



News from the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle

February-March 2018

LEAGUE LOBBIES GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR EARLY VOTING

This month the legislature has been fixated on the Governor's executive budget proposal. His original proposal included legislation to allow for early voting, but no funding to assist counties with implementation.

During this entire month, the League and our good government partners advocated for the funding to make early voting possible across the state. We encouraged members to reach out to their legislators and the Governor to explain to them the importance of including funding for early voting. The League also submitted testimony on the Governor's proposed voting reforms to the Joint Budget Committees on Public Protections.

On February 12th, the Governor's Office announced that New York Counties will have Early Voting in the 12 days leading up to Election Day, and added \$7,000,000 in funding for early voting implementation. We were elated with the new funding and quickly issued a statement thanking the Governor for prioritizing voting reforms.

The legislation will require every county to offer residents access to at least one early voting poll site during the 12 days leading up to Election Day. Voters will have at least eight hours on weekdays and five hours on weekends to cast early ballots. Counties must have one early voting poll site for every 50,000 residents and the bipartisan County Boards of Elections will determine the specific location of early voting polling places, subject to standards of accessibility and convenience.

Research shows that work, school, and personal commitments can prevent voters from participating in United States elections. Early voting would ameliorate these inhibitors and lead to shorter lines on Election Day, early detection and correction of registration errors and greater access to voting. Currently, 37 states and the District of Columbia already allow voters to cast ballots in person before Election Day.

--Adapted from Legislative Updates, LWV-NYS State Voter, Feb. 2018

VOTER SERVICES

The LWVNR Voter Service Committee is grateful to all of our volunteers who helped to register voters on National Voter Registration Day in September 2017. They were among 9800 people in 2850 organizations across the country participating in this important effort. Over 124,000 new or updated voter registrations were gathered! The next National Voter Registration Day will be held on Tuesday, September 25, 2018, and we plan to add the event to our regular slate of Fall Events.



Spring will mark the kickoff of the Voter Service Committee's campaign to register local young people who will turn 18 by election day at Ursuline School, Iona Prep, Iona College, The College of New Rochelle, and Monroe College. In addition, stay tuned for our summer plans to register new voters all over New Rochelle with our pop-up tables at the Library, Friday and Saturday Farmers Markets, and Metro North railroad station. The committee always appreciates volunteers at these tables, particularly at special events on campuses and during coffee breaks, lunches and dinnertimes!

Some of these venues will be continued throughout the summer. We will also present a Fall Campaign in the final days before the elections. Please contact Joan Alexander for more information, and check our website for updates.

LOCAL DISTRICT LEADER APPOINTED TO ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE



Kathie Davidson, the supervising judge of the Family Courts in the Ninth Judicial District, and the guest speaker at our annual meeting in 2016, has been appointed the administrative judge for that district, which includes Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties.

“Judge Davidson is an experienced judge and a forward-thinking administrator, widely admired for her leadership, high ethical standards and passionate pursuit of justice,” Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence Marks said in a statement.

In an interview, Davidson said she hopes her elevation to the position will be an inspiration to the younger generation. “The statement that this will make to our young women and our young women of color shows the times are changing,” she said.

Adapted from New York Law Journal, 2/9/2018, by Susan DeSantis

NEW ROCHELLE LEAGUE RECEIVES COMMENDATION



On November 14, 2017 at City Hall the New Rochelle City Council presented the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle with a commendation. It recognized the League's contributions to voting rights as well as the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in New York State. Monica Grey accepted the commendation from Mayor Noam Bramson.

LWVNR IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

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| March 1 | Mayor's State of the City Address |
| March 1 | Medicare for All at White Plains Library |
| March 4 | LWVW Champagne Fundraiser |
| March 8 | School Budget Meeting |
| March 13 | School Budget Meeting |
| March 14 | LWVNR Board Meeting |
| March 16 | Coffee & Conversation with Barbara Davis |
| March 20 | School Budget Meeting |
| March 24 | Regional Training Workshop at Mamaroneck Library |
| April 11 | LWVNR Board Meeting |
| April 13 | Sound Shore Leagues Spring Luncheon |
| April 20 | Coffee & Conversation |
| April 24 | LWVNYS Lobby Day |
| May 1 | Municipal Housing Authority Elections |
| May 15 | School and Library Elections and Budget Votes |
| May 17 | LWVNR Annual Meeting |

SAVE THE DATE: LATIMER AT LEAGUE LUNCH

County Executive George Latimer will be the guest speaker at the Annual Spring Lunch sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Larchmont/Mamaroneck, the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle, and the League of Women Voters of Rye/Rye Brook/Portchester at noon on Friday, April 13th, at the Orienta Beach Club in Mamaroneck. Mark your calendar!

CHANGES TO CENSUS WILL AFFECT VOTING RIGHTS

The Census Bureau [recently announced](#) that, for its 2020 tally, it will continue to count prisoners at their places of confinement rather than at their address of record prior to incarceration, which has major implications for redistricting. Under the status quo, places with large prison populations get outsized representation, which largely means that predominantly white rural areas gain at the expense of cities with large black and Latino populations. That's because inmates are disproportionately people of color from urban areas, while prisons are often located in rural communities.

While representatives in a democracy represent all their constituents and not just voters, prisoners are uniquely isolated from their surrounding community by design. Unlike college students or military service members, two groups who often get counted at places that aren't their permanent homes, prisoners by definition don't participate in civic life in the community surrounding the prison. It thus makes little sense for the census to count prisoners where they are incarcerated, and some states [have already moved](#) to combat this injustice by requiring prisoners be counted at their last address for the purpose of redistricting.

Meanwhile, the census [also announced](#) it will count deployed military service members at their last address—in other words, their base—rather than their address of record for legal purposes. This is a change from prior practice, so it could make locales with military bases even more important to the districts they're located in.

Adapted from [axios.com](#)

NR-LWV Latest Cable TV Program Interviews

State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Cantor Randall Schloss on Music and Social Change

The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle presents two new interviews on its cable television program, "City People and Issues." State Senate Democratic Conference Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins (right) tells her story of the barriers she broke that led to her leadership position and discusses her



focus on voting rights, education, gun control and criminal justice. Cantor Randall Schloss of Temple Israel of New Rochelle (left) talks about the powerful role that music can have in energizing social change and performs some examples. Ina Aronow is host of both shows.



The programs will be shown on alternate weeks on Cablevision Channel 76, on Mondays at 7 pm, Wednesdays at 10 pm and Thursdays at 9:30 pm. They will also be on demand at www.vimeo.com after the first showing on Cablevision.

The interview with Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins will be shown the weeks of February 26 and March 12. Cantor Schloss' program will be on March 5 and 19.

Recent LWV cable interviews that are now on demand on [vimeo.com](http://www.vimeo.com) include:

[Damon Maher, newly elected County Legislator, Vimeo.com/252358554](http://www.vimeo.com/252358554)

[John and Karen Hessel's New Rochelle Development Interactive Website, Vimeo.com/253454456](http://www.vimeo.com/253454456)

[County Executive George Latimer, Vimeo.com/247806989](http://www.vimeo.com/247806989)

[New Rochelle City Manager Charles Strome on 2018 city budget, Vimeo.com/247810063](http://www.vimeo.com/247810063)

[Sydelle Herzberg, LWV historian, on the League's 100th anniversary, Vimeo.com/239628368](http://www.vimeo.com/239628368)

[New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson discusses his role and current issues, Vimeo.com/240714589](http://www.vimeo.com/240714589)

[Amy Moeshli, new New Rochelle Board of Education member, Vimeo.com/230755454](http://www.vimeo.com/230755454)

LWV COFFEE AND CONVERSATION HOSTS BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OFFICIALS

Two leaders of the New Rochelle Boys and Girls Club were guests at Coffee and Conversation, an informal public program sponsored by the League of Women Voters, on Friday, February 16, 2018, 9:30 a.m. at the New Rochelle Public Library.

Executive Director Lutonya Russell-Humes (right of picture) and Director of Operations Nate Adams (left of picture) spoke about the wide-ranging programs the club offers and the opportunities it provides to the young people of our city.



NEW ROCHELLE NAMED NEW YORK'S 'BEST TO LIVE IN'

New Rochelle has once again been named one of the top 50 cities to live in the United States by [24/7 Wall St.](#) In their latest "Best Cities to Live in Every State," New Rochelle earned top honors in New York (32nd overall,) just behind Rio Rancho in New Mexico and a spot ahead of Raleigh, N.C. Hoover, Alabama topped the list. The ranking comes amid one of the more trying times in the city's recent history.

[24/7 Wall St.](#) cited New Rochelle's proximity to Manhattan, low crime rate and diverse economy as reasons it is an attractive destination. In addition to providing access to the economic opportunities of a major metropolitan area, New Rochelle offers the quality of life of a wealthy suburb. The area has about one park and five golf courses per 100,000 residents, among the most of any city nationwide.

"It is a great reminder of the many outstanding qualities, assets, and relationships that make our community one of the most vibrant in America — talented and diverse people, enviable location, burgeoning economic opportunity, and the lowest crime rate in more than 50 years," New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson stated.

Adapted from Zak Failla, New Rochelle Daily Voice, 2/14/2018

The League of Women Voters of Westchester

INVITES YOU TO

**THE GOOD CENTS OF "MEDICARE FOR ALL" THE
NEW YORK STATE HEALTH ACT**

Learn about the movement to extend

health care to all New Yorkers

Thursday, March 1, 2018, 7 - 9 pm

White Plains Public Library

100 Martine Avenue--2nd floor meeting room

Film: Now is the Time: Health Care for Everybody

Speakers:

Assemblyman Richard Gottfried

Leonard Rodberg, PhD.

Admission-Free

For more information:

reneeshanker@optimum.net

MAISANO CHOSEN TO HEAD CONSUMER PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

County Legislator and LWV-NR member Jim Maisano, R-New Rochelle, has been tapped to become the new commissioner of Westchester County's Department of Consumer Protection. County Executive George Latimer announced the appointment Friday, Feb. 16. Maisano will officially begin his new duties Feb. 26.

That puts the District 11 board seat, which Maisano has held for 20 years, in play, and a [special election](#) has to be called within 90 days of his resignation, lohud.com said. According to 2017 county board of elections record, there are twice as many Democrats in Maisano's New Rochelle district than Republicans.

Since his election to the County Board of Legislators in 1997, Maisano has served in numerous leadership positions, including most recently as vice-chairman of the Board from 2014 to 2017, and minority leader from 2010 to 2013. For more than two decades as a legislator, Maisano focused on the areas of governmental and fiscal reform, environmental protection and improving municipal recreation and parks. In addition to his public service, Maisano brings a wealth of legal experience to the job. He currently practices law at his own firm in New Rochelle, concentrating his practice on business litigation, real estate, wills, estates and probate actions.

Adapted from Patch, Michael Woyton, Patch, 2/16/18

SPECIAL ELECTION IN NEW ROCHELLE ON APRIL 24TH

A date has been set for a special election to fill the vacant state Senate seat for the 37th District. Gov. Andrew Cuomo issued a proclamation setting Tuesday, April 24, 2017, as the date for special elections for 11 vacant Senate and Assembly seats.

The vacancy in the 37th Senate District was caused by the election of George Latimer to Westchester County Executive. County Republicans chose former Rye Councilwoman Julie Killian as their candidate on Wednesday, Feb. 7th. Democrats chose Yonkers Assemblywoman Shelley Mayer to run for the seat.

The 37th District contains parts of the cities of Yonkers, White Plains and New Rochelle as well as Bedford, Harrison, Mamaroneck, North Castle and Rye.

'There Ought To Be A Law' CONTEST FOR 6-8 GRADERS

Assembly member Amy Paulin is kicking off a contest, open to all middle school students, grades 6-8, who live in the [88th Assembly District](#). This covers Scarsdale, Eastchester, Tuckahoe, Bronxville, Pelham, and parts of New Rochelle and White Plains. The contest is titled "There Ought to Be a Law."



This contest asks students to identify a problem impacting New Yorkers which needs a legislative solution by creating a new law. **One (1) first-place winner** will be selected and have the prize of knowing that his or her idea has a chance at becoming a law that impacts over 19 million New Yorkers. **One (1) second-place winner** and **one (1) third-place winner** will also be chosen to receive an official citation from the New York State Assembly.

The first-place contest winner will have the opportunity to join Assembly member Paulin in Albany where the winner will be acknowledged by members of the New York State Assembly on the Assembly floor and have a private tour of the State Capitol. Please take this important opportunity to make positive change in New York, learn about your government and the state legislative process, and have your voice heard at the State Capitol!

How does the contest work?

Students interested in entering the contest will write an essay (750 words maximum) detailing their proposed idea for a law.

To Students: what you choose to write about is up to you, so feel free to get creative! To help you get started, here are some things to consider about your proposed bill idea:

- What's the problem that needs a legislative solution?
- What's your solution? Be as detailed as possible.
- What's the background on this problem? (Are there any statistics, reports, historical information, or even your own personal stories that you could use to back up the need for a legislative proposal?)
- Are there any financial impacts? If so, how much money do you think it would cost?
- Who do you think would support this bill?
- Who do you think would oppose this bill?

How to submit your entry?

Directly fill out [this online form](#) OR **Download** and fill out [this PDF form](#), email it and the essay on your proposed law to paulina@nyassembly.gov – Attention: Lisa Hofflich, Community Liaison for Assembly member Paulin — along with the following information:

- Subject line: There Ought to Be a Law Contest Entry
- Attach BOTH the Registration Form and the essay (in either an MS Word or Adobe PDF File.)

What is the contest timeline?

- **April 1:** All contest submissions are due by 11:59PM on April 1, 2018.
- **April 15:** The first-, second-, and third-place winners will be notified by telephone and email.
- **Mid-May to Early June:** The first-place contest winner will be able to travel to Albany to join Assemblywoman Paulin in the State Capitol before the end of the legislative session. The exact date and time will depend on the Assemblywoman's meeting schedule.

If you have any questions, please contact Assembly member Paulin's District Office at [\(914\) 723-1115](tel:9147231115).

Middle school principals, teachers, and staff can contact the district office for more information by either emailing paulina@nyassembly.gov — Attention: Lisa Hofflich, Community Liaison for Assembly member Paulin or by calling [\(914\) 723-1115](tel:9147231115).

NEXT COFFEE & CONVERSATION: “Leading Suffragists of New Rochelle”

Three of America's most influential suffrage leaders had distinct ties to New Rochelle. In honor of the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote in New York State, New Rochelle's city historian Barbara Davis (right) will give an illustrated presentation on the courageous, brilliant women who fought the long battle to make this a reality. Complimentary coffee and light breakfast fare will be served. The public meeting, open to all, will be held in the library's first floor meeting room on Friday, March 16, 9:30 am – 11:00 am.





Join the Party

Celebrate 100 Years of Women's Right to Vote

Sunday March 4th 2018 1PM - 4PM • 65 Church Lane • Scarsdale

*Champagne • Wine • Hors d'Oeuvres • Desserts • Hot & Cold Beverages
and Special Guest*

Brooke Kroeger Author of "The Suffragents"

*The untold story of how and why a group of prominent and influential men came together
to help women gain the right to vote*

Tickets \$75 each

Send checks payable to: LWVW Inc. 570 Taxter Rd Suite 565 Elmsford, NY 10523
or pay online via credit card or paypal at: www.lwv.org

LWV-NYS Planned Parenthood Lobby Day: March 13th

Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts will be holding their annual lobby day on March 13th. You can sign up to join them in Albany [here](#).

LWV-NYS Lobby Day: April 24th

Lobby day is an opportunity for members to meet with their legislators in Albany. We will have presentations from our Issues Specialist and Legislative Director. If you are interested in attending, sign up [here](#).



Please Join
Mayor Noam Bramson
for his 2018

State of the City Address

New Rochelle City Hall
Council Chambers
515 North Avenue

Thursday, March 1
Networking Reception 6 PM
Speech begins at 7:30 PM

ALL WELCOME

www.NewRochelleNY.com

Thank you to all who renewed their League membership, and welcome to our new members! We greatly appreciate your support. If you haven't yet renewed, please print and mail the form below or go to www.lwvnewro.org.



Join THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE

The League depends on the work and financial support of all of its members to carry out its programs. Membership is open to women **and** men of voting age. Joining our local league confers membership in the State and National Leagues, enables you to receive publications from all three levels with access to members-only online resources, and provides the opportunity to be involved in local, state and national issues.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

New Membership

Renewal

Individual: \$60.00 year

Household*: \$85.00 year

*Additional Household Member Name: _____

Email: _____

Please make your membership check payable to: **LWV NR**

I would like to support the League with a tax-deductible contribution made payable to:

LWV Education Foundation

\$100.00

\$50.00

Other _____

Return this application with your check(s) to:

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE
45 LONG VUE
NEW ROCHELLE, NY 10804**

OR

Join and/or donate using PayPal on our website: www.lwvnewro.org