

NEWS RELEASE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE HAMPTONS

P.O. Box 2253
East Hampton, New York 11937
www.lwvhamptons.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 5, 2012

CONTACT: Arlene Hinkemeyer, Publicity (631) 324-6713
Co-President Judi Roth (631) 283-0759
Co-President Glorian Berk (631) 283-2638

**STUDENTS FROM SIX EAST END HIGH SCHOOLS SELECTED TO ATTEND
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WORKSHOP WITH WOMEN ELECTED OFFICIALS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14
8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Southampton Cultural Center**

To give young women in local high schools the opportunity to explore their leadership potential and a possible career in public service, the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons has organized for a fourth year a day-long workshop called “Running and Winning,” to be held on Wednesday, March 14, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at the Southampton Cultural Center, 25 Pond Lane.

Juniors and seniors from six East End schools—Bridgehampton High School, East Hampton High School, Pierson High School in Sag Harbor, the Ross School in East Hampton, Southampton High School and Westhampton Beach High School—have been selected by their schools to participate in the program headed by LWVH education committee co-chairs Mary Blake and Terri Levin Davgin of East Hampton.

“The League of Women Voters hopes that this experience will go a small way to achieving our aim of opening your horizons to the elements involved in a public service career,” wrote the League in a letter to participating students. “While New York State has a woman Senator, and a Town Supervisor on the East End, women are underrepresented in political office. The League believes that one way to reach greater representational parity for women is to develop leadership potential in our young women.”

A broad array of women elected officials from East Hampton and Southampton town and village governments will speak about their experiences seeking and holding public office.

Some of the officials include Southampton Town Supervisor Anna Throne-Holst, Southampton Town Board members Bridget Fleming and Christine Scalera, East Hampton Town Board members Sylvia Overby and Theresa Quigley, East Hampton Town trustees Lynn Mendelman and Stephanie Talmage, Southampton Town justices Deborah Kooperstein, Andrea Schiavoni and Barbara Wilson, Southampton Town Clerk Sundy Schermeyer, Southampton Village trustee Bonnie Cannon, Sagaponack Village Deputy Mayor Lee Foster, and Westhampton Beach Village trustee Patricia DiBenedetto.

Divided into groups of four or five, the students will interview the women officials with a set of suggested questions.

Then the students, taking the roles of a campaign manager, candidate, speechwriter, communications director and fundraiser for each team, will plan a mock campaign on the topic “If you were running for office, what creative methods would you propose to encourage voter registration and voter participation, especially among young voters?”

At 11:30 a.m. Judie Gorenstein, the Suffolk County League’s Voter Services Chair and the New York State League’s Youth Programs Chair, is scheduled to give the keynote speech titled “Looking at the Past and the Future of Voting Rights and Women in Politics.”

Beginning at 12:15 p.m. the workshop’s goals come to fruition as each team of students takes to the stage to make a two-minute presentation of its platform on “Getting Out the Youth Vote.”

The day’s program will be taped and aired by SEA-TV, Southampton Town’s Channel 22. For those not living in Southampton, the event can be viewed on streaming video at www.southamptontownny.gov at the same time it is airing on Channel 22.

The League’s “Running and Winning” workshop this year is funded by a generous grant from the Women’s Fund of Long Island (formerly called the Long Island Fund for Women and Girls), which according to its mission statement, “invests in the power of women and the dreams of girls.”

The League also thanks, for their in-kind donations, Jason and Theresa Belkin of The Hampton Coffee Company, Southampton’s Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton Town’s SEA-TV, and Southampton Cultural Center Executive Director Kirsten Lonnie.

The students selected by **Bridgehampton High School** are Bryzeida Perez, Jessica Perez, Angelica Uribe;

by **East Hampton High School**, Amanda Beckwith, Yuli Betancourt, Nicole Daniludis, Tara Delaney, Manuela Dossantos, Melissa Pena, Melanie Silva, Anna Tran;

by **Pierson High School in Sag Harbor**, Hope Denon, Gabrielle Gardiner, Hannah Kaminski, Kylie Morrissey, Amber Pagano, Dana Poke, Paula Poke, Hannah Potter, Julia Schiavone;

by **the Ross School in East Hampton**, Sylvia Laytin;

by **Southampton High School**, Natalia Araujo, Gina Curreri, Alexandria Ferraiuolo, Kesi Goree, Claire Hunter, Nicole Mahoney, Natiqa Morton;

and by **Westhampton Beach High School**, Gina Arfi, Gabriela Berrios, Michele Cardo, Lenora Davenport, Jessica Mendelson, Olivia Percoco, Claudia Purkis, Marielle Ray, Brett Ryan, Alix Suter.

For further information about the workshop, contact League Education Committee co-chair Mary Blake at 631-907-4499.

###