State Board Updates
October 2020

Local League To Do’s (email: lwvny@lwvny.org or call 518-465-4162)

- Schedule a membership meeting in fall or winter to discuss the materials (on homepage of state League website) for the update to the League’s healthcare position (reports will be due March 10, 2021)
- Plan your vote and plan your League’s response to calls, emails and complaints – read below for advice and training on what to do
- Complete and return your annual Voter Service Survey to the state League by November 13 (attached or online – see below)

President’s Report, Suzanne Stassevitch, smstass@mac.com
League Leaders! Carry ON!! We are almost there…..I have only 4 URGENT messages:

#1 YOU ARE AWESOME

#2 Upcoming: Election Protection: Bystander Active Training!
**October 29 at 3:00 pm: Protecting Democracy: Bystander Active Training**. Join the LWVUS Organizing team for our “Protecting Democracy: Bystander Active Training” as we outline de-escalation techniques to safely address tense situations at polling places to ensure every voter can exercise their right to vote safely. [Click here to register!](#)

#3 Talking Points: Curbing Public Expectations for Immediate Election Results
With the increase in absentee ballots expected in 2020, tallying votes will take more time, and it is highly likely ballots will be counted late into the night all over the country. Use these talking points when helping the public and voters feel comfortable in the likely delayed election results.

- Voters should not expect all election results to be called or announced on Election Day as in previous elections. **and that’s okay.**
- A delayed result with an increased number of mailed ballots means the system is working as it should to ensure the integrity of our election process.
- A surge in mailed ballots requires our election officials to adapt their ballot counting practices, and it is important for voters to be patient. A complete and accurate ballot count is more important than a fast ballot count.
- With the increase of absentee voting in 2020, it is essential that every vote is counted and every voter’s voice is heard. We should all prepare for many election results to be announced after Election Day

#4 Join the state League and LWV of NYC for an important forum on what to expect and do after Election Day
**Save the date for Oct. 28 at 6:30** for an important panel discussion co-moderated by LWV of NYC President Diane Burrows and Vice President Crystal Joseph with speakers:
- Dr. Kimberly Wehle, law professor, author, lawyer and former CBS News legal analyst;
- Dr. Mark Meirowitz, Professor, SUNY Maritime College; and
- Representative (to be determined) from LWVUS

Let’s talk about scenarios, timetables and what local Leagues and members can do after election day. More info coming in a separate email to all members tomorrow!

**Voter Services: Judie Gorenstein, judieL728@aol.com**

**Zoom Meeting for Individuals with Disabilities and Their Families/Caregivers**

As part of the recent grant received by the state League, we have partnered with Disability Rights NY to organize four interactive Zoom meetings on educating individuals with disabilities on how to vote safely. Please encourage anyone who may benefit from this meeting and any organizations who serve this population to join this Zoom meetings. Jennifer Wilson will be presenting information on how to ensure that your vote counts when you vote by absentee ballot. The last of the four meetings will be offered on:

- Friday, October 23 @ 10AM Register here: https://zoom.us/j/96409985919

**Last Weeks til Election Day – Keep Up the Good Work!**

With only two weeks left before Election Day, November 3, 2020, the voter service committee of the state League knows that Leagues are still very busy holding candidate forums, Getting Out the Vote and answering questions from voters as well as hearing complaints. Here are a variety of suggestions of ways that local Leagues and members can help ensure a safe and accessible election for all.

1. **As always, it is important to have updated and accurate information.** We had recently learned that Westchester County BOE has a detailed written plan on how to drop off ballots during early voting and on Election Day. Check with your county BOE to see if they have one that can be posted on your website.

2. Members are interested in protecting voting and our democracy. Encourage interested members to be poll watchers. They should register to attend training that LWVUS is hosting on Oct. 29 at 3:00 pm: **Protecting Democracy: Active Bystander Training**. Register here: http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=9dkfHavvDaZ8Y4zNmbRCi76dPEEBty3Qm

3. **The Election Protection hotline 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683) is up and running.** Voter should be encouraged to call this number directly if they are having problems or issues at the polls. Publicize this number – it’s in multiple languages, too:
   - 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683) – English language hotline
   - 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682) – Spanish language hotline
   - 888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683) – Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Bengali, Hindi, Urdu and Tagalog hotline
   - 844-YALLA-US (844-925-5287) – Arabic language hotline
   - American Sign Language video call number: 301-818-VOTE (301-818-8683)

4. **Decide on plan for your League on who and how you will handle complaints.** In the case where it may be resolved by contacting your county BOE, do you have a contact person? Can you designate a person in your League who will contact the state League with issues deemed to need attention on state or national level? Also, can you have someone in your League compile a list of complaints that you can send to the state League at a later date.

5. The League is once again partnering with Let NY Vote and the nonpartisan Election Protection coalition to organize **volunteers to monitor poll sites and social media during early voting and Election Day to spot instances of voter suppression.** Volunteers interested in signing up as an election protection
volunteer can do so here: [https://protectthevote.net/](https://protectthevote.net/) Once registered, you will be required to participate in one virtual training in order to volunteer.

We know and appreciate all you have done: registering voters, sponsoring forums, completing surveys and GOTV but there is ONE MORE THING.

The annual state League voter service survey is attached to this SBR. As you already have completed a survey after the primary this year, this new survey will only cover the time period from July 1 to Nov 3. Please complete and return this survey by Nov. 13. It will give you not only the opportunity to show all you have done but to make suggestions. It will give us the opportunity to compare this year to past years and see what improvements we can make for the future. You can print out and complete the paper version attached or complete the survey online at: [https://forms.gle/8PM1xX6Ej3AkgHwL9](https://forms.gle/8PM1xX6Ej3AkgHwL9)

**Deputy Director: Jennifer Wilson, jennifer@lwvny.org**

**Vote411**

Vote411 is live now in English and Spanish at [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) and [www.vote411.org/es](http://www.vote411.org/es). The League is providing information for candidates running for US President, Congress, State Senate, State Assembly, State Supreme Court Justices, and local races throughout New York State. Voters can visit Vote411.org to find candidate information, upcoming and archived candidate debates, and information on the three ways to vote this year. **Here are multiple ways to publicize Vote 411 on paper and online:** [https://docs.google.com/document/d/125Mon4mf7oEG55H4R5nsXcEzZr9zny-XWCvX7wjf-aA/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/125Mon4mf7oEG55H4R5nsXcEzZr9zny-XWCvX7wjf-aA/edit)

**From Women and the Vote NYS**

This initiative is from a group of four women and close to 30 volunteers who have researched suffragists across NYS, and created a website with a suffragist database and interactive map of more than 250 suffragists buried across the state to encourage people to "Vote and Visit" on Election Day. At a number of the cemeteries, they will have filmmakers and producers there to interview visitors, with the plan of making a documentary called Election Day 2020 NYS. Even for cemeteries where there will be no filmmaker, they are encouraging people to Vote and Visit, and post selfies and video, that they may use in the film. See more information at their website: [https://www.womenandthevotenys.com/](https://www.womenandthevotenys.com/) and post any selfies or photos to: #womenandthevotenys.