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May 2025

Prez Says



PREZ SAYS

Where to start?! I hope you saw the national LWV's message to the world that asserts that **we are in a constitutional crisis**. There is a link to the press release in the **League Update: April 17, 2025** email that was sent to you that day. *NY Times* commentator David Brooks mentioned

the League's stand on the PBS NewsHour the next day, referring to us as "strictly nonpartisan" to emphasize how dramatic this is. Brooks also wrote an Opinion piece in the NY Times on April 17 that has the headline "What's Happening Is Not Normal. America Needs an Uprising That Is Not Normal." It stresses our need to band together to create a strong enough power to counter the horrifying power grab we are watching unfold.

Protest efforts abound, and we are continuing to post information about new ones on our Facebook page. Also check out www.fiftyfifty.one which is trying to be a clearinghouse for protests. As a League, we are staying clear of strictly partisan events but most are nonpartisan and of course we can attend any event as a single individual not representing the League.

The League, at all levels, has always reached out to groups that share our values and concerns but we are intensifying these efforts. For what's happening at the state League, look every Friday for an email with the subject line **Your Weekly Legislative Update from LWNYS**. Besides giving you news from the state Capitol, the April 18th message mentions **a lawsuit LWNYS has joined** with the Southern Poverty Law Center and several other state Leagues related to the census process - making sure that it doesn't unfairly undercount some of our citizens. It also reminds us that the totally outrageous **SAVE Act** has passed the House and we simply cannot let it pass in the Senate. It refers us to a **Congressional Recess Guide** on the national website, available only to members through the email they receive, that can help us **"Turn Up the Heat"** on our members of Congress.

Of course the **Legislative Update** also fills us in on what we should know about the state budget negotiations and tells us when different groups will be coming to Albany to lobby. It emphasizes the League's **Advocacy Day on May 6th** and we will be carpooling to that. Let me or anyone on the board know if you'd like to join us, and use the *register* link on the legislative update to let the office know you are coming. It's good for our mental health to stay engaged where our efforts are having more impact.

It is also so satisfying to attend a **LWVMHR Meet-Up** whenever one is held near you - or even farther away. We recently held one at 4 pm in a new location - the Kings Valley Diner in Kingston - and the question all those attending had was "What do we DO?!" We shared many ideas, and our next meet up on May 20 at 4 pm will feature some new public education efforts.

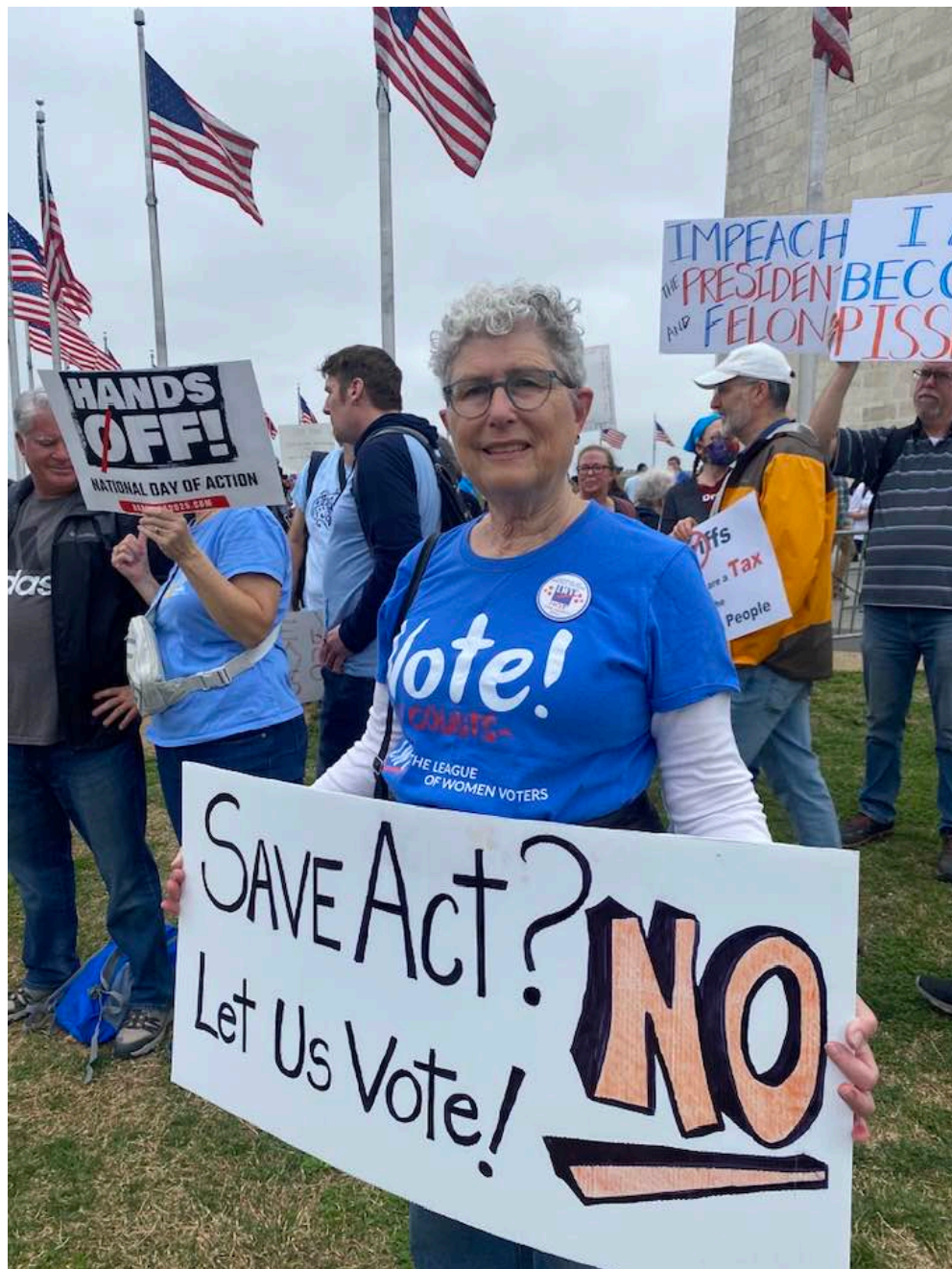
Addressing county (or town and school board) issues is another satisfying way to have impact, and three of us went to the Ulster County legislature's monthly meetings happening right after the meet-up. We will continue to meet on Tuesdays when we can also go to the legislature's meetings. Please join us! Once you figure out the personalities and the issues, it can get addictive.

It's important, in such a difficult time, to keep our spirits up by doing things we CAN do and by not isolating ourselves with our fears. We hope the League can be a place where you can do both. Good groups like ours will never be more important.

Dare Thompson, President

darethompson@gmail.com

845-236-3074 (preferred) 845-591-3445 (cell)



Calendar Happenings

Take Action!

May 6th

10 AM - 4 PM

LWVNYS Albany Advocacy Day

LWVNYS Lobby Day- REGISTRATION OPEN

Join the State League to let your voice be heard up at the Capitol this spring for Advocacy Day on **May 6, 2025!** This will be a full day event. We will hear from speakers in the morning and then head up to the Capitol to lobby our representatives in the afternoon. More information on FREE transportation and lunch coming soon! Register **here**.

May 7th

4 PM

Membership / Communications Committee Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83485777163?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83485777163?pwd=I3oZo3O0YaLwfvvCshbMklaYCft7jS.1)[pwd=I3oZo3O0YaLwfvvCshbMklaYCft7jS.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83485777163?pwd=I3oZo3O0YaLwfvvCshbMklaYCft7jS.1)**May 8th**

10 AM

Program Committee Planning Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87278270808?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87278270808?pwd=Cb6AekevLJBjgS2RMQubfs9qqb2GHx.1)[pwd=Cb6AekevLJBjgS2RMQubfs9qqb2GHx.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87278270808?pwd=Cb6AekevLJBjgS2RMQubfs9qqb2GHx.1)**May 9th**

Dutchess Meet-up

Noon

Mahoneys, Poughkeepsie**May 13th**

Woodstock/West Regional Meet-up

2:30 PM

Rainbow Lodge, Mt. Tremper**May 15th**

LWVMHR Board Meeting Zoom

4 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84927964413?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84927964413?pwd=OGRLwZEF0OixBEB5Eo1MwL5Jub3yyL.1)

[pwd=OGRLwZEF0OixBEB5Eo1MwL5Jub3yyL.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84927964413?pwd=OGRLwZEF0OixBEB5Eo1MwL5Jub3yyL.1)

May 16th

Southern Tier Meet-up

Noon

Silk Factory, Newburgh

May 20th

4 PM

Kingston Meet-up

Those interested are welcome to join an LWV group attending the legislature's caucuses and monthly meeting immediately after the meet-up.

Kings Valley Diner, Kingston

May 22nd

Saugerties Meet-up

6 PM

Village Diner, Saugerties

June 18th

LWVMHR Annual Dinner Meeting

5 PM

Redeemer Lutheran Church, New Paltz

Watch email for EVITE from LWVMHR

SAVE THE DATE

League Advocacy Day May 6th

9:30 - 4PM

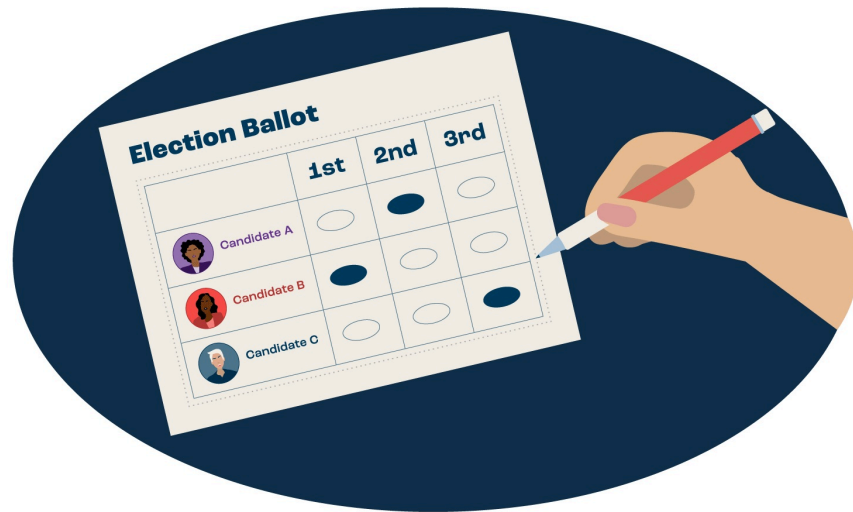
Where: The Blake Annex, 1 Steuben St, Albany NY 12203

Register: [Register online here](#) or mail a check made out to the League of Women Voters of New York State to 1 Steuben St, Albany NY 12207

Cost: \$25 per person (includes lunch)

LWVNYS will host an advocacy day on May 7th in Albany, NY. Join us!

- Learn about important legislative issues and how to advocate for them
- Meet new League members from across the state
- Lobby your state legislators at the Capitol
- Enjoy lunch provided by LWVNYS



Ranked Choice Voting

In early April, the League met to learn about Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), followed by a concurrence session to determine whether LWVMHR concurs (or agrees) with the LWVNYC position, presented by Barbara Grosh, President, LWV of the Rochester Metro Area.

Position to be concurred with:

- We support ranked-choice voting (“instant runoff voting” IRV) in all local elections, including primaries, specials, and general elections.
- Voters should be able to rank at least three and at most six candidates for a given office.
- The counting should cease reallocating votes once a candidate receives over 50% of the current round’s votes.
- RCV/IRV should happen in place of any head-to-head runoffs that might otherwise have occurred.
- Adequate funding should be provided for training, equipment, staff, and voter education.

What is concurrence?

Concurrence is when Leagues can adopt a new position without studying it because another(trusted) League has done that study. If a League adopts a position, it means it supports that position. In this case, NYC has studied the issue of Ranked Choice Voting, and we are now asking LWVMHR members to adopt the NYC position.

Interested in learning more about Ranked-Choice Voting?

View:

- The meeting recording emailed to all League members
- [Majority Rules](#), a documentary about Alaska’s experience, is streaming on multiple platforms
- [Why Ranked Choice Voting](#) on YouTube
- [Civics for New Yorkers – Rank Choice Voting](#) (League of Women of Voters of the City of New York).

Read:

- [The Case Study of Alaska](#)
- [Data on Ranked Choice Voting](#)
- [Pros and Cons of Ranked Choice Voting](#)



LWV Mid-Hudson Meet Ups

Dutchess Meetup

At our March meeting, we had a lively discussion of current events with much of our discussion focused on steps we all should take to help stop the SAVE Act. We also discussed the continued threat to democracy and events happening in Dutchess County that allow us to stand up and fight for democracy. Our potluck in March created several opportunities to work together with other members of the community. We are scheduling meetings with Sue Serino, Yvonne Flowers, and the AAUW. We are also working with several people in an attempt to create a voter registration program for inmates of the county jail. It's an active time and we welcome all who want to help!

Our next meeting is Friday, April 11th, at noon at [Mahoney's](#) in Poughkeepsie.

SOUTHERN TIER

We had a good meeting at the Silk Factory (April 18th) with 9 of us. Deborah Forman is officially registered with Rockland but she lives in Orange and will

transfer to us. It was nice to see Liza Doty come again! We are always up for new friends!

We reviewed upcoming deadlines and the need to renew membership when contacted by the National League via the new portal "ChapterSpot".

We discussed notification of upcoming protests and will email blast members when area wide actions take place. Since the National League told us we could wear our League hats to non-violent protests that express concerns about our loss of Constitutional Rights and the threats to Democracy, many of us have been busy. See more info in the "NEWS" below.*

Next meeting is May 16th, at the Silk Factory in Newburgh at noon!

*thank you Leslie Simons for the report

Committee News

Voter Services:

School Board Elections & Budget Votes

The 2025 school board elections and budget votes will be held on Tuesday, May 20. Times vary by school district. Check out your school district websites for voting times and locations, to learn more about the candidates running for the schoolboards, registration deadlines, and info about early mail ballots, absentee ballots and military ballots.

If you are registered to vote in local or national elections, you are automatically registered to vote in school district elections. However, if you have not voted in the past four years, your voter registration may be marked inactive, and you may be required to re-register to vote.

League Publications Library

Our League library offers helpful documents for voter registration drives, naturalization ceremonies, recruitment, and program events. To obtain materials, contact FayCasatuta, League Voter Services lead, at faycasatuta@us.ibm.com or 845.597.9104.

2025 Election Calendar

May 20	School Board Elections & Budget Votes
June 14	Voter Registration Deadline for Primary
June 14 - 22	Early Voting for Primary
June 24	Primary Election
Oct 25	Voter Registration Deadline for General
Oct 25 – Nov 2	Early Voting for General
Nov 4	General Election





Nostalgia: Yard Sale Fundraiser

Spring brings yard sales with the advent of warm weather. For many years the League held a much-anticipated yard sale at the home of Elizabeth Askue in Hurley. Elizabeth would store donations in the basement and garage almost year-round. This culminated with the sale in late summer on the lawn. Baked goods were a major attraction to returning buyers. The

usual yard sale items were for sale: toys, books, jewelry, housewares, furniture, sporting goods, collectibles and tools. The yard sale was all league volunteer effort, with collecting items, advertising, pricing, set up, sales and clean-up. Members looked forward to this annual fundraising event. The yard sale moved to my garage and yard for a few years. The last sale was in August 2009, sixteen years ago. I have stored the beautifully painted wooden signs from the yard sale all this time. Should these be included in the LWV archives? Do others have stories about the yard sales or remember an awesome buy? I acquired and still have a Kenmore sewing machine in a cabinet that was handy making masks for Covid and other household projects. The yard sale is a good example of the League's dedication to recycling and re-use.

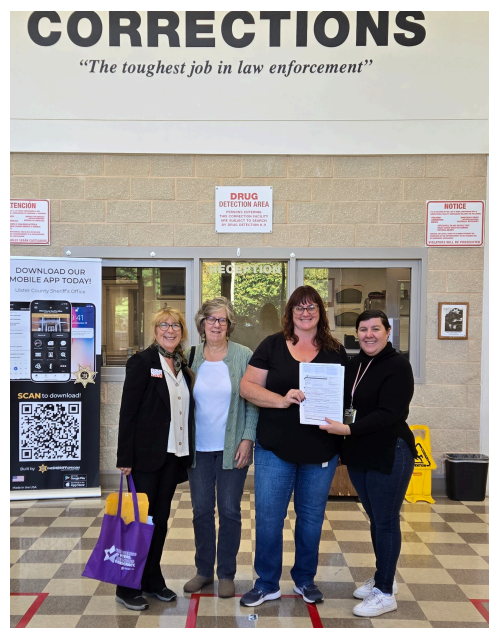
Any interest in working on a new fundraiser yard sale? Contact me at eehauser@gmail.com

Emilie Hauser, Secretary



50 New American Citizens

Congratulations to the 50 individuals, hailing from 28 different countries, who took the oath to become new American citizens on April 7th, at a ceremony hosted by Dutchess County Clerk Brad Kendall at Lakeside Park in Pawling. The ceremony was presided over by the Hon. Jeffrey Martin, Dutchess County Family Court and Acting NYS Supreme Court Judge. Members from the League provided voter registration forms and other voting information to our newest citizens. Sixteen completed registration forms were collected!



Many of you know, LWVMHR Board Member Cindy Bell has been working with Ulster County Board of Elections and the Ulster County Sheriff's

Department to ensure those incarcerated in the UC Jail have access to voting. She has sent the link to a excellent video for Defenders of Democracy's "Democracy During Detention". Check it out

[HERE!](#)



Keep Up With your League's Latest Local Events!

[Learn more](#)

In the News



“Speak up, speak out, get in the way. Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America.”

Congressman John Lewis

In answer to the National League’s Call to Action, members of the League of Women Voters Mid-Hudson have been busy making “good trouble, necessary trouble” throughout the Hudson Valley and beyond. One of our Orange County members was in Orange County - California! - to a postcard/letter writing rally (pictured above). Another of our members went to New London CT and joined the LWVCTS’s State CoPresident to rally and inform voters. They handed out 20 new member applications at the event!

Of course we are doing even more as the pictures below will show. We are speaking up and speaking out!



A Dangerous Step Backward for Our Democracy: League of Women Voters Responds to Passage of the SAVE Act in the US House

Press Release / Last Updated: April 10, 2025

Today, **Celina Stewart, CEO of the League of Women Voters of the United States**, issued the following statement in response to the passage of the [SAVE \(Safeguard American Voter Eligibility\) Act](#) in the US House of Representatives:

“Today is a dark day in politics. The passage of the SAVE Act in the US House is a direct attack on the fundamental right to vote and a dangerous step backward for our democracy.

The *SAVE Act* is based on misinformation and fearmongering rather than facts, as there is no evidence of widespread non-citizen voter registration or voting in state and federal elections. Instead, the *SAVE Act* will create new barriers to voter registration by requiring submission of documentary proof of citizenship materials in person every time a voter updates their registration, which particularly harms rural voters, voters of color, married women who have changed their last names, and other voters who have been historically marginalized who already face obstacles in accessing the ballot box.

The League of Women Voters of the United States strongly opposes this legislation, which now moves to the Senate. We call on senators to do

their job to protect American voters and reject this dangerous bill. The freedom to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy, and we will not stand by while politicians push anti-voter laws that weaken access to the ballot.

We will continue to fight to protect the voting rights of all eligible Americans and ensure that every voice is heard in our elections. The League is committed to working with our partners and legal advocates to pursue all avenues in fighting back against this harmful law. We will use every tool at our disposal to defend voters from unjust restrictions and uphold the integrity of our electoral system and democracy.”

###

[The League of Women Voters](#) envisions a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate. We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

TAKE ACTION HERE: <https://www.lwv.org/take-action/respond-your-member-houses-vote-save-act>

EMAIL TIP - Having trouble finding the Newsletter amongst reams of emails? Search “Local League Newsletter” to find the correct email!

From the Editor - This is still a work in progress as we figure out our new program. Stick with us as we find ways to improve this monthly Newsletter. We welcome information or articles you think would add to our members & friends knowledge of educating voters and protecting our Democracy. Deadline for next Newsletter is **May 18th**. Thank you!



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