



Suffolk County Voter

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Updates from LWVSC

- The new LWVSC board committee chaired by Judi Roth (LWV Hamptons) is working with Lora Gellerstein, Chief of Staff to the SC Legislature's Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory, in planning a new youth program- **Students Inside the Suffolk County Legislature**. We have high hopes for this program, potentially launching in fall 2015 in both Riverhead and Hauppauge.
- Lisa Scott continued her involvement (on behalf of LWV Suffolk County) with the Stony Brook University **School of Social Welfare's annual Advocacy Day**, which was held on March 13. Over 200 students participated in a conference (2015 theme was Gender Equity) with speakers, a panel, and nine workshops. LWV of Huntington's Judie Gorenstein, Brenda Reiss, and JoAnn Alario-Paulsen presented a very successful workshop on Advocating for Gender Equity- which included short discussions of Human Trafficking and of the ten proposals in the Women's Equality Agenda. Then they role-played good and bad lobbying, which resulted in a high level of engagement from the attendees. We distributed copies of LWVNYS's Citizen Lobbyist, a handout on 10 Lobbying Tips, and the LWVNYS Legislative Agenda.
- The DPO's have been printed! The **2015 LWVSC Directory of Public Officials** copies are being distributed to our Local Leagues at the March board meeting in Riverhead, and a pdf of the DPO is on the LWVSC website (www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org). Having the DPO on the website will allow us to update/make corrections as the year continues.
- LWVSC's Leg Committee (Mary McLaughlin, Nancy Marr, Lisa Scott) met with SC Leg PO Gregory, his Chief of Staff Lora Gellerstein and SC Leg Counsel George Nolan to discuss details of a proposed change to the County Charter regarding **filling vacancies in the SC Legislature** (IR1154).
- LWVSC is following developments since SC voters approved the 2014 ballot proposition on **consolidating financial management functions**. A resolution (IR1124) moving forward the date of the consolidation two years (from Jan. 1, 2018 to Jan. 1, 2016) was introduced following Angie Carpenter's resignation from the SC Treasurer position recently. Also IR1188 appoints Barry Paul as new SC Treasurer until Dec. 31, 2015; there would be a special election for Treasurer in Nov. 2015 (for a two year term, until the current consolidation rules take effect).
- LWVSC is also reviewing IR1030, which would strengthen SC **lobbyist registration requirements**.

Healthcare Update

New York State Health Act
Assembly bill A. 5062 (Gottfried)
and Senate bill S. 3525 (Perkins)

On March 10 I attended a forum on the NYS Health Act presented in NYC. The speaker, Prof. Gerald Friedman, Chairman of the University of Massachusetts Economics Department, reported on his analysis of the economic impact of the act, which would establish a comprehensive, universal health insurance program for all New Yorkers. His graphs showed that currently the share of state income spent on health care and administration is rising faster than personal incomes.

The bill would replace the current multi-payer system of employer-based insurance, individually acquired insurance, and federally sponsored programs with a single billing pipeline funded by payroll assessments (80% from the employer,

20% from the employee) collected by the state and based on income and ability to pay. By reducing billing expenses, administrative waste, monopolistic pricing of drugs and medical devices, and fraud, NYS Health could reduce health care spending by 25 percent or more than \$70 billion in 2019. It would expand coverage to all the uninsured, eliminate copays and deductibles, and correct the underpayment of Medicaid and Medicare services, producing net savings of 15 percent, \$44 billion per year, or \$2200 per New Yorker.

Madeline Zevon, NYS LWV Health Chairperson, has created a committee to study the bill and its impact. Our League has purchased the film, **The Healthcare Movie**, which examines the differences between the Canadian and United States health care system. It is available to any League that wishes to borrow it.

Nancy Marr, LWV Brookhaven