



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF EAST NASSAU

# voter

www.lwvofeastnassau.org

info@lwvofeastnassau.org

*At local, state and national levels  
the League works to influence public policy  
through education and advocacy.*

August/September 2015

## Save the Dates

**Wed. Sept. 2, 7:30 pm**  
LWVEN Board Meeting  
Levittown Library

**Wed. Sept. 16, 7:30 pm**  
LWVEN General Mtg.  
Topic: Reducing Toxins in our  
Environment  
See right column.

**Tues. Sept. 22**  
**National Voter  
Registration Day**

**Wed. Oct. 8, 7:30 pm**  
LWVEN Board Meeting  
Levittown Library

**Thurs. Oct. 8, 7:00 pm**  
Candidate Forum  
LD 13, 19, Hempstead  
Town Council  
North Merrick Library

**Tues. Oct. 13, 7:00 pm**  
Candidate Forum  
LD 16, 17, Oyster Bay Town  
Council, Plainview- Old  
Bethpage Library

## What Can You Do to Reduce the Toxins in Your Environment?



Not a day goes by without hearing or reading about environmental pollutants and toxins. They are in the air we breathe, in the water we drink. Are these toxins in low enough concentrations so that we are not actually in danger? How can we find out? What can we do if they are not? How can we protect ourselves and our families?

Join us on **Wednesday, September 16, 2015, at 7:30**, at the Levittown Library, to hear **Neal Lewis, Executive Director of the Sustainability Institute at Molloy College** discuss how you can Live Green and Reduce the Toxins in Your Daily Environment.

Mr. Lewis, a respected advocate on environmental issues has helped enact policy changes at various governmental levels. Come to the meeting, hear what he has to say and ask questions to learn more.

Friends, relatives and members of the community are welcome. The program is being co-sponsored by the Levittown Library.

## 2015 ELECTION INFORMATION

### Primary Election

**Thursday, September 10, 2015**  
Polls Open Noon to 9:00PM

### General Election

**Tuesday, November 3, 2015**  
Polls Open 6:00AM to 9:00PM

***See page 2 for the LWV of East Nassau's schedule of Candidate Forums.***

Be sure to attend the one in which the candidates in your area will speak. Listen to what your candidates say about themselves, hear their answers to questions, learn what they stand for; then cast an informed vote.

# Candidate Forums Scheduled in the LWV East Nassau Area

The following candidates have been invited to attend, speak to the attendees, and answer questions:

**Thursday October 8, 7 - 9 pm**

**Co-sponsor: North Merrick Public Library**

Candidates for Nassau County Legislative District 13:

Norma L. Gonsalves (R, C, I) and Eileen M. Napolitano (D, WFP)

Candidates for Nassau County Legislative District 19:

Steven P. Rhoads (R,C,I) and Claudia Borecky (D, WFP)

Candidates for Town of Hempstead Council District 5:

Erin King Sweeney (R,C,I) and Michael F. Reid (D, WFP)

**Tuesday October 13, 7 - 9 pm**

**Co-sponsor: Plainview-Old Bethpage Public Library**

Candidates for Nassau Legislative District 16:

Judith A. Jacobs (D, WFP, I) and Angel Cepeda (R, C)

Candidates for Nassau County Legislative District 17

Rose Marie Walker R, C, I) and Daniel P.Devine (D)

Candidates for Town of Oyster Bay Council - elected at large select 3

Joseph D. Muscarella, (R,C,I), Anthony D. Macagnone (R,C,I), Rebecca Alesia, (R,C,I),  
Robert K. Freire (D,WFP), Joseph A. Stufano (D,WFP), Marc J. Kadushin (D, WFP)



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## Meet Your 2015-2017 LWV N.Y. State Board

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## Update on State Constitutional Convention

On November 7, 2017 New York State voters, in a public referendum, will be asked whether or not to hold a convention to revise the State Constitution. Local Leagues across the state have reached consensus on the following change to our position on constitutional conventions:

The LWVNYS supports the following reforms as positive factors in deciding on support for a constitutional convention. Delegates should be elected by a fair nonpartisan process that complies with federal voting rights provisions and eases ballot access to encourage participation by racial and other minorities. Public financing should be provided for candidates and their positions on issues and convention goals should be widely publicized to enable voters to cast informed votes at their election. Statewide office holders, state or federal legislators, and state judges should not serve as delegates.

The following letter was sent to Governor Cuomo urging him to create a commission regarding this revised position.

June 12, 2015

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

The New York State Constitution requires a public referendum every 20 years to put before the voters the question of whether or not to hold a convention to revise the State constitution. On November 7, 2017 New Yorkers will be asked that question once again.

In anticipation of the last constitutional convention referendum in 1997, the late Governor Mario Cuomo created the Temporary New York State commission on Constitutional Revision, chaired by Peter C. Goldmark, Jr., (the "Goldmark Commission") to evaluate the processes for holding a State constitutional convention as well as to develop an agenda of public policy issues that might be considered by a convention. The Goldmark Commission issued a final report in February of 1995, two years and nine months before the question was to come before the voters. We are already well past that point in time with respect to the upcoming 2017 vote.

The League of Women Voters of New York State asks that you immediately appoint a Commission, representing New Yorkers from across the state and from all backgrounds, and task it with the responsibility to prepare and educate the state Legislature and voters for the November 7, 2017 vote with respect to both process and agenda. The League believes that education and involvement of the public must be an integral part of each phase of the constitutional convention process.

In particular, the League is concerned that the Legislature and voters be aware of the need for an open and fair process by which Convention delegates would be selected if a Convention were to be called.

Sincerely,  
Dare Thompson, President, LWVNYS

# Finding the Elections Information I Craved

By: Stephanie Drahan 07/22/2015



*From blog post written by an intern in the LWVUS office, Elizabeth Ahrens*

After the months of endless campaigning during the 2012 presidential election cycle, I was eager for the continuous media coverage and the roll of political ads to finally come to a close. Despite the annoyance of a 24-hour news cycle and non-stop coverage, for the first time, I also felt prepared. I thought, *I've followed the news, read the paper- I'm set.*

Yet when Election Day came, I looked at the two candidates and found it hard to see past the media frenzy, muddled media coverage and various rumors that had undergone osmosis from the nightly news into my head. I was excited to vote, and I was thrilled to exercise the power of my voice, but I could not distinguish my own opinion of each candidate from the media frenzy surrounding them. Like many voters, I felt frustrated and confused at myself and the political process.

After this experience, I knew I needed to seek out information about the issues I cared about. I wanted to be confident in the information I read and the source it was coming from, so I sought out groups without a partisan or biased agenda. What I have found at the League of Women Voters is that finding unbiased information about elections is as easy as 411. At [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org), everyone is able to access election related information. Because the League does not support or oppose any candidates, [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) provides nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information on aspects of the election process, including early voting options, absentee ballot information and poll locations.

Finding unbiased and accurate information about politics and elections may seem difficult, but organizations like the League of Women Voters, [Open Secrets](http://OpenSecrets.org) and [FactCheck.org](http://FactCheck.org) guarantee nonpartisan information that is accessible to all voters. Using websites like these helps protect voters and create more democratic elections.

With the 2016 election cycle already heating up, I am excited to better utilize resources like candidate debates and nonbiased news sources. This time around, I feel confident in my ability to weed out false or overly partisan information. Being a part of the League has inspired me to recognize the power of my voice in our government. I cannot wait to cast my ballot in the 2016 presidential election because by exercising the right to vote, I am able to weigh in on the issues that are important to me.

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## Results of LWVNYS Consensus Studies

Over the past couple of years, the East Nassau League has participated in two statewide studies. The results of those studies have been released by the LWVNYS Board of Directors.



**Term Limits:** This study sought consensus on whether or not to change our existing position, which opposed term limits for our state legislators and statewide office holders. Although the results showed a slight preference for the adoption of a position in favor of term limits, the responses fell far short of the 2/3 necessary to change the current position.


**Ballot Access:** Again, members throughout the state were divided on several issues raised by this study, including whether or not to open our primaries to non-affiliated voters. However, we did come to consensus on fusion voting (allowing candidates to appear on multiple party ballot lines) and a new position was announced: The League of Women Voters of New York State supports the continuation of Fusion – *more commonly known in NY as cross-endorsement.*





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

 <p><b>THOMAS MCKEVITT</b> MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY 17TH DISTRICT</p> <p>1975 HEMPSTEAD TURNPIKE SUITE 202 EASTMEADOW, NEW YORK 11554 516-228-4960 FAX: 516-228-4963 E-mail: mckevitt@assembly.state.ny.us</p> <p>546 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG. ALBANY, NEW YORK 12248 518-455-5341 FAX: 518-455-4346</p>	 <p><b>MICHAEL A. MONTESANO</b> ASSEMBLYMAN 15TH DISTRICT</p> <p>ROOM 437 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING ALBANY, NEW YORK 12248 TELEPHONE: 518-455-4684 FAX: 518-455-5477 E-mail: montesanom@assembly.state.ny.us</p> <p>111 LEVITTOWN PARKWAY HICKSVILLE, NY 11801 TELEPHONE: 516-937-3571 FAX: 516-937-3632</p>	 <p><i>Thank You</i> <b>LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of East Nassau</b> <i>for your dedication and commitment to the residents of Nassau County</i></p> <p><i>There is no better time than now to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude for giving so freely of yourselves. "Unless someone like YOU cares a whole, awful lot - nothing is going to get better. It's not." Dr. Seuss</i></p> <p><b>Nassau County Legislator</b> <b>Judith Jacobs, 16th LD</b> <b>(516) 571-6216</b> <b>Fax: (516) 571-6287</b> <b>jjacobs@nassaucountyny.gov</b></p>
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# What State League Does for Local Leagues

At State Convention, the delegates voted to raise the PMP (*per member payment made by each local League to the State League*) by \$2 starting July 1, 2015. We often hear the question: "What do we get for our PMP?" The League of Women Voters of New York State helps keep us strong by:

## ADVOCACY

- overseeing state studies for new or updated positions
- lobbying at the state level
- maintaining coalition partnerships with many organizations for stronger advocacy efforts
- coordinating Advocacy Education Days for members statewide

## EDUCATION

- funding for each local League to send one student free (other than transportation costs) to Students Inside Albany
- providing speakers on current issues for community events
- developing ready-made Power Point educational presentations and briefing papers on various "hot topics" for community presentations and discussions

## VOTER SERVICE

- paying license fees for local Leagues and having staff support for [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)
- creating and distributing low-cost Voter Guides (*for state level candidates*)
- hosting statewide candidate events
- providing ready-made presentations on issues for statewide studies and voter education

## SOCIAL MEDIA/VISIBILITY

- maintaining an up-to-date website with links and resources for local Leagues
- supporting a Facebook page
- sending State Board Updates and VOTERS by email monthly, and including local League news
- providing spokesperson to media statewide on state issues

## LEADERSHIP/TRAINING

- advising local Leagues on a one-on-one basis and through regional training
- organizing state Convention
- nurturing and giving start-up funding for MAL (*Member-at-Large*) units (*in areas not serviced by a local League*)

## ADMINISTRATION

- hosting grants management accounts for many local Leagues in state Education Foundation to allow tax-deductible donations
- providing insurance for events held by local Leagues

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## The State League Needs You!

LWVNYS is looking for volunteers for three different issues-related committees. Please email **Sally Robinson**, Issues and Advocacy VP, [robintwins@gmail.com](mailto:robintwins@gmail.com), or Laura Bierman, Executive Director, [laura@lwvny.org](mailto:laura@lwvny.org), with any questions about the committees.

If you have an interest in serving on the study committee for the **Legislative Procedures Update**, please contact the state office ([Katrina@lwvny.org](mailto:Katrina@lwvny.org)). The update would be focused on two aspects of our current position in particular, although it might consider other parts:

- the reference to a part-time legislature
- the ambiguous reference to length of terms.

A recent LWVUS announcement interpreted the Meeting Basic Human Needs position to permit state and local Leagues to lobby in support of raising state or local minimum wages or adopting a living wage position. The state League is forming a committee of League volunteers to look at the issue and possibly make a recommendation on a state minimum wage to the Board. For more information on the **Minimum Age Concurrence**, contact **Carol Mellor**, Grassroots Lobby director, [carolmellor140@gmail.com](mailto:carolmellor140@gmail.com).

LWVNYS is forming a **long-range program planning committee** to look at the last decade or two of program planning, what studies and updates were undertaken, and analyze the effort involved and the results. Please email or call the state office ([Katrina@lwvny.org](mailto:Katrina@lwvny.org) or 518-465-4162) if you are interested in serving on either committee.

## Letter to the Editor re: Single-Payer Health Care Bill



Dear Editor,

We, and many New Yorkers, support the Single-Payer Health Care bill, A. 5062/ S.3525. Sponsored by Assemblyman Richard Gottfried, the bill passed the Assembly 92 -52, but did not make it to a vote in the Senate. Single-Payer Health Care will include access for all – everyone in, no one left out -- and cost containment.

Gerald Friedman, PhD, Chair of the Department of Economics, U Mass, Amherst, finds that \$71 billion will be saved a year, with \$45 billion available to reduce local taxes and create economic growth. “The facts are undeniable,” said Albany City Treasurer Darius Shahinfar. “Enactment of New York Health, based on my conservative estimates, would reduce City and School District tax rates by at least 20% and could eliminate many County property taxes entirely.”

New York Health will be a boon to business. Employer spending on health care eats up a median 12.8% of payroll costs on health insurance, up more than 50% in a decade, with small businesses spending even higher percentages. According to the Friedman study, New York Health could be funded through an income assessment averaging just 8.1% of payroll.

The bill will offer comprehensive outpatient and inpatient medical care; primary care; preventative care; prescription drugs; laboratory tests; rehabilitative, dental, vision and hearing treatment; mental health and substance abuse treatment. There will be no co-pays, deductibles, or premiums. New York Health would be paid for by assessments based on ability to pay, through a progressively-graduated state payroll tax and a surcharge on other income.

Small business owners and workers need health care. Enacting Single-Payer legislation would give all New Yorkers coverage and in the words of Matt Funicello, small business owner, will “end the annual theft of public money.”

Sincerely,  
Patricia Reed, NP  
Margie van Meter  
Helen Crawshaw

(from bulletin of the LWV of Saratoga)

### Did you know these facts about Long Island?

*George Washington commissioned the Montauk Lighthouse so that ships coming in from Europe could identify the Atlantic Ocean from the Long Island Sound.*

*Together Nassau and Suffolk counties' nearly 180 fire agencies possess more fire trucks than New York City and Los Angeles County combined.*

*Suffolk County is the leading agricultural county in NYS based on the wholesale value of its farm products.*

*Fire Island got its name in the 17<sup>th</sup> century when it built fires to identify the coastline to the ships in the ocean.*

*If Long Island were its own state, it would rank 12th in terms of population.*

#### The League of Women Voters of East Nassau

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