



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.*

June/July 2016

2016 Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

Wednesday, June 15th 2016
5:00 PM

La Novella

364 East Meadow Avenue, East Meadow, 794-6248
\$45.00



Business Meeting

- Declaration of Quorum
- Treasurer's Report
- Adoption of Budget
- Nominating Committee Report
- Nominations from the Floor
- Election of Officers
- Leadership Committee Report
- New Business

Dinner with music and conversation

Students Inside Albany Report

Special Guest: Alison Coggins, our SIA representative

For information call Norma: 516-489-3133

Please reserve ___ place(s) @ \$45.00/person for the LWV of East Nassau Annual Meeting on June 15, 2016.

My check for \$_____, made out to LWVEN is enclosed.

I cannot attend, but would like to contribute to League. My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

Name _____

Email address _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Affiliation (of non-League members) _____

Please clip and return this form with your check payable to LWV of East Nassau, to:
Barbara Josepher, Treasurer, LWVEN, 339 Cold Spring Rd., Syosset 11791, *on or before June 5.*

Please note: Although the date indicated in the May VOTER was correct, the date on the invitation that was included with the May VOTER was not. The Annual meeting will be on June 15th as indicated above.

Women's Issues

Barb Thomas, Director of Women's Issues, LWVNYS

The League, working in coalition on women's issues, has had some notable successes this year: passing Paid Family Leave and increasing the minimum wage. Now we have a good chance to increase access to all types of birth control and thereby reduce the number of unintended pregnancies by passing the Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act (CCCA) this session. The CCCA (A.8135B, Cahill/ S.6013A, Bonacic) has already passed the Assembly and is sponsored by a member of the Republican majority in the Senate. Tell your State Senator that you support this bill.



The CCCA would build upon existing requirements of the Affordable Care Act by requiring health insurance policies to cover the following services without co-payments: contraceptive education and counseling, voluntary sterilization procedures and related follow-up services, and all FDA-approved contraceptive drugs, devices, and products; require dispensing 12 months of contraception; allow pharmacists to fill a non-patient-specific prescription for Emergency Contraception. It will reduce unintended pregnancies.

Transportation Issues

Gladys Gifford, Director of Transportation, LWVNYS

Our focus at the LWVNYS was generally to increase funding for all modes of transportation, with special emphasis on public transit. The promise of the enacted budget is that all parts of the State Transit Operating Assistance (STOA) received increased funding. However, the mechanisms for providing those funds are not clear; there is no direction to change the system so that revenue streams for STOA are growing and not stagnant. The Brennan/DiFrancisco bill which we supported would have changed the structure, but it was not included in the budget process.

Similarly, appropriations for capital projects were increased. A long-awaited 5-year capital plan for the NYSDOT was approved, to the tune of \$27 billion. This plan covers all transportation modes outside of the MTA. A nearly equal amount was approved for the MTA, covering the next five years. Transit systems and jurisdictions must apply for these funds. The net result for transit systems will be to free up revenues to help cover operating costs.


Governor Cuomo and the Legislature are negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will define how and from what sources the funds will come. Ask legislators and the governor's office: Will that MOU be made available to the public? The LWVNYS and allies are concerned about rural transit systems that were impacted by the state Department of Health (DOH) rulings about serving Medicaid clients. The enacted budget added \$4 million to the DOH budget.

Update re: Legislative contacts:

I spoke with staff at Assemblyman Anthony Brindisi's office (May 18) who reported that the O'Mara/Brindisi bill (S5794/A8202) is likely to pass during this session. This bill, "to improve Interagency Coordinating Committee on Rural Public Transportation," will help rural transit systems cope with Federal regulations regarding Medicaid transportation funding.

There is bi-partisan support for a new bill, Rozic/Lanza A09872/S07608, to require the NYSDOT Commissioner to "develop and present to the governor and legislature a five-year capital plan, with defined projects, that is subject to public review prior to the passage of the state budget." There is no clear momentum for this bill before the end of the session; however, there are many co-sponsors who urge the process be completed.

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.



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Thank You
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of East Nassau
for your dedication and commitment to the residents of Nassau County

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

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The League Needs You!

Can you spend just a part of one day – Tuesday, September 27 – National Voter Registration Day – helping League register voters? You would be doing this in your local library. If you have never registered voters before, someone will be there to do it with you, and there will be a training session prior to that date. If you are willing and able to do this, please contact Barbara Epstein: epsteinb1@gmail.com or 516-221-1948.

We were so pleased to hear from Maxine Stolzer, our “woman in Arizona,” who has remained a member of our East Nassau League, albeit at a distance. Her email address is unchanged, should you wish to reach her.

EPA issues Final Regulation to Limit Methane Emissions in the Oil and Gas Sector



Jessica Jones, LWVUS

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued its final regulation aimed at reducing methane emissions in the oil and gas sector. Released on May 12, the final regulation is yet another step taken under President Obama’s Climate Action Plan. One-third of methane emissions come from the oil and gas industry, and this final regulation will work to cut methane emissions from these sectors by 40 to 45 percent from 2012 levels by 2025.

EPA’s new rule regulates methane emissions from new and modified oil and gas sources. The final rule is stronger than the proposal that was released last year. EPA received 900,000 comments from industry officials, members of the public and green groups on the rule. League supporters sent nearly 7,500 comments in support of the rule.

Limiting methane emissions is a critical step forward in the fight against climate change. By reducing methane emissions, President Obama is maintaining the commitment announced alongside Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau earlier this spring. It also supports the US decision to sign the historic agreement made at the United Nations Conference in Paris last fall.

The US is the largest producer of natural gas in the world. Our reliance on natural gas makes regulating methane necessary as its impact on climate change is 25 times greater that of carbon dioxide. The new regulation provides a flexible way for industry officials to help reduce leaks, which will help increase production, while protecting public health and fighting climate change.

The League supported the original proposal of this regulation while also urging the Administration to go further and implement emissions reductions for existing sources as well. As part of the announcement, the EPA is seeking to gather information from industry officials and facilities about the technology they are already using to stop leaks and increase production so that they can set common sense, flexible regulations for existing sources.

Presidential Tidbits: The famous portrait of George Washington painted by Gilbert Stuart was actually finished by another artist, who used John Adams’ son-in-law to pose for the unfinished limbs and body.

At his receptions, President Jefferson instituted the handshake, which he felt was more democratic than the bow from the waist.

Memo to Mimi Hirsch:

*Wishing you a very
speedy recovery!
Our thoughts are with you!*



Voter Service

Judie Gorenstein, VP of Voter Service, LWVNYS



Following the April 19th presidential primary, local Leagues were asked to email the problems that occurred in their areas to the state League. I wish to thank those Leagues who responded. Two Leagues reported that there had been no difficulties they were aware of in their counties, which was great news. The other Leagues wrote of numerous and varied problems which ranged from untrained or unconcerned poll workers, to inaccurate poll books where names of registered and enrolled voters did not appear, to disenfranchised voters who did not know about New York's closed party system and either thought that because they always voted for a certain party, they were enrolled in that party or who believed because they were "independent" and unaffiliated that they could vote in the primary. One League reported a high voter turnout where some of their poll sites had to be kept open past 9 PM while another League reported low turnout. Most reported a high number of affidavit ballots being filled out. The percentage of affidavit ballots that were ultimately counted ranged from 42% in Onondaga County to only 10% on Long Island. Reasons for the discrepancies are not known at this time.

We do know that there were problems with many people in New York feeling disenfranchised. We know that our Election Laws are archaic and need to be changed but that this will not happen this year. We also know there will be a congressional primary on June 28 (and are pleased that several Leagues will be holding congressional primary debates), a state primary in September and a general election on November 8.

Leagues need to explore new ways to educate voters about the Election Laws and rules as well as important dates. We all do voter registration drives and put information on our web sites and in our VOTERS. We need to write letters to editors of our local papers (only the President can submit one in the name of your League). We need to increase our use of social media. We need to think out of the box.

We also need to continue to explore reasons for some of the problems and how they can be alleviated. Recently I learned from an Election Protection lawyer that some voters had not checked their party enrollment when they re-registered to change their name or address thinking that they were not changing their party. As a consequence, they were no longer enrolled and not allowed to vote in a primary. Therefore we now know to make sure when someone re-registers that they complete the form and check their party affiliation. Knowing what went wrong, will help us set things right. More people are engaged and aware of what occurred on the Presidential Primary Day. This is an opportunity to educate them and turn out the vote.

Dates to Keep in Mind

Tuesday, June 28, 2016 – Congressional Primary

- Absentee ballot – Ballot request postmarked no later than June 21; in person by June 27
Completed ballot postmarked no later than June 27; in person by June 28

- Change of address – No later than June 8

Note: there will be a Democratic primary for CD3 (Steve Israel's current congressional seat).

Tuesday, September 13, 2016 – State and Local Primaries

- Absentee Ballot – Ballot request postmarked no later than September 6; in person by September 12
Completed ballot postmarked no later than September 12; in person by September 13
- Change of address - No later than August 24

Tuesday, November 8, 2016 – General Election

- Must be registered to vote no later than October 14
- Absentee Ballot – Ballot request postmarked no later than November 1; in person by November 7
Completed ballot postmarked no later than November 7; in person by November 8
- Change of address - No later than October 19

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