

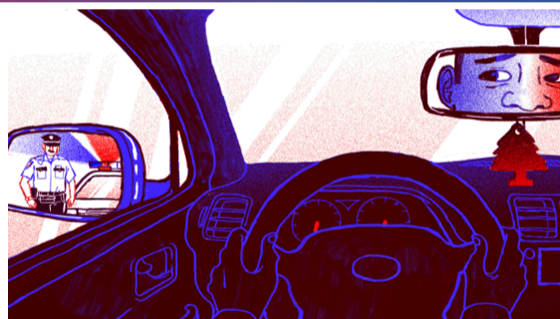
TheVOTER



Racial Disparities in Low-Level, Non-Safety Traffic Stops

Panel Discussion of the Problem
and Proposed Solutions

November 20, 2024, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Via ZOOM. Register using link.



Presented by
Empire Justice Center
Making the law work for all New Yorkers

Co-sponsored by
LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
ROCHESTER METRO AREA

[Register for the Zoom Webinar](#)

Children's Illustrated Books About Voting

From the New York Times, Nov 3, 2024

Leo's First Vote, by Christina Soontornvat
Ages 4 - 8

Thank You For Voting by Erin Geiger Smith
Ages 8 - 12

Rock That Vote by Meg Flemming
Ages 4 - 8

I Voted by Mark Shulman
Ages 4 - 8

How Women Won the Vote
by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
Ages 8 - 12

The Day Madear Voted by Wade Hudson
Ages 3 - 7

The Next President, by Kate Messner
Ages 8 - 12

*Represent: The Unfinished Fight for the
Vote*, by Michael Eric Dyson & Marc
Favréau
Ages 12+ (Review on P 8)

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Basking in 100 Years of LWV-RMA

I've done a lot of new things this year, many of them in my capacity with the League. For example, I've never planned a 100th anniversary before, for anything. Clearly, we needed a big public event to celebrate our history. I get anxious planning big events. It's hard to order supplies when the turnout could vary from a couple of dozen to hundreds.

The great thing is that we're not alone. We have a lot of partners that we work with every year to get out the vote. As we did last year, we began planning with our partners at SEIU and RocACTS, and over time brought in a slew of others, including the Greek letter sororities, the Urban League, the NAACP, the Rochester Black Nurses Association and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. There's a lot I don't know about our own history, but I'm pretty sure 100 years ago those groups might not have been our natural collaborators. We persist and we change.

The planning team was big and individuals popped in and out, ideas were thrown around and considered, and we lived with uncertainty. In the end, parts of the planned program evaporated. But through it all, the League showed up, and at the event we showed up. We are a central player in the effort to get marginal voters out of their houses to vote. I don't think we've made the kind of progress that you brag about, but we keep showing up, and that's a tradition worth celebrating. And it was great to have a proclamation from Mayor Evans and County Executive Bello to recognize a hundred years of showing up.

We managed to register a few first-time voters and get them on the shuttle bus to go over to the Board of Elections (BOE) to vote. That's never been possible before this year, and reflects years of lobbying and advocacy success. We had some great entertainment and some food that tasted great on a cool fall day. We had the marching band I've been craving for years, and a mock election for the kids. There was plenty of time to hang out, network, and chat with the team that made the event possible. Though we haven't worked with these particular partners on promoting Prop. 1, I got a lot of thanks for our work on that. It was a good day.

One of my favorite moments came at the end. How to get those door-hangers into the hands of voters? Our friends from the SEIU, who do a lot of door-to-door canvassing were happy to take them off our hands for distribution in our mutual goal of getting out the vote. That's something to be happy with at 100 years: a good party with our good friends, working together to get Monroe County to the polls.

Barbara Grosh

president@lwv-rma.org

The Winner of our "I Voted" Sticker Contest

We received 23 creative and wide-ranging submissions to our first-ever sticker contest. Our panel chose the six finalists.

Hundreds of members of the public used ranked-choice voting to select the winners.

The first-place winning sticker was submitted by Diana Julian. It was distributed on October 26 at the League of Women Voters Day event.

They will be showing up at various locations like the Monroe Community College (MCC) mock elections as long as supplies last.





City of Rochester • County of Monroe

Proclamation

By these Presents, Greetings:

WHEREAS: The League of Women Voters was founded in Chicago following the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920 to help women understand and fulfill their new responsibilities as voters; and

WHEREAS: For 100 years, the League of Women Voters in the Rochester Metropolitan Area has empowered voters and defended democracy, establishing itself as a trusted, nonpartisan grassroots organization; and

WHEREAS: The League has championed legislation and fought in courts to protect and strengthen voting rights, ensuring access to free and fair elections and civil rights, and promoting a political system where all citizens can thrive; and

WHEREAS: The League has been recognized for its nonpartisan election information, sponsoring candidate forums, and providing voter guides and vital resources on state and local ballot issues, while educating and mobilizing voters; and

WHEREAS: The League continues to advocate for open, transparent, inclusive, and equitable government systems, believing that active, engaged citizens – regardless of gender, race, national origin, disability, or political affiliation – are essential to democracy; and

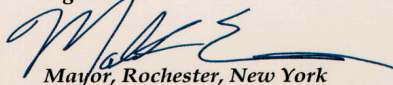
WHEREAS: On October 26, 2024, the League of Women Voters in Rochester, in partnership with other community organizations, will celebrate “Golden Day,” a day when citizens can both register to vote and cast their ballots, marking a century of dedication to voter education and civic engagement.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, Malik D. Evans, Mayor of the City of Rochester, New York and Adam J. Bello, Monroe County Executive, do hereby proclaim October 26, 2024 to honor and celebrate:

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IN ROCHESTER

In Witness Whereof, We Have hereunto set our hands on this Twenty-Sixth day of October in the year 2024.

Signed:


Mayor, Rochester, New York


Monroe County Executive

Celebrating 100 Years of LWV-RMA and Early Voting



Top Row: Frederick Douglass pays a visit; Barbara Grosh accepts our Proclamation from Mayor Evans; cyclists prepare to ride to the BOE to vote; band entertains attendees.

Bottom: Attendees prepare to march to BOE to vote; A new voter completes his registration form; the Health Education Program of the SIEU; A young man exercises his right to vote for ice cream.

Providing Voting information at the Rochester Regional Transit Center

The LWV-RMA is always looking for creative ways to spread information about elections. This year we provided information on Vote411 to people waiting for buses at the Regional Transit Center.



Racial Disparities in Low-Level, Non-Safety Traffic Stops – The Problem and Proposed Solutions

Study after study demonstrates that there are racial disparities in who is stopped and searched based on low-level, non-safety traffic violations. These stops, which do not enhance public or road safety, cause harm to Black and brown individuals and communities in which there are many Black and brown residents. Empire Justice Center, a not-for-profit legal services organization, is focusing on how to change traffic enforcement to end these racial disparities. Join us to learn about legislative and policy solutions, and how you can help. Panel members:

- Katie Blum, Esq., Managing Attorney of the Civil Rights Practice Group, Empire Justice Center
- Alex Dery Snider, Director of Policy and Communications, Empire Justice Center
- Jill Paperno, Esq., Chief Strategy Officer, Empire Justice Center

[Here's a link to a recent news article about how this issue is being discussed in Rochester.](#)

November 20, 2024, 7:00 - 8:00 PM

[Click here to register for the Zoom Webinar](#)



October Voter Services Update

The demand for voter registration events continues to be brisk as we approach November 5th.

See page 6 for a list of recent events and the volunteers that made them possible. We are also grateful to our always gracious and supportive volunteer coordinator, Kim Byers, without whom we could not have organized so many events.

A new on-going project is registering voters at the Community Connections Desk at the Hall of Justice. Thank you to Carolyn O'Neill and Beverly Pringle for helping out at the last minute.

The *Who Represents You* brochure is no longer available in print; therefore a palm card with a QR code for that information has been created. One advantage to the online resource is that it will help keep up with changes during the year.

New forms and information sheets have been added to our tabling materials, including requests for mail-in and absentee ballots and election information from the Board of Elections.

Door hangers were created and distributed by various groups. A poster was developed for placement in various locations, including libraries, recreation centers and laundromats.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made our efforts to register and get voters to the polls possible.

Submitted by Cathy Kane and Deborah Gordon

Recent Voter Services Events

Thank you to all those who participated to make this a success.

	Event/Location	Volunteers
Aug 3	Jordan Health Front Porch Festival	Deb Gordon, Margret Roberts, Barbara Brody, Patricia Willis
Aug 14	Health Fair & Music Festival at Asbury First Community Outreach Center	Cathy Kane, Pamela Watson-Breedlove, Barbara Grosh
Aug 17	Clarissa Street Reunion	Cathy Kane, Barbara Murphy, Amy Gartenberg, Jo Ann Kane-DeMott, Amy Stockwell, Kim Byers, Patricia Willis, Mark Hopkins
Aug 17	South Wedge Festival	Deb Gordon, Marguerite Bird, Barbara Greene, Gina Hurley, Phyllis Tierney
Aug 18	19 th Amendment 104 th Anniversary Celebration	Deb Gordon, Marilyn Rosen, Jo Ann Kane-Demott, Patricia Willis, Amy Stockwell, Anjula Batra
Aug 22	Project TIPS-Improving Communication Between Law Enforcement and the Community	Cathy Kane, Beth Feldman, Marianne Gocker, Elaine Schmidt
Sept 14	"A Call to Women of Color" Social Gathering	Deb Gordon, Terri Parthum, Barbara Staropoli, Susan Touhsaent, Carolyn O'Neil, Michele Coxander
Sept 15	Reaching Citizens Through Partnership with Lux Cosmetics	Deb Gordon, Kathleen Murphy, Evelyn Jennings, Martha Pradhan
Sept 17	Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County	Craig Sellers, Katherine Smith, Margaret Supenski, Barbara Murphy
Sept 17	Gates BigM National Voter Registration Day	Deb Gordon, Terri Parthum, Kim Byers,
Sept 20	RIT's Fall 2024 Community Fair	Cathy Kane, Marianne Gocker
Sept 22	Wilmot Cancer Center's Warrior Walk	Marianne Gocker, Evelyn Jennings, Kathleen Beabout, Carolyn O'Neil, Martha Pradhan, Judie Fay
Sept 30	House of Mercy	David Newman, Susan Markel, Marianne Gocker, Patricia Partridge
Oct 3	Sully Branch Library	Cathy Kane, Yvonne Wilson, Karen Funk
Oct 4	Islamic Center	Donna Strutynski, Laurene Jennings
Oct 5	Henrietta Library	Rosemarie Burke, Evelyn Jennings, David Newman, Linda Lowenstein
Oct 5	RIT Multicultural Greek Council Mobilization Conference for Students	Cathy Kane, Laurene Jennings, Katherine Smith, Laurie Kash, Patricia Willis
Oct 8	Castle Pointe at Baywinde	Cathy Kane, Barbara Murphy, Mary Micket
Oct 9	Sage Harbor at Baywinde	Deb Gordon, Sally Combs, Craig Sellers
Oct 11	Meadow Reserve Low-Income Apartment Complex	Cathy Kane, Patricia Willis, Cindy Fleischer
Oct 17	Pinnacle Place Apartments	Patricia Willis, Beth Feldman
Oct 19	TRU Yoga Studio Opening	Margret Roberts, Anita Hawkins
Oct 26	LWV-RMA 100 th year celebration	Cathy Kane, Carolyn O'Neil, Howard Clark, Barbara Murphy, Marla Miller, Linda Clark, Evelyn Jennings, Barbara Staropoli
Oct 27	Halloween at the Public Market	Deb Gordon, Patricia Willis, Barbara Brody, Karen Morris

Campus Connections

Theresa "Tess" McFarland-Porter and the Voter Services Team continue to build relationships for LWV-RMA with the local school campuses. During October they:

- Joined Rochester Institute of Technology's Roar the Vote registration table on National Voter Registration Day
- Spoke at an event organized by SUNY Geneseo's Election Preparedness Task Force for the Geneseo community, sharing the stage with Allison Hinman from the Susan B. Anthony Museum and House
- Offered an interactive presentation for about 15 energetic students at the invitation of SUNY Brockport Student Union Leadership and Activities (SULA)
- Met with students seeking volunteer opportunities at RIT's Community Service Fair
- Participated in a Voter Mobilization Conference for RIT and U of R students
- Contributed to a Civic Engagement Exposition at Nazareth
- Assisted the Monroe Community College Student Government Association

These efforts not only support the League's mission of educating voters but hopefully will drive awareness and interest in LWV-RMA among potential members. If you would like to join Tess in these efforts, please contact her at 333tess@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed for New LWV-RMA Endeavor

In the October issue of *The Voter* we announced that the LWVUS and the Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) are teaming up to build civic engagement in girls of courage, confidence, and character.

This is a great opportunity for LWV-RMA to help educate future voters and encourage future membership in our organization. We need a core group of members to work with the local Girl Scout leadership to organize and maintain the collaboration.

One idea would be to use the VOTER Girl Project developed and licensed by the LWV-Kent Ohio.

WHAT IS THE VOTER GIRL PROJECT? (from the LWV-Kent Ohio Voter)

"[It] is a fun and rewarding activity in which Leagues collaborate with their local Girl Scout councils. The one-day class is available for all scout levels--from Daisies to Ambassadors--with a curriculum appropriate for each level.

League members use their knowledge of voting and advocacy to help scouts earn citizenship badges that promote the ideals Leagues cherish. A curriculum guide has been developed by teachers and communicators with backgrounds in diversity and elementary and higher education. You receive marketing materials and operation tips that have been tested.

Best of all, scouts bring to the event their curiosity and determination to learn. Your League develops a high-profile community event that draws interest from media, parents and public officials."

The program can be whatever the LWV-RMA volunteers and the local Girl Scout Leaders involved want to make it.

Please consider volunteering to participate in this exciting new endeavor for LWV-RMA. Contact Theresa McFarland-Porter at 333tess@gmail.com with questions and/or to volunteer.

Naturalization Ceremonies

On September 17th at SUNY Brockport, 94 candidates became naturalized American citizens. Marcia Eisenberg and David Newman talked with the new citizens about voting and helped them register to vote.

October 15 had two naturalization ceremonies. Thirty-one new citizens were sworn in at the Monroe County Office Building at 11:00 A.M. with League representatives Beth Feldman and Margret Roberts attending. The 2:00 P.M. ceremony was held at the Federal Building with Marcia Eisenberg and Margaret Supinski representing the League. Marian Paulson officiated at the ceremony with 43 candidates.

Are you interested in observing a ceremony? Please let Sheila Abeling know if you would like to attend a ceremony and possibly help to volunteer at future ceremonies. You can reach her at sheiler162007@gmail.com.

Submitted by Sheila Abeling



TOP: September 17 ceremony at SUNY Brockport and October 15 ceremony at Monroe County Office Building;

BOTTOM: October 15 ceremony at Federal Building.

Book Review

Represent: The Unfinished Fight for the Vote, by Michael Eric Dyson & Marc Favreau

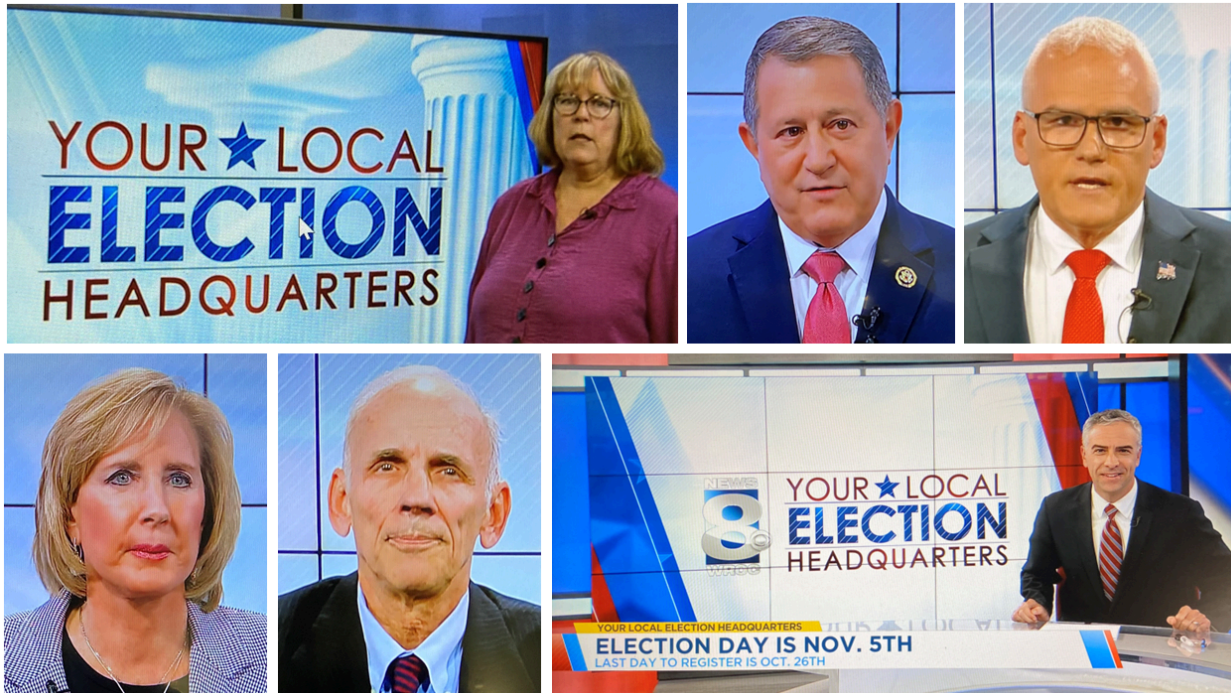
ISBN 978-2-759557062

Written for teens, *Represent* is a history of voting and voter restrictions starting with women's suffrage. Racial discrimination is documented from slavery, the Civil War and the Voting Rights Act to the Edmund Pettis Bridge, as well as by the inability of Native Americans to vote until recently and the Chinese Exclusion Act. Voting activists are profiled. The concluding chapters discuss gerrymandering and current efforts at voter suppression, and encourage activism with specific suggestions.

It is a very clear history and call to arms that is worth everyone's time.

– David Newman

LWV-RMA & WROC-TV8 Present Congressional Debates



LWV-RMA President Barbara Grosh welcomed viewers to both sessions; Congressional candidates US Representative Joseph Morelle and Gregg Sadwick debated on October 23; candidates US Representative Claudia Tenney and David Wagenhauser met on October 24; TV8 News anchor Adam Chodak moderated both sessions.

On two consecutive days, our League sponsored Congressional debates that were produced by WROC-TV8. The October 23 debate featured incumbent Congressman Joseph Morelle and his opponent Gregg Sadwick. The October 24 debate featured incumbent Congresswoman Claudia Tenney and her opponent David Wagenhauser. Moderator was Adam Chodak, WROC news anchor.

On October 21, Hailie Higgins of Channel 10 interviewed Barbara Grosh, Tess McFarland-Porter and Stephanie Watson about the LWV-RMA 100th Anniversary and the activities of the League today.



Calendar of LWV-RMA Activities

The best way to be informed about various League events is to use the on-line calendar.

You do not need to be a member or sign in to access the calendar.

The on-line calendar is updated frequently and is more current than a newsletter can be.

You can click on an event and obtain information and register.

You can see future (or past) months' activities by easily using the < > buttons

Access the Calendar [here](#).



Join First Friday for social time at I-Square in Irondequoit at 11:30 A.M. Come when you can, leave when you must.

There's no agenda but we talk about everything League and we have lots of political discussions. A lot of great ideas originate at First Fridays and a lot of work gets done.

LWV-RMA Book Club

The program for the remainder of the 2024-2025 season is:

Nov 21: *The Confidante* by Christopher Gorham

January 17: *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer

March 20: *Gallop Toward the Sun* by Peter Stark

May 15: *Art of Power* - new book by Nancy Pelosi

July 17: *Distorting Democracy* by Carolyn Renee Dupont

The Book Club is open to both members and non members.

Contact bookclub@lwv-rma.org if you wish to attend a future meeting.

Welcome to the newest LWV-RMA members:

Alyce VanPatten
Deanna Vincent
Ruth Russell

Note to Readers:

This will be the last issue of the Voter for 2024.
Our first issue for 2025 will be issued in
mid-January 2025.

PO Box 10573
Rochester, NY 14610
585-262-3730

www.LWV-RMA.org

NEXT VOTER DEADLINE:
January 10, 2025

League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, Political organization which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

The League of Women Voters is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in principal and in practice.

League membership is open to any person who subscribes to the League's purposes and policies.

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Board of Directors:

President	Barbara Grosh (23-25)
Vice President	
Treasurer	Constance Flahive (23-25)
Secretary	Michele Coxander (24-25)
Director	Cathy Kane (24-26)
Director	Tess McFarland-Porter (23-25)
Director	Mary Micket (23-25)
Director	Deb Leary (24-26)
Director	Carolyn O'Neil (24-26)
Director	Karen Morris (24-26)

Committee Contacts

President: Barbara Grosh

President@LWV-RMA.org

Book Club: Judy Weinstein

bookclub@LWV-RMA.org

Communication/PR:

communications@LWV-RMA.org

Election Services / Naturalization: Shiela Abeling

Sheiler162007@gmail.com

Advocacy: Barb Murphy / Scott Forsythe

advocacy@LWV-RMA.org

Membership: Deb Leary

membership@LWV-RMA.org

Nominating: Mary Hussong-Kallen

nominations@LWV-RMA.org

Programs: Barbara Grosh

President@LWV-RMA.org

Vote411: Isobel Gillen

vote411@LWV-RMA.org

Voter Services: Deb Gordon / Cathy Kane

Voterservices@LWV-RMA.org

Join the League Today!



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ Email _____

Check Amount: _____

Membership Level: _____

Please send this form and your check payable to
League of Women Voters/RMA to:

LWV-RMA

PO Box 10573

Rochester, NY 14610

Or join us online at:

https://members.lwv-rma.org/members/newmem/new-mem-reg.php?org_id=LWVR

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Individual / Associate	\$75.00
Household	\$105.00
Susan B. Anthony / Frederick Douglas	\$150.00
Carrie Chapman Catt	\$200.00
Student (full or part time at accredited institution)	FREE
Low income, call office at 585-262-3730 or send email to info@lwv-rma.org	Sliding