Incumbent Lee Zeldin (R), left, and Perry Gershon (D), candidates for the 1st Congressional District seat, who will be debating on October 29.

League Schedules Multiple Debates and Multiple Sites for Voter Registration

By Anne Marshall and Barbara McClancy, Voter Services Committee Co-Chairs

CANDIDATE DEBATES
The days are getting shorter. The nights are getting cooler. Soon fall will show off her autumn leaves. To those of us in League, this can only mean one thing—the most exciting time of the year. It’s debate time. We hope to have three educational debates in the next five weeks, and we hope to see you all there.

1st Congressional District Debate, October 29
The League will be conducting a debate among candidates for New York’s 1st Congressional District. Both incumbent Lee Zeldin (R) and his challenger, Perry Gershon (D), have agreed to attend, in what is expected to be the only Congressional candidates debate on the South Fork. Two other certified candidates—Kate Browning (Women’s Equality Party) and Patricia

Continued on page 3
Co-President’s Message

By Co-President Estelle Gellman
I wrote this on the day of the New York State primary election on September 13 and eagerly waited to hear not only the results of the vote but the extent of voter turnout. I was optimistic and hoped that voter turnout would be greater than usual for a state and local primary; I was delighted that my optimism was validated and hope it is a continuing trend. My optimism was based on what I’ve seen in the past few years. Unlike those voter registration drives in years past when I was discouraged by too many individuals telling me that they didn’t bother to vote, that all those politicians are the same and it doesn’t make any difference for whom you vote, I am now hearing much more eagerness not only to vote but to participate more actively in the political process. More individuals seem to be awakening to the fact that not all politicians are the same, and it does make a difference who is elected. I think it is unfortunate that our country seems to be so divided politically but, regardless of which political party or candidate you support, it is to the advantage of all of us to increase voter turnout and civic participation.

New York State has one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the nation. In the 2016 presidential election, only about 57% of registered voters voted; only seven states had lower voter turnout. If we are going to succeed in the stated vision of the League - a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and confidence to participate - we have to do better.

We in the League are trying to make a difference. Our Voter Services Committee is working hard on voter registration drives - e.g., at the naturalization ceremonies in Islip, at the East Hampton street fair, at Harborfest in Sag Harbor, at Pierson High School, East Hampton and Southampton high schools (in conjunction with the Education Committee), at outdoor concerts in Riverhead, and at the Anti-Bias Task Force Community Picnic.

Our Government Committee has also been lobbying our state legislators for voting reform. We believe that the election laws in New York State inhibit voting. In New York State, for example, our absentee ballots require indicating a specific listed excuse. Having two jobs and not having time to get to the polls is not an excuse; neither is religious observance. Unlike states that have same-day registration, New York residents must be registered several weeks before the election. And to change one’s party affiliation, one has to be registered in the new party prior to the general election in order to vote in the new party’s primary the following year. These regulations make it difficult for many citizens to vote and we would like to see them change. Voting is the privilege of every citizen and should be encouraged; we would like to see our election laws facilitate voting rather than inhibit it. Please join us in helping to make that happen.

And don’t forget to vote on November 6th !!!
League Schedules Multiple Debates and Multiple Sites for Voter Registration

Latzman (Working Families Party)—have declined to attend. Zeldin and Gershon will face off on Monday, October 29, in the Hampton Bays High School Auditorium, 88 East Argonne Rd., from 7-9 p.m. This debate is co-sponsored by The Press News Group and the Hampton Bays Civic Association.

NYS Senate and Assembly Debate, October 25
Another debate will take place on Thursday, October 25, between the candidates for State Senate—incumbent Kenneth P. LaValle (R) and Greg Fischer (D). On the same evening, incumbent Fred W. Thiele, Jr. (I) and Patrick O’Connor (R) will debate for the State Assembly seat. These two debates will take place at the Southampton Town Senior Center, 25 Ponquogue Ave. in Hampton Bays from 7-9 p.m.

East Hampton Town Board Debate
Efforts are also underway for a debate between the candidates for one seat on the East Hampton Town Council. David Lys won the Democratic party nomination in the September 13 primary to face Manny Vilar (R).

All three debates are expected to have SEA-TV or LTV coverage.

VOTER REGISTRATION
We have had a number of events featuring voter registration efforts. The voter registration deadline for the November 6 general election is October 12; the mail-in deadline for absentee ballot applications is October 30.

Twelve League members took two-hour shifts on September 8-9 at Sag HarborFest (on a windy, cold spot on the wharf!), passing out voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications and answering questions. On September 8, we were also at the Anti-Bias Task Force Picnic in Hampton Bays, where folks stopped by to commend our efforts.

Pending the weather, we expected to have a major presence across the East End in 12 locations on National Voter Registration Day, Tuesday, September 25. These include the Montauk, Amagansett, East Hampton, Bridgehampton, and Hampton Bays post offices; the Springs One Stop Market; Sag Harbor Schiavoni’s Market; the Southampton and Westhampton libraries; and on the North Fork, the Riverhead Library, Mattituck-Laurel Library, and Suffolk Community College.

Plus, during the month of November, LWV Hamptons will be traveling once again to the federal courthouse in Islip to offer voter registrations to the groups who will be sworn in as United States citizens.

THE NOVEMBER 6 BALLOT
LWVNY’s New Website & Online Voter Guide
Once the ballots are set for the November 6 election, citizens can go to the New York State League’s new website at www.my.lwv.org/new-york-state and click on the blue box that says ONLINE VOTER GUIDE. There you can type in your address to find the offices that will be on your ballot. This is a wonderful service that will be available to all. Please let others know of this source of information.

What’s on the Ballot
Some of the important federal, state and county offices that will be on the ballot this November are:

• U.S. Senator (one seat); U.S. Congress;
• NYS Governor, NYS Lieutenant Governor, NYS Attorney General, NYS Comptroller, NYS Senate, NYS Assembly;
• Suffolk County Comptroller, Suffolk County Clerk, Suffolk County Surrogates Court Judge; and other judgeships.

See you at the polls on November 6!
Health Committee Hosts Film/Panel on Mental and Behavioral Health, November 19

By Valerie King, Ph.D., Health Committee Chair

The LWVH Health Committee, in collaboration with the East End Mental Health Advocacy Initiative (EEMHAI), will co-sponsor a program titled “Mental and Behavioral Health Matters” on Monday, November 19, 6-8 p.m., at Stony Brook Southampton Hospital’s Parrish Memorial Hall, 235 Herrick Rd., corner of Lewis Street, next to the Emergency Room entrance.

The event will focus on the mental health and behavioral health system. In particular, an area of concern that continues to be a conundrum is the balancing of an individual’s mental health and behavioral health needs versus public safety. The issue of public safety arises most frequently when an individual with an undiagnosed serious mental illness and/or addiction becomes a danger to him/herself or others, and when an individual with a diagnosis of serious mental illness and/or addiction chooses to forgo or is unable to access treatment as prescribed. Policies such as Kendra’s Law, Assisted Outpatient Treatment, and Destigmatization will be discussed.

Film “Minds on the Edge”

The program will consist of viewing the film “Minds On The Edge,” depicting a roundtable of experts in the field of mental health, role-playing and sharing perspectives of various aspects of the mental health system.

Panelists

Following the film, there will be a panel discussion highlighting policies in place to address monitoring the treatment of individuals with serious mental health and behavioral health concerns. The panelists will be:

- Paul Garson, M.D., a local psychiatrist with Meeting House Lane Medical Practice in Southampton;
- Martha A. Carlin, Psy.D., Director, Long Island Field Office of the New York State Office of Mental Health;
- Jenine Yannucciello, LCSW, Director of Adult Services, Division of Community Mental Hygiene Services, Suffolk County Department of Health;
- and Ellen Tollefsen, family representative, and leader of East End Mental Health Advocacy Initiative (EEMHAI).

The panel will be moderated by Valerie King, Ph.D., a local psychologist and chair of the LWVH Health Committee. Questions will be vetted during the event and presented to panel members by the moderator. A peer specialist and quiet space for a chat will be available for participants, if needed.

We anticipate good attendance at this important public information meeting. Refreshments and tables with information brochures will also be available.

We hope to see you there!
Leaguers Attend Symposium on “The Future of Health Care on the East End”

By Valerie King, Ph.D., Health Committee Chair

On a wet Saturday morning, September 8, at the East Hampton Library, the East Hampton Healthcare Foundation sponsored an educational symposium on “The Future of Health Care on the East End.” The audience of about 40-50 people included Stony Brook Southampton Hospital administrators, board, staff, foundation donors, local healthcare providers, the local press, members of the community, and LWVH prior and present board members, Naomi Epstein, Arlene Hinkemeyer, and Valerie King.

Robert Chaloner, Chief Administrative Officer

The presentation began with Stony Brook Southampton Hospital’s Chief Administrative Officer Robert Chaloner, who provided a historical overview of the hospital’s achievements during the past 12 years. Mr. Chaloner described the hospital as evolving from tenuous survival to a rejuvenated, financially-stable institution with 30 locations and a positive future in the new affiliation with Stony Brook University Hospital. Mr. Chaloner outlined market trends and the challenges a single local hospital faces with recruitment and housing of medical and administrative staff, outgrowing the space of an antiquated main building, a shift from mainly inpatient to ambulatory care, medical records and health insurance plan coordination, geographic and traffic difficulties, and the wide range of health care needs of an economically and ethnically diverse local population in a seasonal community. Mr. Chaloner described future plans for a prospective new main facility and increased use of technology to “cast a wide net,” through partnerships, to expand and locate placement of services. Yet, he emphasized that “fact-finding, strategic planning will be employed before shovels are in the ground, and efforts will be made to dispel the idea that the best health care is further west or in the city”!

Dr. Hal Skopicki, Chief of Cardiology

Mr. Chaloner’s presentation was followed by Dr. Hal Skopicki, M.D., Chief of Cardiology at Stony Brook University Heart Institute, who stated that the cardiac program is a center of excellence with state-of-the-art health care indistinguishable between Stony Brook and Southampton hospitals. Dr. Skopicki spoke about a shift to less invasive procedures, low mortality rates, and decreased length of stay in the hospital. He mentioned a new cardio-oncology program, due to increased risk of cancer patients for heart disease as a result of chemotherapeutic agents.

Dr. Samuel Ryu, Deputy Director of Cancer Center

Dr. Samuel Ryu, M.D., Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology and Deputy Director of the Stony Brook Cancer Center, announced that the Phillips Family Cancer Center in Southampton, which is scheduled to open in December, will be for full cancer care from initial consultation through diagnosis, treatment, clinical trials and survivorship, with mutual decision-making and supportive networks.

Dr. Darin Wiggins, Chief of Emergency Medicine

Dr. Darin Wiggins, M.D., is Vice Chair and Service Chief of Emergency Medicine at Stony Brook Southampton Hospital. During his 20 years with the hospital, he describes the Emergency Room as the “canary” indicator of the hospital and health care system. Dr. Wiggins mentioned that there are only five freestanding Emergency Rooms in New York due to a tough competitive market, the rise of Urgent Care Centers, the high volume of patients required per year to sustain an Emergency Room, along with reduced time for stabilization and referral for ongoing treatment. Dr. Wiggins praised the local EMS volunteers. He also described important decontamination protocols, to protect staff as well as patients. New initiatives currently underway at the Stony Brook Southampton Emergency Room are pediatric trauma sets, color-coded for any size child.

The future is looking very good for the enhancement overall of the healthcare system in our community.

The LWVH Health Committee provides information on local health services and events that impact our community. Planning for a collaborative project concerning access to mental health services in our community began in the spring of 2018 with the goal of a co-sponsored event with the East End Mental Health Advocacy Initiative (EEMHAI). See the article on page 4 about this upcoming program on November 19.

If you would like to join the Health Committee or would like more information on our activities, please contact Valerie King, Ph.D., at valeriekingphd@gmail.com or 631-267-3282.
Highlights of the September 5, 2018 LWVH Board Meeting

 Presidents’ Report:
 • The Annual Appeal is coming up. Treasurer Cathy Peacock will send out last year’s list by November 1 and requests updates of possible donors.
 • The Board orientation will take place on October 3, 9 or 10.

Discussion Items:
 • September 17 program “Make Your Voice Heard” is 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. at the East Hampton Library. Refreshments will be catered by Hampton Coffee. A motion was made and passed to take out print ads in the East Hampton Star, all three editions of the Press News Group, and the Sag Harbor Express to advertise for our event. The motion to ask LTV to tape the program was defeated. Susan will do a PSA for WLNG. The Membership Committee will be at the welcoming table with handouts.
 • Terese has agreed to be the co-chair of the Education Committee.
 • On Election Day, there is no free ride service between home and the polls in East Hampton.
 • There was a discussion in regard to the proposed debate between incumbent Congressman Lee Zeldin and his opponent, Perry Gershon. The Zeldin campaign has proposed a new date and venue of Monday, October 29, at Hampton Bays High School, co-sponsored by the Press News Group and the Hampton Bays Civic Association. This is likely to be the only 1st C.D. debate on the South Fork. The Voter Services Committee chairs will meet with the Press News Group editor next week.

Committee Reports:
 • Judi reported that the Education Committee will schedule a meeting soon. Their Girl Scout program was featured in a State Education Committee meeting.
 • Judy, Electronic Media, reported that four Constant Contacts were sent, and Facebook notices were posted for the program on September 17th.
 • Valerie reported that the Health Committee continues to work closely with the East End Mental Health Advocacy Initiative in finalizing plans for the Mental Health program scheduled for 6-8 p.m. on Monday, November 19, at the Parrish Memorial Hall, Southampton.
 • Membership reports 83 primary members with 17 additional household members. Vicki also made a list of recently expired members to be contacted. Judy priced new membership applications, and the Board voted to order 400.
 • Special Events. Joanne and Ginny reported that Special Events has started thinking about the venue for a book-and-author luncheon or wine-and-hors-d’oeuvres event with former Congressman Steve Israel, author of “Big Guns.” December is the holiday party. February is the “Beat the Winter Blahs” Luncheon at Bobby Van’s. We are also thinking about an adult fun day, a tour of East Hampton historic and art sites in the spring, and a day honoring women elected officials (in celebration of the 100th anniversary of LWVNYS in 2019).
 • Publicity – Arlene did the East Hampton Adopt-a-Road clean-up for August. She is doing extensive publicity in the local papers, community websites, to community leaders, etc., for the September 17th program, and will place the ads in the local papers. All are encouraged to post the flyer and send to 10 friends.

Upcoming Events:
 • September 8-9: Voter registration at Sag HarborFest
 • September 17: “Make Your Voice Heard” program at East Hampton Library.
 • September 25: National Voter Registration Day
 • October: Candidate Debates
 • November 6: Vote!
 • November 19: Program (film and panel) on Mental and Behavioral Health

Housekeeping:
 • The deadline for the October/November Voter is September 15. Editor is Arlene.
 • Next Board Meeting is Wednesday, October 3, 2-4 p.m. at the Bridgehampton Senior Citizen Center.
LWV 100th Anniversary Dates to Remember As We Approach These Anniversaries

November 19, 2019:
100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of New York State.

The NYS League of Women Voters was formed when, at the 51st convention of the New York State Woman Suffrage Party, the delegates resolved on November 19, 1919, to change their name to the New York State League of Women Voters. The first chair was Narcissa Cox Vanderbilt.

February 14, 2020:
100th Anniversary of the National League of Women Voters.

The National League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt on February 14, 1920 during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, which took place in Chicago. The convention was held just six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified in August, giving women the right to vote nationwide after a 72-year struggle. Maud Wood Park was elected the first president of the League.
The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons appreciates the support of the businesses and individuals listed in this section. In return, members are encouraged to patronize these businesses and mention The Voter when doing so.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADVERTISERS</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agawam Town &amp; Village Realty</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Advisors Group</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple Bank</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Coast Embroidery</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barclay Damon</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridgehampton National Bank</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown Harris Stevens</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.E. King &amp; Sons, Inc.</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiffert Engineering PC</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive Screening</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DiSunno Architecture</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East End Physical Therapy</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Hampton Business Service</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Hampton Indoor Tennis</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fandango Boutique</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gladys Remler</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Ground Cleaners</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamptons Clerical</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampton Coffee</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampton Dental Group</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampton Implantology</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamptons Virtual Office Center</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herrick Hardware</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim's Busy Bee Pest Control</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe's Garage</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June O'Reilly, DDS</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long House Reserve</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manual &amp; Sports Physical Therapy</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy's</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nugent &amp; Potter</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Stop Market</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People's United Bank</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roeloffs East Hampton Optical</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rogers Memorial Library</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabel &amp; Oplinger</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southampton Tire Center</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southrifty Drug</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swannotta Inc</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Blenk Tree Care</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wharf Shop</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See Voter advertising section, plus an alphabetized advertiser list. www.lwvhamptons.org
Reverse Mortgage Loans

Steve Conroy
NMLS# 485940
Mortgage Loan Originator Sponsored by American Advisors Group Inc.

58 S. Service Rd. STE 210, Melville, NY 11747
866-680-1368
SConroy@aag.com

Call today to find out how buyers 62 and over can finance a home purchase with no monthly mortgage payments*!

*Borrowers remain responsible for paying for taxes, insurance and home maintenance. NMLS# 9392. Please visit AAG.com/Disclosure for full disclosure and state licensing information.

Open Your Hamptons Office Today
Membership Benefits:
Meeting & Conference rooms
Mail, Telephone & Admin Services
Prestigious Southampton Address
 Offices Nationally
Starting at $175/month

631.377.3891
53 Hill Street, Southampton Village

See Voter advertising section, plus an alphabetized advertiser list. www.lwvhamptons.org
EAST HAMPTON BUSINESS SERVICE
20 Park Place
East Hampton, NY 11937
ehbs@hamptons.com
Open M-F 8:30-5,
Sat 9-noon ...since1978
631-324-0405
Fax 631-324-2324

Hampton Coffee Company
Proud to be part of our community since 1994
and proud to support the League of Woman Voters

Water Mill
next to The Green Thumb Farmstand
Westhampton Beach
across from Village Hall
Southampton
on the Highway next to BMW
Aquebogue (Riverhead)
east of Goodale Goat Farms

See Voter advertising section, plus an alphabetized advertiser list. www.lwvhamptons.org
HAMPTONS CLERICAL
Office Management, Assistance and Consulting

Afton DiSunno
20 Bay View Ave
East Hampton NY 11937
631-786-6209
afton@hamptonsclerical.com

See Voter advertising section, plus an alphabetized advertiser list. www.lwvhamptons.org
People's United Bank is proud to support the
League of Women Voters of New York State Education Fund

PROUDLY SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF
Hampton Bays • Sag Harbor • East Hampton • Montauk • Southampton

Call or visit us on the South Fork of Long Island, including 7-day full-service banking inside Hampton Bays Stop & Shop.

John Guli
Market Manager, VP
Hampton Bays
631-728-2700

Pat Bolomey
Market Manager, VP
Southampton
631-283-3800

People’s United Bank®
What know-how can do®

©2017 People’s United Bank, N.A. | Member FDIC | Equal Housing Lender

See Voter advertising section, plus an alphabetized advertiser list. www.lvwhamptons.org
At Apple Bank, we’ve always believed that a strong community and a strong bank go hand in hand.

We are proud to support the families, businesses and organizations in the neighborhoods we serve.

Established 1863 • Member FDIC
Convenient branches throughout greater New York
www.applebank.com • 1-914-902-2775

Because it’s more than just a job
it’s a career.

55 Hill Street, Southampton NY 11968
631.377.3929
vicki@townvillagerealty.com
www.century21.com/finehomes

See Voter advertising section, plus an alphabetized advertiser list. www.lwhamptons.org
Living Legacy

Please consider providing for the ongoing efforts of the League Of Women Voters with a bequest included in your will, trust or estate. You can help us for many years to come by designating The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons as a beneficiary.

Here is sample language that may be given to your attorney: “I give, devise and bequeath to the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons (insert amount, percentage of estate, nature of gift, or remainder of estate) to be used at the discretion of the Board of Directors.” Current and future members of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons will be very grateful for this commitment.

For additional information, please contact Cathy Peacock at treasurer@lwvhamptons.org

Membership Application

Not a member of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons?

Please join us by mailing this application form and a check payable to LWVH to:
League of Women Voters of the Hamptons; P.O. Box 2253; East Hampton, NY 11937

Individual Member’s Name__________________________________________________________

Other Household Member’s Name____________________________________________________

Address__________________________________________________________________________

Email(s)______________________________ Home phone___________ Cell phone__________

Membership Dues: □Full-time Student $15  □Household $90 □Individual $60

Donations to our local league may be made payable to LWVHamptons and may be included in your dues check. Tax-deductible donations may be made by separate check payable to: LWVNYS - Education Foundation

I am interested in:
___ Education Committee    ___ Membership Committee    ___ Voter Services Committee
___ Government Committee    ___ Natural Resources Committee    ___ Communications
___ Health Committee    ___ Special Events Committee

Questions? Call us at 631-324-4637 or email: membership@lwvhamptons.org

See Voter advertising section, plus an alphabetized advertiser list. www.lwvhamptons.org
Making Democracy Work: College Students and the Vote - How, Where and Why

Published in The TimesBeaconRecord newspapers on Sept. 13, 2018

New York ranked 41 out of 50 states in voter turnout in 2016 and 49 out of 50 in the 2014 off-year election. Of all eligible NY voters, only 28.2% voted in 2014. When you look at the youngest age group, those between 18 and 25 years old the turnout is even lower. And nationally in 2016, 70 percent of those over 70 years old voted. By contrast, only 43 percent of those under 25 did.

As Election Day approaches, students who leave for college will ask how and where they should register and vote. Although a Supreme Court decision in 1979 gave all students the right to vote where they attend college, election law is a state’s right. Each state thus has its own laws regarding voting, including registration deadlines, residency, and identification requirements (ID) at the polls.

In New York State, any citizen not in jail for a felony conviction can register to vote in the year they turn 18. To vote this year they must be registered by October 12 and be 18 by November 6, the date of the 2018 General Election. Even if a college student is living in another state or another New York county they can ALWAYS vote absentee in their home district, which is a two step process.

They first need to complete an absentee ballot application and mail or deliver it to their County Board of Elections (BOE) by October 30. (The application form can be downloaded from NY BOE at [http://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/download/voting/AbsenteeBallot-English.pdf](http://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/download/voting/AbsenteeBallot-English.pdf) and is available at libraries, post offices and the BOE.) The BOE will mail the actual ballot to the student, who must return it to the BOE postmarked by November 5. As long as the ballot was correctly completed and received by the BOE no later than 7 days after Election Day, the vote will be counted. Absentee ballots matter... they can change an election’s outcome.

Frequently college students decide to register and vote where they are attending college. They feel it is important to get connected and have a voice on the issues in their new community and in the state where they may be living for four+ years. The Supreme Court may have given college students the right to vote where they go to college, but students are NOT ALWAYS ABLE to vote there. Some states have put up barriers to out of state students through their ID and residency requirements. Although New York in most cases does not require any voter ID at the polls, 34 states do so, with 17 states requiring photo ID. In Pennsylvania a college photo ID is sufficient while in other states it is not. In Texas a state-issued driver’s license or handgun license is accepted but not a college ID. Election laws can change. New Hampshire has just tightened its voter residency requirements, making it necessary for a student to register her car in New Hampshire and obtain a New Hampshire driver’s license. Students who want to vote at their college address should access that state’s most current requirements at [campusvoteproject.org](http://www.campusvoteproject.org/) for election law and registration deadline information. “Your Right to Vote in New York State for College Students” is also available from LWVNYS at [http://www.lwvnys.org/advocacy/vote/RTVColegeStudents.pdf](http://www.lwvnys.org/advocacy/vote/RTVColegeStudents.pdf)

In this time of student activism, those interested in a political career should strongly consider voting absentee; the residency requirement for a New York State candidate is living in the state or district for five years prior to being able to get on the ballot. But whether students decide to register and vote absentee in NY or in their college community, it is important that they learn about the issues and the candidates on their ballot, and VOTE. Our democracy works best when everyone participates.

by Judie Gorenstein for LWV of Suffolk County
Recent Events

“Make Your Voice Heard” Program Empowers Voters, Highlights League Work

By Susan Wilson, Co-President

The Hamptons LWV and the East Hampton Library co-sponsored a program: “MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD: Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport” at the Library on September 17th. The meeting taught those who attended how to get results through civic engagement, how to get involved, how to become more politically informed and ultimately how to have an impact on the decisions made by their elected officials.

Participants learned:
• Who We Are. Our Mission is “Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy”;
• What We Do: Non-Partisanship, Issues Advocacy, Voter Services, Public Information;
• How To Advocate;
• What To Say and How To Say It to Make Your Voice Heard.

LWVH makes its voice heard through the process of Study, Education and Advocacy. We advocate for positions reached after careful study. We educate the public on issues that impact their everyday lives. The League remains non-partisan and never supports political parties or candidates.

At the meeting LWVH committee co-chairs described how the process works within their respective committees and shared some of the highlights of successful programs held over the years. Many of these programs are still being aired on public television (SEA-TV or LTV), because the messages are educational and timeless.

Participants had the opportunity to join the League (we did enroll new members!) and to sign up for one or more of these committees—Voter Services, Education, Government, Health, and Natural Resources. Attendees could also sign up to help at LWVH voter registration tables located from Westhampton to Montauk on September 25, National Voter Registration Day.

These helpful brochures distributed at the meeting are available to the public by contacting LWVH at 631-324-4637: The Citizen Lobbyist, The Directory of Public Officials, The LWVNYS Legislative Agenda.

Continued on page 17
New Personnel for LWVH Education Committee and LWVNYSS Youth Committee

By Judi Roth, Education Committee Co-Chair

I’d like to introduce Terese Wildrick who has become the co-chair of the Education Committee and also a new board member as of June 2018. Terese joined the committee about two years ago and has been an active and contributing member since then, particularly with the Girl Scout program. This makes sense, as she had a 30-year career teaching grades K-1 – 4. Terese spent her summers in Hampton Bays from the age of 5; her three sons learned to surf at Road K and L beaches, and Terese herself is a Level IV Masters Swim Coach. After graduating from Adelphi University, she lived in Oklahoma, Germany, Kansas, Hawaii and a few other states, but her dream was always to move full-time back to Hampton Bays, which she did when she retired in 2016. Involving herself in the community is one of her goals, and in addition to being active in the League, she tutors new English learners at the Centro Corazon de Maria in Hampton Bays.

At the State League level, the new Youth Chair is Betty Ann King. She is currently updating the Youth Program Survey which was begun by myself and Judie Gorenstein several years ago. Once she receives information on programs being carried out by local leagues, her goal is to spread information across Leagues and to grow a resource group of League members across the state who have engaging youth programs and who are willing to share their experiences and expertise with other Leagues who don’t have such programs but want them. Our “Running and Winning” program was one that I learned about at the Portland, Oregon, national convention many years ago, and it has been adopted successfully by the Huntington League. Our Girl Scout program has been documented for the State League and is one that Betty Ann hopes other Leagues can emulate. There is always much to learn from each other – no need to reinvent the wheel every time.

Lastly, I am so glad that Terese will be joining me as co-chair, and together we hope to recruit some new members to join our wonderful committee and help come up with new ideas to get students involved in government at all levels.

“Make Your Voice Heard” Program Empowers Voters, Highlights League Work

Membership co-chairs Vicki Umans and Joanne Samborn welcomed attendees at the sign-in table.
Government Committee Plans Study of Workforce Housing and Transportation Needs

By Ann Sandford, Government Committee Co-Chair

In addition to the Government Committee’s primary mission to foster good government and citizen engagement, members decided last spring to look at issues that dealt with workforce needs. We decided to target affordable housing again (the Hamptons League has advocated for that issue many times) and the new regional public transit plans being developed for the South Fork.

We feel as a committee that addressing these workforce needs, through information-gathering and educating the public, will promote broader understanding and acceptance of these programs. In housing, point persons for each town are tracking current activities. One line of inquiry we will pursue is to meet with government administrators to learn about the property assessment process in each town. In Southampton, e.g., residents living in still modest neighborhood housing are arguing that large increases in assessments for their property taxes will simply “force the local workforce out” (Press, 6/6-7/18). We will also frame the arguments of critics as we develop an educational and advocacy approach in the coming months.

In transportation, we will track developments in the new commuter service coming to the South Fork this spring. The effort was led initially by Assemblyman Fred Thiele. The state has committed funding for the “last mile” to places of work. The goal is to ease traffic congestion by reducing driving time: e.g., the service is expected to reduce the summer commute from Hampton Bays to Southampton from 50-60 minutes to a 10-minute LIRR train ride.

A meeting with Tom Neely, the Transportation and Traffic Safety Director for Southampton Town, has already been scheduled, and the committee will likely hold a panel discussion on the topic in the spring.

All LWVH members are invited to join the Government Committee. If interested, contact Ann Sandford at asandford@optonline.net or Cathy Peacock at cathpeac@optonline.net, committee co-chairs, or find us at one of the League’s events.
LWVNYS Education Foundation and NYS Social Studies Supervisory Ass’n Announce Voter Education Lesson Plans for NYS 12th Grade Participation in Gov’t Courses

Just announced at the end of September are seven lesson plans designed to be included in the mandated NYS 12th grade, semester-long “Participation in Government” course, to educate NYS’s future voters on how to become active citizens.

The lessons can be customized to meet the needs of individual classrooms or student interests and are designed to be inquiry-based and non-partisan. They can be integrated into existing units or combined for a unit of instruction on New York government. Teachers are also encouraged to consult voter services resources developed and published by LWVNYS.

Lesson topics include:
• The structure of New York State Government
• Individual rights and responsibilities in New York State
• Voting in New York State
• The Public Policy Process (Laws) in New York
• Influencing New York State Government
• Participating in Political Action in Your Local Community
• Participating in Community Service in Your Local Community

The lesson plans were written by three New York Social Studies teachers. Among the editors were the president of the NYS Social Studies Supervisory Ass’n, and from LWVNYS—Laura Ladd Bierman, Executive Director, and Jennifer Wilson, Director of Program and Policy.
The League of Women Voters


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