



League of Women Voters of Chemung County

August 2015 Newsletter

Voting Challenge Planning

A group of dedicated activists met at Steele Memorial Library on July 29 to plan voting challenge activities. Our goal is to increase voter participation in Chemung County.

The Chemung County League of Women Voters has initiated a project to Get Out The Vote in Chemung County. This will place emphasis on a basic League objective: increasing citizen participation in the election process. The project will run approximately 16 months during this year's 2015 off-year elections thru the 2016 Presidential election. Our goal is to have higher actual voter participation in Chemung County.

As of August 10th 2015 there were 49,428 registered voters in Chemung County. These statistics were obtained from Linda Forrest, Deputy Commissioner from the Chemung County Board of Elections. 26,385(53%) of these voters are women and 23,043(46%) are men. Voters are officially divided into two categories. Active voters are registered voters whose addresses have been verified and are ready to vote. Inactive voters are registered but need further verification by the Board of Elections. There are currently 3,773 inactive voters in Chemung County.

During the 2014 election cycle we elected the US President and NY Governor, the voters in Chemung County turned out to vote as shown below:

2014 Presidential Election

Total Active Registered Voters 49,416
Total Actual Voters
33,998 (68%)

18,191- Women (53%)
15,807- Men (46%)

Our goal is to raise the number of actual voters in this off-year election. A large number of voters don't show up to the polls without the big draw of the President or state governor. But off year elections are very important for our communities. Local officials (mayor, city council, county commissioners) may be elected and their decisions directly impact your property and daily lives. This year villages and towns have a variety of elected positions being contested. We need to encourage our fellow citizens to be responsible and participate. One member of CC LWV summed it up by saying "I vote because I care what happens in my community."

The League wants to increase the number of people who care. Your help is needed. Here are some of the ways you can participate:

- 1) Assist with voter registration at Elmira College's 2015 Octagon Fair 10/03/2015.
 - 2) Identify locations to distribute flyers and posters for the election cycle.
 - 3) Write guest viewpoint articles to the Star Gazette.
- or get to the /sons you can remind to vote andper 5-3Identify (4 .polls

THE AUTHOR OF THE ABOVE PLAN IS DELORES NICOL. PLEASE CONTACT DELORES OR MARTY OLDFIELD IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET INVOLVED.

Newspaper Column

The Chemung League has an opportunity to write a regular column for the Elmira Star Gazette. Those who are interested in writing about matters related to the League program, please contact Barb Luther.

OCTAGON FAIR

The Octagon Fair is set for Sat Oct 3rd; we will need volunteers to work our booth. We usually do 2 hour shifts from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

JIM TWOMBLEY TO SPEAK IN OCTOBER

LWV AND AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN [AAUW] WILL HAVE A JOINT MEETING ON THURS OCT 8 AT 6:30 PM AT THE ZONTA HOUSE ON W FIRST ST IN ELMIRA. JIM TWOMBLEY, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AT ELMIRA COLLEGE WILL BE OUR SPEAKER.

Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Contact

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