

CLICK ON THIS LINK TO  
Donate to LWVNYC

# INSIDE THE LEAGUE

## Our Vision of the 'New' New York

The "New" New York allows us to reimagine LWVNYC. We strive to make our membership look more like New York City – more diverse in age, ethnicity, and culture. We guide volunteers to membership and elevate members to positions of leadership.

We promote ourselves and our issues on social media to improve our reach into communities in NYC that we previously had less access to. Because of the improved use and availability of technology, our members and volunteers are better able to access and attend all meetings and events without leaving home. We have a greater ability to partner with other League chapters around the state and the country as well. We host joint meetings and events, welcome speakers from distant locations and shrink the world down to fit on our computer screens.

The strong voices coming from our League leadership in Washington DC, encourage us to take non-partisan positions and elevate our advocacy work. We strongly believe that focus on issues of social justice, such as criminal justice reform, housing advocacy, and gender justice that impact New Yorkers, is NOT partisan.

As voter registration becomes more automatic, our focus shifts more fully to voter education and engagement. Voters will always need to know where to vote, when to vote, and how to use their voice more strategically and effectively. Our mission remains the same but with new tools and an even stronger voice, we will continue to **"Vote Louder"**!



Diane Burrows



Lesley Sigall

LWVNYC Co-Presidents

## LWVNYC'S EXCITING SPRING GALA – April 20, 2021

**"The New New York – Inspiring Leaders Look Forward"**

By Kai Rosenthal and Barb Ettington, LWVNYC Board members

Join an evening of celebration and hope as we honor inspiring leaders who positively impacted New York City during the pandemic and will help lead the city to its most promising future. The League of Women Voters of the City of New York's spring virtual gala theme, **The New New York**, embraces the love of our great city and building our future together.



"This past year has been extraordinarily difficult for many people who live and work in New York City, and we are so pleased to honor three women who contributed to bettering the lives of everyday New Yorkers and who are committed to continuing that effort," said Diane Burrows and Lesley Sigall, Co-Presidents of the LWVNYC.

The virtual gala will also feature star-powered entertainment by Tony-Award winning Broadway performers: Elizabeth Stanley, recent star of "Jagged Little Pill," and Jenn Colella, who recently starred in "Come From Away." And savor the sounds of the New York Philharmonic as violist Katherine Greene, leads a quartet to perform New York City-themed music.

Please join us in supporting the important mission of the LWVNYC to promote informed and active citizen participation in our community and government, and in this evening of celebration and hope. An online auction will feature NYC-themed items. Sponsor packages, E-Journal ads, individual tickets and auction donations can be made [here](#).

# Meet Our Virtual Spring Gala Chair, Emcee, Noted Speaker, and Honorees

By Kai Rosenthal, Board Member

The League of Women Voters of the City of New York is pleased to introduce the Honorary Chair, Emcee, Noted Speaker, and Honorees of its spring fundraising gala on April 20, 2021. The six accomplished women include **Maria Torres-Springer**, **Liz Cho**, **Attorney General Letitia James**, **Deborah Borda**, **Leecia Eve**, and **Dr. Julia Iyasere**.



**Maria Torres-Springer**, Vice President of US Programs for the Ford Foundation, is the event Honorary Chair. Ms. Torres-Springer's extensive contributions at the Ford Foundation and 15 years in public service with the City of New York have helped increase economic opportunities for all New Yorkers.



**Liz Cho** will serve as Emcee for the virtual event. Ms. Cho has more than 20 years of experience in news reporting and anchoring at WABC-TV and ABC News. Currently, she is the co-anchor of WABC-TV's Eyewitness News First at 4pm and Eyewitness News at 6pm.



**Attorney General Letitia James** will be the evening's Noted Speaker. Elected in 2018, she is the 67th Attorney General for the State of New York, the first woman of color to hold statewide office, and the first woman to be elected Attorney General in New York. In 2013, Ms. James was elected Public Advocate for the

City of New York and became the first woman of color to hold citywide office. She is an experienced attorney and dedicated public servant with a distinguished record of accomplishments.



**Deborah Borda, honoree**, is the President and CEO of the New York Philharmonic. Under her leadership, the New York Philharmonic quickly adapted to the pandemic arts shutdown by creating a free portal to hundreds of hours of digital performances and launching the NY Phil Bandwagon,

which presents small groups of Philharmonic musicians in free, "pull-up" concerts across the five boroughs. She is committed to a progressive vision, investing in educational projects, and continuing to bring the Philharmonic music to all New Yorkers.



**Leecia Eve, honoree**, is the Vice President of Public Policy at Verizon and member of the Advisory Board of New York Forward Reopening. Ms. Eve developed critical projects that helped everyday New Yorkers manage during this crisis, including arranging connectivity to key testing and vaccination sites, offering millions in grants

for small businesses, partnering with local restaurants to provide meals to healthcare workers at area hospitals, and committing \$43 million to bridging the digital divide for NYC Schools. Ms. Eve will continue this work as NYC rebuilds.



**Julia Iyasere, M.D., honoree**, is Executive Director of the Dalio Center for Health Justice at NewYork-Presbyterian. Ever since the first coronavirus patient was admitted to NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital last March, Dr. Iyasere has led the hospital's efforts to expand ICU capacity, secure PPE, implement safety

processes for staff and patients, and fast track medical residents so they can work alongside exhausted colleagues. In her role at the Dalio Center, she leads the Center's efforts to address longstanding health disparities due to race, income differences, and limited access to care. She is dedicated to improving health equity and outcomes for all New Yorkers.

# Feeling Lucky? A Call for Auction Items and Bids

By Patricia Manning

This year as we continue to recover from COVID-19, we pause to salute those strong leaders whose contributions to New York City have been invaluable to its citizens and businesses alike throughout this pandemic.

The League of Women Voters of New York City's upcoming virtual Spring Gala "**The New New York**" will feature a silent auction through an online platform. The auction will be launched online one week ahead of the event, beginning on April 13th and concluding the evening of the Gala. The auction will showcase selections of theme items that celebrate and support our beloved New York City – from big-name attractions to iconic local goods.

It is our sincere hope that we can count on your help, for both bidding and for being among the donors who offer support of auction donation gifts. Recognition of your generous donor gift will be advertised in our auction catalog, distributed to all event supporters, and will be available on our website. And since the auction will be conducted online, exposure and bidding will be opened up to people who won't be in attendance at the live Gala event. In addition, please be aware that all contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Your generous support will contribute to LWVNYC's ability to continue its mission to promote informed and active citizen participation in government.

If you would like to make a donation to the Auction, please fill out the form here: [2021 Silent Auction Donation](#)

## LWV Legacy: Spotlight on Fannie Conner

by Adrienne Kivelson

Without any doubt, the one person who has given the most years of dedicated service to the city League is Fannie Conner. Over 60 years ago, Fannie joined the Metropolitan Evening Branch. In those years, the League had more than twenty branches throughout the five boroughs. Metropolitan Evening was the only branch that included women from all over the city.

A Brooklyn native, recently graduated from Hunter College with a degree in physiology, Fannie was working fulltime in a lab at Montefiore Hospital and part time at Hunter. Despite this heavy workload, she wanted to get involved in a nonpartisan

organization, rather than in the political arena her father had favored. At first, she was drawn to the study items. "I liked the idea that members at the national, state and city levels decided what would be considered. Over the years we studied housing, juvenile justice, immigration and many other important issues."

Fannie moved on to a 30-year career in the city's Bureau of Child Welfare, while continuing her commitment to the League. She coordinated 'Saturday at the League' and got more involved in the Voter Services Committee. When she retired, the committee became her fulltime cause.

Fannie expanded outreach to community organizations, high schools and colleges. She coordinated speaking engagements – filling many by herself – in every corner of the city. She also prepared fact sheets and postcards and made calls to remind new registrants of upcoming primaries.

Fannie Conner's commitment to the League is as great as it was 60 years ago. In reflecting on the current political climate, she said "After what we saw happen on January 6th, we need to do something to help democracy. I hope there are more people interested in nonpartisanship."



Fannie Connor being acknowledged for her years of service to the League upon her stepping down as Chair of the Voter Services Committee in 2017. L to R: Former Co-Presidents Ruth Altman and Cathy Gray, Fannie Connor, Former Co-President Doris Welch, and Board Member Barb Ettington

## Engage with Our League

### Supporting the League

By Jessica Weinberg, Treasurer

We are making it easier than ever to support the League! Our website will now have options to donate online by credit card, donate by mail, and donate stock. We also provide language for you to include in your will, IRA beneficiary designation, or other estate planning documents as a bequest to the League.

Please consider donating appreciated stock, your required minimum distribution from your IRA or other retirement account, or even other assets. We are happy to assist you in accomplishing these gift transactions. In addition, if you are in a position to donate your professional services, facility space or other non-monetary goods, please let us know. Please email Susie Gomes, VP of Development, at [development@lwvny.org](mailto:development@lwvny.org)

As always, all donations are appreciated and help the League achieve its mission. Thank you for your support.

### The League and NYC Media

By Crystal Joseph, Vice President of Communications

We are working to increase our visibility in local media. Several League members have been interviewed on Spectrum-NY1 on a range of issues including introducing the concept of ranked choice voting (RCV) for the upcoming 2021 election season.

We are also proud to announce our partnership with WABC for the Mayoral debates. Crystal Joseph, VP of Communications, worked tirelessly to establish this important collaboration. Additionally, Crystal and VP of Membership Ashmi Sheth represented our League on WABC for a quick public service announcement to highlight our efforts on the diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) program and how we plan to impact the community at-large by intentionally working with underserved communities with low voter turnout.

More locally, we have also worked on a campaign with 92Y, "Beyond 2020: How to keep the voting boom from going bust." The League also continues to partner with BronxNet for special topics reports on BronxTalk and co-sponsoring special election debates.

### Partners in Voting Louder: The League, SUNY Maritime and Jumaane Williams

By Crystal Joseph, Vice President of Communications

As an organization, we have the power to shift the youth mindset from "do nothing" to "make it happen" and we did just that on January 19, 2021. Alongside our partners at SUNY Maritime College, the League co-sponsored a discussion on ways young voters can remain civically engaged and connected to social issues.

The conversation on advocacy included a panel discussion on the variety of ways the LWVNYC is committed to working with young people, led by our Co-President, Diane Burrows, followed by a training seminar on the now statewide New York Youth Civics Initiative (NYICI). NYICI Founder Jason Bohner and LWVNYC Education Chair Jane Hatterer presented ways in which college students can join NYICI and serve as editorial representatives across the state to learn more about the League and our work, and connect with other young people and amplify their own voices.



Special guest Public Advocate  
Jumaane Williams

Additionally, the League was instrumental in welcoming Public Advocate Jumaane Williams as a centerpiece to the narrative of social justice and movement building. Students at Maritime had the opportunity to listen to Mr. Williams' journey from his activist days with CUNY to his current municipal leadership position – a timely

addition to the celebration of MLK day and the lead-in to Black History Month. This year we are encouraging young voters to examine the local political rhetoric and stay focused on mediating relationships with one another and our network to create meaningful intercultural and intergenerational alliances.

# Important Primary Dates By Lesley Sigall, Co-President

It's a big year for primaries in New York City! With the mayoral election, two-thirds of the City Council, 4 Borough Presidents, Public Advocate, Comptroller and more on the ballot, it's more important than ever that New Yorkers turn out for the primaries.

Here are the dates you need to know. All these dates can also be found on our website under [Election Information](#).

Have questions? Call us at 212-725-3541.

Friday, May 28	Last day to register to vote in primary election
Saturday, June 12 – Sunday, June 20	Early voting dates for primary election
Tuesday, June 15	Last day to postmark application for primary absentee ballot
Monday, June 21	Last day to request in-person a primary absentee ballot
Tuesday, June 22	Primary election day Last day to postmark primary absentee ballot Last day to return in-person primary absentee ballot
Tuesday, June 29	Last day for BOE to receive mailed primary absentee ballots

# A New Way to Vote for the New NY By Diane Burrows, Co-President

Rank Choice Voting (RCV) has debuted in NYC. The roll-out began with the special city council election in Queens and The Bronx. The big event will be the June city-wide primary.

RCV eliminates the need for expensive run-off elections. Adding the option of choice elevates the voter's voice so even if the first-choice candidate does not win, another choice might. This allows the voter to strategize when voting. The first choice will be the favorite candidate, but the other choices represent candidates the voter could be satisfied with. Voters will pay closer attention to other candidates after their first choice since they have up to 4 more candidates to select. Voters can still choose to only select a single candidate, however.

Another advantage to RCV is the potential to make candidates more civil with each other. The candidates could form coalitions so they might be a voter's second or third choice, which could win them the election when combined with their own first choice voters.

Once all the votes are cast, the first choices are tallied and reported. If one candidate has already received 50% plus one vote, that candidate is declared the winner. If no candidate

reaches that threshold, the rounds begin. The lowest vote-getter is dropped and that candidate's ballots get assigned to the candidates selected by those voters as their second choice. The process is repeated until there are only two candidates remaining. The candidate with 50% plus one is declared the winner.

**How to fill out your ballot**

- Pick your first-choice candidate** and completely fill in the oval next to their name under the 1st column.
- If you have a second-choice candidate**, fill in the oval next to their name under the 2nd column.
- You can still choose to vote for only one candidate** if you prefer. Ranking other candidates does not harm your first choice.

**Do not rank a candidate more than once.** If you do, only your top ranking for them will count.

**Do not give multiple candidates the same ranking.** If you choose more than one candidate as your first choice, your ballot will not be valid.

@LWVNYC  
SOURCE: NYCCFB

# LWVNYC Presents Tea for Three

By Ruth S. Altman, former LWVNYC Co-President

On the evening of January 14, 2021, almost one year since the League closed down its offices and Broadway shows shut their doors, many League members were treated to a most enjoyable time and a brief return to normalcy. And thanks to a most generous donor, it was free to all who attended.

“Tea for Three” is a one-woman play about three former First Ladies – Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon, and Betty Ford. Elaine Bromka, an accomplished writer and actress, was the star and also the co-writer of this charming play. It was a fictional account but based on the lives of these ladies and much research went into its creation.

History tells us that these First Ladies had a particularly difficult time when their husbands were in office. And as we well know, women can handle most difficult times with grace and intelligence. You will laugh, cry and reflect on these amazing wives but you won’t be surprised because, as women, we all know who we are and what we can do!



Adding to the enjoyment of the show, post-performance, Elaine Bromka stayed on to have a brief talk and answer questions from the audience.



If you or anyone you know wants to gather a group or organization to watch this delightful play, it is easily done by contacting [www.teaforthree.com](http://www.teaforthree.com), [teaforthreeplay@gmail.com](mailto:teaforthreeplay@gmail.com) or 917-509-2332.

# The 1918 Elections: NYC and the Flu Pandemic

By Suzanne Surbeck

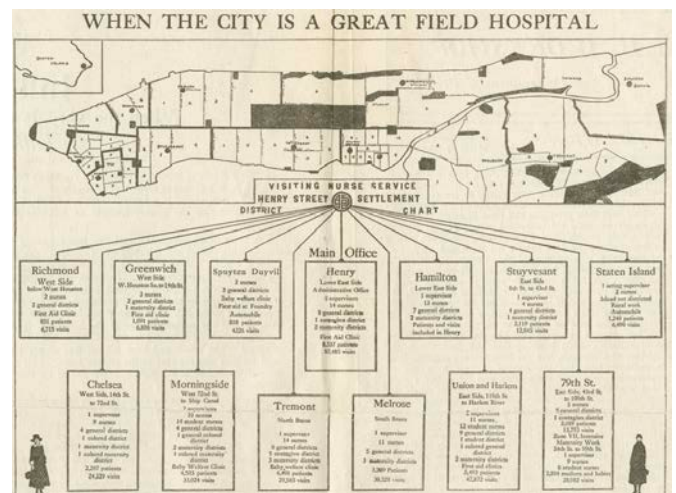
The 1918 Spanish Flu and the 2020 Covid-19 pandemics shared remarkable similarities and striking differences. Both had social distancing restrictions, but in 1918, schools were never closed and Broadway theaters remained open. What was also undeterred at that time was New Yorkers’ desire to vote, refusing to let the pandemic prevent them from exercising their fundamental rights as citizens.



Train conductors in New York, wearing masks for protection against influenza

New York City had relaxed most of its pandemic rules by Election Day in November of 1918. Gubernatorial candidate Al Smith was even photographed not wearing a mask. Many voters felt it was their patriotic duty to vote since it was six days before the end of World War I, and they wanted to show their support for the military. Following in their footsteps, many also felt it was crucial to vote in the 2020 Presidential election, a time of great national division. Regardless of the century, people saw voting as an act of defiance and a way to demonstrate their survival.

New York City fared better than other East Coast cities in 1918, even without a full lockdown. Many historians credit strong government leadership and the existence of a vigorous public health system. Wise lessons for today.



Source: NYC Department of Records & Information Services, municipal archives, February 14, 1920

My name is **Oriya Abed** and I'm a junior at Brooklyn College where I am currently majoring in Psychology and minoring in Thanatology. I am from Brooklyn (the best borough) and planning to work on a project with my Hillel (Tanger Hillel at Brooklyn College) to address the increased instances of anti-Semitism and how voting locally may help address that issue.

My name is **Allegra Acevedo**. I'm from Yonkers, NY and am currently a junior at Hunter College. I'm helping with the League's upcoming gala in April.

My name is **Leah Ahdoot** and I am a junior studying Economics and Political Science at Macaulay Honors College at Hunter. I hope to encourage political engagement in my college community through education.

My name is **Jannathul Chowdhury** and I attend Hunter College. As a Bengali outreach intern, I plan to reach out to the South Asian community as well as the Muslim community of Queens to educate these groups regarding the importance and functions of voting.

I am **Tenzin Dolkar**. I am currently in York College, majoring in Political Science and minoring in Sociology. I am a 23-year-old Tibetan woman. Right now, I am interning at the League of Woman Voters and I wish to help the Tibetan community with expanding knowledge on voting as well as empowering people to vote at the local level.

My name is **Shelisha Gibbs** and I attend CUNY York College. I was born in Harlem, Manhattan but my background is Jamaican. I have no clue where my life is going but that's fine. I read an article that said many working adults don't know what they actually love to do until their 40s. So, I have time.

**Rahima Khatun** is a Roosevelt Scholar and Thomas Hunter Honors Scholar studying Political Science with concentrations in International Relations and Public Policy at Hunter College. Her involvement with public policy, poverty alleviation, and Global South development has inspired her to pursue a career in either public service or NGO work.

**Abigail Lieber** is a freshman Roosevelt Scholar at Hunter College. She is passionate about civic education and voting rights and is excited to register voters and educate on ranked choice voting with the League.

My name is **Shadia Nasrin**, I'm currently studying Political Science at York College, and I'm from Bangladesh. I'm a new intern at the League of Women Voters and excited to discover the research project I will be working on soon.

**Annabella Pritchard** (she/they) is a junior Roosevelt Scholar studying Psychology and Public Policy at the City University of New York, Hunter College. While working as an intern with the League, she is excited to present accessible voting information to her community and is planning upcoming collaborations with LGBTQ+ organizations, as well as those impacted by the criminal justice system.

Hello, my name is **Tyllah Williams**. I am a junior at CUNY York College. I am from Queens, New York. I plan to utilize social media to inform and actively participate in getting the people of Queens Borough to vote!

Hello! My name is **Savannah Yusko** and I attend Hunter College as a political science major and public policy minor. I'm from Staten Island and I'm passionate about social justice and art. Looking forward to working at LWWNYC on outreach presentations that will teach others about the power of voting!

# LWVNYC Committee Updates

## CENSUS/REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Laura Quigg, Chair

[census@lwnyc.org](mailto:census@lwnyc.org)

The Census/Redistricting Committee has rounded the corner and is now fully focused on redistricting, which is the process of drawing new congressional and state legislative district boundaries following the completion of the decennial United States census. This redistricting cycle will be the first time that NY State is implementing new redistricting procedures, including a 10-member Independent Redistricting Commission, to draw the new maps.

There is much to learn, much to advocate for, and many tools and relationships to develop in these early stages. Thus far, we've been focused on educating ourselves and assessing the roles that we can play in working with communities across the city to draw fair maps. As we move forward, we will work with our partners to develop and disseminate education to help the residents of NYC understand why fair maps are so important to getting their voices heard, and to further what we and they can do to advocate for our communities' interests.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Akyla Tomlinson, Chair

[criminaljustice@lwnyc.org](mailto:criminaljustice@lwnyc.org)

The Committee for Criminal Justice Reform envisions establishing the LWVNYC as an influencer around issues of criminal justice in NYC. Toward this end, we will work in collaboration with community-based organizations and those directly impacted by the criminal justice system to advocate and lobby for legislation and policy that focuses on criminal justice reform. Our priority is addressing the inadequate systems in place to police our communities.

The Committee's mission is to advocate for individuals vulnerable to justice system involvement, as well as those formerly or currently incarcerated. Additionally, the committee anticipates partnering with organizations that work with people in communities heavily impacted by criminal justice related issues. The committee's interest will be to engage these partners in actively encouraging people they work with to participate in the political process. Overall, our goal is to achieve reform in a system that has disenfranchised the most vulnerable New Yorkers.

## GENDER JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Vivian B. Goldblatt and Cynthia Polk-Allen, Co-Chairs

[genderjustice@lwnyc.org](mailto:genderjustice@lwnyc.org)

The Gender Justice Committee focuses on economic equity, health, domestic violence, education, LGBTQ, and housing. In January, working with Council Member Helen Rosenthal's Office, we successfully supported **Bill 2064** to create an Advisory Board in hospitals to study gender and racial inequities. We look forward to this new Advisory Board's annual report to help overcome disparities. During Black History Month, our Committee and the Program Committee partnered together to present **The Powerbroker**, a documentary about Whitney Young, Jr, with Q&A following the presentation by his daughter, Dr. Marcia Cantarella.

We continue building relationships with similarly focused organizations, considering legislation and policies, and heightening the awareness of gender injustices to move us towards a more gender-equitable city. The future will be more gender-just.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Jane Hatterer, Chair

[education@lwnyc.org](mailto:education@lwnyc.org)

The Education Committee is continuing its work as strategic partner and adult ally to the New York Youth Civic Initiative (NYYCI), a youth led and built online platform that connects students to opportunities for sustained civic engagement. Committee members serve as mentors to NYYCI's movement correspondents, and are supporting the expansion of NYYCI throughout NY State and Connecticut in collaboration with local League chapters.

Committee members also are continuing their work as representatives in DemocracyReadyNY, a statewide coalition of educators, advocacy organizations, students, administrators and policy makers, promoting civic education policy and practices throughout New York State. Look out for DemocracyReadyNY's four-part webinar series, "Mending the Fabric of Democracy" which several of our members have been helping to plan.

Finally, the Committee is continuing its advocacy efforts in its ongoing support of additional and equitable education funding from the State and federal government, technological access in the service of remote learning, increased support services in the schools, reduction in school safety officers, and the promotion of civic education, including media literacy, at every level of secondary public education.



# LWVNYC Committee Updates

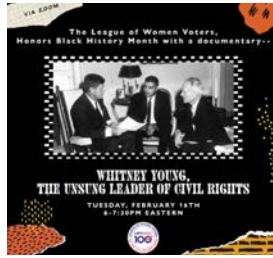
## PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Joanna R. Leefer, Chair

[programs@lwvnyc.org](mailto:programs@lwvnyc.org)

### Home with the League In 2021—

LWVNYC's monthly virtual programs have offered several stimulating presentations so far this year.



February's Home with the League Event

- In January, Roger Karapin, a Professor of Political Science at Hunter College and the CUNY Graduate Center, discussed climate change policies under Presidents Obama, Trump, and Biden.
- For Black History Month, in February, we presented a documentary on Whitney Young Jr, a civil rights leader who successfully integrated corporate America. Following the program, Mr. Young's daughter, Marcia Cantarella, answered questions.
- Women's History Month, in March, featured Zephyr Teachout, NY State Senator Jessica Ramos, and Toni Zimmer, National League of Women Voters member. Each of the presenters discussed their motivations for getting into politics, and their vision for women in the future.
- Social Media in Politics will be the topic of April's meeting. Professor Joshua Tucker, author of *Social Media and Democracy: the State of the Field and Prospects for Reform*, will offer an overview of his book.
- In May, the topic of homeless and its impact on our children will be explored. The speaker is yet to be decided.

Any Committee or League member who has an idea for an upcoming program should contact the Committee at the email address above.

## TELEPHONE INFORMATION SERVICE COMMITTEE

Amy Matthews, Chair

[secretary@lwvnyc.org](mailto:secretary@lwvnyc.org)

The Telephone Information Service Committee (TIS) is gearing up for the next election cycle. All volunteers who worked the phones for the November elections will have the opportunity to be re-trained with information on Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) so they can better serve the callers and explain this new form of voting. New volunteers are both welcomed and needed. Contact Amy Matthews at [secretary@lwvnyc.org](mailto:secretary@lwvnyc.org) to sign up for this essential committee. Your participation allows voters with limited access to the internet to find a friendly voice ready to assist them with answers to questions about absentee voting, voter status, voter registration, poll site locations, and now Ranked Choice Voting.

## VOTING REFORM INITIATIVE COMMITTEE

Bella Wang, Chair

[voting.reform@lwvnyc.org](mailto:voting.reform@lwvnyc.org)

Thanks to research and advocacy from the Voting Reform Committee, the League has joined the Our City, Our Vote coalition in support of **Intro. 1867**, which would allow permanent residents and those with work permits to vote in NYC municipal elections.

On the local front, the Committee is also continuing research into how the NYC Board of Elections manages its contracting for items such as software purchases, and working with the Voter Services Committee on a task force for educating the public on ranked-choice voting (RCV). On the state front, we look forward to kicking off our annual legislative lobbying efforts later this spring, to support issues such as restoration of voting rights for people on parole.

## VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Gerry Russo, Susie Gomes and Laura Quigg, Co-Chairs

[lwvtrainings@lwvnyc.org](mailto:lwvtrainings@lwvnyc.org) [voter.services@lwvnyc.org](mailto:voter.services@lwvnyc.org)

One huge election season rolls into another! All city offices are on the ballot this year, and for the primary and special elections, voters will cast their ballots for the first time using Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). Although the big date looming is for the primaries on June 22, there will have been a number of special elections using RCV before then – two in Queens in February and two in the Bronx in late March.

In 2020, we led a very successful postcard campaign with the NYC Campaign Finance Board (NYCCFB), sending out 6500 postcards to unaffiliated voters in historically low turnout areas. The NYCCFB reached out to us to reprise that effort for 2021, specifically targeting RCV education to voters in the Bronx City Council districts for their special elections while, of course, encouraging them to vote!

Several of our volunteers have offered to address and stamp postcards, and the Ethical Culture Fieldston School has committed to have their students work on the postcards as a class project. We have applied for a grant from the National LWV to get postage for another campaign closer to the June primary elections.

We have also ramped up our Speakers' Bureau series to include RCV education, presentations on "Who Makes NYC Run?", and an expansion of our talks on Civics and The History of Women's Suffrage. We have resumed our Voter Registration training sessions and plans for more voter registration drives as the weather can accommodate.

## Upcoming Events

All trainings and meetings held over Zoom.  
Please contact [admin@lwnyc.org](mailto:admin@lwnyc.org) to confirm meeting dates!  
For more information on Committees and Events,  
please visit [www.lwnyc.org](http://www.lwnyc.org)

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Census and Redistricting Committee: 4th Wed. of the month; 6:00–7:30pm
- Committee for Criminal Justice Reform: check the website calendar for upcoming meetings and subcommittee meetings
- Education Committee: 2nd Wed. of the month; 5:30–7:00pm
- Voting Reform Initiative Committee: check the website calendar for upcoming meetings
- Voter Services Committee: 3rd Wed. of the month; 6:00–7:30pm
- Gender Justice Committee: 2nd Thurs. of the month 6:00–7:30pm

• **DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT** •

CLICK ON THIS LINK TO  
[Join LWNYC](#)

CLICK ON THIS LINK TO  
[Donate to LWNYC](#)

#### Newsletter Staff

Ruth S. Altman  
Diane Burrows  
Susan B. Glattstein  
Crystal Joseph  
Natalie Silverman  
Andrea Zuckerman

*Thank you to all of our  
newsletter contributors!*



4 West 43rd Street, Suite 615, New York, NY 10036  
212-725-3541 [admin@lwnyc.org](mailto:admin@lwnyc.org)

