



SCRIPT FOR THE LWV CIVICS FOR NEW YORKERS PRESENTATION

[Script is appropriate for High School audience. Adjustments may be needed for presenting to adult audiences]

#	Script— QUESTIONS ASKED ARE IN BOLD OR WHEN GOING TO INTERNET ITALICS SHOULD NOT BE READ AS PART OF SCRIPT	Slide	Presenter
1	<p>Welcome to The Civics for New Yorkers</p> <p>ADJUST FOR YOUR GROUP We are volunteers with the League of Women Voters to share information about voting, advocating and lobbying and community involvement because we are looking to the youth to help make changes in our society and we want to make sure you are equipped to do this. We want people to use their voices. Say name and introduce others in the room</p> <p>The League of Women Voters of the City of New York is a non-partisan organization— which means we do not favor a political party, whose purpose is to promote informed and active citizen participation in government. Our mission is to expand our outreach and increase all New Yorkers participation in local communities and government through civics education, the “Vote” and issues advocacy</p>		
2	<p>We are here today to share with you ideas how to civically engage and participate in order to influence and affect change, especially locally. This presentation is an overview of three important and accessible ways people can have influence in their communities. These three pillars are voting, lobbying and advocacy, and community involvement. The purpose of this presentation is to introduce you to the positive difference you can make through the power of voting, lobbying and advocacy, and civic involvement all year long and in every election cycle.</p>		
3	<p>Where does that power come from?</p> <p>Under our form of democracy, we have 3 branches of government: The Executive, the Legislative, and the Judicial.</p> <p>There are three buildings in the slide: Can anyone identify any of these buildings? Right we have: The Capitol, The White House and the Supreme Court. They are the key branches of our government they are associated with. [Upper Right hand Supreme Court and Judicial branch Upper Left Hand White House and Executive branch and Lower Left and Capitol -Legislative branch]</p> <p>(CONTINUE NEXT PAGE–TURN OVER)</p>		

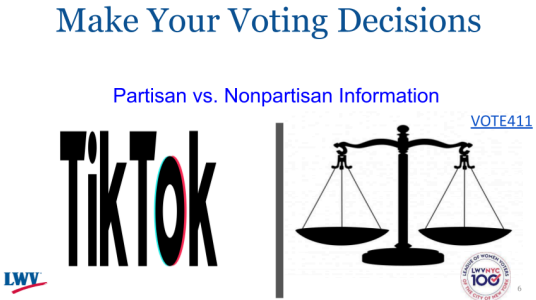
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3	<p>The power of the government is granted by the people. It is the people who give power to the leaders through the election process. We, the people, are the first three words of the Constitution. But first, consider the first three words of the Constitution, “We The People” written in 1787, who were ‘we, the people’? Would ‘we the people’ look at those sitting around us? Many if not most of us in this room today would not qualify to be considered as part ‘we the people’ in 1787?</p> <p>WHY IS THAT ? WAIT FOR ANSWER- IF PROVIDE SAY RIGHT OTHERWISE GIVE ANSWER -NO we didn’t! No women, no black person, no white person who did not own property...and Yet, here we are today. Women, people of color, immigrants, members of many diverse communities have power now. Was the power simply handed to us by those in charge? NO! We had to battle and fight to get every single right we now have. Suffrage, Civil Rights, Reproductive Rights, Immigrant rights—everything required time, patience and energy to accomplish. It took hard work and people using their voices</p>		
4	<p>We have rights and responsibilities, granted by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, that enable us to engage in this political process, beginning with the most basic of our responsibilities: voting, and participation in the election process- Here in New York as in every other state, election law is written by the state legislature. For many people in America, voting rights have not been easy to come by: We still are fighting to maintain and advance the right to vote in too many places in this country.</p>	<p align="center">Know Your Rights and Responsibilities</p> 	
4	<p>Anecdote Are you aware of any of the civil rights battles ? Has your history class taught you any of that [pause to see if there is a t volunteers] One of the mosts recent films on this topic is the Oscar nominated film Selma telling the tale of a Alabama to by civil rights workers and leaders march March from Selma to the capitol Montgomery Alabama for the right to vote. That generated the Voters Rights Act of 1965. Also in my lifetime, in 1971 the age to vote was reduced from 21 to 18 to coincide with the draft age –the majority of the people felt people who were sent to fight for our country should be able to vote/ People say if you can put boys to fight for our country they should be able to vote. People used their voices to make these changes.</p>		
5	<p>Now Let’s turn our attention now to participation in the election process here in NY. We are not only focusing on voter registration but on creating your voter action plan.</p> <p>We have a website in this state League of Women Voters. If you go to that website you will get the information that tells you how to Register to Vote,</p> <p>It tells you the important dates, how to decide your method of voting , and your poll site. It is very important that All New Yorkers should have a voting plan. To make sure you know how to find this out. You will want to look at this important website. In New York, 80% of eligible people are registered. In some elections only 20% actually vote. We are here to get you to register to vote but that is step 1.</p>	<p align="center">Pillar 1: Make A Voting Action Plan <u>NYS LWV</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register to vote • Know important dates • Decide your method of voting • Know your poll site • Make your voting decisions • Know important websites <p><small>LWV</small> </p> <p>Website is LWV New York State Site or Vote NYC NOT OPENING WEBSITES CONTINUE NEXT PAGE</p>	



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	<p>The Voting plan starts with registering to vote, then knowing important dates, next How you are going to vote by mail, vote early or on election day, then know where to vote and how to make your decision and important websites.</p> <p>Your teacher will give you the slides so you can go to the site as a reference for completing the steps using this site. We will discuss how to register at the end of this presentation.</p>		
6	<p>You have to make your voting decisions. It is very important you have the plan but how do you know how to vote? It is important that you get balanced information versus biased information. TikTok or information from different social media platforms can be biased. Many times they only provide information from the perspective of who is authoring or they are representing on the post. Also the information is not always truthful. This is an example of partisan information. For non-partisan information a good place is the Board of election site. [The Board of Elections site (VOTE NYC) is a good starting point.] When you enter your home address, it will show you a sample ballot for your election district so you can learn which candidates and proposals you will be voting on. Remember, we vote for who represents us in our neighborhood so everyone’s ballot is different. You are represented by where you live. Another way to research to make sure you have information about both sides is to go to the sites of both parties or candidates and see what they are saying about issues important to you so you can make an informed decision.</p> <p>It is best to go to nonpartisan sources or balanced sources to get truthful information. Also you can look at Vote411 the League of Women website¹, attend a debate where both sides are presented. For example the environment or any issue you care about—see what each side says and choose what is closest to your position to help you make your voting decision. If you only look at one side of an issue you are missing information. We do not recommend that you do this but that your voting decision is based on community and personal issues that matter to you.</p>	 <p align="center">Make Your Voting Decisions</p> <p align="center">Partisan vs. Nonpartisan Information</p> <p align="center">VOTE411</p>	
6	<p>UPDA</p> <p><i>NOT OPENING WEBSITES IN HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS:Click on VOTE411 the League of Women website Go to Finds Out what’s On Your Ballot—Next major election is the November 5th</i></p> <p><i>Change Address & make sure you picked All Parties and English as language- then Save & View Races –</i></p> <p><i>CLICK on View Races button and you will see all candidates scroll down - see the questions asked and answers from each candidate</i></p>		







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7	<p>Once you have your plan in place, you can then turn to your community, help others get their voting plan in shape. Share this information. Get involved in voter registration drives at local schools, faith organizations, green markets or anywhere people gather.</p> <p>The LWV of NYC offers training sessions to help you organize a voter registration drive. Call or email us to schedule your training.</p> <p>NOT OPENING SITE WILL EXPLAIN BELOW</p> <p>You can also take the training offered by the Board of Elections to become a poll worker in your community. Complete the application at your BOE or go to the website link. The BOE has a shortage of trained poll workers and it is a paid position for early voting days and election day.</p>		
<p>Students can work the poll. [17 years can apply \$100 for the 4-hour class. \$250 to work full day & \$125 for prime hours after 3 PM] each election day - There is an application at BOE or online . You are required to get a teacher’s recommendation, a grade point average and parent signature. Also You can help others in your community for example bring people that need help to the poll site. Example of things you can do before you are able to cast a ballot.</p>			
8	<p>Let us imagine we have had the election and those elected are in Office. . What do they do now? They have work to do! They work for us, they represent us. We have a right to express to them what we want them to work on . And even if you are not old enough to vote or are a citizen you still can use your voice to impact elected officials.</p> <p>It is time to discuss the second pillar of civic engagement:</p> <p>We will discuss the differences between lobbying and advocacy. You do not need to be a citizen or able to vote to participate in either lobbying and advocacy. If you are a member of the community, you have a voice.</p> <p>Lobbying is specific to a piece of legislation that already exists that you want to see passed or defeated. This is a very specific way to let your elected official know how you would like them to vote on a specific piece of legislation and why this is so important to you and your community.</p> <p>Advocacy work involves reaching out to the appropriate elected officials to express our concern about issues. This is a way to let your elected officials know how you feel about a specific concern like increasing green space, gun violence, noise pollution, and affordable housing healthcare. This may lead them to support ⇒</p>	 <p>legislation when it comes up or even write their own bill to address this concern.</p> <p>To Lobby or Advocate you can speak to elected officials, collect cards or petition signatures from people to give to them and support Town Halls .</p>	




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9	<p>To exercise our rights to express an opinion on an issue, it is really important to know who to turn to. How do we know who is responsible for which issue or concern that we may care about? If my concern is a national issue like, foreign policy, or the internet or it could be air travel-Federal Aviation . You need to focus your energy on that level of elected officials: which are Federal congress, senators, and the President. For example, if I felt that Airplanes were flying across my neighborhood too early or late at night and too low– I would contact my congressional representative first because they are the closest representative for me.</p> <p>If my concerns are related to State issues like health care, education, criminal justice, and election reform for example, I need to seek out my state elected officials: my state assembly person, state senator, and the governor.</p>	 <p align="center">Approach The Correct Official <u>Find Your Elected Official</u></p> <p align="center">  Federal  State  Local </p> <p align="center">   </p>	
9	<p>And ,if my concerns are Local like libraries, police, traffic, urban development, green space, some aspects of education and housing, and recreation, and quality of life issues, then I need to turn to my local elected officials: city council, borough president, mayor, public advocate, or comptroller.</p> <p>Your voice can be heard much louder on these local issues since your city councilperson is also your “neighbor” and must live in your district!</p> <p>You can take a closer look at who your elected official is by clicking on the link Find Your Elected Official then you will find out who the persons are. You can find out who represents you at all three levels: Federal, State, and Local by entering your address on the League website, (open “Who Represents Me” now and type in “123” then pick an address to show the information available)</p> <p>Click on the mygovnyc.org site Who Represents Me? NYC DON'T DISPLAY OR GO TO THE INTERNET IF ONLY HAVE ONE PERIOD JUST POINT OUT LET THEM KNOW THE TEACHER CAN GIVE THEM SLIDES AND THE LINKS. If displaying Put in address of the location UPDATE WITH WHAT IS RELEVANT FOR THE GROUP - scroll through the levels SHOW IN PRESENTATION AND WALK THROUGH THE LEVELS City, State, Federal and scroll down</p>		



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10	<p>The third Pillar is Get involved in your community. There are more ways to have impact:</p> <p>Anecdote: This garbage can is shown as an example where community members complained that the open garbage cans ended with garbage on the streets. The people advocated to the council representative to get closed garbage cans. The sign says where the funds came from.</p> <p>Now in NYC we have participatory budgeting and community boards. These are ways you can communicate with elected officials. You do not need to be a citizen. Anybody can participate. You can be a youth you do not need to be 18 to participate in your community .</p> <p>DON'T DISPLAY SITES OR GO TO INTERNET IF ONLY HAVE ONE PERIOD—ONLY ADD TO SCRIPT THE FOLLOWING IF LONGER TIME TO PRESENT</p> <p>1. Click on pb.nyc participatory budgeting is a city-wide initiative to engage community members in improving their neighborhoods.</p>	 <p align="center">THIS CAN BE USED FOR NYC REPLACE OR SKIP REMOVE SLIDE NOT NYC PRESENTATION</p>	
	<p>{ Community board members are the most grass roots element of city government. These people are volunteers who are recommended by the city council members whose districts overlap the community board districts and are appointed by the borough president. They monitor delivery of city services such as sanitation and street maintenance. They are involved in the planning and review of land use and they make recommendations for the budget. Community boards meet regularly and all their meetings are open to the public. You can sign up to receive updates and information about your community board’s work through your borough president’s website. You can also volunteer to serve on your community board.(click on link for community boards and show application and sign-ups)</p> <p align="center">DON'T DISPLAY OR GOT TO INTERNET IF ONLY HAVE ONE PERIOD</p> <p>Community Boards; https://www1.nyc.gov/site/cau/community-boards/community-boards.page If you go to the community board Find your Community Board-Select Borough and then do Control F and the neighborhood (Can scroll to go the board site)</p>	 <p align="center">CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE</p>	
11	<p>There are many more ways to get involved in your community even if you are not eligible to vote. There are non-government organizations that you can get involved with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Join local community groups working in your neighborhood such as us, The League of Women Voters, PTA, political clubs, civic clubs, food pantries, animal rescue groups, or the organization who is sponsoring this talk! 2. Participate in demonstrations, marches, “civil disobedience” actions, and events sponsored by organizations you trust. 3. Start your own group through organizations you are already a member of. 4. Write letters, post on social media. 5. Volunteer for political campaigns. 6. Become a leader in your own community. 	 <p align="center">CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE</p>	


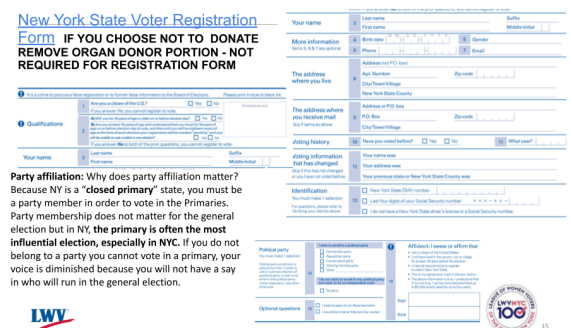


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	<p>You can volunteer in community based organizations based on what interests you or your concerns. For example if you are interested in animals the ASPCA or your faith community. Whatever way you can raise your voice to make the community better is good.</p>		
12	<p>I'd like A VOLUNTEER TO READ the words of the late Congressman John Lewis, who said...</p> <p><i>Freedom is not a state; it is an act. It is not some enchanted garden perched high on a distant plateau where we can finally sit down and rest. Freedom is the continuous action we all must take, and each generation must do its part to create an even more fair, more just society.</i></p> <p>I hope this presentation has inspired you to go out and take action in your own community to make New York City, New York State, and the entire country a better place for all of us.</p>		
13	<p>UPDATE IF NOT NYC WITH A NEW SLIDE OR DELETE</p> <p>This is the gist of why we are here representing the League of Women Voters. You will get more information by going through the links in the presentation. Your teacher will make sure you have copies</p> <p>IF ASKED THIS IS INFO ON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Manage a telephone information service to answer questions from voters during election seasons.</i> <i>2. Publish informational materials to keep voters updated.</i> <i>3. Host candidate debates and forums.</i> <i>4. Provide speakers to share information with community groups, corporations, schools, and libraries—like you!</i> 	 <p>The League of Women Voters welcomes new members, volunteers, and supporters to help us with this important work! Including High School students</p>	

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14	<p>Now is Time To Act So the first thing we need to determine is if you are eligible to vote. You must be able to truthful answer Yes before you complete a registration form to these questions Are you a citizens of the United States Are you 16 year old. Now we are going to be distributing voter registration forms to everybody. Those that can answer and only those that can answer yes to these questions should consider completing a form. We are hoping we can complete them together NOTE NOT READ REFER TO EXPLANATION FOR FORM QUESTIONS <i>For privacy reasons we want everyone to take one and if you are not eligible you can write that you are not eligible when you hand the form in and not complete the form. We will collect everyone’s form if they give it to us and only send forms that are fully completed to the Board of Election. We check for completeness and then scotch tape closes so they can be mailed.</i></p>	<p align="center">Time to Act: Are you eligible to vote?</p> <p>You must be able to truthfully answer YES to these questions before you complete a registration form:</p> <p><i>Are you a citizen of the United States?</i></p> <p><i>Are you 18 years of age on or before election day?</i></p> <p><i>Are you 16 years of age and understand that you must be 18 years old on or before election day to vote, and that until you will be eighteen years old of age at that time of such election your registration will be marked "pending" and you will be unable to cast a ballot in any election ?</i></p> <p>FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED WITH BLUE OR BLACK INK</p> 	
15	<p>Slide: VOTER REGISTRATION FORM—DISTRIBUTED WITH PENS TO CLASS AT THIS TIME</p> <p>Here as you can see is the form, Also important to complete the form you need you the last four characters of your Social Security number of DMV number INFORMATION DO NOT NEED TO READ SCRIP FURTHER DOWN You can complete the registration form in paper online and when you get your driver's license or government ID We are using a paper form to register to vote, there are many ways to do this: ---voter registration drives in your neighborhoods, local libraries, Board of Elections offices in each borough. You can find the addresses of the BOE offices on their website vote.nyc Or: Download and print the form yourself from either of these sites (open the form here and do a very brief walk-through of the form) https://vote.nyc.gov/page/register-vote READ THE SCRIPT FOR SLIDE 15 INCLUDING THE NEXT PAGE GO DOWN FIELD BY FIELD</p>	 <p>Party affiliation: Why does party affiliation matter? Because NY is a "closed primary" state, you must be a party member in order to vote in the Primaries. Party membership does not matter for the general election but in NY, the primary is often the most influential election, especially in NYC. If you do not belong to a party you cannot vote in a primary, your voice is diminished because you will not have a say in who will run in the general election.</p>  	
15	<p>First of all use blue or black ink only. Write very very neatly in block printing. Must be legible—AS A VOLUNTEER IF FORM NOT LEGIBLE YOU CAN TAKE A NEW ONE AND COMPLETE AND HAVE THEM SIGN AND DATE THE FORM.</p> <p>The first question that determines whether to proceed with the form are on the previous slide 14 so let us go back to that slide. The next election day is November 5th 2024 (CHANGE DATE DEPENDING ON DATE OF PRESENTATION) If you answer No to any of these questions do not fill out the form.</p>		

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	<p>NOTE THE DONOR PORTION IS OPTIONAL A PERSONAL DECISION. CAN BE REMOVED IF INDIVIDUAL COMPLETING THE FORM DECIDES NOT TO DONATE PER THE NOTATION ON THE SLIDE</p> <p>WALK THEM THROUGH POINTS 3 TO THE END AND SHARE THE FOLLOWING CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE</p> <p>We are going to check the forms are complete— all the required fields are populated . Then we use scotch tape to close them so they can be mailed to the board of elections. If you do not have all of the information, complete what you have and leave the form with your teacher. Tell them when they have the other information, ask their teacher for the form and complete it.</p> <p>1-2 Qualifications: Here is where you answer the questions we just discussed.</p> <p>3. Name: Your name must be your full legal name not your nickname or abbreviated name. If you are “Junior” or a “III” that goes in the box that says “suffix”</p> <p>4-7. More information: Birthdate is required. This is important contact information for the Board of Elections. If they can’t read your handwriting or they have another question, they need to be able to call or email you. You can do one or the other or both. Gender is optional.</p> <p>8. Your address is where you live now. If you split time between two households, use the address that you consider to be HOME. If you live in shelter, use that address.</p> <p>9. If you cannot get mail where you live, then you need to complete the section that asks for an address where you receive mail. If you get mail at your home address, leave this section blank. (For homeless not needed to share -</p> <p>10-11. Voting history: Obviously, this is a NO</p> <p>12. Only for people who have voted before.</p> <p>13. This is the section where you use your id to prove who you are. All you need are the last 4 digits of your social security number.</p> <p>14. Party affiliation: Why does party affiliation matter? Because NY is a “closed primary” state, you must be a party member in order to vote in the Primaries. Party membership does not matter for the general election but in NY, the primary is often the most influential election, especially in NYC. If you do not belong to a party you cannot vote in a primary, your voice is diminished because you will not have a say in who will run in the general election. There are four parties in New York State two major*- The Conservative, Democratic*, Republican* and Working Family. Example last mayoral election there were 13 candidates. By the election after the primary that party had only 1 candidate.</p> <p>15. Leave this blank.</p> <p>16. Most important part of the registration process is your signature and date. This is a legal document and you are attesting or swearing to the points listed here. Read them carefully and then sign your name the way you usually sign. Be sure to include today’s date which is</p>		