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June 2025

Prez Says



PREZ SAYS

Happy unofficial spring to all!

As you can see from an attractive invitation elsewhere in this newsletter, our **Annual Meeting is coming up on June 18th**, and we are busy getting ready. A few of us will be meeting soon to stuff envelopes with the proposed

'25-'26 budget, the nominating committee report and other details you need to know. Your hand-addressed envelope should be in your mailbox soon, so **watch for it!**

Meanwhile we are busy with the work of the regular work of the League - sharing our advocacy agenda with our state legislators, developing strategies at meet-ups with our fellow members throughout our three counties, visiting with our county officials (most recently with County Executive Sue Serino in Dutchess), and otherwise "Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy."

Our New York State League Executive Director, Erica Smitka, is still emailing you "Your Weekly Legislative Update" every Friday/Saturday and you'll see that there is still hope that these three bills we strongly support will succeed: Democracy During Detention Act, Medical Aid in Dying, Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act. Read more about these - along with other "hot" info such as what to do about the threats to Medicaid at the federal level - by checking the update that came May 17 and ones that follow.

And now that LWVUS has declared that our country is truly in a Constitutional crisis, I am being asked how to remain nonpartisan while attending a protest or talking with people who may differ in their views. The simplest thing to do is to remember our simple, 4-word mission statement - "Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy." If our emphasis is on making sure that our government works for all - in the voting booth, in the courts, or in the halls of our governmental offices - we can't go wrong. It also helps to avoid divisive terms like billionaires and oligarchs that are just this side of name-calling. Respect is always a good idea. We should be the voice for people who want our country to ***come together again and function!***

Hoping to see you at the Annual Meeting,

Dare Thompson, President

darethompson@gmail.com

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



RSVP

Just In! Our guest speaker for the meeting will be Ulster County Sheriff Juan Figueroa! Sheriff Figueroa has worked with the LWVMHR on the innovative program his department initiated to make sure inmates in the Ulster County Jail can exercise their right to vote. See more about our speaker [HERE!](#)

Calendar Happenings

You can also check our website for more info!

League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region

June 3rd

11 AM

Program Committee

(all are welcome - new ideas!)

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87868759939?
pwd=ysvpH9gwbU52gzGwbkFN8AbCsksz0H.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87868759939?pwd=ysvpH9gwbU52gzGwbkFN8AbCsksz0H.1)

June 4th

Noon

Membership/Communications Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87961878308?
pwd=xGZSMb9S3kgbU3xW5Ou741J7GQCvSe.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87961878308?pwd=xGZSMb9S3kgbU3xW5Ou741J7GQCvSe.1)

June 8th

12-5 PM

Beacon Sloop Strawberry Festival

Beacon Waterfront

Voter Services - See flyer below

June 9th

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Voter Services County Chairs Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86341969784?
pwd=dsBLhdSfAaDTaWhdfAYQVRyUS5xTeE.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86341969784?pwd=dsBLhdSfAaDTaWhdfAYQVRyUS5xTeE.1)

June 10th

Woodstock/West Regional Meet-up

2:30 PM

Rainbow Lodge, Mt. Tremper

June 12th

Saugerties Meet-up

6 PM

Village Diner, Saugerties

June 13th

Dutchess Meet-up

Noon

Mahoneys, Poughkeepsie

June 17th

4 PM

Kingston Meet-up

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

Kings Valley Diner, Kingston

June 18th

League Annual Meeting

Redeemer Lutheran Church, New Paltz

5:30 PM

The League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region invites all members and supporters to the Annual Meeting on Wednesday,

June 18, at 5:30 p.m.

This is an excellent opportunity to meet League members and learn about our activities this past year. The meeting is also a vital

opportunity for members to shape the direction of our organization, discuss key initiatives, and connect with fellow advocates committed to empowering voters and defending democracy!

The Board is providing dinner. Members are invited to bring a dessert to share.

We would appreciate an **RSVP** by June 11 to info@lwvmidhudson.org. If you need a ride, feel free to let us know.

June 20th

Southern Tier Meet-up

Noon

Silk Factory, Newburgh



Voter Services



LWVMHR Members Bernie Slovensky, Helen Chase & Eve Baer are greeted by Restore Staff member Lee Anne Albritton as they set up for their weekly Voter Registration at the Ulster Habitat Restore in Kingston. They will be there every Wednesday through September: 11 AM- 2 PM.

The League in Action!

League members were out last month registering new voters, getting out the vote (GOTV), talking with people about the many issues surrounding our democracy, and recruiting new members. Here are Dutchess County members at the Red Hook Apple Blossom Festival!

Next up - Beacon Strawberry Festival. Go to the [LWVMHR Website](#) to volunteer!



June 2025 Primary Information

Local elected officials make decisions that impact our lives every day. They provide essential services, plan for growth, and decide what to prioritize for our communities, environment, and local economy. Who we choose for local government affects our quality of life and future – vote and make your voice heard!



JUNE PRIMARY CRUCIAL DATES & DEADLINES

2025

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JUNE 9	GET CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO BOE
JUNE 14	VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE
JUNE 14	GET ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION TO BOE
JUNE 14 - 22	EARLY VOTING DAYS Visit your BOE website for polling locations and hours
JUNE 24	LAST DAY TO MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOT
JUNE 24	PRIMARY ELECTION DAY 6 AM - 9 PM



LWV Mid-Hudson Meet Ups

Dutchess Meetup

Our next meeting is Friday, June 13th, at noon at [Mahoney's](#) in Poughkeepsie. Our guest speaker will be Danielle White, Recycling Educator, Division of Solid Waste Management, Dutchess County Department of Planning & Development.

As you may be aware, the League has been a proponent of best practices in reducing, reusing, recycling and composting resources and we look forward to this discussion.

Southern Tier

Our group consists of folks from the Southern portions of Ulster and Dutchess Counties, as well as all of Orange County. Anyone is welcome to

come and hear about the latest work of the League and get involved.
Next meeting is June 20th, at the Silk Factory in Newburgh at noon!

Woodstock/West Regional

This wonderful group is moving forward with a number of summer and fall activities, including the Woodstock Farmers Market with weekly space donated by the organization and a monthly voter registration table at the Kingston ReStore. The ReStore is an excellent place to catch people moving in the area in need of a registration update.

A Citizens Preparedness Training event is coming together in Woodstock for September, partnering with the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce and held at the town's Community Center. Future collaborations on the topic of public civic education are also being planned.

The LWVMHR is sponsoring a Town Supervisor candidate event at the Shandaken Town Hall on Route 28 on June 6th at 7:00pm. The event will be moderated by Cindy Bell with timekeeper Helen Chase.

The next meeting is slated for June 10th, 2:30 PM, at the Rainbow Lodge on Route 212 in Mount Tremper (Eve Baer's home).

All are welcome! Contact Cindy Bell at cindylwv@gmail.com for more information.

Saugerties Regional Meetup

Our last month's lively meeting included plans for Voter Registration at the Saugerties Library Fair on 5/31 and using the *Put Your Vote to Work in Woodstock* to make it specific to Saugerties, in time for the Library Fair. Many thanks to Gay Leonhardt of Woodstock/West for her work on this!

Saugerties is on the move again and there are plans to include some of the many other members in the area in our gatherings.

A carpool is being organized to travel to the Annual Meeting in June. Contact Cindy Bell if you are interested at cindylwv@gmail.com.

Our next meeting is on June 12 at 6:00pm at the Village Diner on Main Street, Saugerties.





Staying True to Nonpartisanship in a Divisive Political Climate

At our core, nonpartisanship is not just a policy – it's a bedrock principle that defines who we are at the League of Women Voters. As a membership organization committed to empowering voters and defending democracy, we do not support or oppose political parties or candidates. Our focus has always been, and will continue to be, on the issues that matter to our communities: ensuring fair elections, protecting voting rights, and strengthening our democratic institutions.

Read more [here](#) from Celina Stewart, Chief Executive Officer of the League of Women Voters of the United States



24 New American Citizens

LWVMHR Members Cindy Bell and Karen Miller were on hand to welcome Ulster County's newest citizens at the Naturalization Ceremony in Kingston

on May 9th. They managed to grab this great shot (above) of Ulster County Clerk Taylor Bruck, Judge Julian Schreibman and a happy new American!



One Step Closer to Passing Medical Aid in Dying (MAID)

A Senate conference this week has many hopeful that Medical Aid in Dying will go to the floor for a vote before session ends on June 12th.

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said on May 13th that she will move the bill once her conference amasses enough support for a floor vote, "Certainly more people have signed on in the Senate than had been over the past few years, and if I get the support, I'll certainly bring it to the floor." She noted 25 senators are sponsoring the bill, which needs 32 votes to pass.

Keep calling the following Senators, along with your own representative, to get this bill over the finish line!

- Senator Stavisky: 718-445-0004
- Senator Liu: 718-765-6675
- Senator Gounardes: 718-238-6044
- Senator Kavanaugh: 212-298-5565
- Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins: 518-455-2715

Script

Hello. I'm calling to tell Senator _____ that I support The NYS Medical Aid in Dying Act (S. 138/ Hoylman-Sigal) and I would like him/her to vote for it and to tell the Majority Leader that he/she will vote for it. Additionally, I ask you to sign on as a co-sponsor. I feel so strongly about this because _____



**Keep Up With your
League's Latest
Local Events!**

Always at the Website!

[Learn more](#)

In the News



LWVUS CEO, Celina Stewart, was a witness at a spotlight hearing in the US Senate entitled "Protecting the Future of American Democracy." The hearing covered threats to

voting and elections like the SAVE Act and the recent Executive Order on "Integrity of American Elections."

We encourage all members to read the text of the Statement found on the LWVUS Website at <https://www.lwv.org/fighting-voter-suppression/lwvus-testifies-senate-spotlight-hearing>

Statement for Celina Stewart, Chief Executive Officer

League of Women Voters of the United States

US Senate

**Spotlight Hearing on Protecting the Future of American
Democracy: An Examination of Trump and Partisan Attacks on
Voting and Elections**

May 14, 2025



The month of May offered some interesting happenings at the meeting of the Dutchess County Legislature. LWVMHR Observer Jane Simkin Smith writes:

“Other legislators circulated letters (1) supporting the National Park Service; (2) urging the Governor to reconsider the unfair burden that a payroll tax supporting the MTA puts on county residents relative to the services provided, and extended Mother’s Day wishes to Dutchess County Moms.”
Quiet a mix of issues! Read more at our Website!

LWVMHR

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

From the Editor - 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 **June 22nd**. Thank you!



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