

# TheVOTER



## *LWV-RMA Members Tour Women's Rights National Historic Park*

*Seen are the Declaration Wall & the Wesleyan Chapel, site of the 1848 Women's Rights Convention. Superimposed sculptures are inside the Visitor Center. More photos inside.*

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## President's Corner

### You Can Go to Jail for Voting

The LWV-RMA is planning with the Monroe County Jail for how we'll help persons detained there to register and vote this fall. Details are still being worked out, but the basic concept is emerging. We will send teams into the jail. Each team of two will go into a specified residential unit and meet with groups of interested inmates.

In a brief presentation, we'll convey all the usual messages about voting:

- Know the rules of who can register to vote.
- There is an election in November for local offices, which affect the lives of the inmates and their loved ones.
- It's worth voting. Not all candidates are the same and your vote makes a difference.

At least one member of each team will be a relaxed and confident speaker who's thought enough about these issues to be convincing. Extra points for doing it in a lively and interactive format that uses comments and questions from the prospective voters to reinforce our message.

After the group discussion, the team will make available registration forms and absentee ballot requests and help by answering questions and assisting with form completions.

#### ARE YOU READY TO HELP?

Here are some things we know about the inmates:

- About half are black and a quarter are Latino.
- Most are awaiting trial, which means they have not been convicted of a crime, but they are living a life very much the same as if they had. Some are serving sentences for misdemeanors.
- They are rated by different levels of security risk, from low to high, and they're housed in units segregated by that security rating. During our visit to the jail, everything was peaceful and relaxed, but that's not always the case.
- Inmates' lives are extremely constrained: there is television in the jail, but with limited programming choice and no access to the internet. Most get very little news, so being a well-informed voter is extremely challenging. We'll be making Vote411 available in an offline format and helping inmates figure out how to find the right races to make their choices.
- Some have been there as much as two years and feel very isolated. Some describe themselves as homeless. We'll be working to help them understand that they are eligible to vote using their last address, though they may no longer feel connected to that location.

#### WHAT'S REQUIRED?

- Volunteers will get special jail-voter registration training, so we're all prepared to answer both general questions about registration and voting as well as those particular to voting while in jail.
- Volunteers must be cleared by the jail. There's a simple form to fill out and it must be submitted in advance with a photocopy of your driver's license or non-driver ID. Not everyone receives clearance. We don't know what criteria they use.

We don't have dates set yet. Our hope is to make an initial visit to all units in early October to register voters and help with absentee ballot applications. Then we will have follow up visits to distribute the absentee ballots and help voters to use Vote411. We'll also help verify that the absentee envelopes get signed and sealed correctly. After returning the ballots to the Board of Elections, we can monitor them online to see if any need to be "cured."

If you're interested in being a part of this effort, please send an email to Judy Sternberg, chair of our Voting in Jail Committee: [justice@lwv-rma.org](mailto:justice@lwv-rma.org).

**Barbara Grosh**

*President LWV-RMA*

## Engagement Opportunities

### CURBING BIAS IN THE COURT SYSTEM

The United Christian Leadership Ministry and the 7th Judicial District are working collaboratively to overcome implicit bias in the New York State Court System. The Judicial Observation Project (JOP) was developed to address this issue. The JOP can contribute to a fairer and more just judicial system by providing judges with constructive feedback on implicit biases. JOP volunteers will observe court proceedings and later provide the judges feedback in a group setting. To be prepared as observers, volunteers will be trained in court procedures, how to recognize implicit biases, and dialogue processes.

The JOP is inclusive and will consider all applicants without regard to race, color, national origin, economic status, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, military status, prior criminal record, gender identity or expression. The JOP is a time-intensive commitment. Volunteers must be able to participate in 30 hours of in-person and self-paced training and group discussions over a six-week period. Thereafter, volunteers will participate in at least 10 hours of judicial observations in the first three months of 2024.

If you or anyone else in your networks is interested in this initiative, we encourage you to become a JOP volunteer observer. Applications are due on or before 09/15/23. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Wendy Hou at [Wendy\\_Hou@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:Wendy_Hou@urmc.rochester.edu)

### TICKET2RIDE

Ticket2Ride is a nonprofit seeking new board members. The organization raises money for bus passes to enable indigent, justice-impacted individuals to attend the following appointments: court, substance abuse treatment, parole and probation meetings, and job training.

The commitment is quite limited – they meet once a month at the most, via zoom at 8:00 a.m. on a rotating date. They receive and review bus pass requests from not-for-profit agencies four times a year. They do some fundraising but have a grant that enables fundraising to be a lower priority. If interested, please contact LWV member Karen Morris: [judgekaren@aol.com](mailto:judgekaren@aol.com) or 230-4581.

## Important Dates to Remember

**GENERAL ELECTION: NOVEMBER 7, 2023**

**EARLY VOTING: OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 5, 2023**

Date	Deadline Information
October 23	Last day for Board of Elections to receive absentee ballot application by letter, telefax, or through the absentee request portal.
October 23	Last day for change of address.
October 28	Last day for IN-PERSON Voter Registration; MAIL IN registrations must be received by a Board of Elections.
November 6	Last day to apply IN-PERSON for absentee ballot.
November 7	Last day to postmark ballot. Must be received by the local Board of Elections no later than Nov. 14th. Military Voter Ballots must be received no later than Nov. 20th.
November 7	Last day to deliver ballot IN-PERSON to the local Board of Elections or to any poll site in your county.

## Voter Education Update

As part of ensuring that voters have the information needed to be informed about the candidates participating in the November election, the LWV-RMA is preparing for Candidate Forums and updates to Vote411.

### CANDIDATE FORUMS

LWV-RMA is planning Candidate Forums for every contested non-judicial race in Monroe County. The approximately 30 races will be combined into 16 Candidate Forums. Both candidates for County Executive have agreed to participate in a debate hosted by WROC-TV8 and co-sponsored by LWV-RMA, on a date to be determined. The remaining Candidate Forums will be held on Zoom from October 2 through October 26.

Invitations were sent to all anticipated candidates prior to the Monroe County Board of Elections (MCBOE) posting of the certified list of candidates. It is hoped this will limit candidate scheduling conflicts. The Forum schedule will be posted on the website and emailed to members shortly after the MCBOE posts the certified candidate list.

Although Zoom forums require less staffing than in-person events, we still need volunteers:

- Timekeepers - Being a timekeeper is easy (basically all you need are two cards to hold up and a cellphone with a countdown timer or a kitchen timer that has seconds) and we will hold a training session.
- Moderator – We'll provide training and a script. You can also view the primary Candidate Forums on our YouTube channel <https://bit.ly/lwv-rmaYouTube> to see moderators in action.
- Host trainee – the host is behind the scenes, controlling the settings. There will be training and there will be an experienced co-host to assist you.

If you are interested in any of these positions, send an email to [candidate.events@lwv-rma.org](mailto:candidate.events@lwv-rma.org).

### VOTE411

Vote411 is the League of Women Voters voter information website. All candidates in Monroe County will be sent their invitations by early September to post their positions on key issues as well as their contact information on Vote411.

Although the best way to reach candidates is by email, it is surprising how many candidates do not have publicly available email addresses. For several years, the Monroe County Democratic Committee has provided us with email addresses of its candidates. The Monroe County Republican County does not maintain a list of its candidates, but this year they sent an email to the GOP Town Chairs asking candidates to contact us if they wish to participate. This led to emails from several Republican candidates asking to be included in Vote411.

We appreciate the cooperation from the Republican party, but there are still many candidates who did not respond and for whom we can't find email addresses. We've asked members who live in those candidates' towns or legislative districts to help track them down.

We will publish races in Monroe County on Vote411 (that is, make the races and candidates visible to the public) shortly after the Monroe County Board of Elections posts the certified ballot on September 15th. All you have to do to see the races and candidates which will appear on your ballot is go to [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) and enter your address.

**Judy Weinstein**

[Vote411@lwv-rma.org](mailto:Vote411@lwv-rma.org)

### How YOU can educate voters for the upcoming elections



#### Assist During Candidate Forums (all via Zoom)

- As a Timekeeper
- As a Moderator
- As a Host Trainee
- Email [candidate.events@lwv-rma.org](mailto:candidate.events@lwv-rma.org) to learn more



#### Increase Candidates participation in Forums and Vote411

- Let candidates know you want them to participate in Forums
- Encourage candidates to respond to Vote411 requests
- *And thank them when they do!*



#### Spread the word

- Send friends and family schedule of Candidate Forums
- Share the link to Vote411 widely
- [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org).

## LWV-RMA Members Visit Seneca Falls

On July 29 and 30th, nine LWV-RMA members set out on day trips to Seneca Falls, a gem in the history of the women's rights and suffrage movements that lies less than an hour east of Rochester. Now memorialized by the Women's Rights National Historical Park (WRNHP) established in 1980, the park honors, preserves and puts in perspective, the history that took place there 175 years ago.

In early July 1848, five women met in the neighboring town of Waterloo - some Quakers, all abolitionists, most from the area, one a respected speaker from Philadelphia – and came up with the unexpected decision to hold a women's convention to publicly proclaim and call for the equality of rights under law for women. Astonishingly, they pulled together a two-day event that drew 300 attendees from areas east, north, west and south, in just 10 days! The resulting Declaration of Sentiments drafted by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and modeled after the Declaration of Independence, was adopted. In closing, it insists that women have immediate admission to all the rights and privileges which belong to them as full and equal citizens of the United States.

Through the WRNHP, the story is told at the restored Wesleyan Chapel, site of the Convention, and the Visitors' Center with its expansive exhibits and gift shop filled with books and more. Declaration Park, where the full Declaration of Sentiments and its signers are inscribed on a stone water wall, sits between the Visitors Center and the Chapel. Park rangers add more background with talks at the Chapel and at the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Home, a short distance away.

Members who went on Saturday were also able to visit the National Women's Hall of Fame, where work continues to bring it to full fruition in its new home, the old Seneca Falls Knitting Mill. Celebrating its 50th year of inductions since its first in 1973, the Hall has a total of 302 inductees. Exhibits are currently only found on the first floor, but plans include expansion onto the second and third floors when restoration projects are completed. Unfortunately for the Sunday group, we found the Hall closed due to the summer construction schedule. I guess we'll just have to return to see the progress next year.

Among the nine of us who joined the trip there was a mix of those who had never been to Seneca Falls, some who had been many years ago and one or two who had been more recently.

Aside from what was learned in Seneca Falls we also learned about each other as we shared thoughts and stories over the course of the day. Everyone had reasons to go and all came away with something of value.

Trip participants included: Connie Flahive, Dave and Rita Garretson, Judy Kiley, Karen LoBracco, Patricia Partridge, Elaine Schmidt, Judy Sternberg, Judy Weinstein.

*Submitted by Judy Sternberg*



*Pictured during the LWV-RMA July visits to Seneca Falls are:*  
**TOP LEFT:** Judy Kiley, after adding her yarn to the "older than 80" section of the mosaic.  
**CENTER LEFT:** Inside Wesleyan Chapel - Karen LoBracco, Elaine Schmidt, Judy Kiley and Connie Flahive.  
**TOP RIGHT:** Judy Weinstein, Rita Garretson, Dave Garretson, Patricia Partridge inside the Wesleyan Chapel beneath a mural of the first Women's Rights Convention which was held there in 1848.  
**BOTTOM:** At home of Elizabeth Cady Stanton --  
**LEFT:** Elaine Schmidt, Judy Kiley, and Connie Flahive;  
**CENTER:** Judy Kiley, Karen LoBracco, Connie Flahive, and Elaine Schmidt;  
**RIGHT:** Judy Sternberg, Judy Weinstein, and Patricia Partridge.

## Naturalizations

August naturalization ceremonies brought the League to three different venues. On the 3rd, LWV-RMA member Margret Roberts attended a ceremony at the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls. Judge Marian Payson officiated at the ceremony that naturalized 36 applicants.

On August 8, Marcia Eisenberg and Beth Feldman of the LWV-RMA talked about voting and helped 25 applicants register to vote during a naturalization ceremony at the Monroe County Office Building.

Sheila Abeling represented the League at the Federal Building on August 8 at another naturalization ceremony. Judge Paul Warren presided over the ceremony for 26 new citizens.



## Redistricting Team

Redistricting continues, maybe. This is where things stood on August 22th.

### MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

A lawsuit was filed to challenge the new county legislature districts, and it was heard on July 27th. On August 21st the case was dismissed. That means that the districts will remain as shown in the maps approved in December 2022. It is not known if the August decision will be appealed.

### US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

In mid-July, the New York Appellate Division ruled that the Independent Redistricting Commission should draw new Congressional districts – again. The new districts would take effect for the 2024 elections.

An appeal has been filed with NY's highest court, the Court of Appeals.

To date (as of August 20th) the IRC has not made any announcements regarding the redistricting order.

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

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## Status of New York State Legislation Passed in 2023

As of August 15, the following election related bills, which were passed by the Legislature in 2023, are awaiting action by Governor Hochul. If they are not signed by the end of December, the Legislature will need to vote again on them in 2024 for them to be enacted.

Bill #	Description	LWVNY Position
S7564/A7760	<b>Amendment to Public Campaign Finance</b> -Changes the public financing law in ways that will undermine the program's core objective of empowering small donors. Instead of matching the contributions up to \$250, this bill would allow for the first \$250 of all contributions to be matched, taking away the power from small donors	Recommends Veto
S587 /A268	<b>Mandatory Training Curriculum for Poll Workers</b> -Requires the state board of elections to develop and provide to each county materials for a model poll worker training program which the counties may use to train individuals to serve as poll workers in state and county elections.	Supports Signing
S1381 /A1722	<b>Plain Language Ballot Initiative</b> -Requires proposed amendment to the constitution or other question provided by law to be submitted to a statewide vote be submitted to the people for their approval in plain language.	Supports Signing
S5984A/A6132A	<b>10-day Voter Registration Implementation</b> -Allows for the effective implementation of the 10-day voter registration bill that was passed last session. It would allow voters to complete a conditional voter registration application and cast an affidavit ballot.	Supports Signing
A4009A	<b>Citizens Released From Jails and Voting Bill</b> -Requires verbal and written notice of voting rights to all eligible citizens released from local jails	Supports Signing
S7394A	<b>NY Early Mail Voter Act</b> -Allows all voters to mail-in a ballot during the nine days of early voting that prefaces every primary and general election, beginning in 2024	No Position
S3505B	<b>Even Year Election Bill</b> -Moves the elections for town supervisor, county executive and some other local posts from odd-numbered years to synchronize them with state and federal races.	No Position

The following bills unrelated to elections but endorsed by the LWVNY, were also awaiting the Governor's action as of August 15.

S01856/A03226	<b>Birds and Bees Protection Act</b> -Prohibits the sale of certain pesticides or seeds coated with such pesticides
S211A/A1029A	<b>Clean Slate</b> - Provides for automatic sealing of certain convictions after a certain passage of time from either imposition of sentence, release from parole or probation, and if the defendant does not have a current charge pending; excludes certain offenses; permits access by certain person
S2339/A6029	<b>School Based Health Centers</b> - Provides that services provided by school-based health centers shall not be provided to medical assistance recipients through managed care programs

Contact Governor Hochul at 1-518-474-8390  
or

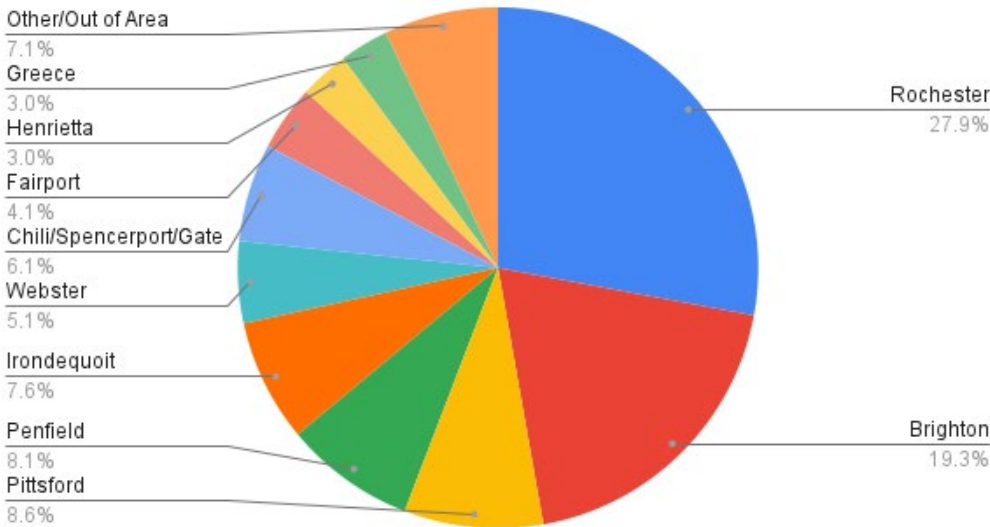
[www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form](http://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form)

## Membership Data

The LWV-RMA membership database is being updated to include more information about members. Utilizing Monroe County Board of Election data, each record was updated to include the School, Senate, Assembly and Legislative Districts and the Town of residence. This will allow for targeted communications for various activities and campaigns. We may ask you to help track down candidate contacts in your town or encourage your candidates to participate in Vote411 or candidate forums.

Here is a picture of how the membership is spread among the local towns.

### Membership by Town



## Voter Service Activities

LWV-RMA volunteers Judy Kiley, Katherine Smith, Kimberly Byers, and Judy Loeb attended the 103rd anniversary celebration of the 19th amendment at the Susan B Anthony Square Park on August 20th. They provided registration and general voter information to over 200 attendees.

During the event they met Jackie Sprague whose company is dedicated to helping young Black people research and speak about their history. Hovey and Kiernan, pictured here with Jackie, spoke from the music stage to everyone for a few minutes each. Hovey is 17 years old and already pre-registered to be a Voter!

*Submitted by Judy Kiley and Kim Byers*



Top row: Jackie Sprague and Hovey and Kiernan. Bottom Row: Volunteers Katherine Smith, Judy Kiley, and Kimberly Byers



## Youth Program Update

One of my favorite ways of defending democracy is by empowering young voters. At LWV-RMA, we work with area high schools. Now that New York State allows 16- and 17-year-olds to preregister, high school voter registration opportunities are more fun than ever.

We also collaborate with Social Studies teachers, visiting classrooms with a LWV curriculum that chronicles the fight for the vote and inspires political activism. (Here's a link to that curriculum, which we've adapted for a Monroe County perspective: <https://energizingyoungvoters.com/educators-and-community-groups/>)

We work with area colleges. While voter registration events continue to be what brings us to campuses, we also partner with student civic engagement groups around voter education. In 2024, New York voters will have the opportunity to approve an equal rights amendment to our state constitution. Because this is an issue that particularly energizes young adults, we're expecting an exciting year with our campus collaborators.

We support youth and young adult political activism. We welcome student members! We also strive to develop youth leadership. LWVNY's Students Inside Albany, a behind-the-scenes opportunity to experience how things get done in state government, is one example of how we do this. Tanya Davis leads our work identifying and preparing Rochester area students to participate. Upon return, the students we've sent have raved about the program and the roadmap for state lawmaking it offered.



"Posters made by School Without Walls students during 2022 visit"

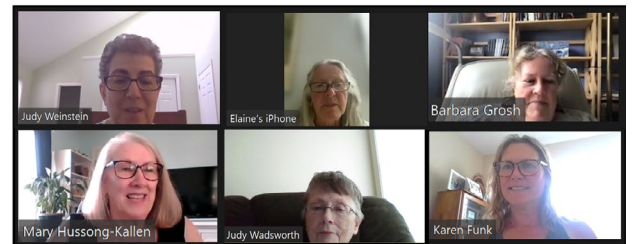
You are invited to join LWV-RMA's work connecting with young voters. It's a great way to touch the future. If you are interested, please contact me at [333tess@gmail.com](mailto:333tess@gmail.com).

*Submitted by Theresa McFarland-Porter*

## 2023-2024 LWV-RMA Book Club Reading List

At our August planning meeting, members of the Book Club decided to reduce the number of books we discuss each year to give us more time to complete the books as well as our own independent reading.

Book Club members also agreed to continue meeting on Zoom at 4:30 on the third Thursday of the months shown below. If you would like to participate in the discussion of one of our books or join the Book Club, send an email to Judy Weinstein at [vote411@lwv-rma.org](mailto:vote411@lwv-rma.org) to be sent the Zoom link. Participation is not limited to League members.



September 21	The Second Amendment: A Biography, Michael Waldman (led by Elaine Schmidt)
November 16	The Death of Expertise: The Campaign Against Established Knowledge and Why It Matters, Tom Nichols (led by Mary Hussong-Kallen)
January 18	Subversive Southerner, Catherine Fosl (led by Karen Funk)
March 21	Poverty by America, Matthew Desmond (led by Barbara Grosh)
May 16	American Midnight: The Great War, a Violent Peace, and Democracy's Forgotten Crisis, Adam Hochschild (led by Judy Wadsworth)
July 18	Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America, Heather Cox Richardson (led by Deb Gordon)



# Calendar



Events sponsored by LWV-RMA are **bolded below**. The sponsors and other information on all events can be found by viewing the event on the LWV-RMA calendar. See link below.

## September

- 8 **LWV-RMA First Friday** (11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.)  
I-Square, 400 Bakers Square (off Titus Ave), Irondequoit
- 9 **LWV-RMA Board Meeting** (6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.)  
via Zoom)
- 21 **Book Club** discussion of *The Second Amendment: A Biography*, Michael Waldman, (4:30 - 6:00 P.M.). Contact Judy Weinstein at [vote411@lwg-rma.org](mailto:vote411@lwg-rma.org) for the Zoom link.

## October

- 6 **LWV-RMA First Friday** (11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.)  
I-Square, 400 Bakers Square (off Titus Ave), Irondequoit
- 11 **LWV-RMA Board Meeting** (6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.)  
via Zoom)

Whenever you attend a League event, take pictures & email them to The Voter editor at [micketeditor@gmail.com](mailto:micketeditor@gmail.com).



**Note:** For links to Zoom meetings, please visit our website: [www.lwg-rma.org](http://www.lwg-rma.org)

For events scheduled after publication, event information, Zoom links, and registration (if required) see: [https://members.lwg-rma.org/members/calendar4\\_responsive.php?org\\_id=LWVR](https://members.lwg-rma.org/members/calendar4_responsive.php?org_id=LWVR)

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

## Come to First Friday for Some Social Time at I-Square in Irondequoit!

Join First Friday for social time at I-Square in Irondequoit. There's no agenda but we talk about everything League and lots of political discussions. A lot of great ideas originate at First Fridays and a lot of work gets done.

- September 8
- October 6
- November 3
- December 1
- January 5

First Friday happens every month.

## First Friday



**Come when you can. Leave when you must.**

Look closely to see how participants came and left during the August 4 First Friday gathering.

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@lwg-rma.org](mailto:info@lwg-rma.org)

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[www.LWV-RMA.org](http://www.LWV-RMA.org)

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**OCTOBER VOTER  
DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 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.**

**COMMITTEE CONTACTS**

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

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

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Judy Wadsworth  
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Chris Burleigh*

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**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>		