



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF EAST NASSAU

# Voter

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info@lwvofeastnassau.org

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

December 2016

### Save the Dates

Wed., January 18  
LWVEN Holiday Party

Wed., Feb. 15 – 3:30 pm  
Book Discussion on  
“The Nightingale” by  
Kristin Hannah

Wed., March 15 – 3:30 pm  
Women’s History Month  
talk related to 100<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of Women’s  
Suffrage vote.

There will an LWVEN  
Board Meeting on the first  
Wed. of each month, at  
1:30 pm from Jan. through  
Mar., and at 7:30 pm from  
Apr. through June, at the  
Levittown Library. All  
members are welcome. If  
you plan to attend, call  
Barbara at 221-1948 to be  
sure that there have been no  
changes in that schedule.

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Had Been a Candidate

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## There Are Serious Problems in the NYS Legislature! Changes Are Urgently Needed!



Citizens Union of the City of New York in 2009 and 2011 released groundbreaking reports on turnover in the state legislature, finding that **NYS legislators are more likely to leave office due to ethical or criminal issues than to die in office, or be redistricted out of their seats.**

The LWVNYS has been working to effect changes that might help the situation. We have had a position for some time (see page 5), but in order to be more effective, we must re-visit our position and make some changes.

***Please join us at the Levittown Library at 7:30 pm on December 7<sup>th</sup>.  
Help us to come to consensus on legislative procedures  
that need to be changed. Be part of the solution!***

Among the issues we need to discuss is outside earned income for NYS legislators – whether they should be permitted to have outside earned income, and if so to what extent. Another, is the length of terms in each chamber and whether these terms should be staggered. And we will discuss whether there should be term limits on legislative leadership positions.

(Please read the information on pages 5 and 6 to be prepared for this discussion and consensus meeting. If possible, bring this VOTER with you to the meeting.)

**The meeting is for members and prospective members. Refreshments will be served.  
If you have any questions, contact Barbara at 221-1948 or epsteinb1@gmail.com.**

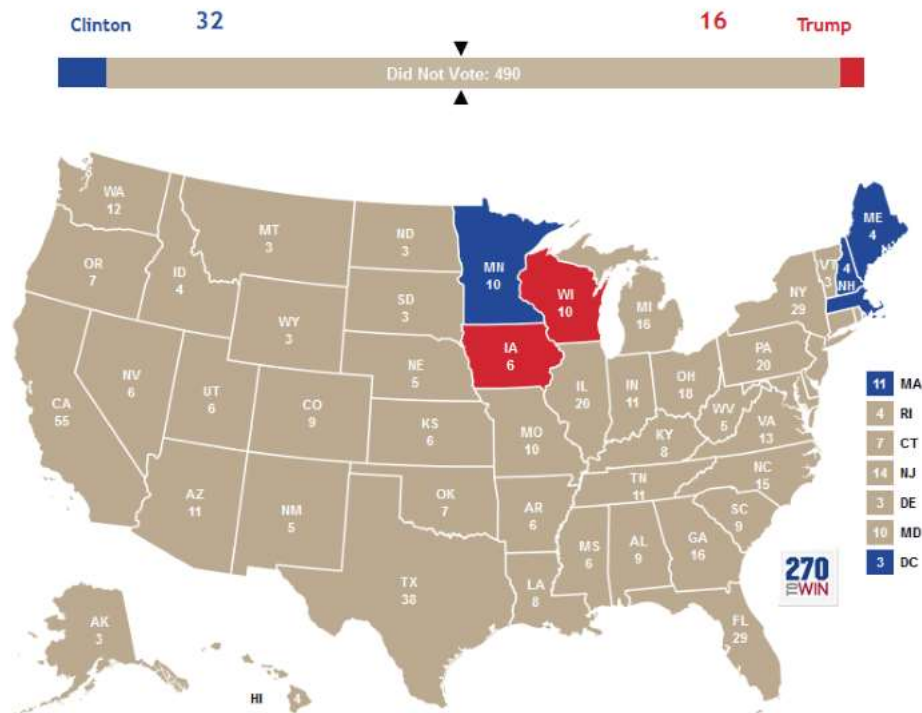
## HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> AT 12:30 PM

**More information will be forthcoming.  
Please save the date!!**



## If “Did Not Vote” Had Been A Candidate In The 2016 US Presidential Election, It Would Have Won By a Landslide.



Information below is as of November 13, 2016

(Map created by [reddit user Taillesskangaru](#) using [270 To Win](#))

The map above shows what the 2016 US Presidential Election results would have been if votes not cast for Clinton, Trump or one of the third party candidates had gone to fictional candidate “Did Not Vote.”

Only 6 states + Washington DC, had high enough voter turnouts where one of the actual candidates won more votes than people who did not vote. Iowa and Wisconsin for Trump and Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire and DC for Clinton.




A few other 2016 election facts for you:

- As a percentage of eligible voters, Clinton received 26.27% (60,839,922) of all votes compared to Trump’s 26.02% (60,265,858) and Did Not Vote’s 43.1% (110,450,842).
- Total voter turnout was estimated to be 56.9%.
- It is the 5th election since 1820 when the winner of the popular vote lost the presidency (the others being 1824, 1876, 1888, and 2000).
- Donald Trump received 667,646 fewer votes than Romney did in 2012. Hillary Clinton received 5,075,873 fewer votes than Obama did in 2012.
- Neither Candidate even won a majority of votes cast, Clinton got 47.8% vs Trump’s 47.3%.
- As a percentage of the entire US population (including those too young or others ineligible to vote) Clinton got votes from 18.73% of the population and Trump got votes from 18.56% of the people.
- Washington DC is the only area in the country where a majority of all eligible voters (whether they voted or not) voted for Clinton (90% of voters, voted for Clinton on a 55.7% turnout). In the other 6 states indicated above, victories were simple pluralities.

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## Membership/Contribution Form

Yes, I want to support the LWV's work in citizen education and advocacy.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of interest: \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclosed is my (our) check payable to LWV of East Nassau for**



\_\_\_\_\_ **membership dues**    \$55 Individual Membership  
   \$80 Household Membership (2 or more)  
   \$30 (Full-time) Student Membership  
   \$75 Supporting Membership

Please clip & send with your check to:

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339 Cold Spring Road  
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\_\_\_\_\_ **contribution**      **Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# LWVNYS Statement of Position on Legislative Procedures as announced by the State Board, April 1977

Members of the state legislature should have a greater impact on legislative proceedings, with the aid of better and more equitable staffing, and a stronger role for committees.

The legislature should continue to serve as a part-time body. Terms for legislators should be longer, and possibly staggered.

Legislative staff should be full-time professionals, independent of partisan control, and more equitably distributed among freshmen and more senior members, majority and minority, Senate and Assembly. Information about staff salaries and assignments should be more readily available.

A variety of approaches is needed to reduce the number of bills submitted each year: reducing the number of “home rule” bills on which the legislature must act, consolidating or eliminating individual sponsorship of bills, and requiring active support by sponsors for their own bills.

Lobbying regulation should require reporting by all groups and agents who expend significant funds for lobbying. With regard to ethics, there is need for: a commission or board of ethics with citizen participation, disclosure by legislators of sources of income and financial holdings, a more specific code of ethics or formal guidelines for ethical behavior.

## Changes Are Called for in the NYS Legislature!

Citizens Union of the City of New York in 2009 and 2011 released groundbreaking reports on turnover in the state legislature, finding that legislators are more likely to leave office due to ethical or criminal issues than to die in office, or be redistricted out of their seats.

Since 2000, over 28 state legislators have left office due to criminal or ethical issues and others have been indicted. More than 33 legislators have abused the public trust since 2000. Among them, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver was charged with five federal counts of theft of honest services, wire fraud, mail fraud and extortion related to his receiving \$4 million in referral fees due to improper use of his public position; and he was subsequently convicted. Senator Dean Skelos from Nassau County was among those indicted and convicted of abusing his office for personal gain by his son.

In the 2013-2014 session alone, 8 legislators left office.

- Four legislators resigned in 2014: Assemblymembers Gabriela Rosa, William Boyland Jr., Dennis Gabryszak and Eric Stevenson.
- Two more left during the election season in 2014: Senator Malcolm Smith, after his indictment, lost the Primary Election in 2014, and Assemblymember Micah Kellner did not seeking re-election due to a sexual harassment scandal.
- Two legislators resigned in 2013: Assemblymembers Nelson Castro and Vito Lopez. Rosa resigned in a plea deal regarding marriage fraud. Boyland was forced from office as a result of his conviction based on 21 counts of bribery, mail fraud and extortion. Gabryszak resigned after allegations surfaced that he sexually harassed multiple members of his staff. Stevenson was forced to resign after a jury found him guilty of taking \$22,000 in bribes.



### New York State Senate Legislative Leadership Term Limits (2016) - How to Change the Rules

The rules in each chamber lay out how they can be changed.

In the current rules (2015-16), the Senate has limited all the leadership roles we will be discussing to a maximum of 8 years. That is a relatively recent change to their rules – no one has reached that limit since it was included in their rules.

There is a bill before the Legislature that would put that in law (in both houses). The bill has been around since 2007 in the Senate and has had sponsors in both houses since 2010. The Senate has passed it in some years, the Assembly has never passed it. The Senate Rules do not designate a time frame for making a change, but such change must be introduced as a resolution into the Senate Rules Committee and that committee must vote to bring it to the floor. In the Assembly, anyone making such a proposal must give 3 days' notice.

# Samples of Legislative Leadership Compensation in NYS

## SENATE OFFICERS

Temporary President of the senate	\$41,500
Vice President Pro Tempore	34,000
Deputy Majority Leader for legislative operations of the Senate	34,000
Vice Chairman of the Senate majority conference	22,000
Vice Chairman of the Senate minority conference	14,500
Chairman of Senate finance committee	34,000
Ranking Minority Member of Senate finance committee	20,500
Chairman of Senate codes committee	18,000
Ranking Minority Member of Senate codes committee	11,000
Chairman of Senate health committee	15,000
Ranking Minority Member of Senate health committee	9,500
Chairman of Senate agriculture committee	12,500
Ranking Minority Member of Senate agriculture committee	9,000

## ASSEMBLY OFFICERS

Speaker of the Assembly	\$41,500
Speaker Pro Tempore of the Assembly	25,000
Majority Leader of the Assembly	34,500
Minority Leader of the Assembly	34,500
Chairman of Assembly ways and means committee	34,000
Ranking Minority Member of ways and means committee	20,500
Chairman of Assembly codes committee	18,000
Ranking Minority Member of Assembly codes committee	11,000
Chairman of Assembly health committee	15,000
Ranking Minority Member of Assembly health committee	9,500
Chairman of Assembly agriculture committee	12,500
Ranking Minority Member of Assembly agriculture committee	9,000

See more at: <http://codes.findlaw.com/ny/legislative-law/leg-sect-5-a.html#sthash.NJcvY7Ho.dpuf>

## Lulus

Article 2, Section 5-a of the Legislative Law lists “Senate officers” and “Assembly officers.” Each of these officers receives an “**allowance**,” often referred to as a lulu. The leadership positions listed in the consensus questions that we will be discussing all receive such an allowance.

While there are 24 “Senate officers” and 34 “Assembly officers” under the Legislative Law, section 5a, **we are only considering limits for chairs and certain officers.**

In addition, the same section of the law spells out members of each house “Serving in Special Capacity”; committee Chairs and Ranking Minority Members of each committee. Payment for these “jobs” has been an issue that the press highlights whenever salary is discussed.

Each title is assigned an allowance, which is listed in the law. They range from \$41,500 for the top post in each house (Assembly Speaker and Temporary President of the Senate) to as little as \$9,000 for the Ranking Member of some of the less active committees in each house. Some members (especially in the Senate) have more than one title. The law specifies that they may receive only the higher paying of the allowances to which they might be entitled.

See the list above to get an idea of how much each of these legislative leaders receives, in addition to his/her salary and per diem allowances for travel and overnight stays in Albany.

### The League of Women Voters of East Nassau

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