

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

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



April 2025

Spring Fling 2025

Thirty members and guests of the LWV-Tompkins County joined together at a "Spring Fling" luncheon at the First Presbyterian Church in Downtown Ithaca on March 22nd. Our first social event of 2025, we had a delicious lunch catered by Ithaca Bakery.

Perhaps the most important question asked by our members was "How do we stay active and positive?" The answer is "We work with like-minded people."



Upcoming plans brainstormed together include working with other organizations. Examples are promoting the National Day of Action on April 5 and partnering with other local organizations such as Indivisible Tompkins.

One member offered to guide us through using the checklist "Americans of Conscience Checklist" as part of a workshop centered around empowered Activism.

We are very interested in showing the film "Iron Jawed Angels" at our local movie theatre, Cinemapolis, or our Public Library.

Stay tuned for more details, and it was lovely to see you all!





The League of Women Voters of the United States issued a statement in response to President Donald Trump's signed executive order, "Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections," that threatens Americans' freedom to vote and tramples states' constitutional authority to run their own elections.

Celina Stewart, Chief Executive Officer of the League of Women Voters of the United States. "This executive order is an assault on our republic and a dangerous attempt to silence American voters. The President continues to overstep his authority and brazenly disregard settled law in this country. To be very clear – the League of Women Voters is prepared to fight back and defend our democracy."

The order's extreme provisions include:

- Impermissibly requiring documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote by altering the federal voter registration form. Nearly 80% of married women – more than 69 million American women – adopt their partner's surname, and they would be unable to register to vote if the name on their ID does not directly match their proof of citizenship. Additionally, noncitizens registering to vote and then casting a ballot is already illegal in federal elections, and there is no evidence to suggest that noncitizen voter registration and voting is occurring at any meaningful scale.
- Prohibiting the counting of absentee and mail ballots postmarked by Election Day but received after, which 18 states and Washington DC currently permit.
- Giving the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) the authority to review states' voter rolls.
- Withholding federal funds from states that do not cooperate with the order's provisions.

The SAVE Act (HR22/S128) is a women's issue

The House and Senate introduced the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, which would require citizenship documentation to register to vote even though voters in every state are already required to affirm or verify their citizenship status when registering.

It is already illegal for noncitizens to register and vote in federal or state elections. The bill's requirement of a document to prove American citizenship to register to vote in federal elections is unnecessary and seeks to divide us. It also creates another barrier to voting.

Americans do not need MORE obstacles to vote.

Americans who have changed their name – like married women and members of the trans community – would also be required to secure updated documentation to register to vote. Surveys show that eight in ten married women have changed their surname, meaning they do not possess a birth certificate that matches their current legal name and, therefore, could not present it as valid proof of citizenship.

Update: 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.

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

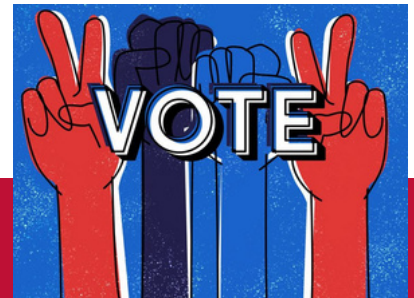
Federal Judiciary

- 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** was sent to members on 3/24/2025. Info session and voting will be 4/7/2025 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 4/21/2025. Information and voting session will be held on 5/5/ 2025 VIA Zoom.**





Upcoming Voter Service Opportunities

We are really pleased that Sev Domochovske, the Youth Educator at Tompkins County Advocacy Center has invited us to provide relevant information about civic engagement, voting and voter registration at the "Take Back the Night" rally which is being planned for the **Night of April 25th** on the Commons at the Bernie Milton Pavilion starting at 7pm. We are looking for League members who enjoy working with high school and college-age students to help at this event. This is a popular community event with high attendance by the young.

Lansing School District has asked LWV-TC to moderate their Candidate Forum on May 12 at 7 pm. We will provide a moderator, a timekeeper, and probably someone to collect questions from the audience. It is likely to be in person.

The Town of Danby is again looking for help holding a Candidates Forum for the June Primaries. We have done this in the past. We are waiting for more information about date, time, candidates etc., but again, will need moderator, timekeeper and possibly someone to collect questions.

May 15 there will be a Naturalization Ceremony for New Citizens at the County Court House from noon onwards. Kathy Hopkins and Sheila Stone are looking for members interested in helping at this fun event.

Lastly we have just received a request for help, via YV2, from Tom Stern, Producer at Pegasys Media. He says the Pegasys Media show, Ithaca Politics, is on the rise, scheduling people running for city and county offices for on air discussions to be released through YouTube and the local cable channel. We are also looking at the huge cauldron of national politics and creating shows to get viewpoints from local activists and scholars. And he needs help with a multitude of tasks including booking people for shows, doing some research on subject matter, and possibly search for funds to defray the costs of production. If people want to get involved with the technical end of putting on shows, I am glad to hear from them as well. Tom has worked with the League before and it would be very worthwhile to work with him again. Please contact him directly if you would like to help - tstern952@gmail.com.

We also hope to organize Candidate Forums for City and County Primaries in June, and again later in the Fall. If anyone is able to help coordinate these events please email Sally_Grubb.

- Future Board Meetings: 7pm in person at Forest Home Chapel, 224 Forest Home Drive, Ithaca NY 14850
 - Monday, April 14th
 - Monday, May 12th
- Our Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, June 2nd. Time and Place will be announced soon!
- Members are encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion. In case of bad weather, the board will move the meeting to Zoom.

Trans Day of Visibility

March 31 was International Trans Day of Visibility. On this day, we uplift the voices and celebrate the lives of transgender and nonbinary people. Unfortunately, we're witnessing elected officials at the state and federal level promote hate and disinformation, pushing for policies that target transgender and nonbinary people's ability to live their lives openly and safely.

Today and every day, we stand in solidarity with trans and nonbinary individuals.

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.



Once again, we had a stellar group of SIA candidates making the selection very difficult for the review committee. Caedmon Sethupathy, a senior at Ithaca High School, will be the 2025 Tompkins County delegate. We are waitlisted for a second student should space become available.

The conference will be held Sunday, May 18, 2025, through Wednesday, May 21, 2025.

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
- 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 7-10 days before an election 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.