



Newsletter November 2022

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Action Items

Get the most out of a Membership and Be Involved with Your Local League!

MEETING DATES & ZOOM LINKS-

October/November!

October 29th - November 6th

Early Voting!!!!

Check your local County BOE for more information.

November 1st

12:30PM

LWVMHR Membership Committee Meeting (All are welcome!)

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86309152442?pwd=eGlxQU1WRG53NE9SWUNZS1I1eWExZz09>

November 8th

Election Day!

VOTE!

6:00AM-9:00PM

November 14th,

1:45PM

LWVMHR

Book Club

[Enzo's](#), Kingston

November 17th

7pm

LWVMHR

Board Meeting

(Members are welcome to join)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82555616265?pwd=M0w4bFJCL0U1cTY4Q3I6RUtIY1F1dz09>

November 18th

Noon
League Southern Tier Meetup
[Silk Factory](#), Newburgh

LWVMHR Book Club Meeting

From Daisy Tyler

Most of our members were present and we had a lively discussion of Hannah Arendt's book "**Crisis of the Republic**". This book is a series of essays on politics. Arendt is widely considered to be one of the most influential political theorists of the 20th century. This book touches on the subjects of lying in politics, violence, power, civil disobedience, politics and revolution and many other subjects. Many of these points pertain to our present social condition, not only in our country, but also globally.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 14th, at 1:45PM, at [Enzo's Italian Restaurant](#) in Kingston. The book to be discussed is : "**Ten Lessons For A Post-Pandemic World**" by Fareed Zakaria.

Fareed Zakaria is a renown well respected correspondent. On June 25, 2017, almost three years before the pandemic, Fareed Zakaria made the following prediction on his CNN show:

"One of the biggest threats facing the U.S. isn't big at all. Actually, it's tiny, microscopic, thousands times smaller than the head of a pin. Deadly pathogens, either man -made or natural, could trigger a global health crisis, and the US is wholly unprepared to deal with it..."

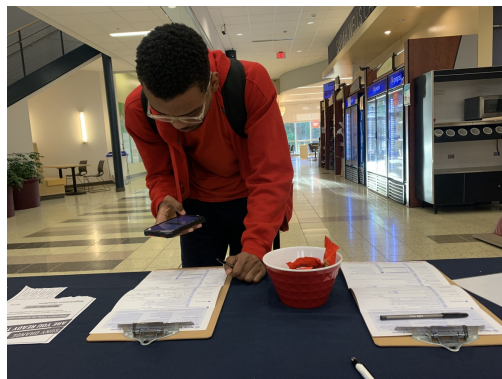
Come and meet with us and talk about this world that Zakaria is talking about.

Voter Services

Many thanks to all our members who volunteered to get out in the community to register voters and share educational materials. You rock!!!

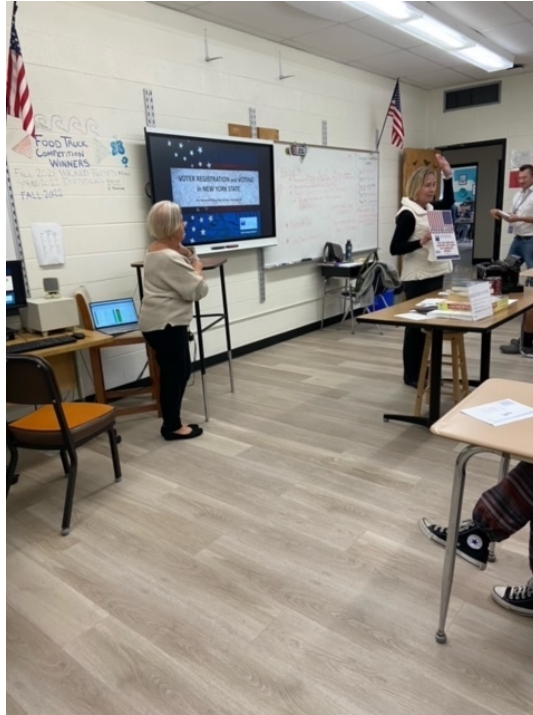
Dear Members,

We are looking for volunteers for our **Programing Committee**. This committee will be tasked with arranging this year's events. We are looking for committee members interested in helping with finding speakers, creating event fliers, location scouting, as well as the other event logistics. Currently, we are hoping to plan events on How to Run For Office; Healthcare; Election Security; and trainings for the observer core. Members of the programming committee will also provide input into what other programs to hold. We welcome both event specific and year-round volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jennifer Clark at jenclark3@gmail.com



Are you interested in learning more about **Ranked Choice Voting** (RCV) and helping us consider concurring with other NY

chapters? Join our Rank Choice Voting Committee. All meetings will be on Zoom. No previous knowledge of RCV is required. If you are interested, please email co-chairs Gerda Maissel at grdmaissel@gmail.com or Dave Heller at mrplurocrat@aol.com.



Regional Meetup Groups

A report on the "Southern Tier Group" from Cindy Lanzetta

At the last meeting at the Silk Factory in Newburgh we talked, a lot, about Voter Services. Leslie Simons, Mary Missere, and others did 22 registrations at OCCC/SUNY in Middletown and Louise Reavis went into Warwick High School and was able to do education and register 70 students! We have put together a nice "football" of materials, tables, signs and other things to use with voter services in the Southern Tier. (We call it a football because we "hand it off" to each other) It was decided that we will keep materials with Leslie Simons and she will lend it out, as requested. We will keep better track of what brochures and materials we are using and what else might be necessary for our work.

Diana Gross brought a friend, who may be interested in joining the League. Friends are welcome!

Other discussions included upcoming events and how to get involved. There is an interest, in our group, in having a get-together meeting to focus on what is involved in doing moderation work for debates. Maybe in January? We also talked about learning more about Orange County ; in particular -the Board of Elections and doing some Legislative Observation.

Good food, good conversation, we are already looking forward to our next meeting on Friday, November 18th, noon at the Silk Factory!

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The Prez says ...



by Dare Thompson

As I write this, it is exactly two weeks until the November 8 election. I hope you are telling everyone you know to VOTE! Large numbers are already going to the polls elsewhere, and on Saturday we'll see what happens here when early voting starts. May the force be with us!

The pre-election work has been with us since the summer. The next newsletter will give a fuller account of all we did to get voters registered and informed, but it is never too early to thank everyone who has already sat at a registration/voter information table, been moderator or timekeeper at a candidate forum, or helped get Voter Guides (parts I and II) out into our three counties. We've been busy!

For the first time this year we had the help of the good people at the Ramapo-Catskill Library System in getting Voter Guides into all their libraries. Thanks to them and to the continuing help of the Mid-Hudson Library System, we served all 100-or so libraries in Dutchess, Ulster, Orange – and even in Greene, Rockland, and a bit of Sullivan.

The busy-ness continues as many of us prepare to work at the polls or even, on election night, work with the Associated Press (AP) to get news of the results out to as fast as possible. Emilie Hauser and Maura O'Meara are handling Ulster, I'm handling Dutchess, and Ann Toner and Leslie Simons will be reporting from Orange.

And then there's legislation to concern ourselves with. Two topics we're tackling in the next three months will be: 1) whether to concur with the NYC LWV's position on ranked choice voting (RCV) and 2) how to get "medical aid in dying" legislation to pass this year at the state level – it may just happen if we and others push hard enough.

Want to help? Please contact Gerta Maissel (grdmaissel@gmail.com) or Dave Heller (mrplutocrat@aol.com) about RCV and Kathie Beinkafner (rockdoctor@optonline.net) about medical aid in dying.

Whew! So much to do. But first, get yourself to the poll and remind everyone you meet to vote! Turn-out will tell the tale.

KEEPING THEM HONEST:

In DUTCHESS

We are closely monitoring the voting situation at Vassar College where the Board of Elections is failing to put a polling site on the campus, although a new state law clearly requires one there. The BOE is not only violating the spirit of our voting laws but is brazenly violating the law itself. Especially in this polarized time, voters need their boards of elections to protect them from partisan games, not play them, and we are working closely with a coalition of individuals and groups to fix this. The League is mentioned in an article by Saba Ali in the Poughkeepsie Journal giving some details. See the full article [here](#).

In ULSTER

There is trouble in Ulster County too where it appears that the map drawn by the independent redistricting commission violates state law about the number of people allowed in each district. The finger-pointing is lively and no one really knows what problems might arise from this or how to avoid them. The commission says its work was done in good faith and certified by the Board of Elections, and it does not want to start over. Will any candidate who loses be able to deny the loss because the map violates the law? No one knows. Fortunately the map does not take effect until local elections next year so there is a little time to work this out. We are watching closely and making sure this gets resolved.

Dare Thompson, President

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Explaining the Supreme Court's Abortion Decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*

by Kathy OConnor

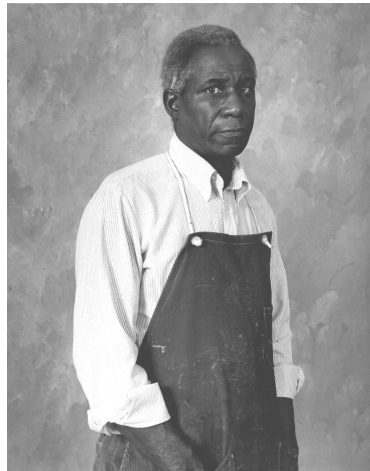
You know that the League neither supports nor opposes any political candidate or party. We do, however, stand firmly behind positions that have been carefully thought out and affirmed by our organization. A woman's right to make her own determination as to what course of action to take regarding her personal reproductive health, is one of those positions that we firmly support.

To deny that liberty, that respect for her own judgment, harkens back to the days when women weren't considered full-fledged citizens. When they weren't allowed to vote, or to open a bank account without their husband's permission. There were many other liberties they were denied just because they happened to be

born a woman.

The national League of Women Voters addresses this issue in their blog last updated July 22, 2022. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to read the League's assessment of Justice Alito's majority opinion on this matter.

We encourage you to reflect on this matter with your intelligence and your heart.



You're invited to the Dr. Margaret Wade-Lewis Black History Cultural Center Launch Celebration

from Kate Hymes

The Dr. Margaret Wade-Lewis Center at the Ann Oliver House is holding a Launch Celebration, November 5th, 5 PM, at the [Samuel Dorsky Museum](#), SUNY New Paltz, at the exhibition of "Ben Wigfall and Communications Village." The event is Free.

I serve on the Advisory Board of the Center. The project began when the Village of New Paltz approved a project proposal for the preservation and restoration of the Ann Oliver House, 5 Broadhead Ave, New Paltz .

The Ann Oliver house was built by Jacob Wynkoop who, according to local lore, was the first Black child born free in the New Paltz community. He and Richard Oliver, Ann's husband, volunteered and served in the US Colored Troops 20th Regiment during the Civil War. Richard Oliver died during his service. Jacob Wynkoop and others built the house on Broadhead for the Widow Ann and her children in 1885. Jacob Wynkoop built several houses in the surrounding neighborhood which was once a thriving community of African-Americans.

At the Launch Celebration, you will learn more about the house's past and, most importantly, the vision for its future.

The event is Free. Donations are encouraged, but not required.

You may register for the event by clicking [HERE](#).

*Photo of artist Ben Wigfall by Nancy Donskoj



**Don't forget to turn your ballot over for the Environmental
Bond Act Prop**

Westchester County Executive George Latimer made this brief message encouraging people to "flip it over" (the ballot) when they are voting! Check it out [Here](#).



With the help of this QR code you can direct anyone to the New York State Voter Look Up [Website](#)

Just direct your cellphone camera on the code and a website prompt will come up and you can go to that and see info on your registration status and polling places. Saves paper!

You can also go to [VoterLookUp.elections.ny.gov](https://www.elections.ny.gov/VoterLookUp), which will take you to that same page where you will find your polling place and your new election districts.

We have an excellent video that simplifies the idea of **Ranked Choice Voting**. Check it out:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHRPMJmzBBw>

We also have an archive of videos done by our local LWV Mid-Hudson on YouTube!

You can access them [here](#).

You can see the final New York State 2022 Redistricting Maps [HERE](#).

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Environmental Impact



by Cynthia Bell

NYS Environmental Bond Act

Prop 1 (on the back of this year's ballot)

This is the first Environmental Bond Act on the ballot for New Yorkers in 26 years. (A bond allows the state to take on debt in order to fund projects for a specific purpose.) Ten of the eleven past Environmental Bond Acts appearing on NYS ballots since 1910 have been passed by the electorate by at least ten points and all were popular with voters regardless of party affiliation. The focus in 1910 was water pollution and wastewater. That shifted to hazardous waste and waste management (also creating Superfund Sites and addressing PCBs) in the mid to late 20th century. Land and waterway preservation has been part of prior acts and often specifically targeting drinking water and air quality.

Our municipal infrastructure is aging beyond its intended lifespan and is now in serious jeopardy. Watermain breaks and sewage

spills, as a result of outdated stormwater structure, flooding, or simply crumbling from age, have become commonplace. This referendum addresses municipal infrastructure as well as supporting and expanding renewable energy, green transportation systems, roads, wildlife conservation, farms, parks, and many municipal project improvements, in keeping with the changes in the world around us. Severe weather-related events are stressing governmental and insurance resources that are likely to increase with the effects of climate change. In addition to all of the benefits to health and the stability of housing and public/personal property, this act will create tens of thousands of well-paying jobs.

Everyone wants, no - needs - clean air and water. We cannot exist without it. While there are some fiscal and regulatory concerns, this act will support the changes necessary to improve and maintain quality of life for citizens.

For more information on Prop 1, see the following resources:

[\\$4.2 Billion Environmental Bond Act: What you should know - Riverkeeper](#)

Specifics of what is covered by this [Environmental Bond Act: Bond Act funding by program_final.xlsx](#) ([cleanwaterandjobs.org](#))

A bit of history on NYS Environmental Bond Acts, past and present:

[New York's Environmental Bond Acts | Rockefeller Institute of Government](#) ([rockinst.org](#))

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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 info@lwvmidhudson.org. Thanks.

Next Newsletter deadline is November 21st.

Also note: this and previous issues of our newsletter are available for viewing on our website lwvmidhudson.org.

info@lwvmidhudson.org

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