Suffolk County’s New Voting Machines

After years of discussion and delay, the voters in Suffolk County, and in many other counties in the state, will use new optical scan voting machines, called ImageCast machines, at their polling places when they go to vote in the 2010 September primary election and November general election. These machines will replace the old lever machines, which will no longer be used in elections conducted by the Suffolk County Board of Elections.

Upon arrival at the polling place the voter will:
- check in with the Election Inspectors at the proper election district and sign his/her name in the poll roster book, as usual.
- receive a paper ballot with all the candidates on one side of the ballot and any propositions on the reverse side; a secrecy sleeve in which to place a completed ballot; and a card indicating the Election District (ED) in which the vote will be recorded.
- be directed to a private voting carrel within which the voter can mark the ballot with a marking pen that is provided. In Suffolk County, the candidates will have oval boxes beside their names. Using the marking pen attached to the carrel, the voter should completely fill in the selected candidates’ boxes. No checks, x’s or circles! This process insures that the scanner will read and record the votes. There is a line provided for write-in votes.
- before leaving the carrel, place the completed ballot in the secrecy sleeve and proceed to the optical scan (ImageCast) machine.
- hand the ED card to the poll worker and, following the worker’s directions, feed the ballot into the optical scan machine.
- return the secrecy sleeve for use by other voters.

The machine reads both sides of the ballot and drops the ballot into a secure metal box. Retaining the paper ballots allows for a recount if necessary.

Continued on page 3
The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Mission Statement
The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Diversity Policy
The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, in both its values and practices, is committed to diversity and pluralism. This means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of economic position, gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of the East End.

Membership
Any person who supports the mission of the League may become a member.

The Voter Newsletter
The newsletter of the Hamptons League, The Voter, is dedicated to bringing useful information, background, perspective and commentary on public policy issues confronting League members and other community citizens in Southampton and East Hampton, Suffolk County and the State of New York. It explores the work of the League to promote positive solutions, and it empowers people to make a difference in their communities.

The Voter is published ten times a year by the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, P. O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937.

Maura F. Lester, Editing
Joy Cordery, Advertising Coordinator; Proofreading
Sally James, Production
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President’s Message

Action is the foundational key to all success.
- Pablo Picasso

The past week has provided a wonderful demonstration of this League in action.

First, on Wednesday, Voter Services met and outlined an ambitious schedule for fall, which includes several debates, voter registration activity, and a plan for education of the public on the new voting system. Within hours of the meeting, the plans had begun to be translated into the actions necessary to bring the events to life. Then, we responded to a request from the East Hampton Library that we administer its referendum seeking the public’s view on its proposed addition. The call went out, and Anne Marshall and a full contingent of League members were at the library on Saturday, where they signed in the voters, oversaw the balloting, and counted the ballots in an organized, efficient and proficient manner. (The vote was 83% in favor). Watching the process in action, I felt such pride in our ability to rise to almost any challenge, and to present to the public the face of an organization dedicated to civic involvement and capable of providing action in a professional manner.

Meanwhile, in Westhampton, other members were manning a booth at the second annual Rotary Club Flea Market. Other talents came to play in this forum. Gladys Remler, Ursula Lynch and Susan Wilson were in charge of gathering, evaluating, pricing and presenting for sale a mélange of goods, while promoting the work of the League and the benefits of membership. Here too, a full contingent of League members worked at this two-day event, showing the public the face of an organization that is hard-working and serious, but also friendly and fun. Viewed from a short distance away, the booth had an atmosphere of joyful camaraderie, which could do nothing but burnish our image in the minds of all who passed.

All of these recent activities epitomized the things that make our League a success. Having received a call to action, our members gave of their time and talents with enthusiasm, energy, talent and humor. We showed the community that we are an active, vibrant and multifaceted organization. Plus, we made money!!

When I was at the national convention, there was a workshop devoted to teaching leagues how to function with minimal numbers of active members. We in the Hamptons are clearly defying the national trend of decreasing involvement. When the calls for action went out this week, we had scores of people volunteering to participate. Whereas the workshop was addressed to running a League with a board of directors with as few as four members, our board has a full complement of eighteen, all of whom are committed, active, and dedicated to the efficacious functioning of this organization.

The continued success of the League is dependent on the action of its members. This past week has been proof positive that we will continue to thrive and do great work. It is such a pleasure to lead this organization, and I am so proud to do so!

Carol Mellor 537-6998
SUFFOLK COUNTY’S NEW VOTING MACHINES
Continued from page 1

In addition to the optical scan voting machines, every polling place will be equipped with a ballot marking device (BMD) voting machine. This machine gives those individuals who are unable to physically mark their ballots the opportunity to vote at the polling place. An Election Inspector will activate the BMD for the voter and audio/visual instructions will then guide the voter through the process.

To see a video of this process, go to www.suffolkvotes.com. The September 13 meeting of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons will be devoted to discussing this process as well as other changes affecting voters in New York State. Please join us at the Hampton Library, Main Street, Bridgehampton at 7:00 P.M.

[Contributions for this article came from Arlene Hinkemeyer, Anne Marshall and Carol Mellor.]

RIGHT The League will be distributing this new flyer across the East End as part of a public education program to alert voters to changes in New York’s voting system.
LWVH Board Meeting Summary

Held August 4, 2010

Information Items
• Carol reported that the League won a second-place prize at the July 4th parade.
• East Hampton Library referendum on Aug. 14 will have League volunteers staffing the tables. Carol noted that we may be paid.
• The League’s annual meeting photos, celebrating the 90th anniversary, are on the NYS League website, as are the East Hampton Good Government Group’s lawn party photos.
• Carol asked for attendees at the Shelter Island League’s cocktail party on Aug. 8: a number of people signed up.
• Carol reported that the Nature Conservancy will honor Cile Downs on Sept. 12 at 2 p.m. for her work at Accabonac.
• The State League has issued its position on the Consolidation/Shared Services issue.
• A visit to the Board of Elections will take place on Aug. 16 or 18. Contact Carol.
• Over 50 people enjoyed the movie, Iron-Jawed Angels, shown by the LWVH at the Ross School.
• Judi reported that the initial organization of the Observer Corps had taken place. The committee is a part of the Government Committee: a report form has been developed, and a schedule is being filled in.

Discussion Items
• Redistricting Forum: Carol reported that the NYS League has scheduled the forum for Sat., 9/11, at 10 a.m. and it is an information and training session. Community Picnic contribution: the event, sponsored by the Anti-bias Task Force, is on Sept. 12, 10-noon, in Hampton Bays, and will receive a $100 donation from the League.
• Non-partisan Policy: the review committee, Joy Lupoletti, Glorian, Ursula, and Gladys, proposed changes to the current policy. Broadly, they provided wider freedom to board members in attending political fundraising events. After some discussion, a motion was made to support the changes. The motion did not carry.
• Members-only section of website: Judy noted that our League may want to have an area which would permit access only to members. She will explore the issue of creating two separate sites, one public and one for members. She will report back to the board with her recommendations.
• Flea Market: Gladys asked board members to sign up to staff the League’s booth on August 14-15.
• Dial 211: Arlene Makl reported on her experiences distributing the posters. Program coordinators are Arlene and Joy Cordery. UPDATE: as of Aug. 7, Arlene has asked that poster distribution cease because the United Way may not receive the necessary funding.

Committee Reports
• Special Events: Sue gave brief updates.
• Membership: Arlene Makl reported that membership stands at 178 with 96 paid. Notices will go out through regular mail shortly. Arlene also reviewed the locations of farmers’ markets and noted that they are useful places for voter registration information and absentee ballot distribution, information on the new voting system and on the League.
• Natural Resources: Glorian gave brief updates. Sue Avedon will serve as the liaison between the committee and environmental organizations. Glorian has agreed to be the temporary chair.
• Voter Services: Carol, for Anne, reported that the new absentee ballots and Part I of the Voter Guides are available. The Board of Elections plans to educate voters about the new voting “system” through mailings, public service announcements, and seminars. The LWVH is creating a presentation and handout to take into public forums.
• Health: Judy reported that information sheets on stipulations of the recently passed health care bill have been developed.
• Government: Naomi reported that the nominating committee will meet shortly and that board members sitting on it are Ursula and Gloria. She noted that organizations are beginning to support the town manager proposal.
• Education: Judi gave some updates.
• Publicity: Arlene noted League coverage in the press.
• Website: Judy reported that the site consistently exceeds 2,000 hits.
• The Voter: Joy reported that her team had 7 ad cancelations but 20 new ads and income of $10,025, the highest total ever! Carol, for Maura, thanked Sally for her many contributions and hard work on The Voter. Carol thanked Judy as well. She added that the NYS League has adopted Salsa, the electronic means of finding out a community’s issue interests reported on last month.

Next board meeting date is September 1 at 7 p.m. at Bridgehampton National Bank.

Summarized by Maura Lester 324-6522
Benefits of New Health Care Legislation to the East End

In a bulletin to constituents, Rep. Tim Bishop outlined some immediate advantages of the new health care legislation to the 1st Congressional district. He, among others, believes it will make health care affordable for the middle class, provide security for seniors, and guarantee access to health insurance for the uninsured. It is also expected to reduce the federal deficit by over $100 billion over the next 10 years. Here are a few benefits of the legislation.

Security for Seniors

- Medicare recipients’ benefits will be improved by providing free preventive and wellness care, improving primary and coordinated care, and enhancing nursing home care. The bill also strengthens the Medicare Trust Fund, extending its solvency from 2017 to 2026.

- The legislation works toward closing the Part D donut hole within a decade. Each year, innumerable Medicare beneficiaries enter the Part D donut hole and must pay the full cost of their prescription drugs. Under the bill, these beneficiaries will receive a $250 rebate in 2010, 50% discounts on brand-name drugs beginning in 2011, and complete closure of the donut hole within 10 years. A typical beneficiary who enters the donut hole will see savings of more than $700 in 2011 and more than $3,000 by 2020.

Better Coverage, Tax Credits for Families and Small Businesses

- Improve coverage for residents with health insurance.

- Give tax credits and other assistance to help families and small businesses afford coverage.

- Extend coverage to uninsured residents.

- Guarantee coverage for residents with pre-existing conditions.

- Protect families from bankruptcy due to unaffordable health care costs.

- Allow young adults to obtain coverage on their parents’ insurance plans.

- Reduce the cost of uncompensated care for hospitals and other health care providers by $38 million annually.

For More Information

The following websites offer good information on how the new legislation could affect you:

- The Kaiser Family Foundation: www.kff/healthreform.org

- U.S. government: www.healthcare.gov/law.gov

- National Coalition on Health Care: www.nchc.org

Judy Samuelson 267-3055
The “Everything Old Is New Again” Flea Market in Westhampton Beach on August 14 and 15 happened as scheduled. We surpassed last year’s fundraising.

Each buyer that appeared at our booth was welcomed with “We are the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons.” Our tent provided shade, and our huge banner proclaimed who we are. We were staffed by our members who all appeared as promised and—in addition to handing out voter information and absentee ballots, etc.—sold our donated wares to meet our goals. As soon as a sale was made, another member quickly wrapped it and offered some information on the League. We all worked in harmony and in good humor as our visibility soared. We thank all for their generous donations, which enabled us to have our success.

It was hard work, and so we must thank each one individually: Carol, Jane and Jane, Mireille, Arlene and Arlene, Emoke, Pat, Sylvia, Glorian, Carol Lee, Lesley, Lori, Joy and Joy, Mary, Judi, and Barbara. So many thanks to my co-chair, Ursula, and to Sue. Thanks to Norman and George for helping us as we folded our tent and slipped into the night with thoughts about our next venture.

Gladys Remler 288-9021

ABOVE To help raise funds for League activities, LWVH Board members Gladys Remler, left, and Ursula Lynch headed this year's LWVH booth at the Westhampton Beach Rotary Club's Flea Market on August 14-15, selling attic treasures and disseminating voting material.

Photograph by Arlene Hinkemeyer
Come and “Observe” Your Local Government In Action

When I first moved to Southampton and began my life as a "volunteer," I actually got a job as a "stringer" for the Independent newspaper. One of my assignments was to cover the Southampton Village Board proceedings and write about them for the paper. I will not say that each meeting was overwhelmingly interesting or that I didn't sneak out early when I thought I had enough for my article but, boy, did I learn a lot about Southampton Village government. Were people upset about an increase in taxes? Did they want to change the term of office of the trustees? Were they ever going to get rid of that noisy sand pit operation? You name it, particularly if it came to zoning and planning, you learn about it at local government meetings.

And that is the idea behind the LWV Observer Corps. An observer is an individual who attends a governmental meeting, notes what happens at the meeting, and reports back to the League and, occasionally, the community. By attending public meetings of our local governments, observers learn about the issues facing the community and are empowered, through the League, to consider taking action. They also learn how issues are being addressed and how the members of government "address" each other. Are people in office respectful of each other and the public that comes before them? Can the members be heard? Is the agenda being followed? Is the room handicap-accessible?

Our League board has decided that an Observer Corps would serve the League, the towns, and the members who take part, and observers are being recruited from our membership to observe the East Hampton and Southampton Town Board meetings. What is the obligation of an observer?

- to be part of a team of people who will assign themselves meetings to cover. If the teams are large enough, it is possible that you may be an observer only three or four times a year (or you may become so interested you take on more meetings!)
- to take notes at the meeting on an easy-to-use form and turn it in to your team leader.
- to take part in one training session where you will learn, among other things, all you need to know about how to introduce yourself to the Town Board as a League member; that you, in most cases, do not speak at Town Board meetings; and that you are serving as an ambassador of the League.

Observers do not need to be League members, so if you have a friend who would like to join you, that would be great. Naomi Epstein is the team leader for East Hampton (324-3971, naepxyz@aol.com), Judi Roth for Southampton (283-0759, rothhandj@yahoo.com).

The East Hampton Town Board meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.; has a brown bag meeting on the 1st Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m.; and a work session on the last Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. Southampton has a work session every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. and Town Board meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. and the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

We do hope you will consider joining in support of this important League function—to keep the sun shining on our local governments and to learn about our towns in the process.

Judi Roth 283-0759
LWVSC Visits Suffolk County Board of Elections

Twenty two representatives of LWVSC and the Brookhaven, Hamptons, Huntington, and Smithtown local Leagues met with the Suffolk County Board of Elections on Wednesday, August 18, 2010. The group learned a great deal about the new voting systems which will be in place for the September primaries and the November general election in Suffolk County. The new paper ballots and optical scan machines were available for the group to test. While individuals simulated a variety of possible markings that might occur on voters’ ballots, the scanners performed very well.

The BOE itself has done a county-wide mailing to alert voters to the new system, and explain the process in a simple way. They will be sending bipartisan teams to groups to demonstrate and educate voters, and will cooperate with the local Leagues in Suffolk County as the Leagues organize dates and places for local community group voter education meetings. There will be BOE kiosks as well to assist in voter education. On Election Day it is reasonable to expect lines during peak voting times, but poll workers have undergone extensive training and will make every effort to assist voters as they adjust to a new process.

There will be four privacy booths for each ED, and these appear to be functional and will contain instruction sheets and ballot styluses. Secrecy sleeves will be available although the BOE anticipates that many voters will not use them since the ballots themselves can be inserted into the scanners face-up, or proposition-side-up, and either end may be inserted first. The ballots themselves now have oval marking spaces rather than boxes, which should less likely lead to check marks or x’s (which might lead to insufficient ink in the space to be counted).

The write-in process will be very simple but the scanner will detect the writing and drop that ballot into a separate slot internal to the machine to insure the write-in vote in counted. Also, if a voter “overvotes” (fills in more than one circle for a specific race/seat) the voter is advised and the ballot can be returned to the voter by the scanner; thus the voter has the option of getting a clean blank ballot and re-doing the process from the start. (However there is a 3-ballot maximum.)

There is a very secure system to keep track of ballots (which are detached by poll workers from a bound pad, stubs sequentially numbered; ballots cannot be traced to a voter). There are many contingency plans and clearly the Suffolk County Board of Elections has put a great deal of thought and effort into this new voting process. Absentee ballots, are identical with those cast at the polling place, but are on normal paper stock (lighter for mailing). They are no longer sent to the polling place, but are retained at the BOE, and visually scanned and recorded.

LWVSC and our local Leagues look forward to assisting in voter education in the coming months, in order to ease the adjustment process to the new procedures. We hope that many of our local League members will be engaged in this work.

Help with Voter Registration at Citizenship Ceremonies in Central Islip

Plans are well underway as the LWVSC teams up with LaFuente to conduct voter registration at the Central Islip courthouse, when the naturalization ceremonies are held for new citizens. Citizenship ceremonies are every Monday except for Federal holidays. Those staffing the table will arrive at 9am, and the process is concluded before noon. We would like to begin on Sept 13 (the first non Federal holiday Monday in September). LWVSC would work alternate Mondays through Oct 22 (since those naturalized after Oct 6 have until that date to register to vote).

Please advise Lisa Scott (631 523-1653; lisawscott@optonline.net) if you wish to help with this important voter service project!
# Calendar

### September 2010

Note: Meeting dates and times are published several weeks in advance and are subject to change. Please contact the Chairs or visit our website at [http://hamptons.ny.lwvnet.org](http://hamptons.ny.lwvnet.org) for updates. There will be no meetings for the Education or Health Committees in September. Please contact Naomi Epstein for information regarding the Government or Nominating Committees. If you don’t see a meeting for a committee of interest, contact the Chair of that committee. Contact information is listed on last inside page of The Voter and on the website.

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<tr>
<td><strong>September 1</strong></td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Board of Directors Meeting</td>
<td>Bridgehampton National Bank, Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. Members and guests welcome.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>September 7</strong></td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Natural Resources Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Starbucks, Bridgehampton. Contact Glorian Berk, 283-2638.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>September 8</strong></td>
<td>12:30 PM</td>
<td>Voter Services Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Hampton Library, Bridgehampton. Contact Anne Marshall, 537-3257.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>September 12</strong></td>
<td>1:00-6:00 PM</td>
<td>After-Summer East End Community Picnic</td>
<td>Sponsored by Anti-Bias Task Force. Red Creek Park, Hampton Bays.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>September 15</strong></td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>LWVSC Board Meeting</td>
<td>Riverhead Library</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>September 15</strong></td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Membership Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Hampton Library, Bridgehampton. Contact Arlene Makl, 324-8662</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>September 15</strong></td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Special Events Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Eckart's Luncheonette, Westhampton Beach. Contact Sue Wilson, 283-6549.</td>
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### LOOKING AHEAD

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<tr>
<td><strong>October 6</strong></td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Board of Directors Meeting</td>
<td>Bridgehampton National Bank, Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. Members and guests welcome.</td>
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### TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

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<tr>
<td><strong>September 2</strong></td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>East Hampton Town Board Meeting</td>
<td>Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>September 14</strong></td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Southampton Town Board Meeting</td>
<td>Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>September 16</strong></td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>East Hampton Town Board Meeting</td>
<td>Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>September 28</strong></td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Southampton Town Board Meeting</td>
<td>Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton</td>
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Recent Events

July Fourth Southampton Parade

A combination of team effort, initiative, creativity and hard work—attributes with which this League is generously endowed—resulted in the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons’ receipt of the second place special award at this year’s annual Southampton Fourth of July parade.

Among the people we have to thank are Gene Makl, Richard Lupoletti, Richie Davgin, members for their conception, and implementation of the float and organization of the demonstration; Ray Hartjen, President of the East End Classic Boat Society for lending us the boat; Emoke Forman and Peter Lister for their dramatic skills, and willingness to dress up in costume; Joy Lupoletti, for her talent in thinking up a ditty, then teaching it to us and supervising its delivery, and the marchers, who braved an incredibly hot day to help the League’s visibility.

It was a fitting celebration in this, the 90th year of the League, of community spirit, patriotism and pride in the League.

Thanks to all.

Photographs by Arlene Hinkemeyer
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http://hamptons.ny.lwvnet.org

http://hamptons.ny.lwvnet.org

Membership Committee Report

Greater Participation Urged

For the balance of this year, your LWVH will be undertaking many time-consuming and costly projects. Here are some of the items on our agenda.

We will hold a general membership meeting to discuss the new voting machines and will go to various organizations to explain the new voting procedure.

We will conduct debates for candidates, have a forum regarding the town manager form of government, register voters, and inform those in our community who need help how to get assistance.

We have already assisted at the East Hampton Library referendum vote. These ambitious undertakings need support from our membership, both financial and physical. The first thing you can do is pay your dues promptly, and the next thing you can do is volunteer for one or more of these activities.

We are a vibrant and dedicated organization that represents you within our community. We need your support.

Arlene Makl 324-8662
The League of Women Voters


Making democracy work through voter education, issue advocacy, and civic participation.