



Welcome back to the League of Women Voters of New Jersey's Advocacy Newsletter!

In this edition you'll find:

- Updates on LWVNJ's Advocacy Campaigns: NJ State Budget, Same-Day Voter Registration, NJ Reparations Task Force, and More!
- Spring 2022 Activist Training Program Course Offerings
- Lobby Corps Community Advocacy Calls Schedule
- Election Workers Day of Action
- Advocate Spotlight

ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN UPDATES

New Jersey Budget Updates

The Governor released his budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2023 earlier this month. You can read his budget address [here](#) and a summary of the Budget [here](#).

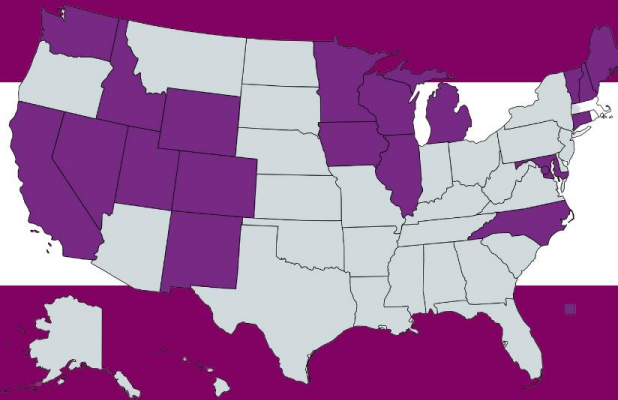
The League is concerned that the Governor's budget does not appropriate enough resources to fund our elections. While we applaud the allocation of \$7 million for the purpose of increasing poll worker pay to \$300 per day, the proposal does not contain any funding for voter education and lacks enough investment in our election infrastructure needs.

As part of the For the Many coalition, the League also joins our coalition partners in advocating for a budget that is truly "Affordable for All." We support the \$718 million increase in the proposal dedicated to public school funding and preschool expansion. But more can be done. Proven policies that provide direct financial assistance to hard-hit families, like the New Jersey Earned Income Tax Credit, should be expanded and made more accessible. And New Jersey should implement a state version of the Child Tax Credit. These proposals would help support low and moderate-income households in the context of decreased assistance from the federal government.

The legislature is hearing testimony now and in the coming weeks, and the League will be submitting testimony advocating for a budget that adequately funds our elections and is truly affordable for all. For more on the Governor's budget proposal, see [this report](#) from New Jersey Policy Perspective.

Same Day Voter Registration

20 states have same day voter registration.

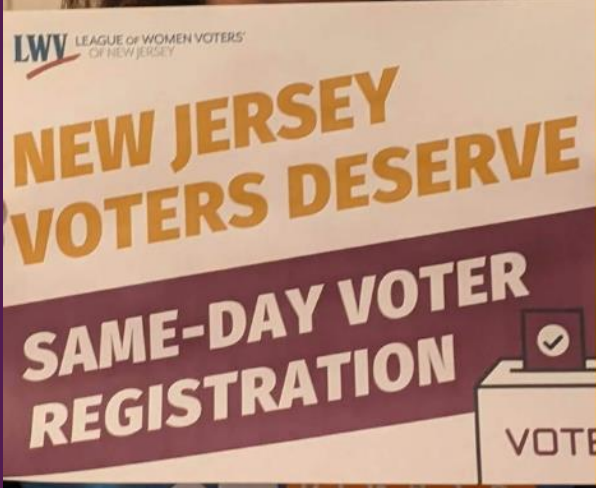


Why isn't New Jersey one of them?
Urge your legislators to support A1966/S247.



Despite the Legislature's failure to schedule A1966/S247 for a hearing, the Democracy in a Day coalition continues to advocate for **same-day voter registration legislation** to expand access to the ballot in New Jersey.

On February 14th, we celebrated the League of Women Voters' 102nd anniversary by organizing a day of action in support of same-day voter registration. We mobilized members and volunteers to email their legislators to urge support of legislation, highlighted LWWNJ Staff and Board members demonstrating their support of same-day registration on social media and released a [special video message from Executive Director Jesse Burns commemorating the League's 102 years of service](#).



On March 16th, we joined with advocates across the state to call on our state senators to support same-day registration. We drove hundreds of calls to our legislators' offices to let them know that New Jerseyans want the opportunity to exercise #DemocracyinaDay.

You can **join our efforts to advocate for same-day voter registration by taking 2 minutes to call your own State Senator & asking them to support the bill!**

Call Your Senator!

PASS SAME-DAY VOTER REGISTRATION



Call Your Senator Today!
bit.ly/DemocracyinaDay

Together with 94 other organizations, we sent a letter to Governor Murphy, Senate President Scutari, and Speaker Coughlin urging them to pass and sign legislation that would allow for same-day voter registration. Our diverse coalition of organizations from around the state demonstrates that there is broad support for this legislation. You can [read the letter here](#).

On March 24, we joined with our partners to hit the halls of the State House to talk directly to legislators about same-day voter registration.



This week S247 received a new co-sponsor: **Senator Jon Bramnick!** We're proud to have **bipartisan support** for this common sense legislation that will make it easier for New Jerseyans to register and cast a ballot.

Increasing Poll Worker Pay

Government Committee Co-Chair Sandy Matsen testified on behalf of LWVNJ in support of A208/S1290 which will increase pay for poll workers to \$300 per day. Poll workers serve a crucial role in our elections process by assisting voters at their voting locations. Increasing the pay will ensure our poll workers are properly compensated for their service and will attract new poll workers.

This legislation passed both Houses on March 24 and is heading to the Governor's desk for his signature. Thank you for your advocacy!

Supporting Voters at the Polls

S1436 prohibits electioneering within 25 feet of people waiting in line to vote. This bill protects the ability of voters to participate in our elections free from intimidation or coercion.

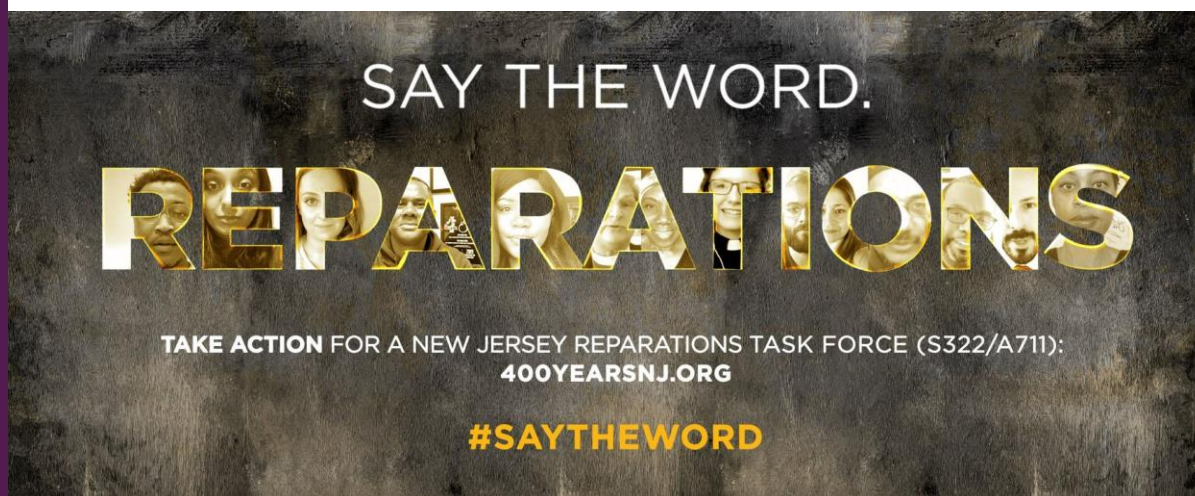
LWVNJ Community Organizer Assatta Mann testified in support of S1436 and amendments that protect the ability of nonpartisan organizations to provide guidance to voters who find themselves in long lines at the polls. These amendments were crucial to ensuring that the League of Women Voters can continue to provide trusted nonpartisan voter assistance as we've done for over a century.

Opposing Pipeline Expansion Projects

In February we signed on to a letter opposing yet another fossil fuel project. The proposed Williams Transco' Regional Energy Access Expansion (REAE) project, which would expand and add compression stations in the state, extend our commitment to fossil fuels, and pose serious health risks to New Jersey communities.

The proposal would add to already overburdened communities in South Jersey at a time when we should be focusing on environmental justice and expanding renewable energy alternatives. We are proud to stand with our friends at Empower NJ on this issue.

NJ Reparations Task Force



A938/S386 will establish a New Jersey Reparations Task Force to study New Jersey's role in American slavery and to develop policy recommendations to address the enduring harms caused by that legacy.

Advocates worked with their local representatives to introduce resolutions supporting bill A938/S386 in **SEVEN** cities: Newark, Trenton, Paterson, Montclair, Plainfield, South Orange, and Maplewood.

You can work with your municipality's governing body to introduce a local resolution endorsing a reparations task force and calling on legislative leadership to move this legislation forward. [Find the municipal resolution template here](#). Reach out to Assatta Mann (amann@lwnj.org) for assistance.

Raise your voice in support of a NJ Reparations Task Force by writing a letter to the editor of your local paper. Use [Say the Word: Reparations Letter to the Editor Toolkit](#) to get started.

GET INVOLVED



Activist Training Program

We're more than half-way through the Spring 2022 Semester of the Activist Training Program. There is still time to register for the remaining courses and build the skills you need to influence public policy and defend democracy in New Jersey.

Check out the schedule of remaining courses below. Visit lwnj.org/training to register or learn more.

- 3/28 at 5:30PM: [Digital Organizing: Using Technology to Build Power Online](#)
- 4/12 at 5:30PM: [Understanding the State Budget Process](#)
- 4/21 at 6PM: [The Power of Relational Organizing](#)
- 4/25 at 11:30AM: [Vote411 Twitter Storm Action Workshop](#)

Lobby Corps Advocacy Calls

Join the LWV NJ Lobby Corps

As a Lobby Corps member, you can use your voice to advocate for legislative and policy changes that will protect and defend democracy in New Jersey.



Join the LWV NJ Lobby Corps on the **second Thursday of every month at 6pm** as we dive into the details of public policy issues and legislation the League is following. You'll receive briefings from LWV NJ staff and Program Committee leaders and gain insight into our strategy for advocating on these issues.

[Join the LWV NJ Lobby Corps](#)

[View Schedule & Register for Lobby](#)

[Corps Advocacy Calls](#)

Election Workers Day of Action: April 14, 2022

Join us in thanking and showing support for Election Workers across the country.

Americans across race, place and party believe in the freedom to decide for ourselves who represents us. In the face of a pandemic and barriers erected to silence our voices, Americans have turned out in record numbers to cast our ballots to have our voices heard.



This is why we need to thank the heroes — in a meaningful public way — to let them know how grateful we are for their courage and fortitude. Election workers are the backbone of our democracy, ensuring our elections run smoothly and efficiently. Use the toolkits below to lift up support for election workers in New Jersey, and tell us your story about serving as an election worker.

- [Use the LWVUS Social Media Toolkit to thank Election Heroes](#)
- [Use the LWVUS Partner Toolkit to thank Election Heroes](#)
- [Use the LWVUS Host Toolkit to host your own event](#)
- [Tell us your story](#)

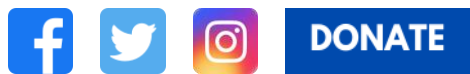
ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT

Last month LWV Southern Monmouth County members Evelyn Murphy and Rosemary Venter published letters to the editor in their local paper The Coaster. They each responded to a [previous letter calling for an independent organization](#) to prepare forums for candidates to discuss their positions on critical public policy issues.

Sound familiar? Evelyn and Rosemary highlighted the League's history of hosting candidate forums and providing nonpartisan information voters can trust through vote411.org. You can [read their letters here](#). (Please excuse the letter orientation but we wanted to share these with you!)

Help Us Continue to Advance this Work

We can't do this work without your help. [Please make a donation today](#) so that we can continue to push New Jersey forward.



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