



State News

The League of Women Voters of New York State January 2010

Save the Dates

February 9, 2010

Public forum on redistricting followed by celebration of League's 90th birthday;
Rockefeller Institute, Albany.

April 20, 2010

Fair Pay Summit and Advocacy Day - annual event to advocate for pay equity; LOB, Albany.

May 14-16, 2010

Spring Fling weekend in New York City including theater, tours and party.
Come join the fun!

June 11-June 15, 2010

LWVUS Convention; Atlanta, GA.
Info available on LWVUS website,
www.lwv.org

May 20-22, 2011

LWVNY State Convention; Albany.

Find more information on all these events on the state League website, www.lwvny.org.

Youth Programs

The **2010 Students Inside Albany Conference** will be held April 11-14, 2010 in Albany. This three day conference brings high school students to Albany to learn more about their roles and responsibilities in representative government including their own abilities to make or influence public policy decisions. The students also shadow their state legislators for two afternoons. Contact your local League if you know of a student who could benefit from this program

We are also excited to announce that the Capital Region served as a pilot for the implementation of **Vote 18** programs statewide. Training for League members and presentations in two Capital Region high schools occurred in early Dec. Work is underway to create a cadre of Vote 18 presenters who can then train other League members and hopefully spread the program across NYS.

Contact Stephanie Lopez at 518-465-4162 or Stephanie@lwvny.org for brochures and more information.

Fix Albany Now!

The LWVNY State Board adopted *Fix Albany Now!* as the slogan for this year's legislative priorities. The 2010 priorities are steps to a new and better State government:

- Redistricting
- Campaign Finance Reform
- Ethics Reform
- Election Reform

Copies of the 2010 Legislative Agenda brochure (free except for shipping) and "Fix Albany Now!" buttons (\$1 each plus tax and shipping) are available from the state League office.

On January 13, leaders in both NYS house announced an agreement on the reform bill for campaign finance enforcement and ethics reform. While not everything that the League sought, the proposed changes would improve both ethics and campaign finance enforcement and create greater transparency. Info and a Memo in Support of S6457/A9544, is posted on the state League website for use in lobbying your legislators.

Voter Service

The state League is talking with major PBS affiliates about co-sponsoring a series of debates for statewide offices in the fall 2010. The statewide offices include US Senate, NYS Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and Comptroller.

A new publication for military voters is being developed and will become part of the series "Your Right to Vote in NYS," joining the brochures specifically for homeless individuals, college students, individuals convicted of crimes, and individuals with physical or mental disabilities. Copies of these special Voter Guides are available for purchase from the state League office.

NYS BOE Certifies Voting Systems for 2010 Elections

A milestone in the six year saga of the state's implementation of the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was reached in December when the NYS Board of Elections voted unanimously to approve two voting systems for use by the voters in NYS. Now, that the machines have been selected, the League will be needed to educate voters on the machines and monitor the machines usage. Watch for more information on how your League can assist in your community.

State Study on Local Consolidation/Shared Services

The State Board approved Consensus questions at its January meeting. A Leader's Discussion Guide is currently being developed. The questions and the Guide will be distributed to all local Leagues by the end of January.

Prepare for the consensus meeting in your League by reading the materials on the website, www.lwvny.org, and materials in your own local bulletin. Everyone needs to have their voice heard so join the consensus discussion!

LWVNY Board Resignation

JoAnn Ross, LWVNY Board Member and Citizen Education Director, has announced her resignation from the state League due to relocation to the Baltimore area. She will continue to consult with us, though, on the continued development of the new youth leadership program.

Help Us Make a Difference

You will be receiving the League's Direct Mail Appeal later in February. We understand that personal funding is limited for many people, but we ask that you once again consider supporting the League's many activities. We can't do it without your help! So, please give generously.

New State Voter On Its Way - Don't Miss It!

Don't miss the League's news! The state *Voter* went electronic in November because the cost of the printed *Voter* became prohibitive in light of current League funding realities. You will receive the electronic *Voter* automatically free of charge if we have an e-mail address for you. If not, you may order a printed version for \$20.00 for the rest of this fiscal year (4 issues @ \$5 each) or send us your e-mail address to get on our free electronic list.