

# TheVOTER



## Attend a Forum:

**Making Your Vote Count: Reforms that Could Make a Difference**

**Thursday, October 16, 2025**

**6:00 to 7:00 pm**

**Community Room, Henrietta Public Library, 625 Calkins Road**



## Help Others Get Out to Vote:

**Share- Early voting dates October 25 – November 2**

**Share- Election Day – Tuesday, November 4**

**Share- Find personalized ballot at [Vote411.org](https://Vote411.org)**



## Key Voting Dates - 2025

Oct 25	Last day for BOE to receive registration forms, as well as mailed or online requests for absentee and vote-by-mail ballots
Oct 25 - Nov 2	Early voting. (See page 8 for times and locations)
Nov 3	Last day to apply in person for absentee and vote-by-mail ballots
Nov 4	In-person voting at location based on voter's address
Nov 4	Last day to deliver an absentee ballot in person to BOE or polling site
Nov 4	Mailed ballots must be postmarked by Nov 4 and received by BOE by Nov 12

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## **President's Letter**

### **Getting Out the Vote in 2025**

New York is ranked 46th nationwide in turnout. In the last local election, turnout in Monroe County was around 30%. The City of Rochester had a dismal 20% turnout in 2023. The towns don't have much to brag about. Rush was the highest with 48%, and Greece was the lowest at 24%.

There is really no place in Monroe County where citizen engagement is what it should be. Ask a random person who their supervisor is, or who is on their town board, or who their county legislator is -- I believe that a large percentage could not name anyone who represents them in local government. Local officials make sure things run. They speak to higher levels of government on our behalf. They matter.

How can the League get people more engaged? For starters, let's get more engaged ourselves. Have you watched a town board meeting? Or a zoning board meeting? What are the budget challenges in your town? Take on one new thing in your own citizenship. Talk to your friends and neighbors about who they're voting for and see if you can learn something from them. Share what you know. Find new sources of information.

The League is working hard to populate Vote411 and organize candidate debates to help make being informed easier. We could use more help. Look on [Vote411.org](https://Vote411.org) and see if the candidates on your ballot have responded. If not, find out how to contact them and urge them to respond. They need to know their constituents are paying attention. We have posters that give the details for early voting, Vote411, and how to get an absentee ballot. Distribute them in your town: the library, the YMCA, the town hall, churches, restaurants, laundromats, wherever people spend time, especially time waiting. Are there apartment buildings in your town with elevator lobbies? Know a great place for posters? Send an email to [voterservices@lwv-rma.org](mailto:voterservices@lwv-rma.org) if you know a good place to put up a poster.

Many people are turning to us this year, wondering how they can make a difference in this moment of Constitutional crisis. Let's not neglect the basics. Let's make sure that here, in Monroe County, where we live, civil society is alive and well and we hold government accountable to our needs. I can't resist one of my favorite quotes, from Rabbi Hillel: "If I am not for myself, who will be? If I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?"

Right now, we need to help our neighbors realize the stakes and learn the ropes to act on our own behalf via voting.

Barbara Grosh

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

## New Tools for Spreading the Word



VOTE411 Posters for distribution.

Contact

[voterservices@lww-rma.org](mailto:voterservices@lww-rma.org)

if you have ideas for locations to place them.

### MAKE A VOTING PLAN



#### CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION AND/OR REGISTER TO VOTE

Use VOTE411's easy online tool.



#### DECIDE HOW YOU WILL VOTE

You can **vote early** at any voting site from Oct. 25 – Nov. 2.

OR

**Request an absentee ballot** and vote by mail.

OR

**Vote on election day, Nov. 4** at your assigned polling site. Polls are open 6AM–9PM.



#### RESEARCH CANDIDATES

Learn about ballot measures and where candidates stand on the issues at [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org).



#### SHARE YOUR PLANS!

Encourage your friends and family to make a voting plan too!

Postcards being mailed to New Americans whom LWV-RMA has registered to vote:



**You're a citizen.  
Now vote your vision for America.**

Have questions? Ask the Monroe County Board of Elections:  
[www.monroecounty.gov/elections](http://www.monroecounty.gov/elections)  
 (585)352.3730

OR

 **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'**  
 OF ROCHESTER METROPOLITAN AREA

[info@lww-rma.org](mailto:info@lww-rma.org) | (585)262.3730



To: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Making Your Vote Count: Reforms that Could Make a Difference

Thursday October 16, 2025

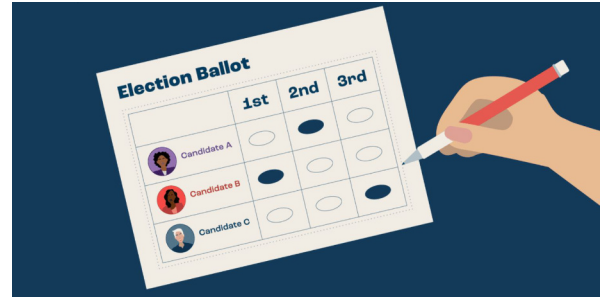
6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. Eastern

Setting: In-Person

Henrietta Public Library Community Room

625 Calkins Road

Henrietta, NY 14623



New York's voter turnout is ranked 46th among 50 states. Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass, and Henrietta's Antoinette Brown Blackwell would be ashamed! There are several proposed changes to how we vote that might increase turnout. We will discuss three of them: ranked-choice voting, nonpartisan primaries, and the national popular vote.

League President Barbara Grosh will be speaking at this event organized by the [Antoinette Brown Blackwell Society](#). [Register Here](#)

## Candidate Forums

LWV-RMA is working to schedule Candidate Forums during October for the upcoming November elections. Candidates are being invited and schedules are being sorted out. Per LWVUS policy, forums can only be held if more candidates than openings are involved. If candidates agree, LWV-RMA hopes to hold forums for all contested elections. That would be a lot of forums!

To find the dates and times of the various forums, please visit the [LWV-RMA Calendar](#).

Each forum requires a volunteer Moderator, Zoom Coordinator and Timekeeper.

1. Moderators - We need people from different towns and parties to reduce any appearance of partiality. The moderators must be comfortable speaking publicly and treating all candidates equally. Volunteers for this role should watch some prior Candidate Forums on [LWV-RMA YouTube](#) to understand the role.
2. Zoom Coordinators - need to: be familiar with the set-up for webinars, know how to make sure it's recording, help candidates who have trouble logging on by re-sending their links to them, and be on the alert for letting people into the meeting.
3. Timekeepers – monitor the time for each answer and provide signals to the candidates.

If you are able to volunteer to help with one of these roles please contact [engagement@lwrma.org](mailto:engagement@lwrma.org)

## November 2025 Contested Elections in Monroe County

The following positions have contested elections this year. For information on the candidates in each election, please see [VOTE411.org](https://vote411.org). Be sure to vote if you reside in one of these areas! In many of these races, every vote is critical due to low turnout. See page 6 for information on the judicial races.

County Districts (if you are not sure of your district, see [VOTE411.org](https://vote411.org))

County Legislature 3rd District  
County Legislature 12th District

### City of Rochester

Rochester-City Mayor  
Rochester-City Council At-Large Members  
Commissioners of Schools

### Towns and Villages

Brighton-Members of Town Council  
Chili-Members of Town Council  
Clarkson-Members of Town Council  
Gates-Members of Town Council  
Greece-Supervisor  
Greece-Member of Town Council Ward 2  
Greece-Member of Town Council Ward 3  
Hamlin-Members of Town Council  
Henrietta-Supervisor  
Henrietta-Members of Town Council  
Irondequoit-Supervisor  
Irondequoit-Members of Town Council  
Mendon-Supervisor  
Mendon-Members of Town Council

Ogden-Members of Town Council  
Penfield-Supervisor  
Penfield-Members of Town Council  
Perinton-Supervisor  
Perinton-Town Clerk  
Perinton-Members of Town Council  
Pittsford-Supervisor  
Pittsford-Members of Town Council  
Riga-Members of Town Council  
Rush-Supervisor  
Rush-Members of Town Council  
Sweden-Members of Town Council  
Webster-Supervisor  
Webster-Members of Town Council  
Wheatland-Members of Town Council



## **No Kings: We're Not Going Back!**

Genesee Gateway Park

151 Mt. Hope Avenue

Saturday, October 18 - 12:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

More information to come from Indivisible Rochester

***Spread the word!***

(Other rallies will be held around the region.)



## Contested Judicial Elections

**State Supreme Court - 7th district:** There are four candidates for two positions with 14 year terms. The district covers 8 counties, including Monroe County.

Despite its name, the Supreme Court in New York is not the highest court in the state—that role belongs to the Court of Appeals. Instead, the Supreme Court serves as the state's general trial court, handling civil cases when the claims exceed \$25,000, as well as felony prosecutions and appeals from lower courts, with broad jurisdiction over civil and criminal matters.

**Family Court:** There are two candidates for one position, with a term of 10 years.

This court hears cases involving children and families and handles issues such as child abuse and neglect, adoption, child custody and visitation, domestic violence, guardianship, juvenile delinquency, paternity, persons in need of supervision (PINS), child support, and termination of parental rights. There are no juries in this court; judges make the decisions.

**Town Courts:** Listed below are the towns/villages with contested judicial elections. Town Court justices serve a term of four years. These courts have jurisdiction over a broad range of matters, including vehicle and traffic matters, small claims, evictions, civil matters, and criminal offenses. The number next to the town indicates the number of justices to be elected.

Gates (2)

Perinton

Sweden

Ogden

Pittsford

Webster

## November Ballot Question: Adirondack Land Swap Amendment

This November, New Yorkers will vote on a constitutional Amendment affecting land use in the Adirondack Forest Preserve. The Amendment would authorize the state to use 323 acres at the Mount Van Hoevenberg Olympic Sports Complex for winter sports facilities and infrastructure upgrades. In return, the state must acquire and permanently protect at least 2,500 acres of new forest land within the Adirondack Park.

The New York State Constitution strictly protects Forest Preserve lands from sale, lease, or development. Any exceptions—like this one—must be approved by voters statewide. It was approved by the Legislature in two consecutive sessions, which is required before it can appear on the ballot.

### What the Amendment Would Do:

- Permit limited development on Forest Preserve land to support Olympic-level sports and recreation.
- Support upgrades to facilities at the Mount Van Hoevenberg Olympic Sports Complex used for training, tourism, and international competition.
- Require the state to add significantly more acreage to the Preserve than it removes.

### Potential Benefits:

- Environmental Net Gain: The swap would result in a net increase of protected Forest Preserve land—more than seven times the acreage being used.
- Economic Boost: Improved sports infrastructure could attract tourism, events, and investment.
- Recreational Access: Enhanced facilities may benefit local residents and athletes alike.

(Continued on P 7)

## Adirondack Land Swap Amendment - continued

### Potential Concerns:

- Precedent Setting: Some worry this could open the door to future development on protected lands.
- Ecological Impact: Even small-scale construction can disrupt habitats and ecosystems.
- Oversight & Transparency: Voters may want more clarity on how the new lands will be selected and managed.

### Who Supports the Amendment?

- Adirondack Council – cites economic and recreational benefits for the region.
- Protect the Adirondacks – views this as a remedy for past constitutional violations.
- Citizens Union – endorses the measure as part of broader civic reforms.

### Who Opposes or Raises Concerns?

- Some environmental advocates – express concern about setting a precedent for development on protected lands, though no major group has issued a formal opposition statement as of September 2025.

A “Yes” vote authorizes the use of the land for recreation and acquisition of the additional acres.



## New Address for the Monroe County Board of Elections

The Monroe County Board of Elections (BOE) moved to a new location across from the Rochester Sports Complex.

435 Smith Street  
Rochester, NY 14608-1606

Mail sent to the previous address will be forwarded to the new location until mid- to late December.

**It is imperative to change the mailing address on all pre-printed forms before mid-December to ensure that mail will be received by the BOE.**

## Early Voting Days and Times for the 2025 General Election

- Saturday October 25th - 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
- Sunday October 26th - 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
- Monday October 27th - 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
- Tuesday October 28th - 12:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
- Wednesday October 29th - 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
- Thursday October 30th - 12:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
- Friday October 31st - 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
- Saturday November 1st - 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
- Sunday November 2nd - 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

## Early Voting Sites for the 2025 General Election

During Early Voting registered Monroe County residents may vote at any of the following sites. Spanish interpreters will be available at all locations.

- County Office Building - 39 West Main St, Rochester, NY 14614
- Staybridge Suites Rochester University Hotel - 1000 Genesee St, Rochester, NY 14611
- Greece Town Hall - 1 Vince Tofany Blvd, Rochester, NY 14612
- Brighton Farmers Market - 1435 Westfall Road, Rochester, NY 14618  
\*Spanish and ASL Interpreters on Location\*
- David Gantt Rec Center - 700 North St, Rochester, NY 14605
- Edgerton Rec Center - 41 Backus St, Rochester, NY 14608
- Irondequoit Community Center - 450 Skyview Centre Pkwy, Suite 200, Rochester, NY 14622
- Perinton Square Mall - 6720 Pittsford Palmyra Rd, Fairport, NY 14450
- Henrietta Library - 625 Calkins Rd, Rochester, NY 14623  
\*Spanish and ASL Interpreters on Location\*
- Gates Public Library - 902 Elmgrove Rd, Rochester, NY 14624
- Pittsford Town Court - 3750 Monroe Ave, Suite 950, Pittsford, NY 14534
- Webster Justice Court Building - 1002 Ridge Rd, Webster, NY 14580
- Sweden-Clarkson Community Center - 4927 Lake Rd S, Brockport, NY 14420



## New Voting Machines in Monroe County

If you voted in a Monroe County primary or school board election earlier this year you used the new voting machines. However, since many people may still be unfamiliar with the machines, we are reprinting a portion of the May 2025 article about them here.

The new machines, the ExpressVote XL, use a 32-inch touch screen to mark an independently-verifiable paper ballot. This system provides several benefits compared with the old machines:

- The touch screens can display different-sized print, different contrast, and different languages to meet voters' needs.
- There is a curtain to protect the privacy 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 misread.
- 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 Monroe County Board of Elections 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.

More information and a video of the machines can be found here [Voting Machines](#).



## Voter Services Update

In August, community preparations for the start of the school year were well underway. We attended Back-to-School events sponsored by the Ibero-American Action League and the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP). Local colleges and universities organized events to welcome students and acquaint them with campus and community services. We participated in the Orientation Resource Fair at the University of Rochester. Oftentimes, students are unsure about how to register and vote when living away from home. We help to explain the options and provide a brochure that can aid in making those decisions.

September 16<sup>th</sup> was National Voter Registration Day. In honor of the holiday, we tabled at the Mendon Public Library while an event at the Frederick Douglass Library was cancelled due to a Covid outbreak among staff. We hope to reschedule that when conditions allow. In addition, our volunteers registered voters and distributed information at St. Peter's Food Pantry and the South Wedge Festival.



Photo from Mendon Library event with Lindsay Catlin and Deb Gordon

The Voter Services Team has lively and interesting discussions on a variety of topics during our meetings. The team meets on the last Thursday of the month from 5:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M. via Zoom. We invite anyone interested in hearing more about our work to contact Deb Gordon or Cathy Kane at [voterservices@lwv-rma.org](mailto:voterservices@lwv-rma.org)

## 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](#).

**Join First Friday** for social time at I-Square in Irondequoit - 400 Bakers Park, Rochester, NY 14617 - at 11:30 A.M. 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!

# Protecting Our Vote

by Tom Ferrarese

retired Commissioner of Elections for Monroe County, NY  
Aug. 4, 2025

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the  
Rochester Metro Area

On August 4, 2025, Tom Ferrarese (LWV-RMA member and former Monroe County Elections Commissioner) led an interactive discussion of Key Elements to Voting. Among the issues covered were voter registration systems, polling sites, voting machines, poll workers, and counting the vote.

Tom and participants shared concerns about accessibility to registration and polling sites, as well as issues facing poll workers, among other topics.

The presentation is available on the LWV-RMA YouTube page [here](#).

## Key Elements to Voting



LWV-RMA President Barbara Grosh introducing the program; Tom Ferrarese leads the discussion of voting issues.



## Naturalization Ceremony Program

### WELCOME

*Yeiza Negron Vila and Samuel Robinson, SUNY Brockport Students*

### OPENING REMARKS

*Dr. Heidi Macpherson, SUNY Brockport President*

### OVERVIEW OF CEREMONY

*Oquendo, USCIS officer*

### MONROE COUNTY JURY OFFICE

*Roxanne Henry*

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

*Joann Kane-DeMott*

### COURT IS CONVENED

#### WELCOME

*Judge Mark W. Pedersen*

#### POSTING OF THE COLORS

*SUNY Brockport ROTC Color Guard*

#### STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

*Brigette Meskill*

#### PRESENTATION OF MOTION

*Officer Oquendo*

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

*Led by a citizen*

#### ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

*James Bock, Courtroom Deputy to Judge Pedersen*

#### DISTRIBUTION OF CERTIFICATES

*Judge Mark Pedersen and Officer Oquendo*

### COURT IS CONVENED

## Naturalizations

JoAnn Kane-DeMott, Beth Feldman, and David Newman attended the September 18th naturalization ceremony at SUNY Brockport with the Honorable Mark W. Pedersen presiding.

50 new citizens and their families were greeted by student representatives. The President of the College, Dr. Heidi Macpherson, gave the opening remarks.

Our volunteers registered 26 new potential voters whom we will follow up with before elections.



## New Policy Affecting Our Activities

The United States Citizen and Immigration Services Agency has enacted a policy that will no longer allow non-profit organizations to do voter registration at naturalization ceremonies.

<https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/policy-manual-updates/20250829-NatzCeremonyVoterRegistration.pdf>

LWVUS has responded with a statement calling for the policy to be overturned. LWVNYS will do the same. We encourage you all to post this message on social media and other platforms- <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/league-women-voters-statement-uscis-policy-restricting-voter-registration>.

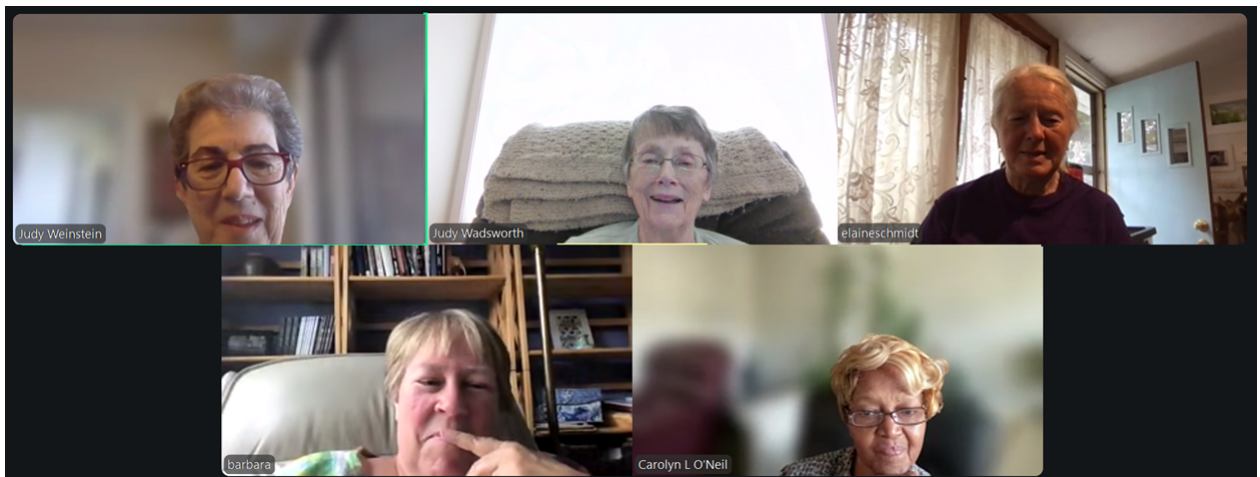
The LWV-RMA plans to attend these ceremonies regardless of this directive.

## Book Recommendations

*Truth, Lies, and the Questions In Between* by L.M. Elliott. This is young adult fiction. It is told from the point of view of a 17-year-old Senate page in 1973 – one of the first female pages in Congress. 1973 – Watergate and the second wave of feminism with Phyllis Schlafly vs. Betty Friedan, and Bobby Riggs vs. Billie Jean King. I enjoyed the history review and reminder of our attitudes and how they have changed. It is a short and easy read.

*The MAGA Diaries* by Tina Nguyen. This is a memoir of a young Vietnamese- American who starts her adulthood as firmly right wing and slowly moves to the center. She drops many names, but what makes it most interesting is the discussion of how the right has groomed people and mentored them for decades to get where they are now - in politics and journalism.

*Submitted by David Newman*

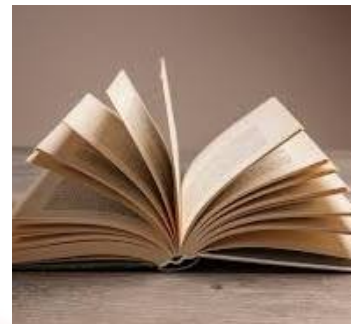


## Book Club reviewed *The House is on Fire*

Members of the LWV-RMA Book Club met via Zoom on September 18 to discuss a novelized account of an actual theater fire and its effects on people in Richmond, Virginia in 1811.

On November 20, the group will discuss *Abundance* by Ezra Klein and Derek Thompson. All book club sessions are held via Zoom on the third Thursday of the month at 4:30 P.M. If you would like to participate, email [bookclub@lwv-rma.org](mailto:bookclub@lwv-rma.org).

*Submitted by Judy Wadsworth*



## **LWVNYS Criminal Justice Reform Committee (CJRC) Update**

Voter Registration at the Monroe County Jail is ongoing with good results. Currently, county jails are overloaded with detainees from prisons with jail closures and staff shortages.

During a September Zoom meeting with LWVNYC CJRC the following issues were discussed:

### **1. Corrections Oversight Omnibus Bill**

In September, Brad Lander, City Controller and Chief Accountability Officer for NYC, sent a letter to Governor Kathy Hochul urging her to sign the Corrections Oversight Omnibus Bill (S.8415 Salazar) (A.8871 Dylan). The Omnibus bill consists of ten prison oversight bills in an effort to bring stability and safety to New York State jails and prisons. Section H would strengthen oversight of NYS jails and prisons by overhauling the State Commission of Corrections. State and local correctional facilities have been plagued by violence that endangers people in custody and staff.

### **2. Rikers Island Detention Center**

In 2019, the New York City Council voted to close the Rikers Island Detention Center and replace it with four smaller, safer, and more humane facilities in the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, and Manhattan boroughs. The 2027 deadline to close Rikers is rapidly approaching and the work is behind schedule. There have been twelve deaths at Rikers Island this year alone. In addition, Rikers Island is currently an ICE outpost and houses 7,000 detainees.

### **3. Democracy During Detention Act**

Currently, thousands of those detained in NYS jails that have the right to vote have no or limited access to exercising their franchise. Forty-two of 62 counties have no jail voting program. This bill creates a statewide voting access program that guarantees one secure machine in every facility. Legislation has not yet been introduced.

If you are interested in joining the Committee, you can reach me at [Justice@LWV-RMA.org](mailto:Justice@LWV-RMA.org) or [jenningslaurene@gmail.com](mailto:jenningslaurene@gmail.com)

Submitted by Laurene Jennings



To become more engaged in protecting our democracy, please consider some of the opportunities offered by the LWV-RMA.

See the list of specific areas where we need your help [here](#).

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Rochester, NY 14610  
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[www.LWV-RMA.org](http://www.LWV-RMA.org)

The Voter is a monthly publication of the LWV-RMA  
Editor, Mary Micket; Graphic Editor, Judy Wadsworth;  
Layout/Design, David Newman; Proof readers, Barbara  
Grosh, Pat Willis, Mary Hussong-Kallen

If you have comments, article suggestions or pictures to  
share please send them to [micketeditor@gmail.com](mailto:micketeditor@gmail.com)

## 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

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## Join the League Today!

N.A.M.e: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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.](#)

### 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.