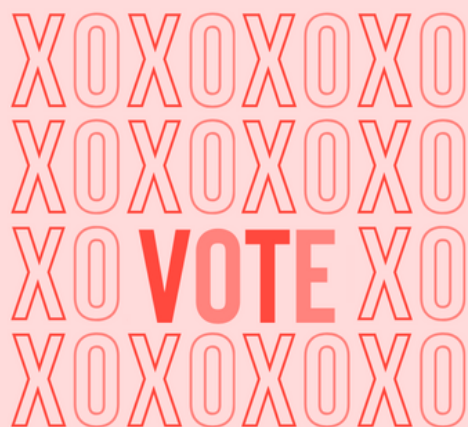


# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

[HTTPS://LWVTOMPKINS.ORG](https://lwvtompkins.org)



February 2025



## LWV turns 105!

The League of Women Voters (LWVUS) was founded on February 14, 1920 by American suffragists, just months before the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment that gave women the constitutional right to vote after more than seventy years of struggle.

Over the past one hundred years the League has been an influential and powerful women's coalition.

The forerunners of the Tompkins County League were the Ithaca Women's Club, founded just prior to 1900 and then the Political Study Club, established in 1905. The Suffrage Movement was the primary focus of this latter club which had over 100 members when it became the League of Women Voters of Tompkins County in 1920.

An activist, grassroots organization, the League believes that citizens should play a critical role in civic advocacy. Its founders believed that maintaining a nonpartisan stance would protect their fledgling organization from becoming mired in the party politics of the day. However, League members were encouraged to be political themselves by educating citizens about, and lobbying for, governmental and social reform legislation.

The League's accomplishments, failures, challenges, and ups and downs reflect the trajectory of US reform politics, class and racial conflicts, and the ebb and flow of women's and feminist movements. After women got the vote in 1920, the League of Women Voters was established and Tompkins County organized an active League membership that same year. Today our organization includes people of all genders and we invite your participation. Any person 16 years or older may become a League member.



Last month, the President and Vice President swore their oaths of office at the presidential inauguration in DC. In anticipation of unprecedented challenges, the League pledges our own oath to protect and preserve democracy. The first 100 days of the new administration will likely include many moves that could challenge our rights and our democracy. These actions could be numerous and divisive, and they may feel overwhelming.

## Our Oath to Democracy

Our Oath to Democracy declares that we will remain fearless, strategic, and thoughtful in how we respond to the coming challenges, especially as a nonpartisan organization.

LWV is proudly a nonpartisan organization. We're focused on issues that matter to communities. We believe in a strong democracy by and for all people. We stand for the rights and representation of all voters, no matter their political party – not to mention their race, gender, primary language, and more.

We have been intentional in outlining where the League is a true leader and expert, where the League can have greatest impact, as well as issues for which we are better suited to play a supportive role to our partner organizations.

LWVUS encourages us all to focus on solutions rather than problems, where we can. As the next administration begins, we remain steadfast in our commitment to democracy, to the American people, and to one another.

Taken from <https://www.lwv.org/blog/our-oath-democracy>.

## LWV Studies for Consensus 2025

LWV pledges to act on some of the most important and challenging issues of today. However, we only act on an issue when we have a position addressing that issue. League positions reflect the consensus of the membership after studying an issue, debating it, and voting to adopt a specific position. **These positions, enacted and evolved by members over the lifetime of the League, are the guideposts for all of our actions on issues.** If members have not studied and come to consensus on an issue, we have no position and no stand on that issue. Issues can be studied and positions adopted at the National, State and local League levels.

This Spring, LWVTC has been asked to provide a consensus on three studies.

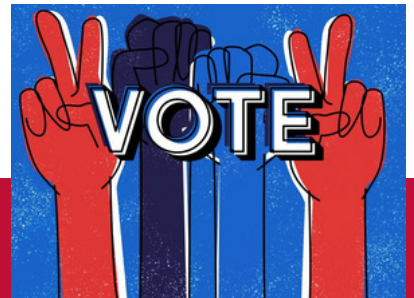
### Federal Judiciary

- At the LWVUS 2024 Convention, delegates voted to proceed with a study on the federal judiciary. The study will be completed on a fast-track, a position to be announced at the LWVUS 2025 Council.
- The study's purpose includes, but is not limited to, addressing concerns and clarifying judicial accountability, transparency, independence, and ethics. The scope addresses the Supreme Court as well as the other Article III federal courts.
- Our goal is a position that outlines the values – the standards and norms – the League of Women Voters should use in evaluating proposed changes to policies, laws, and regulations about the federal judiciary.
- **Information will be sent to members on 3/1/2025. Info session and voting will be 3/17/2025 VIA Zoom.**

**Remember it is important our the position should be principle-based in order to ensure that it lasts for many years to come and allows us to address a wide variety of issues that may arise in future years. Our goal is for the resulting League position to be durable.**

### Voting Issues

- **Ranked Choice Voting** for all levels and types of elections.
- **Voting systems** A more transparent and open voting systems approval process would improve voter understanding of, and confidence in, our elections.
- Information is available at <https://lwvtompkins.org/action-alerts/>
- **Information will be sent to members on 3/24/2025. Information and voting session will be held on 4/7/2025 VIA Zoom.**



- Future Board Meetings: 7pm in person at Forest Home Chapel, 224 Forest Home Drive, Ithaca NY 14850
  - Monday, February 10th. **Come at 6:15 and raise a glass to for the LWV 105th birthday.**
  - Monday, March 10th
  - Monday, April 14th
- Members are encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion. In case of bad weather, the board will move the meeting to Zoom.

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## Legislative Priorities

Thank you to all of our members who filled out the 2025 LWVNY Legislative Priorities form. On behalf of our League, we submitted the top three answers.

- Priority #1 is Health Care.
- Priority #2 is Natural Resources
- Priority #3 is Equality of Opportunity

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## Membership update

In the coming weeks, you will receive an email through ChapterSpot, the new membership system, asking you to log in to the portal for the first time. You are not being asked to renew or pay dues, only to log in and complete your member information.

It is important that you log in to the portal to ensure that we have the most up-to-date information, as well as to help the League more broadly understand who we are as an organization. If you haven't received an invitation to log in before February 7, please check your spam folder or reach out to [membership@lwv.org](mailto:membership@lwv.org).



The Students Inside Albany program received four applications – 3 seniors and 1 junior. Three students from Trumansburg High School, and one from Ithaca High. Applications are under review with the intention to declare a delegate and alternates by Feb 15.

We are assured one delegate and are ninth on the waiting list for a second delegate. Thanks to Jeanne Mackin and Lois Levitan for assisting with the committee.

# Who we are

- The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government.
- The League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy.
- Any person 16 years and older, regardless of gender, may become a League member.
- Our Email: [lwvtompkins.info@gmail.com](mailto:lwvtompkins.info@gmail.com)
- Our Website <https://lwvtompkins.org>
- Our [Facebook](#) Page
- [Ways to Donate to LWVTC](#)



VOTE411's Voter Guide is a national, nonpartisan online election resource that provides a "one-stop shop" for election related information, including when, where, and how to register and to vote, in-person or with an absentee ballot.

Launched as a community service in 2006 by the League of Women Voters, [VOTE411](#) has helped people participate in elections, whether they are first-time voters or seasoned veterans at the ballot box. Every election is important to ensuring our laws and policies reflect the values and beliefs of our communities

Voters can go to [VOTE411.ORG](http://VOTE411.ORG) and simply enter their home address to learn which elections they can vote in, and they can browse by state to explore other election resources.

VOTE411 is committed to ensuring voters have the information they need to successfully participate in every election.