



Newsletter May 2021

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### Action Items



#### **LWV Mid-Hudson Annual Meeting Wednesday, June 16th**

We do this every year (obviously). It's going to be such fun this year, down on the waterfront at the historic Milton Train Station, Town of Marlborough. Read details in article below.

**School Board Elections,  
Tuesday May 18th**

As we write this newsletter, people are voting in School Board elections all over the region. Please check out who ran and who won in your school district. Remember that the most influence you can have is in local issues. Right now in many school districts there is tension between those who want to spend money on making the school secure and those who would prefer to spend the money on things that improve the classroom experience. Even if no one in your family is currently involved in your district's school, it is still an important part of your community and deserves your attention.



### **New York State LWV CONVENTION June 7th-12th**

All LWV members still have time to sign up for the State League's 2021 convention. A variety of workshops and gatherings. An address by our National League President. All this and more in the comfort of your own home, by zoom. Cost is \$75 and enrollment deadline is June 1st. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

### **Know a Student Artist?**

The Ulster County Board of Elections is running an "I VOTED" sticker contest. Open to anyone 13-18 years old and resident of Ulster County.

Contestants will design a "I Voted" 2 inch sticker and digital



graphics that can be used to hand out to voters in November's election. Deadline is June 1st. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information

## For The People Act

*Graphic credit: CommonCause.org*

### FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

#### **The For the People Act (HR1/S1)**

Forty-three states are trying to enact legislation that could make it harder to vote. Some have already done so. The **For the People Act**, passed in the House in early March, aims to override these proposed restrictions, and create a national baseline for voting access for every American. To read more about this important legislation, and follow up with your Senators [CLICK HERE](#).

### STATE LEGISLATION:

#### **Medical Aid in Dying**

The NYS League is advocating for the **Medical Aid in Dying Act A. 4321a (Paulin)/S.6471 (Savino)**. The Medical Aid in Dying Act would allow a terminally ill, mentally capable adult to request life-ending medication from a doctor that the person can self-administer at a time of his or her choosing, or never, should suffering become unbearable. The state legislature closes for business June 10th. **Contact your senator or assembly member to express your wishes in this and other matters.**



#### **The New York Health Act**

The NYS League is advocating for the New York Health Act, A-6058 (Gottfried)/S-5474



(Rivera).

#### The New York Health Act:

- Establishes a comprehensive system of access to health insurance for New York state residents.
- Provides for administrative structure of the plan.
- Provides for powers and duties of the board of trustees, the scope of benefits, payment methodologies and care coordination.
- Establishes the New York Health Trust Fund which would hold monies from a variety of sources to be used solely to finance the plan.
- Enacts provisions relating to financing of New York Health, including a payroll assessment, similar to the Medicare tax.
- Establishes a temporary commission on implementation of the plan.
- Provides for collective negotiations by health care providers with New York Health.

This legislation is pending in the Assembly Codes Committee and Senate Health Committee. Check our website for more information by [CLICKING HERE](#), and **contact your assembly member and senator to express your wishes in this matter.**

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[The Prez says...](#)

This year's LWV Mid-Hudson Annual

Meeting location has been specially chosen to welcome our new members in Orange County. After a valiant effort, they have chosen to give up their status as a Member-at-Large league. Creating a MAL is a first step to becoming an independent unit of the LWVNY. Their loss is certainly our gain, and I am hoping many of you join us in welcoming them at the historic Milton Train Station in the Town of Marlborough, far south in Ulster County. It will be a wonderful opportunity to meet our neighbors and discover what we have to offer each other. Please see meeting details elsewhere in this newsletter.



The Annual Meeting June 16th is our opportunity to get to know one another better, look over the past year and to discover what our priorities will be for the next year. We also will have the pleasure of hearing the story of this unique venue from the folks who spearheaded the effort to save this wonderful place, Cindy and Al Lanzetta, also long-time League members.

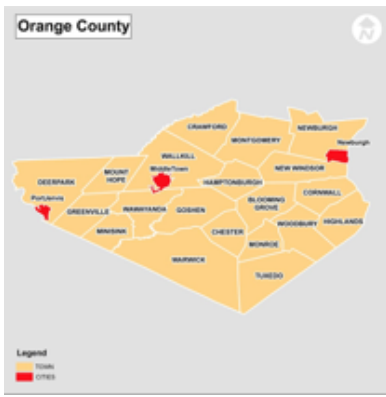
See you there!

Cindy Bell, President  
LWV Mid-Hudson Region

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[News Items](#)



## LWV of Orange County joins LWV Mid-Hudson Region

Orange County Members-at-Large have merged with LWV of the Mid-Hudson Region. They've been operating on their own for a while, but have decided to officially collaborate with us. We enthusiastically look forward to meeting and working with them. Please join us in welcoming them at our Annual Meeting June 16th.

## Two NYS Constitutional Amendments on the November Ballot

The Assembly passed two constitutional amendments to allow for no-excuse absentee voting and to remove the constitutionally mandated 10-day voter registration deadline. These amendments have already been passed by the Senate and will now appear as a NYS ballot referendum in November.



## League petitions for release of Redistricting Commission Funds

The state's Independent Redistricting Commission still has not received its budget appropriation for 2021-2022. Although the funds were approved in April, the Comptroller's office has not released them. The League partnered with 24 organizations and sent a letter to the State Comptroller urging him to immediately release the \$4 million in funding so the

Commission can begin its work.

## Voter Reform Legislation

LWV members and friends, along with a number of other organizations and elected officials, gathered on May 8th on Cedar Street in Kingston to honor John Lewis and petition for his Voting Rights Act.



The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of NYS (S1046A Myrie)/(A6678 Walker) would help prevent and redress acts of voter suppression, disenfranchisement, or intimidation; require certain localities to clear local changes to voter access that could infringe civil rights with the NYS Attorney General; designate SUNY as a transparent state steward of election data; and improve language assistance. This legislation is in the Election Law Committee in both the Senate and Assembly.

There are a myriad of other bills in the NYS Assembly and Senate that target voter reforms. For a run down of these many voting reform bills pending in New York State, [CLICK HERE](#).

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[LWV Mid-Hudson Annual Meeting, Wednesday, June 16th](#)

Join us at the Historic Milton Train Station on the waterfront at 41 Dock Rd, Milton 12547, Town of Marlborough, Wednesday June 16th 6pm.



Enjoy a lovely evening on the banks of the Hudson River, at the newly rehabilitated Milton Train Station. A salad buffet, followed by dessert & coffee will feed the body. News of what the League of Women Voters is up to will nourish the intellect. Always eco-friendly, we ask that you bring your own reusable plate, cup & silverware. Extra will be provided, if you forget.

We will follow NYS and CDC protocols including social distancing and plenty of fresh air.

Members and friends are invited. RSVP required to [lwvmidhudson@gmail.com](mailto:lwvmidhudson@gmail.com) so we know numbers in advance.

We encourage folks to carpool. The new location in Southern Ulster will be convenient for Southern Dutchess and Orange County members. This unique meeting place is a treasure and worth the ride.

Questions? Call Cindy Lanzetta 845-236-7288

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**Primary Voting in June**

Primary Election Day is





Tuesday June 22nd, but Early Voting will start on Saturday, June 12th.

To find details of **Early Voting Polling Places** and times in:

Ulster County [CLICK](#)

[HERE](#)

Dutchess County [CLICK HERE](#)

Orange County [CLICK HERE](#)

To see the the **candidates** in:

Ulster County [CLICK HERE](#)

Dutchess County [CLICK HERE](#)

Orange County [CLICK HERE](#)

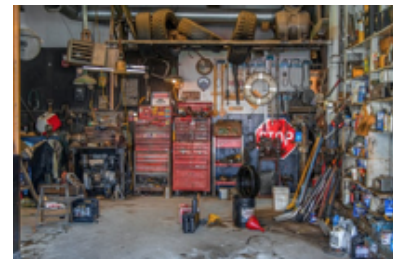
To check your polling location on Primary Election Day, check with your County Board of Elections.

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## **Environmental Impact - a series by Cindy Bell**

Cindy believes if you simplify your life, and manage your belongings responsibly, you'll not only be doing a good thing for yourself -- but also for the planet. She found this blog by Lily Cameron inspiring and hopes that you do, too. [CLICK HERE](#) to read.



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### Editor's Note:

We want you to know that we welcome your feedback with regard to anything you read in this newsletter, or items that you would like to see. We're here for you and would like to hear from you. Contact [lwvmidhudson@gmail.com](mailto:lwvmidhudson@gmail.com). Thanks.

Also note: this and previous issues of our newsletter are available for viewing on our website [lwvmidhudson.org](http://lwvmidhudson.org).

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