

Calendar of Events

webmaster@lwv-rma.org

April 24, 2024

Finding water in a news desert: Preparing for elections when news coverage is scarce

06:00 PM - 07:00 PM EST

When local news coverage is scarce, how do you find out what's on the ballot in your community? There are ways you can be informed about ballot initiatives and candidates running for office – including reports on their spending and where they stand on the issues.

The News Literacy Project has invited three experts – Benjy Hamm, director of the University of Kentucky's Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues; Alana Rocha, editor of the Rural News Network; and Brianna Lennon, county clerk for Boone County, Missouri and co-host of the podcast "High Turnout Wide Margins" – to walk us through how people living in news deserts can prepare to vote in 2024. We'll talk about obstacles to finding credible information, as well as tools you can use to investigate the who, what, when, where, why and how of the 2024 elections.

April 25, 2024

Fact vs. Fiction: Training the Public on Determining Mis and Dis-Information (workshop presentation)

07:00 PM - 08:00 PM EST

In recent years, polarization, extremism, and the amplification of mis- and disinformation have impacted election administration as bad actors try to sway election outcomes. It's important to combat the rising tide of mis- and disinformation as it threatens harm to online and in-person communities. Learn to distinguish between fact and fiction and how to train the public to do the same.

April 27, 2024

Meet Your Ballot
Lyell branch library
956 Lyell Avenue
Rochester, NY
12:00 PM - 02:00 PM EST
meetyourballot@lww-rma.org

What will be on my ballot?
How do I figure out who to vote for?
What's the voting process like?
Do I need ID?
What if I make a mistake?

GET ANSWERS!

Come and see what a ballot looks like.
See videos from a polling place.
Learn about early voting and mail-in voting.

Free, all welcome, even if you didn't register in advance. Come to any of our monthly sessions. Feel free to bring a friend.

April 29, 2024

Board meeting
06:00 PM - 07:30 PM EST
Members are welcome. Contact the President for a zoom link.

May 3, 2024

First Friday
I-Square
200 Bakers Square
Irondequoit, NY
11:30 AM - 01:30 PM EST
Join us for social time at I-Square. There's no agenda but we talk about everything League and lots of political discussions. A lot of great ideas originate at First Fridays and a lot of work gets done. And we have a lot of fun. Come when you can, leave when you must. No need to register, just come!

May 11, 2024

Meet Your Ballot
Arnett branch library
310 Arnett Blvd.
Rochester, NY
12:00 PM - 02:00 PM EST
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May 15, 2024

Should We Convert to Become a 501(c)3?
07:00 PM - 08:00 PM EST

The board of LWV-RMA has recommended that we convert from our current 501(c)4 status (under IRS regulations) to become a 501(c)3. In order to give members ample time to become informed of the consequences, we've scheduled a webinar where the issue will be explained and there will be plenty of time to ask questions. Join Us on zoom.

May 16, 2024

Book Club: American Midnight: The Great War, a Violent Peace, and Democracy's Forgotten C

04:30 PM - 05:30 PM EST

Book club is held via zoom. The zoom link is sent to regulars each month. If you'd like to try book club out, send an email to vote411@lww-rma.org and ask to be added to the book club mailing list.

The nation was on the brink. Mobs burned Black churches to the ground. Courts threw thousands of people into prison for opinions they voiced—in one notable case, only in private. Self-appointed vigilantes executed tens of thousands of citizens' arrests. Some seventy-five newspapers and magazines were banned from the mail and forced to close. When the government stepped in, it was often to fan the flames.

This was America during and after the Great War: a brief but appalling era blighted by lynchings, censorship, and the sadistic, sometimes fatal abuse of conscientious objectors in military prisons—a time whose toxic currents of racism, nativism, red-baiting, and contempt for the rule of law then flowed directly through the intervening decades to poison our own. It was a tumultuous period defined by a diverse and colorful cast of characters, some of whom fueled the injustice while others fought against it: from the sphinxlike Woodrow Wilson, to the fiery antiwar advocates Kate Richards O'Hare and Emma Goldman, to labor champion Eugene Debs, to a little-known but ambitious bureaucrat named J. Edgar Hoover, and to an outspoken leftwing agitator—who was in fact Hoover's star undercover agent. It is a time that we have mostly forgotten about, until now.

In American Midnight, award-winning historian Adam Hochschild brings alive the horrifying yet inspiring four years following the U.S. entry into the First World War, spotlighting forgotten repression while celebrating an unforgettable set of Americans who strove to fix their fractured country—and showing how their struggles still guide us today.

June 1, 2024

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956 Lyell Ave.
Rochester, NY
12:00 PM - 02:00 PM EST
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June 7, 2024

First Friday
I-Square
200 Bakers Square
Irondequoit, NY
11:30 AM - 01:30 PM EST

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July 13, 2024

Meet Your Ballot
Lincoln branch library
851 Joseph Ave.
Rochester, NY
12:00 PM - 02:00 PM EST
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July 18, 2024

Book Club: Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America by Heather Cox Richardson

04:30 PM - 05:30 PM EST

Book club is held via zoom. The zoom link is sent to regulars each month. If you'd like to try book club out, send an email to vote411@lww-rma.org and ask to be added to the book club mailing list.

In the midst of the impeachment crisis of 2019, Heather Cox Richardson launched a daily Facebook essay providing the historical background of the daily torrent of news. It soon turned into a newsletter and its readership ballooned to more than 2 million dedicated readers who rely on her plainspoken and informed take on the present and past in America.

In Democracy Awakening, Richardson crafts a compelling and original narrative, explaining how, over the decades, a small group of wealthy people have made war on American ideals. By weaponizing language and promoting false history, they have led us into authoritarianism -- creating a disaffected population and then promising to recreate an imagined past where those people could feel important again. She argues that taking our country back starts by remembering the elements of the nation's true history that marginalized Americans have always upheld. Their dedication to the principles on which this nation was founded has enabled us to renew and expand our commitment to democracy in the past. Richardson sees this history as a roadmap for the nation's future.

Richardson's talent is to wrangle our giant, meandering, and confusing news feed into a coherent story that singles out what we should pay attention to, what the precedents are, and what possible paths lie ahead. In her trademark calm prose, she is realistic and optimistic about the future of democracy. Her command of history allows her to pivot effortlessly from the Founders to the abolitionists to Reconstruction to Goldwater to Mitch McConnell, highlighting the political legacies of the New Deal, the lingering fears of socialism, the death of the liberal consensus and birth of "movement conservatism."

Many books tell us what has happened over the last five years. Democracy Awakening explains how we got to this perilous point, what our history really tells us about ourselves, and what the future of democracy can be.

August 3, 2024

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September 7, 2024

Meet Your Ballot
Phyllis Wheatley branch library
33 Dr. Samuel McCree Way
Rochester, NY
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October 5, 2024

Meet Your Ballot
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Rochester, NY
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November 2, 2024

Meet Your Ballot
Phyllis Wheatley branch library
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December 7, 2024

Meet Your Ballot
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