



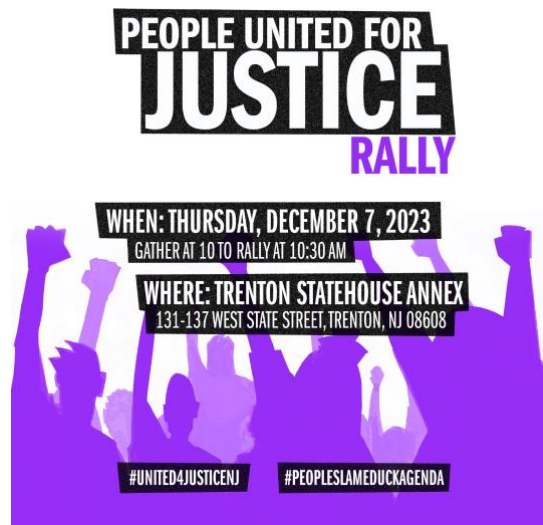
Advocacy Newsletter: Lame-Duck Edition

The New Jersey Legislature's lame-duck session is in full swing. Lame-duck is the part of the legislative session following Election Day but prior to the newly elected Senators and Assemblymembers being sworn in for a new legislative session in January.

Lame-duck is typically very busy, as elected officials work to get their priority bills passed before they expire at the end of the session. It is also very busy for advocates as we try to do the same! In this edition of the League's Advocacy Newsletter, **we will highlight some critical advocacy actions**, as well as **update you on our work**.

Upcoming Events: We Need You!

The People's Rally



Join LWVNJ and our coalition partners as we gather in Trenton and continue to call on lawmakers to **pass [The People's Lame Duck Agenda](#)**! We're asking all LWVNJ members and supporters to join us for a rally and lobby day at the NJ State House. Additional information about the schedule will be shared soon. [Please register here.](#)

When: Thursday, Dec 7th 10 am – 2 pm

Where: NJ State House Annex (125 West State Street, Trenton, NJ)

Why: Too many racial and social justice bills are being ignored. Join us to urge legislators to move New Jersey forward now!

[Register for 12/7 Rally](#)

Upcoming Week of Action: Same-Day Voter Registration

SAME-DAY VOTER REGISTRATION WEEK OF ACTION!

SIGN UP & LEARN MORE: [BIT.LY/SDRACTIONS](https://bit.ly/sdractions)

DECEMBER
11
12PM-1:30PM
**ACTIVIST
LUNCH & LEARN**

6PM - 8PM
**POSTCARD PREP
& SIGN-MAKING
PARTY**

DECEMBER
12
10AM - 4PM
**LAWMAKER
PHONEBANK**

DECEMBER
13
10AM - 5PM
**SOCIAL MEDIA
TAKE-OVER**

DECEMBER
14
10AM - 3PM
**STATE HOUSE
DAY OF ACTION**



Join us for an upcoming **week of action** to advocate for the passage of legislation for **Same-Day Voter Registration!** With lawmakers back in Trenton for the lame-duck session, we are calling on them to take action to protect access to the ballot before the end of the year.

Schedule: Monday, December 11th – Thursday, December 14th

12/11 - **Activist Lunch & Learn** at 12pm - 1:30PM

12/11 - **Postcard Prep & Sign-Making Party** at 6pm - 8pm

12/12 - **Lawmaker Phonebank Day** at 10am - 4pm

12/13 - **Social Media Take-Over** - 10am - 5pm

12/14 - **State House Day of Action** - 10am - 3pm

Find additional information on how to participate in each day's action at [bit.ly/sdractions!](https://bit.ly/sdractions)

WEEK OF ACTION INFO

Updates from Trenton

OPRA Under ATTACK

Thank you for taking action in June to stop a package of harmful bills that threatened to gut the Open Public Records Act (OPRA). While your quick action stopped those Assembly bills (for now), the Senate is considering rushing through their own changes to OPRA during lame-duck.

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey joined with our partners NJ Working Families Party and ACLU-NJ, along with 60 other organizations, to send Senate leadership a letter arguing:

"No OPRA bill hastily passed in the upcoming lame-duck session will deliver positive results for New Jersey voters. Any changes in this session are ill-considered and threaten to make all levels of New Jersey government significantly less transparent. Instead of pursuing legislative efforts that buy into an anti-democratic agenda, now is the time to lay out a vision for our state which accountability and transparency are hallmarks of our governance."

[Read OPRA Letter](#)

Family Leave and Childcare

On Thursday, November 30, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey Women and Family Issues Committee submitted testimony in support of S3868, a bill which provides categorical eligibility for **subsidized childcare** services to qualifying childcare workers and A5166, a **bill that would expand family leave**.

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey believes that access to safe, affordable, high-quality childcare is a backbone of our democracy. We also believe that our economy thrives when caretakers are supported to take time to care for loved ones. Many of these childcare workers and caretakers are women.



Both of these bills still need to be heard in additional committees and on the floors of the Assembly and Senate before being sent to the Governor. Stay tuned for additional updates.

[Read S3868 Testimony](#)

[Read A5166 Testimony](#)

Energy Justice

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey joined 65+ partners in the justice, labor, community, faith, progressive, business and environmental space to [urge legislators to do the right thing](#) on **two energy bills** this lame-duck. **It is past time for New Jersey to prioritize a clean energy economy for our working families and our future.**

S1366/A577 requires the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to allow gas utilities to increase consumers' electric and heating bills in order to subsidize Renewable Natural Gas (RNG). This measure would allow the utilities and the fossil fuel industry to increasingly profit from burning more unneeded dirty gas at the expense of New Jersey ratepayers. It would also allow the mixing of different energy sources without enough safety and oversight. The League joined advocates in opposing A577 during a hearing in the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste yesterday. **Due to our joint opposition, the bill committee held the bill.** This is a victory, but our job is not over. We will continue to watch and ensure S1366/A577 does not move forward as written.

S2978/A4658 requires 100% of retail electricity sales in New Jersey to come from “clean” sources of energy by 2035. The goal of this bill, to address the climate crisis by moving New Jersey to clean energy sources, is exactly what we need. However, improvement need to be made to the language of the bill to ensure loopholes for dirty or dangerous energy solutions like “renewable natural gas” (RNG) are removed. With a few additional amendments strengthening environmental justice and labor, this bill will be a necessary step in New Jersey's energy future.

[Read Energy Justice Letter](#)

Take Action: Contact Your Legislators

Make Juries More Equitable

This Monday, December 4, the Assembly Judiciary Committee will hear A977, legislation to "eliminate past conviction of indictable offense as disqualifier for jury service."

The right to a jury of our peers is a fundamental part of our democracy. Jury service, like voting, is a key component of our democracy. Denying people with criminal convictions from serving undermines the goal of reintegrating people into society. It also bars them from the full obligations and privileges of citizenship. Currently, because of racial disparities in our criminal justice system, New Jersey's juries do not reflect the diversity of our state.

[Please take action in support of this crucial bill](#) that will restore the ability of people with felony convictions to serve on juries (S3043/A977).

Take Action for Equitable Juries

Fund Our Families

Make the Corporate Business Tax (CBT) Surcharge Permanent

On Thursday, November 30, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey joined our partners in the For the Many Coalition to urge legislators to act to renew the Corporate Business Tax before December 31.

Unless NJ legislators act by December 31st, the millionaire's Corporate Business Tax, a 2.5 percent tax on profits above \$1 million, will expire. This would mean a **one-billion-dollar tax cut** to the state's wealthiest corporations like Amazon, Bank of America, and ExxonMobil. This money is critical to support underfunded programs that New Jersey's working families rely on, like public transportation, affordable housing, public education, and much more. We can't afford to give wealthy companies a break and expect tax payers to foot the bill. **Urge your elected officials to extend the Corporate Business Tax now!**

[Please sign a letter](#) to your state legislators urging them to extend the Corporate Business Tax and make sure the wealthiest corporations pay what they owe in New Jersey!



From	Governor Phil Murphy	Date	December 2023
Pay to the order of	Walmart,	\$ 1 billion	
	Wells Fargo, Amazon,		<small>Not a real check</small>
	Exxonmobil, Bank of America		
Amount	ONE BILLION DOLLAR TAX CUT		
Memo	corporations > people	Phil Murphy	
012345678 0123 04567			

Take Action for Working Families

New Voter Empowerment Act

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey has been advocating for years to pass legislation to allow for 17-year-olds who will be 18 in time for the General Election to vote in the Primary Election. The New Voter Empowerment Act (S1888/A3690) passed the full Assembly in June and now we are urging the Senate to pass it during lame-duck.

Allowing these 17-year-olds who will be 18 in time for the General Election to vote in the Primary Election empowers these young voters to truly get involved in learning about candidates and issues.

This legislation can lead to increased political engagement and a greater sense of civic duty among thousands of young voters each year. [Please take action today to urge your NJ Senator to pass the New Voter Empowerment Act.](#)

Take Action on the New Voter Empowerment Act

Take action!

This newsletter is only highlighting our most urgent and time-sensitive actions, but we are working on several other bills this lame-duck session. **Send an email to your state legislators urging them to support the following bills:**

- [The Reproductive Equity Act](#)
- [NJ Voting Rights Act \(A4554/S2997\)](#)

- [The Values Act](#)

Reproductive Equity Act
Action Alert

NJ Voting Rights Act
Action Alert

NJ Values Act Action Alert

Help Us Continue to Advance this Work

Please consider a donation to the League of Women Voters of Jersey. We are working hard to advocate on your behalf in Trenton year-round on a range of public policy issues. Every dollar matters. We're grateful for your generosity and galvanized by your support. Thank you, New Jersey!

DONATE \$20

DONATE \$50

DONATE \$100



DONATE

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