

TheVOTER

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
ROCHESTER METRO AREA

Working to promote participation in 2026 Midterm Elections

Informing About Issues
Helping to Develop Voting Plans

Publicizing Vote 411

Hosting Candidate Debates



Get Out the Vote Posters

Strategically placed posters raise awareness and turnout for elections.

If you are willing to help distribute signs to various locations that have been identified, there are two ways to obtain the posters and a list of locations:

- Join us at First Friday on October 2 at I Square in Irondequoit - 400 Bakers Park, Rochester, NY 14617 between 11:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M.
- Email VoterServices@LWV-RMA.Org and pickup can be arranged

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President's Letter

The river is moving fast—this is the energy of our time. Change is inevitable, but **how** we change is our choice. As we navigate this historic moment together, we ground ourselves in clarity, purpose, and enduring hope.

Thank you to everyone who joined our Voter Outreach training on 9/19. Our Community Education Committee working with the Voter Services team did an exceptional job listening to community members and tailoring this session for the realities we share. Meanwhile, our Voter Services team has been working tirelessly to Get Out The Vote (GOTV) through tabling at festivals, community events, and neighborhood gatherings.

Behind the scenes, the Vote 411 committee is hard at work ensuring accurate resources are ready on [Vote 411](#) for registration, polling places, ballots, and candidate info. Mark your calendars for Candidate Forums running from late September through October, leading right up to early voting on October 24. Vote early—it's easy, secure, and convenient!

The Rochester Metro Area League is deeply committed to building sustainable, flexible structures to meet this moment. We are planning major website updates after the midterms, transitioning our Voter Services leadership, and improving how we communicate vital information to every member. Every committee is meeting these new horizons with resilience.

On a broader scale, LWVUS continues vital legal work to protect our right to vote; you can explore these ongoing actions at the [League's Legal Center](#). Additionally, LWVNY has been offering powerful trainings on *Defending a Democracy Under Siege* and *Election Protection*, empowering local Leagues to lead with confidence through the post-midterm climate.

As we transform, we are intentionally rethinking our structures to ensure our work remains both sustainable and impactful. This period of change invites us to look inward as much as outward. Cultivating calm and clarity within ourselves allows us to show up fully for the important work we do.

For over a century, the League has been a beacon of strength and persistence. We honor those who came before us by acting with the same steadiness, securing a stronger democracy for generations to come. Through our collective education and advocacy, we create a lasting impact. Take a moment to breathe and recognize your power: you are part of a dedicated community of millions working toward the day when every eligible citizen has full access to the ballot and exercises their right.

Gratefully,

– Julie Burns

president@LWV-RMA.org



Voting information at your fingertips:

Action	By When	Notes	Link & QR Code
Change of Address for Registration	Mon, Oct 19	BOE must receive it by 10/19	 https://www.monroecounty.gov/elections
Verify registration status and information	Mon, Oct 19	Deal with any issues while still time to correct	
Register online or by mail	Sat, Oct 24	BOE must receive it by 10/24	
Register in Person	Sat, Oct 24	Mon - Fri at BOE office OR Oct 24 th at any early voting site <u>where you can vote</u> at the same time	
Apply for Absentee or Vote by Mail Ballot	Sat, Oct 24	BOE must receive it by 10/24	See above link and QRC Code
Return Absentee / Mail-in Ballot by mail	Must be postmarked by Nov 3 and received by Nov 10 MAIL EARLY		
Return Absentee/Mail-in Ballot in person	Nov 3 – Election Day	Deliver to the BOE or put in box inside all election sites You do not need to wait in line - just ask to go in to drop it off	
Review your ballot and obtain candidate information	Before you vote	 https://Vote411.org	
In Person Early Voting	Sat ,Oct 24 thru Sat. Nov 1	See locations and hours here:  https://www.monroecounty.gov/elections-earlyvoting	
Election Day	Tues, Nov 3	6am until 9pm	

Voter Services Update

It's full steam ahead for the Voter Services team and volunteers as we get closer to Election Day.

The Supporting Families Together Health Fair was held at Parcel 5 on September 3. The Fair involves numerous vendors helping families living at and below the poverty line. We offered voter registration and distributed voting-related information.

September 15 was National Voter Registration Day, a nonpartisan civic holiday dedicated to celebrating our democracy. We joined in the celebration by tabling at the Central Library on South Avenue.

We offered our services at a new venue in September: Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS) on the Al Sigl campus. This Rochester Regional Health service is a comprehensive recovery-oriented program for adults with severe and persistent mental illness. Several employees and clients registered to vote and the registration status for many others was confirmed.

NAZFest was an event-packed weekend in September that celebrated Nazareth University and showcased their offerings. On Saturday, we joined a large group of vendors of all types, food trucks, and musicians to offer voter services outdoors. A common concern for students is how to vote now that they have moved from their home county or state. We offered guidance regarding the alternatives, registered some students, and distributed **Vote411.org** information.

Voter Services volunteers tabled at The House of Mercy on September 25. This is a location we visit a few times a year; the social workers there are strong supporters of voter rights for their clients.

Our Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts included canvassing along with the Urban League on September 9 in the Northeast Quadrant Service Center neighborhood. On September 23, canvassing was in the neighborhood around the Ibero Community Resource Center on Clifford Avenue. There will be 2 events next month to close out the canvassing season. The distribution of door hangers for the upcoming election will be an important GOTV activity next month.

We thank the many volunteers who staffed tables in September. We cannot reach out to the communities we do without your help. At nearly every event this month, many people just stopped by our table to thank us for the work we are doing and to tell us how important our organization is. Hearing this is heartening and reinforces that we are doing important work to preserve our democratic rights.

We invite anyone interested to join us in our work and experience the feeling of knowing that you are making a difference. We have monthly meetings that are held via Zoom on the fourth Thursday of the month from 5:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. You can learn more about the meeting and our team by emailing VoterServices@LWV-RMA.Org.

Deborah Gordon and Cathy Kane



NAZFest volunteers Julie Damerell, Margaret Riemer and Marilyn Rosen. Volunteers not pictured: David Newman and Deb Gordon



Helping Voters Make their Plan to Vote

On Saturday, September 19, approximately thirty members and non-members gathered at the Irondequoit Library. The goal was to learn the tools and skills needed to feel comfortable helping people make their plan to vote.

Barbara Grosh reminded attendees that approximately 65% of Monroe County residents were registered to vote in 2022 but only 57% of those registered voted in the 2022 midterm elections. Approximately 51% of city residents are registered but only 40% of those registered voted.

When people approach a voting outreach table, “Are you registered?” generally gets a head nod or a glance away. But asking people “Are you ready for the election?” starts more conversations and lets people know that we can help them with more than registrations.

Barbara and others demonstrated conversations which overcame some of the common objections and concerns people have about voting and the attendees had an opportunity to practice dealing with those. The group also discussed the importance of helping people make a plan to vote.

The meeting also included time to socialize and a discussion about other LWV-RMA Get Out the Vote (GOTV) activities that require volunteers.

Submitted by Mary Micket



Candidate Forums

The LWV-RMA team has been working to arrange forums for any offices where there are at least two candidates willing to participate. As of September 27, the following forums have been confirmed:

October 1, Thursday: Pittsford Supervisor- 7:30 P.M.

in person at the Pittsford Library in Fisher Auditorium

October 5, Monday: Chili Supervisor- 6:00 P.M. via Zoom

October 6, Tuesday: Mendon Town Supervisor- 7:30 P.M. via Zoom

You can register for these on the [LWV Calendar](#).

In addition, the following forums are in the planning stages. However they have not been confirmed by the candidates. Therefore you should monitor the [LWV Calendar](#) to confirm the events and register.

October 1 - Thursday: Gates Supervisor – 6:00 P.M.

October 4 - Sunday: Parma Supervisor – 8:00 P.M.

October 5 - Monday: Chili Supervisor – 6:00 P.M.

October 5 - Monday: Webster Supervisor - 7:30 P.M.

October 6 - Tuesday: Mendon Supervisor - 7:30 P.M.

October 6 - Tuesday: Mendon Highway Superintendent – 6:00 P.M.

October 11 - Friday: State Assembly 134th District - 7:30 P.M.

October 20 - Sunday: State Senate 54th District – 7:30 P.M.

October 12 - Monday: State Assembly 135th District – 7:30 P.M.

October 13 - Tuesday: State Assembly 136th District – 7:00 P.M.

October 14 - Wednesday: State Assembly 137th District – 7:00 P.M.

October 14 - Wednesday: Greece Town Council for Ward 1, Ward 2, & Ward 3 – 7:00 P.M.

October 15 - Thursday: State Assembly 138th District – 7:00 P.M.

October 18 - Sunday: State Assembly 139th District – 7:00 P.M.

October 19 - Monday: State Assembly 130th District – 7:00 P.M.

October 22 - Wednesday: State Senate 56th District – 7:00 P.M.

Naturalization

On September 17, SUNY Brockport hosted a ceremony where the Honorable Mark Pedersen naturalized 16 candidates. Our LWV volunteer David Newman spoke to the candidates about the importance of voting, and 7 new citizens took the opportunity to register to vote.

Submitted by Margret Roberts



Judd Choate
Director of Elections
State of Colorado



Jennifer Morrell
CEO & Co-Founder
The Elections Group



Moderator:
Larry Jacobs
Director
Center for the Study of Politics and Governance
Humphrey School of Public Affairs

Are Fair Mid-Term Elections Possible in 2026?

During a Zoom session on September 17 entitled “Will There Be Fair Elections in 2026?”, a panel discussed the issues facing voters and election officials during the mid-term elections this fall. Those invited by the Center for the Study of Politics and Governance, Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, are listed here with some of the points they made:

Judd Choate, Director of Elections, State of Colorado – The recent SCOTUS decision regarding mail-in voting, allowing elections to proceed according to state law, provides some assurance regarding elections. In Colorado, 95% of voters use mail-in ballots, but most of them use drop boxes to return. Officials there anticipate earlier return of mail-in ballots due to controversy.

External threats from other nations are still an issue although new protections have been put in place; states are dealing with this issue because the federal government has not been helpful. Local county election officials are proceeding as always.

Voter intimidation efforts have so far been ineffective. Local law enforcement agencies are being contacted to intervene if federal officials attempt to interfere with voting. States have passed laws to prevent the use of AI to create deliberately inaccurate information about issues and candidates. Voters are much more aware of attempted manipulation.

Trey Grayson, Partner, Frost Brown Todd, Former Head of Elections in Kentucky - There are reasons for optimism but issues remain. Death threats are a new part of the election process as are attempts by the federal government to control the elections. Thorough training of poll workers is essential for coping with issues.

Jennifer Morrell, CEO & Co-Founder, The Elections Group - The 2026 elections are already underway. They are under control of the states, using approved systems as always. There is more collaboration among election jurisdictions now and a maturity in areas such as training, dealing with media, and infrastructure. It may be challenging to convince voters that the process can now be trusted.

States have been working without federal support to protect elections from cyber attacks. Most elections offices are understaffed which has interfered with solving some cybersecurity issues. Most states are planning for more early voting. Boards of elections and media are doing a better job of communicating with potential voters. Officials nationwide are training poll workers to deal with potential issues. The U.S. voting system is already built not to trust any one individual and to provide security to avoid misuse.

Continued on P. 8.

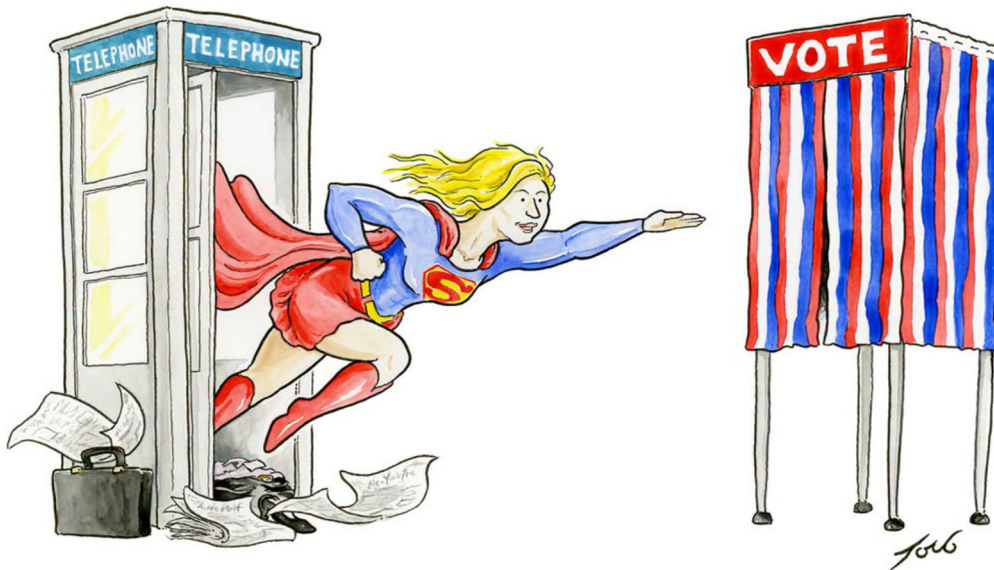
Are Fair Mid-Term Elections Possible in 2026? - Continued from P. 7

Norm Ornstein, Emeritus Scholar, American Enterprise Institute - Some people with malign intent may seek to create chaos and violence. Elections officials need to prepare for that as well. Most poll workers are underpaid or not paid but doing the work for right reasons but now election deniers are creating new issues including threats of violence. Optimum results would be land-slide results. It was helpful that courts have resisted attempts to involve the USPS and Department of Homeland Security in elections. Malign forces within the federal administration are seeking to create chaos so the federal government can step in. Foreign interference continues via social media, with groups such as Meta and X allowing such interference.

Larry Jacobs, Director, Center for the Study of Politics and Governance, UM – Safeguard American Voters Eligibility (SAVE) Legislation to require proof of citizenship has failed to date, as well as requests by the federal government for voting history of registered voters.

A recording of the event is available at z.umn.edu/FairElections26.

Submitted by Judy Wadsworth



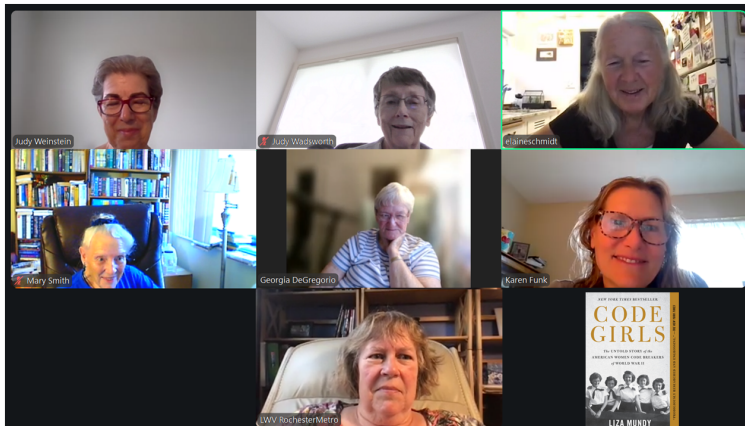
Outreach to New Americans (ONAC)

The ONAC group is gearing up to send postcard, text, and email reminders about the midterms to all New Americans naturalized in the past two years. Those reminders will be sent out the week of October 13. We tabled at Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Funds Day at Strong Hospital in September and we have three tabling events lined up for October.

If you are interested in helping in our outreach efforts please email

NewAmericansOutreach@LWV-RMA.org

Submitted by Evelyn Jennings



LWV-RMA Book Club

The LWV-RMA book group met on September 17 to review *Code Girls* by Liza Mundy, a book that introduces readers to the extensive role women played in breaking German and Japanese coded messages during WWII.

Next up is a discussion of *Is a River Alive?* by Robert Macfarlane on Thursday, November 19 at 4:30 P.M. via Zoom.

To learn more, or to participate in the Book Club, email bookclub@lwv-rma.org.

Submitted by Judy Wadsworth



NOKINGS.ORG NOKINGS.ORG NOKINGS.ORG NOKINGS.ORG NOKINGS.ORG

Saturday, October 17

10:00 A.M. -3P.M.

Stardust Ballroom at Edgerton Park

41 Backus St. Rochester, NY 14608

The Rochester No Kings Coalition is organizing a brief rally followed by direct outreach to voters where they are! Attendees will canvass neighborhoods to register voters and promote early voting, which begins October 24.

For event details and updates: <https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/1026185/>

Join First Friday for social time at I Square in Irondequoit - 400 Bakers Park, Rochester, NY 14617 – at 11:30 A.M. on the first Friday of each month.

We gather in the space behind the partition (look for our sign) for lunch and discussion. Come when you can, leave when you must. We share ideas for how the League can make democracy work and discuss the news to parse what it all means. It's always comforting to be surrounded by League friends who are committed to empowering voters and protecting democracy. Join the fun!

LWVNY Health Care Priorities

The LWVNY Health Care Committee met on August 31 and established a list of bills that are top priorities for the next legislative session.

Please note that the bills will all be re-numbered for next year; the 2026 numbers are included for reference so that one can look them up. To see the details of any bill before the NY Legislature go to <http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/navigate.cgi>.

A1466 / S3425 -NY Health Act Universal Health Care

This is the New York Equivalent of Medicare for All and would save millions while providing better coverage than almost all New Yorkers currently have. For more information see NYHCampaign.org. There will be events in Rochester related to the NY Health Act on October 17 in conjunction with No Kings Day.

S1634 / A1915A - Primary Care Investment

The bill mandates that health plans must spend 12.5% on primary care. Passed the senate in 2026.

A765 / S9893 - NYSIIS for Adults

This bill changes the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) to opt out for adults rather than opt-in, making the Immunization Registry effective for adults as well as children

A2561 - Doctors Across NY (DANY)

The bill would provide loan repayment support for doctors in underserved areas.

S614/Rivera A1008/Paulin

The bill would ensure presumptive eligibility for Medicaid for persons released from correctional facilities.

S.3486/A3862 - Hospital Policy Transparency

This requires hospitals to publicly state whether they do not perform standard medical procedures – like sterilizations, birth control, abortions, or medical aid in dying. Vetoes 2026

S6532 / A5928 - Dental Desert Relief Act

This bill would provide funding for dentists and hygienists in areas where there are none or few.

Submitted by David Newman



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www.LWV-RMA.org

The Voter is a monthly publication of the LWV-RMA.

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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, justice, 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.

Join the League Today!

Name: _____
Address: _____
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Please send this form and your check payable to the LWVUS to:

LWV-RMA,
PO Box 10573
Rochester, NY 14610

[Or join the LWV online by clicking here.](http://www.LWV-RMA.org)

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Dues are payable to LWVUS. The link on LWV-RMA.org will direct you to the LWVUS site. A portion of your dues will be distributed to LWV-RMA and LWVNYS.

Suggested dues are \$75, but you may choose any amount of \$20 or more.

Choosing more than \$75 allows LWV-RMA to fund programs while subsidizing membership for those who cannot afford the full \$75.