

# TheVOTER



See page 3 for more information.

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## Coming Soon! A New LWV-RMA Website: MemberLeap

Exciting news! LWV-RMA will soon have a new website and a new online system!

The new website will have info on how to register to vote, how to get to the polls, and how to be a better-informed voter. There will also be a new calendar displaying all of our League events (and even some other events we think might interest our members), and improved ways to join and donate.

Members will have access to a new online "Members Area" with a Member Dashboard that will allow them to:

- Renew and pay online
- Update profile information
- View billing and payment information
- Register for both volunteer and public events, and see current registrations
- Access a list of members (or easily opt out of having other members view your contact info)
- Shop for League merchandise

Members, look for an email soon announcing the website launch, which will contain your new username and password, with a welcome to a new and improved LWV-RMA website!

In August, those who will be posting information to the site, or developing reports from posted information, received an overview of the site and basic directions upload and download information.

Myra Pelz has spearheaded the move to consolidate our communications with our new system which will be accessed using our original URL: <http://www.lwv-rma.org/>.

**Myra Pelz**, LWV-RMA Vice President [myra.pelz@gmail.com](mailto:myra.pelz@gmail.com)



Several pages from our new website; the page at the bottom is the Member Dashboard page.



Seen at the August 23 training session are:

TOP ROW: Myra Pelz, Judy Weinstein, Barbara Grosh, and Linda Saalman.

BOTTOM ROW: Judy Wadsworth, Elaine Schmidt, Sarah Sandler, and Kim Byers.

Also attending but not seen onscreen were MemberLeap trainer Tom Bashore of Vieth Consulting as well as Directors Sarah Heisman and Mira Washington.

## Vote Yes for the Clean Water, Clean Air, And Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022

In 2019, New York enacted the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, which set ambitious deadlines for cutting New York's emissions of greenhouse gases. That law did not provide either money or regulatory frameworks to meet the targets it established. New York State lawmakers recently passed the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act, which, if approved by voters as Proposition 1 on November 8 will permit the state to issue \$4.2 billion worth of bonds which could be used toward meeting those goals. LWWNYS is a member of the coalition working for passage of this proposition.

The money raised under this bond act would be used for making environmental improvements that preserve, enhance, and restore New York's natural resources and reduce the impact of climate change by funding capital projects for: restoration and flood risk reduction; open space land conservation and recreation; climate change mitigation; and water quality improvement and resilient infrastructure.








### COMMUNITIES WILL USE FUNDS TO:

- Safeguard clean drinking water by preventing contamination, runoff, and pollution;
- Modernize infrastructure by updating roads, sewers, storm sewers, and drinking water pipes;
- Improve public health with electric school buses, more street trees, and lead-free drinking water;
- Expand renewable energy and increase energy efficiency in public buildings;
- Preserve farmland, reduce runoff, and protect lakes, rivers, and other wildlife habitats;
- Improve public health by expanding access to parks, natural areas, trails, campgrounds, nature centers, and public waterfronts that provide physical and mental health benefits;
- Fund community gardens, green roofs, and cooling centers that save lives during heat waves;
- Advance environmental justice by ensuring that 35-40% of the funding goes to community projects in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

To learn more, visit <https://voteyescleanwaterandjobs.com> or <https://www.elections.ny.gov/2022BallotProposal.html>.

PAID FOR BY VOTE YES FOR CLEAN WATER AND JOBS

## Top 5 Reasons to Vote Yes

 <p><b>CLEAN DRINKING WATER</b></p> <p>The Bond Act will protect clean drinking water, a priceless resource.</p>	 <p><b>MODERN INFRASTRUCTURE</b></p> <p>The measure will bring much-needed upgrades to outdated roads, sewer systems, and drinking water pipes.</p>	 <p><b>LOCAL JOBS</b></p> <p>The Bond Act will support nearly 100,000 good jobs.</p>	 <p><b>PUBLIC HEALTH</b></p> <p>The measure will add street trees, reduce lead exposure, increase energy efficiency, and improve air quality.</p>	 <p><b>WILDLIFE HABITAT</b></p> <p>The Bond Act will conserve wildlife habitats and increase access to parks, nature centers, campgrounds, and public waterfronts.</p>
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## Voter Registration Initiative in August - September

The LWV-RMA initiative to work with community groups to increase voter registration is continuing this fall. In August and September, we had representatives at nine events in our region and more are planned for October.

Thanks to all those who volunteered in August and September to meet with potential voters and encourage them to register: Deb Gordon, Karen Hagberg, Annette Hunt, Laurie Kash, Kathleen McGrail, Joan Luther, Lisa Colleen Moore, Karen Morris, Barbara Murphy, Katie Powell, Martha Pradhan, Margy Riemer, Joan Rosenthal, Elaine Schmidt, Judy Sternberg, and Margaret Supinski.

All LWV-RMA members are invited and encouraged to participate in voter registration activities. See what voter registration activities are planned for in October at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080948a4a722a7fc1-sept1>, and sign up to participate.



*TOP: Three views of August 24 UR Freshmen Orientation, including Elaine Schmidt (photos by Martha Pradhan); two views of August 27 RCSD School 54's Back to School Fair, including one of Jeanette Hunter from RocACTS (photos by Barbara Murphy).*

*ROW 2: At September 9-10 Clothesline Arts Festival -- Katie Powell, Joan Rosenthal, Barbara Murphy, and Milena Liccione; at the September 11 Wilmot Warriors Walk -- Karen Hagberg and Judy Sternberg; at the September 24-25 Naples Grape Festival -- Joan Luther and Lisa Colleen Moore.*



## Voter Services Gearing Up for Upcoming Election

Our mission statement, printed in every issue of the Voter, is "The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Since the earliest days of the League, two of the key components of implementing the bolded text of the mission statement are providing Voters' Guides and holding Candidate Forums.

### VOTERS' GUIDES:

Originally Voters' Guides were printed and often mailed to every household or distributed with newspapers, but now the League of Women Voters Education Fund sponsors Vote411, an interactive, community-specific online Voters' Guide. Voters can go to [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org) and after entering their address, they will see all the candidates and issues that will appear on their ballot. Candidates are given the opportunity to speak directly to voters in their own words on the issues voters care about.

We sent invitations to participate in Vote411 to all candidates in Monroe County for offices that are not state or national. LWVNYS has invited all candidates for state offices, U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives. We published the local races on September 23; LWVNYS plans to publish on October 1.

### CANDIDATE FORUMS:

We are excited to be returning to in-person Candidate Forums this year! We have invited candidates for the forums listed below. We hope that we get a good response. League policy prohibits us from having a candidate event unless there is more than one candidate for an office present.

LWV-RMA has several upcoming Candidate Forums:

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Monday, October 3     | 7:00 PM for CD25 co-sponsored with WROC-TV8 at the studio, broadcast live and live streamed                       |
| Thursday, October 6   | 7:00 PM, AD 135, Zoom   |
| Wednesday, October 12 | (starting time between 7:00 PM & 7:30 PM) SD55, Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word, 597 East Avenue, Rochester |
| Monday, October 24    | 7:00 PM, Monroe County LD8, Webster Public Library.   |

### VOLUNTEERS

The very good news is that we will have two in-person forums! However, that means we need volunteers to greet and direct the attendees, be the timer, hand out cards for attendees to write their questions and collect the cards, screen the questions for duplicates or inappropriateness. If you are able to help at either the October 12 or October 24 event, please let me know.

For the Zoom forum on October 6, staffing is easier - we need someone to serve as timekeeper.

### QUESTIONS NEEDED

For the other forums - Assembly, Senate, and County Legislature - we need questions. Please reply to this email with your suggestions.

### BE IN THE AUDIENCE

For the Congressional forum at Channel 8, we have a limited number of seats in the studio audience. If you are interested in attending, send an email to Barbara Grosh at [barbara@grosh.net](mailto:barbara@grosh.net).

Thanks for any help you can give!

**Judy Weinstein**, *Candidate Event Chair*

585.721.8515



## Naturalization Ceremonies

Margaret Supinski and Lois Winterkorn welcomed 57 candidates for naturalization on August 23. Judge James A. Vazzano officiated at the ceremony held at the Monroe County Office Building.

On September 8, Beth Feldman and Anita Hawkins represented LWV-RMA at the 11:00 A.M. naturalization ceremony held at the Genesee Country Village & Museum. After the ceremony presided over by the Hon. Mark Pedersen, they helped 50 new citizens register to vote.

Thank you, Margaret, Lois, Beth and Anita!!

**Sheila Abeling**

[sheiler162007@gmail.com](mailto:sheiler162007@gmail.com)



TOP ROW: August 23 naturalization ceremony at Monroe County Office Building.

BOTTOM ROW: September 8 naturalization ceremony at Genesee Country Village & Museum.

## Redistricting Team Update

September 18, 2022

### ALBANY & WASHINGTON

The district lines for NY Senate and Congress are now final, after being challenged in court and redrawn in May by a special master for NY Supreme Court. Separately, the court ruled that new district lines must be drawn for NY Assembly, to take effect for the 2024 election. This year, the Assembly will be elected using the district lines drawn by the NYS Legislature in February 2022.

### MONROE COUNTY

Here in Monroe County, the County Legislature's new Commission unveiled a proposed map, and held six listening sessions in early May. Attendance was light in comparison to the 2021 hearings. Since March 2022, comments emailed to the Commission have been withheld from the public.

Without explanation, the Commission stopped meeting after the six sessions were held. Nearly two months later (well past the 90-day period allowed by the county charter for the Commission to do its work), on June 30, they met again, to discuss a completely new map presented by Legislature President Sabrina LaMar. It was a contentious meeting, with a 3-2 vote (along partisan lines) to send the new proposal to the Commission's vendor for finalization.

Another two months passed without any public activity. In late August, yet another new map emerged, supposedly negotiated by an ad hoc panel of Republican and Democratic legislators. However, two of the three Democrats on the original panel denied that they'd agreed to the new map.

The newest map was okayed by the Commission on September 6 and submitted to the Legislature on September 13. The Legislature scheduled a hearing for September 28.

The new map appears to have the support of the GOP Caucus and one Democrat, enough for approval with 16 votes. The remaining 13 Democrats appear to be united in opposition to the new map.

At the heart of the disagreement among Democrats – whether to have six majority-minority city districts (two or three of them with Black majorities), or five majority-minority districts (all five with Black majorities). The proposal being considered is the five-district version. The 13 Democrats want six. Democrats suggest that if the new map is approved, they'll take action to undo it.

Do you have questions about redistricting? Or know somebody with a concern? Contact the League's Redistricting Team at [redistricting@lwv-rma.org](mailto:redistricting@lwv-rma.org)



## Voting Message Boards at Fire Stations

Look for voting information messages at the fire station at the corner of Dewey and Ridgeway Avenues. Thanks to Annette Hunt of the Voting Rights Task Force, we will have two message groups displayed:

### \*MESSAGES THROUGH OCTOBER 14:

1. Don't forget to register to vote by 10/14. Your voice can shape the future.
2. Text VOTENY to 474747 for voting information.

### \*MESSAGES FROM OCTOBER 29 TO NOVEMBER 6:

1. Go to [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org). Elect candidates who represent your beliefs.
2. Your vote can be cast at ANY Early Voting Location.

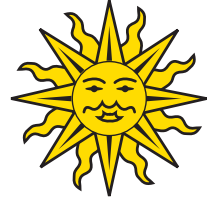
Plans are underway to contact other fire stations to expand the messaging.

Annette Hunt is a member of RocACTS and also a member of the Voting Rights Task Force (the collaboration between LWV-RMA and RocACTS). The signs were Annette's idea and she followed through with making it happen. Kim Byers of LWV-RMA suggested what the messages should say, with final approval by the task force. To learn more, contact Kim at [lwv.roc.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:lwv.roc.volunteer@gmail.com).



Seen are the voting messages being displayed through October 14 in front of the firehouse at the corner of Dewey and Ridgeway Avenues in Rochester.

## Sunshine Corner



### SUMMARY OF COMIDA MEETING

**AUGUST 16, 2022**

**OBSERVED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON**

A local labor monitoring report was given. From July 1 - 31, the residency of 469 workers was checked with 6 having a non-compliance issue. As of July 31, all monitored sites are in compliance. The percentage of local laborers at the Amazon Manitou site was 71.2%.

Four local labor waiver requests were discussed. Issues included a shortage of qualified workers and warranty requirements. The Board discussed the details and timing of bids and the need to institute an apprentice training requirement for projects having specialty warranty needs.

#### PROJECT APPLICATION REVIEW:

Requests for sales tax exemptions, recording tax exemptions and/or real property tax abatements were approved for Victory Express, Inc. for the construction of a 23,000 square foot building at 350 International Boulevard in Chili to house their trucking business.

Project Modifications:

The following modification requests were approved:

- Middle Road Properties, LLC for the assumption of the real property tax abatement for a medical campus in Henrietta;
- Unither Manufacturing, LLC for an increase in projects costs and extension of the sales tax exemption through June 30, 2023 for their project on Jefferson Road, Henrietta;
- Li-Cycle North American Hub, LLC for an extension of the mortgage recording tax exemption due to a change in financing for their project in Greece;
- SDS Medical Supply Corporation for an extension of their sales tax exemption through June 30, 2023 for their project in Henrietta.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

The Compliance Committee met on August 16. Monitoring of overdue project payments was discussed as well as a recommendation to approve two waiver requests. The Board approved the requests.

The Executive Director introduced Kereem Berry and Gerard Hunt of the Multi-craft Apprenticeship Preparation Program (MAPP). MAPP, Inc. is a partner of the Rochester Building and Construction Trades Council. The Council submitted a letter of support for MAPP's \$400,000 funding request. Information on MAPP's goals and programs was presented and details of the request and Board concerns discussed. The motion to approve the request was passed provided regular status reports are received enabling the Board to gauge program effectiveness.

A grant request made by The Fringe Festival for \$1000 was approved.

An executive session was called to discuss reorganization. The meeting was adjourned afterward.

This COMIDA meeting can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7HZy5Vc29E>.

## MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE MEETINGS

**AUGUST 9, 2022 MEETING**

**OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT**

There was an audio problem throughout the zoom recording of the August 9 Legislature meeting. There were several gaps in the recording.

#### PUBLIC FORUM

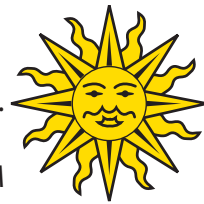
Several people spoke in support of Robert Fogg for MC Public Defender.

Several persons suggested creating public compost centers as a county response to climate change.

The Monroe County Department of Human Services has a high vacancy due to better salaries elsewhere.



## Sunshine Corner continued from page 8



\$1,000,000 was authorized to finance the cost of a multi modal freight initiative planning project. The plan is to distribute goods from maritime ports more efficiently.

The capital budget for Monroe Community College was approved. The college is building a STEM project to increase the number of technically trained individuals available for employment by local businesses.

### SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 MEETING

#### NOTE: SEVERE AUDIO PROBLEMS WITH ONLINE LEGISLATURE VIDEO.

At the request of a bipartisan majority of the County Legislature, a special meeting of the Legislature was held to introduce a new referral: Appointment of Julie A. Cianca as Public Defender and to commit it to the Public Safety Committee. Legislators voted unanimously to send it to the Public Safety Committee. That committee convened immediately to vote down Cianca and voice its support for Robert Fogg. The regularly scheduled Legislature meeting then convened.

#### PUBLIC FORUM

Several young students urged the Legislature to adopt the climate action plan.

Several citizens spoke against the re-appointment of Dr. Michael Mendoza as Commissioner of Public Health, citing the handling of COVID-19 pandemic and a conflict of interest due to his employment by UR Medical Center.

A Monroe County Child Protective Worker once again appeared before the Legislature to warn of the shortage of workers due to high caseloads and poor pay.

#### REFERRALS AND RESOLUTIONS

*\* The agenda was moved as a whole except for items 11, 17, 26, 38 and 39.*

- Dr. Mendoza was reappointed as Commissioner of Public Health, with a vote of 21 yes- 8 no, after extensive questioning by legislators. Many of the questions addressed the complaints by citizens during the public forum. The term for the position is six years.
- The Climate Action Plan Phase 1 was passed 28 -1.
- A public hearing was set for "Amending Monroe County Charter and Administrative Code relating to Legislative District Boundaries and Term of Members of County Legislature".
- Legislature President Sabrina Lamar appointed Mr. Norman Jones to the County of Monroe Industrial Development Agency.
- The following appointments to the Diversity Action Plan Advisory Committee were confirmed: Legislature Majority Member Richard B. Milne, Legislator Minority Member Ricky Frazier, citizen Orlando Rivera (appointed by Legislature Majority), citizen Sady Alvarado-Fisher (appointed by Legislature Minority), and citizen Harolda Wilcox (appointed by Legislature President).
- After much discussion, the Tropical Exhibit and Main Entry Plaza Project at Seneca Park Zoo was funded and the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$102,900,000 was approved. Legislature President Sabrina Lamar requested that 25 spots in the Zoo Camp and the Summer Opportunities Program be reserved for inner city students.
- The appointment of Robert Fogg as Public Defender for Monroe County was defeated by a 12 to 17 vote.

## SPECIAL MEETING OF MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

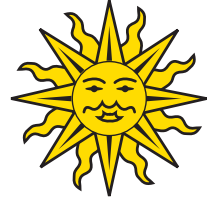
OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT

Public hearing on "Amending Monroe County Charter And administrative Code Relating to Legislative District Boundaries and Term Of Members of Monroe County Legislature. Angelica Perez-Delgado of LatinX Leaders Round Table spoke about the lack of transparency and adverse impact of suggested district maps on the LatinX community.

Several community leaders spoke in favor of the 5 majority Black district map. More than one person called out local Democrats for not supporting this map.

*continued on page 10*

## Sunshine Corner *continued from page 9*



### POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD MEETINGS

REGULAR BOARD MEETING, AUGUST 18, 2022  
 GORDON

OBSERVED BY DEBORAH RICE

Daniel Cadet, Sr. joined the Board, filling the PAB Alliance seat vacated by Dr. McIntosh.

Acting Manager Duwaine Bascoe gave a staff report.

- As of August 11, 142 incident reports were submitted and 64 were assigned to investigators. Information was requested from Rochester Police Department (RPD) for 35 investigations; however documentation has not been provided by RPD to date. Captain Steven Swetman was recently appointed to be liaison to PAB and is working on the requests.
- Ride-along training will be starting within a week. Additional RPD-led training will be scheduled for September and October.
- The Public Affairs Division is working on a community engagement strategic plan for submission to Mr. Bascoe by September 19 and subsequent review by the Board. Meetings have been held with community groups to discuss PAB functions and procedures. In some cases, groups will add PAB information tables, including complaint reporting forms, to their facilities and events. Additional meetings with other groups and agencies are planned for the near future.
- The Policy and Oversight subcommittee is identifying priorities. To comply with legal requirements, a draft disciplinary matrix will be published on September 19. Internal and external workshops will be held to get feedback. In addition, a data transparency review of RPD will be released in October.
- Investigation operations were discussed. SharePoint training will be required of the Board to close out some cases and training has been scheduled. LEP (limited English proficiency) training consisting of two sessions is also required of Board members and needs to be scheduled.
- Mr. Bascoe provided a description of the options available to file a complaint form and the subsequent investigation processes. Complaints should not be sent to Board members directly so that the integrity of PAB processes can be ensured.

The Chair's report was given by Larry Knox.

- Thanks were given to the PAB Alliance and City Council for their efforts to place Daniel Cadet on the Board. One additional Board seat remains open.
- RPD Database and information access is still not available to the Board despite the Charter requirement. PAB will continue to work on this issue since access is integral to investigations.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Rabbi Setel said that media training and a review of meetings law are scheduled for next week.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- The public is encouraged to share concerns about the lack of access to RPD databases and other information.
- Meetings may be held in person at some point if an appropriate space can be found. Meanwhile, the public is encouraged to send in comments on any issue for follow-up.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- Dr. Harrison expressed his desire to have those who die by violence in the city acknowledged by the Board. Arlene Brown suggested that she and Dr. Harrison meet to discuss possible alternatives.
- Dwaine Bascoe mentioned a case for possible closure involving a Monroe County Sheriff rather than RPD. A report number will be needed to close the case and this will be available at the next meeting.

An executive session was held to revisit potential litigation matters involving legal strategy and making the Board's intent known after which time the meeting was adjourned.

To see a recording of this meeting, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCOpHoNyz5s>,



## Sunshine Corner *continued from page 10*

### POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD MEETINGS *continued*

#### REGULAR BOARD MEETING, SEPTEMBER 1, 2022



Duwayne Bascoe gave a staff report.

- Outstanding waivers are needed from Board members to participate in the required ride-along training.
- As of this date, 148 complaints were received and 65 of those were submitted for investigations. A meeting was held with the Mayor and the City Law Department on August 30 after which Rochester Police Department (RPD) information was provided on 15 cases. A limited number of PAB staff were able to view the documents and additional investigators were subsequently granted access at PAB's request. PAB is required to provide a notice of investigation to RPD for the 56 complaints relating to RPD officer involvement that are still under review. These will be discussed with the investigations team starting September 2.
- Interviews with past staff members will be held starting September 2.
- The Public Affairs Department met with YWCA and other agencies to discuss partnering. The outreach effort is working ahead of projected timelines. The department is not fully staffed and PAB is working with City Council President Meléndez to release the positions that have already been funded.
- Staff is working on the SharePoint system to enable the closure of certain cases. All Board members are encouraged to complete training and try the program in advance of the next meeting when closures will be discussed.
- Issues were raised with City Council about equipment needed for forensic technicians. Other needs such as building signage are still awaiting City Council's approval since PAB cannot spend funds independently. Another result of this loss of independence is a 43% reduction of the staffing that was previously allocated. The public is requested to support the PAB's needs.

A Chair's report was given by Larry Knox.

- Chair Knox and Acting Manager Bascoe did a ride-along today for a few hours. This was an opportunity to see the work of the Police Department and also exchange information.
- Investigations concerning former Executive Director Conor Dwyer Reynolds are still on-going. No details of findings can be released but the investigation is more than half way done. The findings will include recommendations and the Board will decide how to proceed at that time.
- Slight progress has been made in gaining access to information requested from the RPD.
- Arlene Brown has agreed to work on the needed Policy guidance.

No Committee reports were given.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- A public comment period for virtual meetings is being considered. The Board plans to meet in person at some point to enable the voicing of public comments in real time.

#### New Business

- Board member nominations have been made by the PAB Alliance and it is hoped that City Council will approve an appointment very soon.
- Dr. Harrison led a presentation on the contents of the Charter establishing the PAB. The Executive Director serves at the discretion of the Board and the Board conducts an annual performance review, after which the Executive Director can be dismissed for cause. There is no mention of any other agency involvement. Dr. Harrison then motioned that Conor Dwyer Reynolds be restored as Executive Director without restrictions and proposing that, if reinstated, he will meet with each member to discuss concerns and corrective actions, if needed. These outcomes would be discussed at Board meetings. Duwayne Bascoe asked that this matter be discussed in executive session since it is under litigation; this was supported by other Board members. Dr. Harrison countered that this information is public knowledge obtainable through Mr. Reynolds' legal filings. Dr. Harrison's motion was not seconded and the discussion ended.

## Sunshine Corner *continued from page 11*

An executive session was held to discuss pending litigation after which time the meeting was adjourned.

To see a recording of this meeting, go to: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8\\_4Walvq3Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8_4Walvq3Y)



## POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD MEETINGS *continued*

### REGULAR BOARD MEETING, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

Duwayne Bascoe gave the staff report.

- To date, 187 complaints have been received, 66 of which have been assigned to investigators. Requests for information have been sent to the Rochester Police Department (RPD) for 33 cases and 16 have been partially filled. RPD will be notified that 52 investigations are underway. Complaint intake and investigation numbers are well ahead of projections.
- Staff members are signing up for training led by RPD which is scheduled to begin September 27. Ride-alongs with RPD are on-going.
- The Operations group reports that interview rooms are ready and will be used beginning by September 22. A direct phone extension from the city has been assigned and is 9999. The case management system is expected to have a soft launch on October 10.
- The Policy and Oversight group has attended 82 events including presentations. They have also met with several institutions and agencies to get the word out. A consultant has drafted a crisis plan. An executive session will be required to discuss the plan tonight due to the nature of some of the scenarios used. On September 14, the group issued an overview and analysis of the legislation pertaining to RPD's introductory body worn camera and digital information management system. The analysis includes privacy impact assessment details and options.

The Chair's report was given by Larry Knox.

- The investigation of Executive Director Dwyer Reynolds is proceeding and nearly all interviews have been completed. The Board will receive a report from the consulting law firm and make decisions based on the findings. The Executive Director is currently on paid leave.
- The process to research investigable complaints from the public has started. Turn-around time is delayed by the lack of direct access to relevant RPD databases and other information.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Training is proceeding on the topics outlined in the Charter. Following the availability of closing report forms, a final training on report evaluation will be scheduled. Training on the history of policing and RPD will also be held.

### NEW BUSINESS

- Use of the new SharePoint system for Board members was discussed. Access requirements were reviewed.

An executive session was held to discuss potential litigation. The meeting was adjourned afterward.

To see a recording of this meeting, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zl7hGC0kOBc>.





## LWV-RMA Book Group Update

LWV-RMA book group members met on September 15 to discuss *Hurricane Lizards & Plastic Squid* by Thor Hanson. The author shows how global warming is playing out and how species are responding. The title refers to two examples of evolution within our lifetimes in response to rapid climate change.

During the discussion, book club members discussed how we might help to control global warming. The vote on the environmental bond act described on page 3 is one step in that direction.

LWV-RMA President Barbara Grosh also recommended another possibility—involvement with Zooniverse, an initiative of Citizen Science found online at <https://www.zooniverse.org/>. Zooniverse has engaged 1.5 million users in online citizen science with hundreds of professional researchers worldwide to support more than 70 online projects. Zooniverse enables research that would not be possible or practical otherwise. Zooniverse research results in new discoveries, data useful to the research community, and many publications. The initiative seeks volunteers to annotate, classify or tag, analyze data, identify, learn, observe, and/or transcribe. Zooniverse projects related to climate change, can be found at:

<https://www.zooniverse.org/projects?discipline=climate&page=1&status=live>, and include a NASA Globe Cloud Gaze, Measuring Evolution in Action, and Mapping Change.

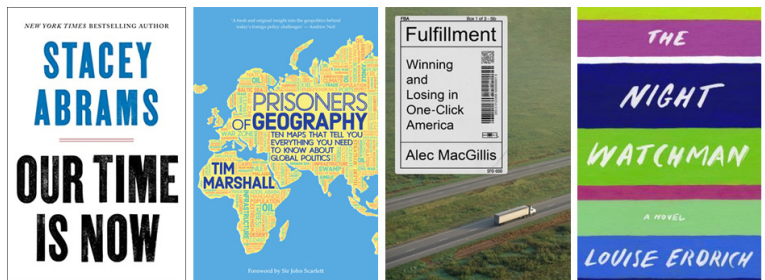
The book group meets at 4:30 P.M. on the third Thursday of the month via Zoom. A link is sent to everyone who expresses an interest to Judy Weinstein ([vote411@lwv-rma.org](mailto:vote411@lwv-rma.org)), who serves as the group's Zoom techie. All LWV-RMA members and their guests are invited to participate. Here's the schedule for the remainder of our program year:

October 20	<i>Our Time is Now</i> by Stacey Abrams – discussion led by Karen Funk
November 17	<i>Prisoners of Geography: Ten maps that explain everything about the world</i> by Tim Marshall
December 15	<i>Fulfillment: Winning &amp; Losing in 1-Click America</i> by Alec MacGillis – discussion led by Mary Hussong-Kallen
January 19	<i>The Night Watchman</i> by Louise Erdrich – discussion led by Judy Weinstein
February 16	<i>How the Word is Passed</i> by Clint Smith – discussion led by Chris Pryor
March 16	<i>Sensational: The Hidden History of America's 'Girl Stunt Reporters'</i> by Kim Todd – discussion led by Deb Gordon
April 20	<i>Allow Me to Retort: A Black Guy's Guide to the Constitution</i> by Elie Mystal – discussion led by Elaine Schmidt
May 18	<i>The Avoidable War</i> by Kenneth Rudd – discussion led by Georgia DeGregorio
June 15	<i>The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels</i> by John Meacham.

In addition, we will read *Understanding and Combating Racism: My Path from Oblivious American to Evolving Activist* by W.E. Wynne and attend one of his local presentations.



Book group members meeting via Zoom on September 15



## Webinars Suggested by LWNYS

### CIVIC EDUCATION SERIES: DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

October 5th, 6:30 - 8 PM

Register HERE <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-vote-for-local-elections-district-attorneys-das-virtual-panel-tickets-388264649017>

Presented by the New York State Public Affairs Committee of the Junior League (NYSPAC), this educational event highlights the importance of local elections and local offices. This month, join LWNYS and NYSPAC to discuss the role that District Attorneys play in local government.

### WOMEN AND THE VOTE FILM SCREENING

October 6th, 7 PM

In-Person at the New York State Museum

Filmed on Election Day 2020 in five cemeteries across New York State, Women and the Vote is a mosaic-style documentary on the past 100 years of women's political equality, the present moment, and the possibilities for the future. Interviews and verité footage of visitors in the Bronx, Sleepy Hollow, Auburn, Rochester, and Buffalo intertwine with rich historical elements to generate connections between New York's rich suffragist legacy and contemporary voters. The screening will be followed by a brief Q&A with the filmmaker, Linda Moroney. Go to: <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/programs/women-and-vote-film-screening-and-qa-filmmaker-linda-moroney>.

### NYS ENVIRONMENTAL BOND ACT

October 11th, 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Register HERE <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZYvcemtpz0qGtRnD5xEXyve9wqm6yoCJ-PF>

Learn more about the Environmental Bond Act that will be on the ballot in November! The League of Women Voters will be joined by speakers from The Nature Conservancy, WeAct, and the NYS Conference of Operating Engineers to learn how the Bond Act will impact the environment, the labor market, and environmental justice in NYS.

### 2022 POWHER NEW YORK EQUALITY SUMMIT

October 13th, 3 - 6 PM

Register HERE [https://whova.com/portal/registration/powhe\\_202210/](https://whova.com/portal/registration/powhe_202210/)

Join LWNYS and PowHer New York for a conversation focusing on the urgent change that is needed to build an equitable, just, and inclusive economy. This unique gathering of advocates and thought leaders in business, non-profit, union, and government will inspire attendees to think and act boldly during this unprecedented moment created by the pandemic and escalating threats to women's rights.

### DEAR WHITE WOMAN: WORKSHOP & BOOK DISCUSSION

October 18th

Watch for the Zoom Link on our website!

Book author Kimberlee Yolanda Williams and NYT Best Selling Author Debby Irving's workshop on getting past biases into a real sisterhood. Dear White Woman, Please Come Home is Kimberlee Yolanda Williams' invitation to white women longing for authentic friendship with Black and brown women, the kind of friendship with no place for secrets, the kind of relationship where truth-telling is welcome... even when it hurts.

This workshop is brought to you by the LWNYS in its continuing effort to support our collective journey toward policy and practice changes that will ensure an inclusive and equitable organization.

For questions, please contact Regina Tillman, LWNYS 3rd Vice President for DEI at: [rmt370@gmail.com](mailto:rmt370@gmail.com)



# Calendar

## OCTOBER

- 3 Candidate Forum: Congressional District 25 (7:00 P.M.) WROC-TV Channel 8 Studio
- 6 Candidate Forum: Assembly District 135 (7:00 P.M.) Zoom, (look for an e-blast with the registration link)
- 7 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.) Bill Gray's Seabreeze, 4870 Culver Road
- 12 Candidate Forum: NYS Senate District 55 (7:15 P.M.) Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word, 597 East Avenue
- 20 LWV-RMA Book Group (4:30 P.M. via Zoom) - *Our Time Is Now* by Stacey Abrams
- 24 Candidate Forum: LD8 (6:45 P.M.) Webster Public Library, Webster Plaza, 980 Ridge Road

## OCTOBER-NOVEMBER VOTING

- 10/14 Last day to register
- 10/24 Last day for BOE to RECEIVE an Absentee Application
- 10/29 Early voting begins
- 11/6 Last day of early voting
- 11/8 Election Day

For more info on voting deadlines, visit Monroe County Board of Elections website, [www.monroecounty.gov/elections](http://www.monroecounty.gov/elections)

## NOVEMBER

- 4 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.) Bill Gray's Seabreeze, 4870 Culver Road
- 9 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (5:30 – 7:30 P.M.) Zoom
- 17 LWV-RMA Book Group (4:30 P.M. via Zoom) – *Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Explain Everything About the World* by Tim Marshall

## DECEMBER

- 2 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.) Bill Gray's Seabreeze, 4870 Culver Road
- 14 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (5:30 – 7:30 P.M.) Zoom
- 15 LWV-RMA Book Group (4:30 P.M. via Zoom) – *Fulfillment: Winning & Losing in 1-Click America* by Alec MacGillis

Whenever you attend a League event, take pictures & email them the Voter editor at [judithw@frontiernet.net](mailto:judithw@frontiernet.net).

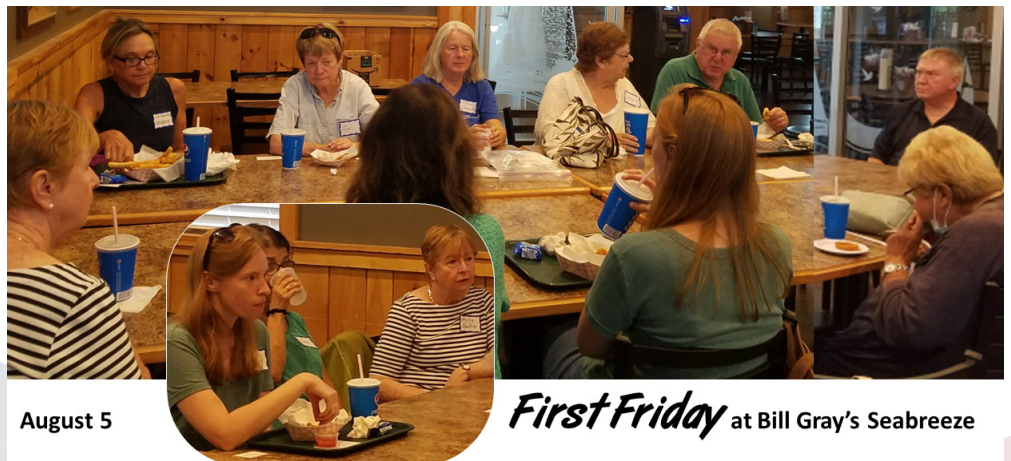


**Be sure to check your email and our website for other events as they are scheduled!**

## Join First Friday In Person for Informal Conversations!

for a few minutes or for the full two hours, just for fun and to learn more about League activities:

- |                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| October 7       | March 3 |
| November 4      | April 7 |
| December 2      | May 5   |
| January 6, 2023 | June 2  |
| February 3      |         |



August 5

**First Friday** at Bill Gray's Seabreeze

photos by Mary Micket

First Friday happens every month.

Board of Directors meetings are currently via Zoom. Board meetings are open to all members. See calendar for dates and times and contact Barbara Grosh for link.

Forums are open to the public. Calendar information is subject to change.

For more complete information, consult our website at [www.LWV-RMA.org](http://www.LWV-RMA.org), call 262-3730 or e-mail us at [info@lwv-rma.org](mailto:info@lwv-rma.org)

PO Box 10573  
Rochester, NY 14610  
585-262-3730  
[www.LWV-RMA.org](http://www.LWV-RMA.org)



## NOVEMBER VOTER DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 15!

### 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.**

A Monthly Publication of the  
League of Women Voters/Rochester Metropolitan Area

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>President</b>	Barbara Grosh (2021-2023)
<b>Vice President</b>	Myra Pelz (2021-2023)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Linda Saalman (2021-2023)
<b>Secretary</b>	Cathy Kane (2022-2024)
<b>Director</b>	Sarah Heisman (2022-2024)
<b>Director</b>	Theresa McFarland-Porter (2021-2023)
<b>Director</b>	Tiffany Moore-Corteville (2021- 2023)
<b>Director</b>	Mira Washington (2022-2024)

### COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Looking for info on a League committee or activity? Look no further!

**President** Barbara Grosh  
[president@lwv-rma.org](mailto:president@lwv-rma.org)

**Book Club** Judy Weinstein  
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**Communication/PR** Sarah Heisman  
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**Voter Services** Elaine Schmidt  
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*The Voter is a  
monthly publication  
of the LWV-RMA  
  
Editor,  
Judy Wadsworth  
Layout/Design,  
Chris Burleigh*

## Join the League Today!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Level of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

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: [www.lwv-rma.org/join.php](http://www.lwv-rma.org/join.php)

### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Individual/Associate	..... \$75
Household	..... \$105
Susan B. Anthony/Frederick Douglass	..... \$150
Carrie Chapman Catt	..... \$200
Student (full or part time at an accredited institution)	..... FREE
Low income, call office at 262-3730	..... Sliding Scale
or send an email to: <a href="mailto:info@lwv-rma.org">info@lwv-rma.org</a>	