



your
VOTER

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President

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LWVBN website

www.lwvbn.org

LWVNYS website

www.lwvny.org

LWVUS website

www.lwv.org

Voter is published 11 times a year. Send copy by the second Monday of the month to Terri Parks at lwvoter@verizon.net.

Webinar 7:00pm October 14, 2021

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT ON NOVEMBER 2ND

LEARN ABOUT STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURES

1

**Redistricting
Changes
Amendment**

2

**Environmental
Rights
Amendment**

3

**Allow for
No-Excuse
Absentee
Voting
Amendment**

4

**Allow for
Same-Day
Voter
Registration
Amendment**

*There is a 5th Proposal relating to the NYC Civil Court which will not affect voters in Niagara or Erie County.

OUR FUTURE IS ON THE BALLOT!

A discussion of the four constitutional amendment proposals that will be on our ballots and their pros and cons.

Webinar link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89555215303>

Moderator: Jennifer Wilson, Deputy Director of the League of Women Voters of New York State

Panel: Janique Curry, member of the National Action Network and community activist; Sarah Dance, community activist and NAACP Environmental Justice Chair; Barbara Gunderson, LWVBN Voter Service Chair

Youth Panel Partners: Hannah Brecher, Maria Evancho, and Hannah Gabelnick

Presented by The League of Women Voters, NAACP Buffalo Branch, and SANYS

League of Women Voters Mission

The League of Women Voters is a good government organization that encourages informed and active participation in the political process, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League never supports political parties or candidates.

Letter from Our President

Dear League,

First and foremost, I have to recognize Al Dozoretz with a heartfelt thank you for his many years of service to LWV Buffalo/Niagara. Al is moving on to new adventures; we will miss him and his excellent work as chair of our Election Services Committee. As I have experience in taking over from a fearless leader, I am hopeful that one of you may be interested in taking on this important League committee. Please feel free to call or email me and we can talk about this opportunity.

When you are in the North Tonawanda neighborhood stop in to see the delightful display that Alberta Roman has set up at the North Tonawanda Public Library at 505 Meadow Drive, North Tonawanda, N.Y. 14120 (next to the high school). This League display to remind people to vote will be at the library for the month of October. When you stop in to see it, please take a selfie with your favorite part and send it to me at president@lwvbn.org for our scrapbook!

I also want to recognize the other partners of the Western New York Women's Suffrage Centennial Celebration Committee, who worked so hard with League members to bring together the program at Daemen on October 2. A big thank you and a "high five" to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (Gamma Phi Omega Chapter), AAUW Buffalo Branch, Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, Daemen College History & Political Science Department, the Erie County Commission on the Status of Women, NYS Women Inc. – Region VIII, UB Gender Institute, Women's Auxiliary of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Buffalo Chapter, Western New York Women's Foundation, Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, and the Zonta Club of Buffalo.

Please remember to check our website, www.lwvbn.org, for information on the many programs planned in the coming months. Hope to see you there!

Lori Robinson, President

An Unlikely Leader for Nuclear Waste Cleanup

"In the beginning when I first learned about the mess at West Valley, I was angry, a hard, angry person," wrote Carol Mongerson from Springville, N.Y.

My newest heroine is someone I never met because she died in 2005, long before I took on the task of following the West Valley cleanup on behalf of the League. In the last few weeks, I have had the privilege of reading Carol Mongerson's unpublished memoir on her work with the Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes. Carol was the acknowledged leader of the effort of citizen involvement at the nuclear site. I had heard a lot about her from the those who were involved with her back in the beginning of the Coalition in the late 1970s through the 1990s and are still passionately involved in working toward a full cleanup there that is protective of the waters of the Great Lakes and the health of local residents.

She seems like an unlikely leader for a movement that required gaining an understanding of complex scientific issues; she was an artist with a graduate education in philosophy.

In the final paragraph of Carol's memoir, she confesses that she began her activism motivated by anger. Then, after she was involved, she learned that the bureaucrats, engineers, and scientists in the nuclear industry were only human, and she learned to forgive those who had made decisions that led to the accumulation of nuclear wastes, not knowing what an intractable problem those wastes would turn out to be.

But after 19 years of involvement, she was "getting tougher again." We, too, need to get tougher with the nuclear complex and our government by resisting the production of still more nuclear wastes before learning how to deal with them responsibly.

Pat Townsend

2021 League Sponsored-Candidate Forums

October 13, 2021, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
East Aurora Senior Center
101 King Street, Suite A
East Aurora, NY 14052
Erie County Sheriff and Comptroller
East Aurora Town Councilmen (2)

October 18, 2021, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
Spruce Street School
195 Spruce Street
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
Mayor, Clerk Treasurer, and North Tonawanda Aldermen
Niagara County Legislators for the 7th and 9th districts

October 22, 2021, 9:00-11:30 a.m.
Amherst Center for Senior Services (Co-Sponsor)
370 John James Audubon Parkway
Amherst, NY 14228
Erie County Sheriff and Comptroller
Amherst Town Supervisor
Amherst Town Councilmen (2)

There must be at least two candidates for each office. The audience at each event will submit questions related to issues for each office. Attendees must wear masks and follow the Covid-19 safety protocols at each site.

Terri Parks, Candidate Forum Coordinator

In Memoriam

Sally Moehlau was a longtime member of the League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara. She coordinated delivery for Voters Guides in the Clarence area and could be on depended to help in many other League endeavors. In addition, Sally served as President of the Women's Board at Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital and as a volunteer for Shea's, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, and other organizations. There will be a memorial service for Sally at the Clarence Presbyterian Church on October 2, 2021, at 11:00 a.m.

Save the Date to Celebrate the Holidays with Us

On December 4, 2021, the League will have a luncheon at The Classics V, on Niagara Falls Boulevard at noon. Our guest speakers will be Dr. Raul Vasquez, CEO of the Greater Buffalo United Accountable Healthcare Network (GBUACO), who started the Urban Family Practice as its primary care physician on Buffalo's West Side in 1996, and his wife, Toni Vasquez, chief of systems for GBUACO. Together with a staff of 150 they provide essential services to an underserved population. We're certain you will appreciate their gifts to the community.

Alberta Roman, Chair, LWVBN Healthcare Committee

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions discussion group will meet on Thursday, October 7, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom teleconferencing to discuss Chapter 2 of the booklet: The Future of Persian Gulf Security. Lillis McLean will be the moderator of this relevant topic.

The Foreign Policy Association which sponsors the Great Decisions program says this about our October topic: “The Persian Gulf remains tense as the rivalry between the regional powers of Saudi Arabia and Iran continues. Tensions escalated in early 2020 as the United States began to intervene in the Gulf, launching an airstrike that killed two Iranian military commanders. What are the historical influences that have led to these tensions? What role, if any, should the United States play? Is using military force a viable foreign policy option for 2021 and beyond?”

Contact Fran Holmes with any questions.

Membership News — Time to Renew

The Membership Committee is pleased to report our membership now includes the following new members: Robert Rousch of Buffalo and Amy DiChristina of Grand Island. Welcome to our League family!

A reminder: we are in the midst of membership renewal. Be sure to send in your renewal form, a check written to LWVBN and the membership survey at your earliest convenience if you haven't renewed already. Individual membership is \$75, household membership \$110 and student membership \$20. You may choose to become a Carrie C. Catt member for \$85 or a Susan B. Anthony member for \$100. We hope all of you will continue your commitment to the League and all the fine and important work it does for our community.

Mary Ann Turkla, Membership Chair

LWV Files Amicus Brief in Voter Intimidation Case Before SCOTUS

9/21/2021

New York State Rifle & Pistol Association V. Bruen Threatens To Eliminate Laws Regulating Guns In Public Places

WASHINGTON — Late Monday, the League of Women Voters of the United States, along with the Leagues of Women Voters of New York and Florida, filed an amicus brief in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*, a US Supreme Court case examining New York laws regulating the right of individuals to carry guns in public places. The Leagues join this case in support of current New York laws requiring New Yorkers to show proper cause before allowing them to carry concealed weapons in certain public places, including polling places. Without such restrictions, the threat of intimidation at polling places, during registration, and as votes are counted could imperil the electoral process.

“Allowing private citizens to carry guns inside polling places and at other election-related events poses a threat to the electoral process. Voter intimidation must not be tolerated,” said **Dr. Deborah Ann Turner**, board president of the League of Women Voters of the United States. “Voters have a right to safe access to their polling place, and these laws protect that constitutional right. They must be upheld.”

“New York’s laws protect New York voters from threats of violence as they exercise their freedom to vote,” said **Laura Bierman**, executive director of the League of Women Voters of New York State. “Weakening New York’s gun regulation laws would weaken the right to vote safely. These laws must remain in place to protect New York voters.”

The League of Women Voters of Florida joins the brief in interest of protecting their efforts to allow counties to place reasonable protective regulations on concealed firearms, in order to prevent voter intimidation and maintain the public’s confidence in its ability to safely participate in elections.

“The League of Women Voters of Florida is strongly advocating for protections against voter intimidation in our state,” said **Cecile Scoon**, president of the League of Women Voters of Florida. “Florida voters have the same rights to go to the polls without fear or intimidation as the voters in New York do. These laws prohibiting voter intimidation must remain in place so that our counties can protect Florida voters from intimidation at the polls.”

The League of Women Voters is represented by Cooley LLP.

“Cooley is proud to partner with the League of Women Voters to ensure that all citizens can safely participate in the electoral process,” said Cooley partner **Adam Gershenson**. “No citizen should face intimidation or have their fundamental right to vote undermined, especially at a time when we have seen a disturbing increase in armed intimidation at the polls and at political activities more broadly.”

New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen is expected to be heard before the court later this fall.

[Find a link to the amicus brief here.](#)

From LWVUS website

A Lesson on Critical Race Theory

In the January 11, 2021, American Bar Association Journal is a detailed explanation of Critical Race Theory (CRT). The author, Janet George, begins her article with these two paragraphs:

“In September 2020, President Trump issued an executive order excluding from federal contracts any diversity and inclusion training interpreted as containing “Divisive Concepts,” “Race or Sex Stereotyping,” and “Race or Sex Scapegoating.” Among the content considered “divisive” is Critical Race Theory (CRT). In response, the African American Policy Forum, led by legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw, launched the #TruthBeTold campaign to expose the harm that the order poses. Reports indicate that over 300 diversity and inclusion trainings have been canceled as a result of the order. And over 120 civil rights organizations and allies signed a letter condemning the executive order. The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF), the National Urban League (NUL), and the National Fair Housing Alliance filed a federal lawsuit alleging that the executive order violates the guarantees of free speech, equal protection, and due process. So, exactly what is CRT, why is it under attack, and what does it mean for the civil rights lawyer?”

CRT is not a diversity and inclusion “training” but a practice of interrogating the role of race and racism in society that emerged in the legal academy and spread to other fields of scholarship. Crenshaw—who coined the term “CRT”—notes that CRT is not a noun, but a verb. It cannot be confined to a static and narrow definition but is considered to be an evolving and malleable practice. It critiques how the social construction of race and institutionalized racism perpetuate a racial caste system that relegates people of color to the bottom tiers. CRT also recognizes that race intersects with other identities, including sexuality, gender identity, and others. CRT recognizes that racism is not a bygone relic of the past. Instead, it acknowledges that the legacy of slavery, segregation, and the imposition of second-class citizenship on Black Americans and other people of color continue to permeate the social fabric of this nation.”

The remainder of the article discusses in detail *The Principles of CRT Practice, Education and CRT, and CRT and a Call to Action for Civil Rights Lawyers*. [Here is a link to the article](#). You may want to read it before or after the program on November 9.

Terri Parks



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF BUFFALO/NIAGARA

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

October 2021

Note: Due to social distancing and stay-at-home practices, meetings are subject to change and may take place via phone or computer. Please contact the committee chair for the latest information.

Saturday, October 2, 9:00 a.m.

From Suffrage to the ERA Celebration

Daemen College and via Zoom

Tuesday, October 5, 4:00 p.m.

Program, Issues & Events Committee

via Zoom

Thursday, October 7, 10:00 a.m.

Great Decisions

via Zoom

Monday, October 11, 4:00 p.m.

Board of Directors

via Zoom

Wednesday, October 13, 2:00 p.m.

Local Government Committee

via Zoom

Thursday, October 14, 7:00 p.m.

Our Future is on the Ballot!

Webinar via Zoom

Monday, October 18, 7:00 p.m.

Get Out the Vote Committee

via Zoom

Tuesday, October 19, 7:00 p.m.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee

via Zoom

Friday, October 15, 1:00 p.m.

Money in Politics Committee

League Office

Wednesday, October 20, 4:00 p.m.

Waterfront Committee

via Zoom

Friday, October 22, 11:00 a.m.

Healthcare Committee

via Zoom

Thursday, October 29, 1:30 p.m.

Education Committee

via Zoom