

TheVOTER

With Pay-What-You-Can-Afford Dues,

**Wednesday
March 12, 2025**

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

**Lyell Otis Community
Center, 1060 Lyell
Avenue, Rochester**

Who Shall We Recruit?

We hope to recruit residents of low-turnout neighborhoods who have a vision of what their neighborhood could become **when everyone** votes.



With Refreshments

LWV

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF ROCHESTER METRO AREA

See P. 3

New Voting Machines

The Monroe County Board of Elections is introducing new voting machines.

See page 4 for details.

One of the new machines is on display in their office and anyone is welcome to stop by to see it.

It is more fun together, so join us for a demonstration; afterwards we'll go across the street for a bite to eat at the Founders Café at 13 S. Fitzhugh Street.

Field Trip to

See the New Voting Machines

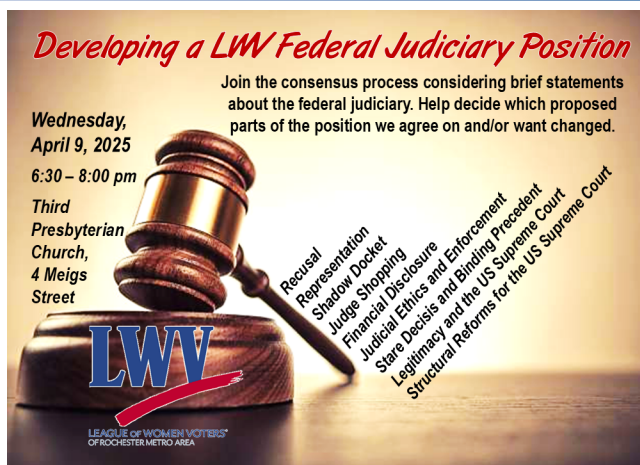
39 West Main Street, Rochester NY

3/14/2025

11:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

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President's Letter: Get Involved as the LWV Develops a Position on the Federal Judiciary

The Federal Judiciary adjudicates state v. federal power, the constitutionality of legislation in all jurisdictions, and the extent of executive power. Federal judicial power has suddenly grown more important with the inauguration of our 47th president, who is governing in ways unforeseen by the Constitution. The LWV expects to get involved in lobbying for new laws governing the judiciary, a policy arena in which we have not worked before. Lobbying on behalf of the League only occurs after the League has studied the issues, achieved a consensus on how our values align with possible legislation, and adopted a position to guide our lobbyists through the sausage-making process that is legislating.

A national committee has been grappling with the issues since June. They recently held a town hall where they brought together some legal scholars to discuss what issues might benefit from legislation. They have released a set of policy briefs. Now they want to hear from us.

On Wednesday, April 9, we will go through the consensus process considering suggested position statements about the federal judiciary. We will decide which proposed elements of the position we agree on and also suggest nuances or caveats we feel are important.

Leagues all around the country will go through this consensus process and the study team will take all that input and use it to draft a proposed position that will reflect a consensus of League members. In June the national council will decide whether to adopt the position, clearing the way for us to begin lobbying for changes to rules governing the judiciary.

The list of consensus questions is long and it's important that we come prepared. Every member is encouraged to watch the [video of the town hall](#), read the [study guide about how the consensus process works](#), look at the [study questions](#) and read one or more of the background papers [links below], all of which are found on our website. Come prepared to give substantive input to strengthen the League's process.

Please register here: <https://members.lwv-rma.org/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=156534>.

Barbara Grosh - president@lwv-rma.org

Policy Briefs

[Key Terms for the Federal Judiciary Study](#)

[Financial Disclosure](#)

[Judge Shopping](#)

[Judicial Ethics and Enforcement](#)

[Legitimacy and the US Supreme Court](#)

[Representation](#)

[Shadow Docket](#)

[Stare Decisis and Binding Precedent](#)

[Structural Reforms for the US Supreme Court](#)

With Pay-What-You-Can-Afford Dues, Whom Shall We Recruit?

3/12/2025

6:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

Lyell Otis Community Association
1060 Lyell Avenue
Rochester, NY 14606

The LWV has a long history of members who are smart, well-informed, well-connected, willing to speak up...and not poor.

With the League's new membership model (which permits people to join for as little as \$20), we can now realistically recruit members who live in neighborhoods with chronically low voter participation. We hope to recruit residents of low-turnout neighborhoods who have a vision of what their neighborhood could become when everyone votes. We're good with data: we know who's registered, who voted, and when. We have resources: info on election dates and deadlines, voting rights for people who've moved recently, for justice-involved individuals, and for those with disabilities. With an infusion of new members who know the neighborhoods, we might begin to come closer to accomplishing our long-term goals of registering people and getting them to turn out and vote.

Food will be served. No registration is required. Just come and join the discussion.

New Committee: Outreach to New Voters

4/5/2025

10:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Sully Branch of the Rochester Public Library
530 Webster Avenue
Rochester, NY 14609

Every month for years we have attended naturalization ceremonies and helped new American citizens register to vote. However, we've also queried the Board of Elections database and discovered that most of the people we register don't actually turn out and vote. It's time to turn that around!

You are invited to join us as we put our heads together to see how we can help New Americans feel more motivated and more prepared to vote. We'll discuss ideas such as retaining voter contact info so that we can keep them informed as elections draw close, holding informational "Meet Your Ballot" sessions at agencies and congregations that serve New Americans and more.

What's your idea? We want to hear it. The library has plenty of parking. We will meet in the Story Time room. No registration required.

New Voting Machines Coming to Monroe County in 2025

The Monroe County Board of Elections (MCBOE) will begin using new voting machines starting with the March 2025 village elections. The new machines, the ES&S ExpressVote XL Universal Voting System, use a 32-inch touch screen to mark an independently-verifiable paper ballot.

This system provides several benefits compared with the current machines:

- The touch screens can display different-sized print, different contrast, and different languages to meet voters' needs.
- There is a privacy screen to prevent inadvertent observation of a voter's choices.
- There is no need to turn a ballot over to see the (often forgotten) propositions.
- It eliminates the problem of marks that are too light, that do not fill the bubble, and extra marks on the ballot that cause the ballot to be mis-read.
- It eliminates the problem of over-voting (voting for too many people in a race; for example, voting for 3 people in a race where one can only vote for 2, or voting for the same person on more than one line).
- It warns people of under-voting (voting for one in a race where one can vote for 2 candidates, or skipping a race).
- It reduces wasted paper ballots, yielding large financial savings.



The final ballot is on paper and is presented to the voter for confirmation before it is cast. The paper ballot is then secured in the machine for use in post-election audits.

The MCBOE has thoroughly vetted the machines. When recording votes, the machines are not connected to the internet and the software itself has been tested to ensure there can be no manipulation of the totals. Those tests included having the RIT cyber security team attempt to hack them without success. The details of the RIT testing can be found here: <https://www.rit.edu/news/rit-cybersecurity-student-researchers-put-voting-machine-security-test>

The MCBOE observed the machines in action in Philadelphia, PA and in New Jersey.

Voting is faster and lines are shorter in other places and the same result is expected here. The MCBOE will be having demonstrations and training sessions in many places throughout the year.

More information and a video of the machines can be found here: <https://www.monroecounty.gov/elections-voting-machines>

– David Newman

Field Trip to See the New Voting Machines

39 West Main Street, Rochester, NY 14614

March 14, 2025

11:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Implications of the SAVE Act

The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act is a proposed bill in the US Congress that aims to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. The bill, introduced by Republican Representative Chip Roy of Texas, mandates proof of U.S. citizenship be presented *in person* for both initial registration and for any updates to the registration, such as moving.

The bill has gained traction in the GOP-controlled House but faces challenges in the GOP-controlled Senate, which requires two-thirds of Senators to approve. If it passes through Congress, President Donald Trump is expected to sign it into law, as he has previously spoken in support of the legislation.

The SAVE Act requires very specific documentation to prove citizenship. According to the nonpartisan Brennan Center for Justice, more than 9% of American citizens (21.3 million people) of voting age don't have proof of citizenship at hand.

The act chiefly requires either a passport or an original copy of a birth certificate with the legal name. There is no provision in the law for using a marriage license to document a name change. Therefore anyone who has changed their name since birth would require a passport. Passports cost \$130 and can take from two to four months to obtain

Enhanced Driver Licenses (EDLs) are also acceptable proof of citizenship, but only 5 states issue EDLs. In New York State, obtaining an EDL costs an additional \$30 on top of the Real ID License fee.

Based on the need to provide this type of documentation in person, mail-in and online registrations will not be possible, and voter registration drives would become impractical. It is not clear how members of the military stationed outside their voting homes would be able to register.



When people hear that the law requires “proof of citizenship” they may not realize the type of proof required, the logistics required, and the number of voters at risk for being disenfranchised. All states currently have laws and processes to prevent non-citizens from voting in federal and state elections. This law is redundant and will prevent many citizens from voting.

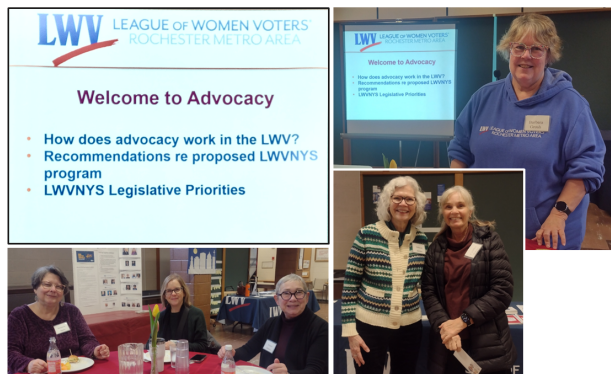
The LWVUS and LWVNYS are advocating against the bill. Please help communicate the League’s concerns with this unnecessary and harmful legislation to everyone.

Submitted by Mary Micket

February Mini-Retreat

On February 15, approximately 20 members and non-members interested in the LWV-RMA met. The first few hours were spent learning about the various activities of LWV-RMA and matching attendees' interests with the League's needs. After lunch, the group discussed two LWNYS proposed positions. The lively and informative discussions covered the pros and cons of each position. The members present then voted on the positions.

Voting Systems - Members *did not agree* with these positions:



1. The League of Women Voters of New York State believes that a more transparent and open voting systems approval process would improve voter understanding of, and confidence in, our elections.
 - Support for greater transparency and public input in the approval process, including increased demonstrations open to the public, followed by comment periods
 - Public demonstrations should be scheduled to provide public input earlier in the certification process
2. The League of Women Voters of New York State believes that supporting the development of a publicly designed and developed new customized voting system for New York State could improve accessibility and confidence in our elections.
 - Support for a change in Election Law and Code to allow for development of a publicly designed new customized voting system for use by all voters, including those with disabilities
 - State funding should be made available to help fund the design and development process, and to assist counties purchase the new voting system once it is certified by the state BOE

Ranked Choice Voting & Nonpartisan Primaries - Members *agreed* with these positions:

1. Ranked Choice Voting

- The League of Women Voters of New York State supports the use of ranked-choice voting (a.k.a., instant runoff voting), in primary, general, and/or special elections to elect federal, state, and/or local officials.
- With the adoption of any electoral system, the League believes that education of the voting public is important and funding for start-up and voter education should be allocated.

2. Primary Systems that allow all registered voters to participate in the primary process, including the use of nonpartisan primaries

1. The League of Women Voters of New York State supports changing from a closed partisan primary system to a primary system, including a nonpartisan primary system, that allows all registered voters to participate, regardless of party affiliation or lack thereof.
2. We support the use of nonpartisan primaries to elect federal, state and local officials

LWV-RMA Book Club

The LWV-RMA book club will meet next at 4:30 P.M. on Thursday, March 20 via Zoom to discuss

Gallop Toward The Sun:

Tecumseh And William Henry Harrison's Struggle For The Destiny Of A Nation by Peter Stark.

All are welcome. To join the group for the first time and receive the Zoom link, contact Judy Weinstein at bookclub@lwv-rma.org.

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

May 15: *Art of Power* by Nancy Pelosi

July 17: *Distorting Democracy* by Carolyn Renee Dupont

Join us at First Friday for social time at I-Square in Irondequoit at 11:30 A.M. each month. We meet in 200 Bakers Square - in the back behind the room divider. Come when you can, leave when you must. There's no agenda but we talk about everything League and discuss politics. Many great ideas originate at First Fridays and a lot of work gets done.

Calendar of LWV-RMA Upcoming Activities

The best way to be informed about various League events is to use the online calendar. You do not need to sign in to access the calendar.

The calendar is updated frequently; it is more current than a monthly newsletter can be.

On the calendar, you can click on an event to obtain information, you can add it to your personal calendar, and you can register for an event.

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

Access the Calendar [here](#).



Naturalizations

The League attended a naturalization ceremony on February 18 at 2:00 P.M. in the Federal Building in downtown Rochester. Nineteen candidates for citizenship attended, along with family and advocates. Marilyn Rosen spoke to all in attendance about the importance of voting. She also helped the new citizens register to vote. Judge Mark Pedersen officiated at the ceremony.

Members of the League are always welcome to attend ceremonies. The naturalization schedule for 2025 is on the [League website](#). If you are interested in attending a ceremony, please let Sheila Abeling know at sheiler162007@gmail.com

Sheila Abeling

PO Box 10573 Rochester,
NY 14610
585-262-3730
www.LWV-RMA.org

**NEXT VOTER DEADLINE:
March 15, 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	Karen Morris (24-26)

Committee Contacts

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Communication/PR:
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Advocacy: Barb Murphy / Scott Forsyth
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Membership:
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Nominating: Mary Hussong-Kallen
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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 the LWVUS to:
LWV-RMA,
PO Box 10573
Rochester, NY 14610
or

[Join the LWV by clicking here.](#)

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Dues are payable to LWVUS. The link on LWV-RMA 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.