

The League of Women Voters of the City of New York (LWVNYC) is launching a citywide initiative to assess, map, and strengthen reproductive healthcare access. This project will analyze existing policies, programs, and partnerships, highlight gaps, and develop and pursue actionable recommendations to improve equity and access for New Yorkers.

This is a collaborative, nonpartisan initiative grounded in research, advocacy, and community partnerships. All volunteers will collaborate on initial research assignments and then transition

into one of three specialized roles. Volunteers will also collaborate with existing LWVNYC committees (City Affairs, Education, Communication, etc.) where appropriate.

This is a unique opportunity to leverage your existing skills or learn new ones to be part of shaping meaningful, community-driven solutions that expand and protect reproductive healthcare access across New York City. For more information, contact office@lwnyc.org.

Resources on How We Can Protect Our Democracy

By Dr. Lisa DiCaprio, LWVNYC Member and Clinical Associate Professor of Social Sciences, NYU School of Professional Studies

As we mobilize for the midterm elections, it is useful to consider the factors that led to the outcome of the November 2024 elections.

My article, “Educating for American Democracy,” which appeared in the Spring 2021 issue of the Sierra Atlantic, the publication of the Sierra Club Atlantic (NYS) Chapter, is especially relevant today. This is an innovative initiative to promote civics education in the K-12 curriculum. As the project overview states:

“In recent decades, we as a nation have failed to prepare young Americans for self-government, leaving the world’s oldest constitutional democracy in grave danger, afflicted by both cynicism and nostalgia, as it approaches its 250th anniversary. The time has come to recommit to the education of our young people for informed, authentic, and engaged citizenship.”

On March 2, 2021, Judy Woodruff, the former anchor and managing editor of the PBS NewsHour, moderated the virtual launch, Educating for American Democracy National Forum, which was attended by 6,000 people. The forum was preceded by her PBS NewsHour segment broadcast on the prior evening, “Can teaching about civics in schools help break down barriers in American society?”

As the main themes of “Educating for American Democracy” are also important for adults, my article provides resources on these seven ways that we can promote civics and voter education and protect the right to vote:

- Expand student voter education and registration
- Protect the right to vote and the integrity of the electoral process

- Support initiatives to prevent the gerrymandering of state and congressional district maps
- Support grassroots voter advocacy initiatives
- Support media literacy projects
- Support credible news organizations, public radio and television, and local newspapers
- Mainstream civics education in community organizing and political advocacy initiatives

In Fall 2024, I developed and taught a Special Topics Politics course at NYU, “Global Citizenship in the Twenty-First Century,” in which I provided a historical and contemporary perspective on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, the role of social and political movements in facilitating change, and the importance of voting in all elections.

NYU designed a new website, NYU Votes, to promote voter education and registration and is one of the 471 colleges and universities recognized by the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge as the Most Engaged Campuses for College Student Voting in 2024.

In anticipation of the 2025 elections in November, I am providing resources on League of Women Voters initiatives, voter turnout in 2024 compared with 2020, the unprecedented role of disinformation in the Fall 2024 elections, shifts in NYC and national voting patterns from 2020 to 2024, and resources on civics education and media literacy.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access links to resources.*



* Dr Lisa DiCaprio is a Clinical Associate Professor of Social Sciences at the NYU School of Professional Studies. Though a member of the League, she contributed this piece & the list of resources based on her research in that capacity.

Who Makes NYC Better? You!

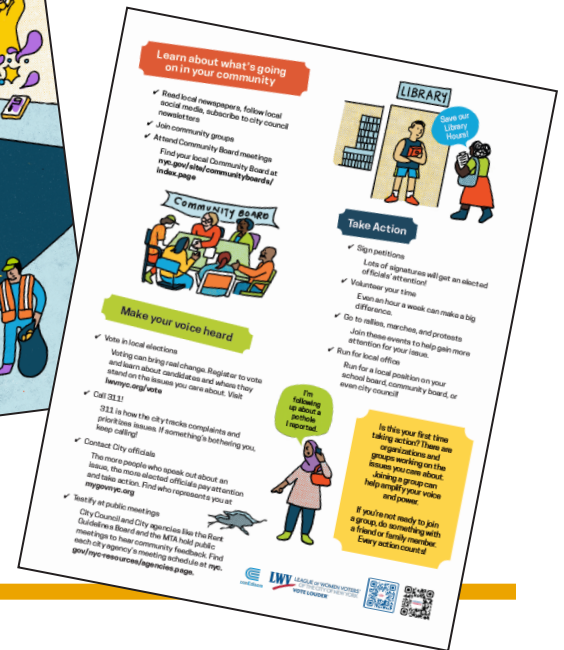
By Barb Ettington, LWVNYC Board Member

This headline appears on the next Civic Explainer prepared by the League in cooperation with the Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP). [Who Makes NYC Better? You!](#) focuses on ways that New Yorkers can advocate for change.

Thanks to a generous donation from Con Edison, the League has been able to prepare colorful and simplified handouts highlighting sections of the League's book, *What Makes NYC Run?* CUP has developed the graphics and supplied the translations for Spanish and Simplified Chinese. Currently there are 2 handouts available to view and download on our website: [Who Makes NYC Run?](#) and [What is Ranked Choice Voting?](#)



The latest civic explainer will be available on our website soon. Printed copies of our handouts will be available for all tabling and outreach events.



A Smart Way to Give: Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

Did you know there's a way to support the League of Women Voters NYC and save on taxes at the same time? If you're age 70½ or older, a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA could be the perfect giving option.

Why consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution?

- **Lower your taxes:** Making a qualified charitable distribution allows you to donate directly from your IRA to the League without counting the distribution as taxable income.
- **Meet your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD):** If you're 73 or older, your qualified charitable distribution can count toward your yearly required minimum distribution—helping you avoid a distribution you may not need for everyday expenses.
- **Make a bigger impact:** Because your gift goes directly to the League, every dollar supports our goal to help New Yorkers Vote Louder®, and see the changes that they can make.

How it works:

Your financial institution transfers the funds straight to the League. It's a straightforward process that reduces paperwork for you—and creates lasting impact for us.

Important details:

- You must be at least 70½
- The annual limit for qualified charitable distributions in 2025 is \$108,000 per individual
- Qualified charitable distributions can only be made to qualified charities, like the League

A qualified charitable distribution is a powerful way to turn your retirement savings into a force for good—strengthening democracy for generations to come.

Please consult with your tax advisor to determine if a qualified charitable distribution is right for you.

Please reach out to Laurie Pauker at development@lwnnyc.org to begin a conversation about giving to the League.

Frequently (or not) Asked Questions

By Katie Gobreski, LWN NYC Office Coordinator

One of the simultaneously most important and least-discussed parts of my job is answering the League's Voter Hotline. Most frequently, people call the League looking for help with basic information—requesting an absentee ballot, finding their poll site, or looking up their elected officials. In general, they find a chance to connect with a person one-to-one in a world that is increasingly digital, searchable, and totally impersonal. While there are certainly some frustrating calls (try explaining Ranked Choice Voting over the phone multiple times in a day!), most often people who call are deeply thankful for the prompt, accessible, and cheerful assistance I'm able to provide, as well as the chance to connect with another human being about things that can feel frustrating and inaccessible but are so deeply crucial to the health of our democracy.

For example, when it recently became clear that PBS was facing devastating budget cuts, several people reached out looking for names and phone numbers of people to call to express their outrage and concern. I've also connected people to their city council members, assemblymembers, and other local representatives when they reach out looking for resources for themselves or their community.

A call from October 2024: Geraldine was born in 1943, has never voted, but this year she decided it was time. She told me she was embarrassed that she didn't know how it would



work, and her husband was in a wheelchair, but they both really wanted to go to the polls on election day and wanted to make sure they were registered. I helped her confirm her registration and find her poll site.

In May, a man called who had recently become a naturalized citizen and was looking to educate himself about civics and the government process.

He'd never done any civic participation before—never even voted where he was from! He initially called me looking for more information about what the "District Leader" line on his primary ballot meant (which I think was confusing for even the most well-informed of our ranks!). We ended up having a fantastic conversation about the election process, the importance of civic engagement, and how eager he was to understand the system of government he'd recently become part of. I was able to share so many fantastic resources with him, like our virtual trainings on *What Makes NYC Run?* and *The Three Pillars of Civic Engagement*, our incredible flyers on Ranked Choice Voting and *Who Makes NYC Run*, as well as *Who Represents Me?*—our regularly updated searchable database of every elected official representing New Yorkers. He was engaged, curious, and incredibly grateful that the League had so many ready-made resources for a first-time voter.

Just this week I was delighted by a gentleman who ended our call by saying, "be silly, be happy, laugh often," after I helped him request absentee ballots for himself and his husband. It's small moments of humanity and connection like this, reminders to be joyful and thankful for the small ways we can make life easier for others, that can make running the League hotline so rewarding.



Still Believing

By Suzanne Surbeck,
LWN NYC Volunteer

In the early 1970s, as public broadcasting began facing attacks from right-wing groups, I remember watching the PBS Channel 13 pledge drives. Volunteers sat by the phones, answering calls and taking donations. These weren't billionaire-sized contributions—often just nickels and dimes—but every bit mattered. What truly kept Channel 13 strong was the commitment of its volunteers, who believed in the value of free, high-quality programming and its contribution to New York's cultural life.

Today, the League of Women Voters of New York City depends on that same spirit of service. At a time when nonpartisan institutions are under increasing attack, our volunteers stand on the front lines of democracy. Whether in neighborhood libraries, on the waterfront at Governors Island, or at countless community events, League volunteers provide trusted, nonpartisan information and help New Yorkers make their voices heard at the ballot box.

From answering phones in a TV studio to staffing tables on Governors Island, the settings may have changed, but the purpose has not. Volunteers remain at the heart of protecting what belongs to all of us—public resources, trusted institutions, and the belief that an engaged community can keep them strong.

New Advisory Board Member



We are delighted to welcome to the League's Advisory Board, **Janice Brunner**, Group General Counsel and Head of Civic Engagement at Travelers, and Creator of the Citizen Travelers Program.

The League's Advisory Board has provided advice, guidance and connections for the League for the past 45 years. Members include

leaders in the city's business, media, education, and non-profit sectors.

Many of you may recall that Janice and her work creating and leading the Citizen Travelers Program earned one of the Civic Engagement Awards at the League's March 2025 Tribute event. The Citizen Travelers Program was launched in 2021 to create a community of good citizens. Its vision is that strong civic engagement is essential to a durable and stable democracy. Since its inception, the resolutely nonpartisan program has empowered Travelers' employees, agents, brokers, and retirees to translate their passion for democracy into impactful civic participation.

Janice Brunner developed and launched this program, and under her leadership this initiative has continued to provide interactive resources, virtual and in-person educational programming, and volunteer and networking opportunities to encourage participants to play an active role in the civic life of their communities. Recently, Citizen Travelers published its *Citizen Travelers Playbook*, a how-to guide to help other business leaders foster a culture of civic engagement within their organizations through unique and practical initiatives.

Prior to Travelers, Janice was a member of the Public Company Advisory Practice group at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP in New York City. In that role, she worked closely with Travelers as an outside legal adviser for many years. Janice also practiced at Davis Polk & Wardwell for over a decade, advising clients on capital markets, M&A, and credit transactions.

We look forward to having Janice's perspective on the Board, helping to expand the work that she and her colleagues have done at Citizen Travelers.

New Board Members

This summer we welcomed three new members to our Board of Directors. Here's a brief introduction to them.

Talia Miele

A CODA with a social worker mother, a politically conscious father, as well as a mixed status household in Santa Barbara, CA, Talia learned to live a life of service to others. It was inevitable that she'd earn a degree in social work, going on to work with diverse populations from survivors of domestic violence, to women's drug treatment, to child welfare, and others. Talia was drawn to the League because of her belief that voting is the foundation for all change. As a biracial, bicultural woman with a disability and chronic illness, Talia knows that representation matters and hopes to bring even more opportunities for diversity and inclusion to this historic chapter of the League.

Amanda Nietzel

Amanda is a longtime NYC resident with a passion for community. A member of the League of Women Voters, Amanda hopes to help share the power of voting through education and awareness initiatives. Her professional skills include editorial, leadership, project management, and technology development. She brings her empathetic nature to all her projects and collaborations.

Rebecca Reeve

Rebecca Reeve lives on the Upper West Side with her boyfriend and their two beagles, Harry and Hermione. A native of eastern Long Island, she was in Girl Scouts through high school and received a scholarship from her local League of Women Voters, which inspired her to join the NYC League after a period living in Washington, D.C. She enjoys weekends at the Met or Pier 1 Café, collects vintage Hermès scarves, and is slowly getting back into running after a five-year hiatus.

In Their Own Words: Excerpts from Summer 2025 Intern Reflections

By Diane Burrows, Talia Miele, and Katie Gobreski, LWWNYC Intern Leadership Team

This summer the LWWNYC College and High School Internship Program exceeded all our expectations. We had over 15 actively engaged students working for 11 weeks on a wide variety of projects, with over 18 League and partner organization leaders sharing their life stories and advocacy work. Here are some of their reflections in their own words:

"Erased Suffragists"

I returned to the Erased Suffragists project, which I first worked on in 2023, and researched and wrote biographies for Alva Vanderbilt Belmont and Katrina Ely Tiffany. I also took part in the interns-only summer book club, where we read *The Personal Librarian* by Heather Terrell and Victoria Christopher Murray. The book tells the story of Belle da Costa Greene, a pioneering librarian who concealed her racial identity to work in elite cultural spaces. Another project was creating a draft walking tour of New York City focused on sites connected to voting rights and civic life. I also began brainstorming ideas for affordable, reusable League-branded merchandise that would make volunteers more visible at events. — **Leanne Delay, University of Notre Dame**

"... a more diverse League"

At a voter registration event, I met a woman who had suffered domestic abuse and left her place of residence and was interested in finding out how to change her address so she could still vote in the mayoral primaries. I created an email template that future interns could use to email diverse organizations to ensure a more diverse League. Additionally, I formed a list of "affinity" themed months that future interns could refer to in order to locate organizations who represented these diverse groups, and with whom the League could collaborate. This project was immensely important to me while at the League, because I saw the unfortunate lack of diversity in the membership, compared to the diverse individuals the League serves. I, along with many other interns, saw the potential of the League in recruiting these diverse

individuals to be members. Taking the lead on getting this idea off the ground remains one of the most meaningful works I did this summer. — **Kailyn Ortiz, Tufts University**

"...this was one of those moments which re-opened my eyes..."

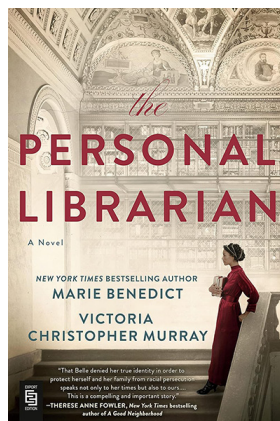
I helped staff the Voter Hotline, contributed to the Constitution Day, ASL, Erased Suffragists book, and Legacy Interview projects; I tabled at the Disabilities Unite Fair, and went to the Good Trouble Rally with fellow intern Bella (we hung out with Cathy Gray all evening—it was great).



Belle da Costa Greene

These experiences pushed me to develop confidence in public-facing roles and gave depth to my understanding of civic engagement and its intersectionalities, not only with my degree but in all aspects of life. At the Annual Meeting, I met Kathy Collins who showed me firsthand how "accessible" infrastructure in NYC often fails in practice. From bathroom stalls that only open inward to a ramp ending abruptly at a stone wall, her concerns highlighted how environments exclude: public spaces are often designed with

the standard as able-bodied. This was one of those moments which opened my eyes to the everyday barriers others face that I have had the privilege not to notice. When she attended our weekly meeting about a month later, I was glad to see a familiar face—and was consequently really moved by her story. — **Emma Le Breton, University of Edinburgh**



"Within the first few weeks of working at the League, I was travelling all around the city."

Within the first few weeks of working at the League, I was travelling all around the city. I went with Diane Burrows to Brooklyn and the Lower East Side to assist in giving presentations about ranked choice voting and the importance of being an active member in one's community. I traveled to Morningside Heights and Midtown to help NYC residents register to vote. As Chair of the

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Intern Corner

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Grant Support Committee, I coordinated efforts to create and write grant proposals. As a member of the Book Club, I read *The Personal Librarian*. With the other interns on a variety of committees, I contributed to diversifying the League's volunteer base, wrote a piece on Margaret Murray Washington for the Erased Suffragists book, updated the locations and dates of city events, researched other Leagues' platforms and synthesized their environmental policy standpoints into a presentation for the City Affairs Committee. — **Lea Mastorakis, Duke University**

"I hoped to use my talents to make a change, even if only miniscule."

When looking for an internship I knew I didn't want to work in a place where I was tasked with endless busy work or surrounded by other young, intelligent minds looking for just another update for their LinkedIn profiles. Instead, I hoped to use my talents to make a change, even if only miniscule. I found exactly what I was looking for and so much more. I took part in many projects within my time at the League, but I would have to say my favorite was writing the grant proposal for the Erased Suffragist book. Getting to be involved in each step of the process was very fulfilling—from finding grants to apply for to writing the proposals, I always felt included. I also helped with finding diverse volunteers, charter revision housing research, finding schools for Constitution Day collaborations, and the Erased Suffragists book. — **Brooke Johnson, Manhattan University**

"This project emphasized how diversity strengthens civic institutions..."

One of my key projects was the Erased Suffragist Project, where I worked with Cathy Gray to research Jovita Idar, a Mexican-American journalist, activist, and suffragist. My second project focused on recruiting diverse volunteers. I researched and reached out to organizations that serve underrepresented communities with the goal of building more inclusive volunteer pipelines for the League. This project emphasized how diversity strengthens civic institutions by bringing a range of lived experiences and perspectives to the table. It also helped me develop my outreach and communication skills, which are



Jovita Idar

valuable tools for any future civic or community work. Lastly, I contributed to the Charter Revision Housing Project by conducting in-depth research on the ballot proposal to create a digital City Map. This process introduced me to the importance of voter education and clear ballot language, as well as how even seemingly technical proposals can have far-reaching implications for equity and access in city planning. — **Natalie Grace, Boston College**

"When you uplift minority communities...real progress can be made."

When I volunteered at NYC Civics Day I was so impressed by the passion of the young residents of NYC, who presented really important issues facing their community. I was also overwhelmed at their reactions to their hard work being rewarded at the end of the day. When you uplift minority communities who have important issues to speak on, real progress can be made. The issues their communities face are then presented to a larger stage. The young people at this event spoke so eloquently and I am so grateful to the League for introducing me to people I otherwise may not have interacted with. The crowning experience, however, of my internship with the League, was the trip to Albany for the LWW New York State Conference. Not only was this a great opportunity to truly understand what the League does—on both a state and national level—but to see the inner-workings of this organization in action was something of a show (and arguably a much more engaging educational experience than some of my college lectures). — **Poorvi Sarkar, Smith College**

"... I noticed those who can't vote showed more interest than some of the detainees who have the privilege to vote."

The League's involvement in reaching those who are unaware of the democratic process pushed me to participate in protests and join League members registering voters at Rikers Island. This experience helped me recognize how lucky I am to have this knowledge presented to me. It also was a reminder that I have the time, the privilege to vote, and resources to get involved. Through this internship I was able to help register around fifty voters on my first trip to Rikers Island and thirty more on my second trip. Some who couldn't vote were curious about the process and asked me questions in Spanish. Based on my experience at Rikers Island, I noticed those who can't vote showed more interest than some of the detainees who have

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Intern Corner

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the privilege to vote. Until next summer when I can hopefully intern for the League again, and utilizing newfound knowledge from both my experience in the League and at Rikers Island, I plan to join civically engaged groups on campus and inform those around me who can't vote about other ways they could be civically engaged, such as voting in The People's Money.

– **Emely Rojas, CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

“...civic engagement isn't just helping out your community...”

From my time at the League, I learned many different things, like the importance of networking and keeping up with peers and mentors to help me further down the road, but I also learned information on what the New York Impact on Issues statement covers as well as how nuclear waste is able to be recycled into usable nuclear power. My experience impacted my understanding of civic engagement by teaching me that civic engagement isn't just helping out your community or doing service for them, but also learning from them and using that knowledge to make a difference. I think that I learned so much from my time with the League and I will definitely use what I learned from this experience throughout my life.

– **Madeleine Biscardi, Horace Mann High School**

“Tangible change is orchestrated through hours of planning...”

Having had the opportunity to meet and listen to the many speakers who visited our seminars, I noticed a pattern. Each person recognized a change they wanted to see—whether within smaller communities or larger-scale governments—and then dove deeper into that cause by listening to those actually being impacted. Changing organ donation laws, initiating comic books in prisons, amplifying women's sports—each initiative began with understanding the communities most affected by the issue. This, in my opinion, speaks to the necessity of empathy and sensitivity within civic engagement. However, as we learned over the past few months, listening and talking isn't enough. Tangible change is orchestrated through hours of planning and often through uncomfortable conversations. Asking for funding or support from companies and individuals takes confidence and a deep, devoted belief in the cause one is fighting for. So much of civic engagement arises from the work of non-profits (such as the League) and relies on networks of other organizations to further their missions. Convincing others to believe in your cause is not an easy task—it is a skill I saw modeled by many of our speakers, and one I hope to emulate. – **Mia DePaolo, Duke University**



LWVNYC Committee Updates

Many of the LWVNYC Committees have spent the summer recharging and preparing for what's to come this Fall and Winter. Please check out the Upcoming Events on our back page or visit lwnyc.org for more information on our committees and learn how to get involved.

CITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

By Susie Gomes, Chair

cityaffairs@lwnyc.org

The City Affairs Committee has had a quiet spring and summer. This coincides with a quiet City Council during this period, along with an active campaign for the 2025 local elections: Council Members are limited by law in the interactions with their public agendas coupled with their busy campaign schedules.

We did have a very successful run at helping populate the League's Vote411 website prior to the June primary. Our legion of committee volunteers worked extremely hard reaching out to all of the candidates running for office: Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough President (Manhattan and the Bronx), District Attorney (Manhattan), and City Council.

This outreach began with an email to all those who were running: 10 mayoral, 7 borough president, 6 comptroller, 2 public advocate, 2 DA and 102 city council contenders. This email was followed by additional emails and phone calls asking them to please respond to our questionnaire.

This questionnaire is vital to help New Yorkers using our Vote411 site to know not only WHO is on their ballot, but WHAT the candidate stands for and his/her goals for office. The results were well worth our efforts! In past years, our response rate to these inquiries was somewhere around 15%. This year, with our concerted efforts, we reached above 40%, helping NYers make better, more informed choices at the ballot box. Well done team!

In July, we also had a joint meeting with the Voter Reform Committee. We briefly discussed the final report from the 2nd Mayoral Charter Commission and its expected five ballot props for the November general election. You will hear more about them elsewhere but four were dedicated to housing reforms

in the city, and the final one recommended that local elections be held in presidential election years. Stay tuned for more information on these important propositions.

At that meeting we also heard from our dedicated interns who spent much of the summer researching other major city League positions from around the country. After their research, they applied what they learned and made recommendations for our League and for our fair city. All of this work fell into four major categories: housing, policing and racial justice, environment, education, and budgeting.

The League Board will have more to say going forward on these topics, but the City Affairs Committee has set its sights on the budgeting process and trying to support/influence more/better mental health in schools.

VOTING REFORM COMMITTEE

By Bella Wong, Chair

voting.reform@lwnyc.org

The Voting Reform committee has had a busy summer, focused on two prongs of work. First, members testified before the Charter Revision Commission on issues such as the timing of local elections and open primaries in local elections. This fall, we plan to advocate in favor of Ballot Question 6, to move local elections to Presidential years, in anticipation of large effective increases in voter turnout for city elections.

Second, members have continued meeting with our New York City-based members of Congress, including Representatives Dan Goldman and Jerry Nadler, to discuss the Trump Administration's continued attacks on our constitutional rights and disastrous budget impact on New Yorkers. To join the League in these advocacy efforts, please reach out to voting.reform@lwnyc.org to find out how you can participate.

Upcoming Events

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

CONSTITUTION DAY 2025

Visit www.LWVnyc.org/ConstitutionDay to learn more & to volunteer

ELECTIONS IN NYC THIS FALL

General Election Early Voting: Oct. 25 – Nov 2

General Election Day: Nov 4

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

- City Affairs Committee: Contact cityaffairs@lwnyc.org
- Committee for Criminal Justice Reform:
Contact lindsey.reynolds@live.law.cuny.edu
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee: Contact dei@lwnyc.org
- Education Committee: Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm.
Contact education@lwnyc.org for more information
- Housing Committee: Contact president@lwnyc.org
- Lunch with the League Committee: Contact office@lwnyc.org
- Transportation Committee: Contact transportation@lwnyc.org
- Voter & Information Services Committee: Contact voter.services@lwnyc.org
- Voting Reform Committee: Contact voting.reform@lwnyc.org

• DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT •

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