



League of Women Voters of Tompkins County

October 2017

lwvtompkins.org

PRESIDENT: Kay Sharp 272-4748

EDITOR: Megan Nettleton (330) 962-5448



A note from Kay Sharp, League President

We have been very busy with several voter registration events. We were at the Farmer's Market, National Voter Registration Day and, most recently, the Apple Harvest Festival. Thank you to those who volunteered for these events. Without you we would not have been able to offer this important service for our community.

At the voter registration events, we got the names and contact information from 13 people who are interested in knowing more about our League. Alene Wyatt, Lori Saltzman and I are going to contact each of them and ask them to join. It would be great if they all became members.

In addition to voter registration, we participated in two candidate forums. We still have one more later this month. It is always rewarding to engage in these events. We were contacted by two other districts, but they decided to not co-sponsor with us. The reason they gave was "the League is too liberal". This response was discussed with the candidates, and I stressed that we are a non-partisan organization and believe that we can conduct ourselves accordingly.

We are participating in VOTE411, an electronic voter guide, for the first time. Kathleen Yen is coordinating this project. Every candidate who is running for election in some position in Tompkins County was contacted and asked to provide information about their interest and experience that they believe makes them the best candidate for the position. All of their responses are then placed on line in a voter's guide, which the community can access through our website. So far, Kathleen has received 50% of the candidates' responses. We are excited about offering our community a snapshot of

candidates before they go to the voting booth. Thank you so much Kathleen for working on this important community resource.

I am sad to say that one of our Directors for Voter Service, Amy Panek, has resigned due to personal reasons. She has worked in this capacity for three years. I hope Amy will continue to be a member; she has much to offer us. It would be nice if one of you would volunteer to complete her term, which is over in May 2017. The Board would appreciate your help. Please contact me if you are willing.

I hope you attended our program on the Constitutional Convention. It was very informative. It was a great success, over 90 people attended. This is a record for our League, at least in the ten years that I have served. Thank you goes to our VP for Programs Charlotte Coffman for organizing and moderating this event. Our program for October promises to draw a large crowd as well. See Program Report.

In addition, we are co-sponsoring two programs offered by the Tompkins County History Center. One is on voting experiences and the other one is on women in public service. See Program Report for details.

There are two concurrence proposals this year. One is on amending our position on charter schools and the other is on "Death with Dignity". We are planning a program in January to examine the issue of assisted-death. There are five states who currently have laws that allow for physician-assisted deaths, they are Oregon, Washington, Montana, Vermont and California. Our study materials are provided by the Utah State League.



After the program in January, we will hold a meeting to decide on our position on these two proposals. Our feedback to the State League is due February 15, 2018.

Last, but certainly not least, we have two new Cornell student liaisons who just joined the Board this month. Jack and Liel will help with the Students Inside Albany project. It is wonderful to have young people on the Board; they offer a distinctly different view on our business. Welcome to the League!
Kay Sharp

A note from Kay Wagner, Natural Resources

The Natural Resources Committee is continuing to discuss the issue of Tompkins County housing needs and how to solve those needs in ways that are good for the environment and promote thoughtful use of land. Many new construction projects are currently underway, especially in the City of Ithaca. Some of the projects are making use of heat pumps and are being built with other environmental issues in mind. Others are simply being built to code and will increase our dependence on natural gas. In our September bulletin we mentioned that Taitem Engineering has done a study indicating that the use of heat pumps can make economic sense for developers, so it is good to see that some of the developers doing local projects are understanding the benefits to be gained by making use of this technology.

Some of us had a chance to go to the electric car expo that was held near Press Alley in September. Local electric car owners brought their own cars and talked to people about them. Some even offered rides. One of our members had a chance to ride in a four year old Tesla and enjoyed not only the ride but also learning a lot

more about what it is like to own and drive one. There is likely to be a similar event next fall and we are looking forward to attending it.

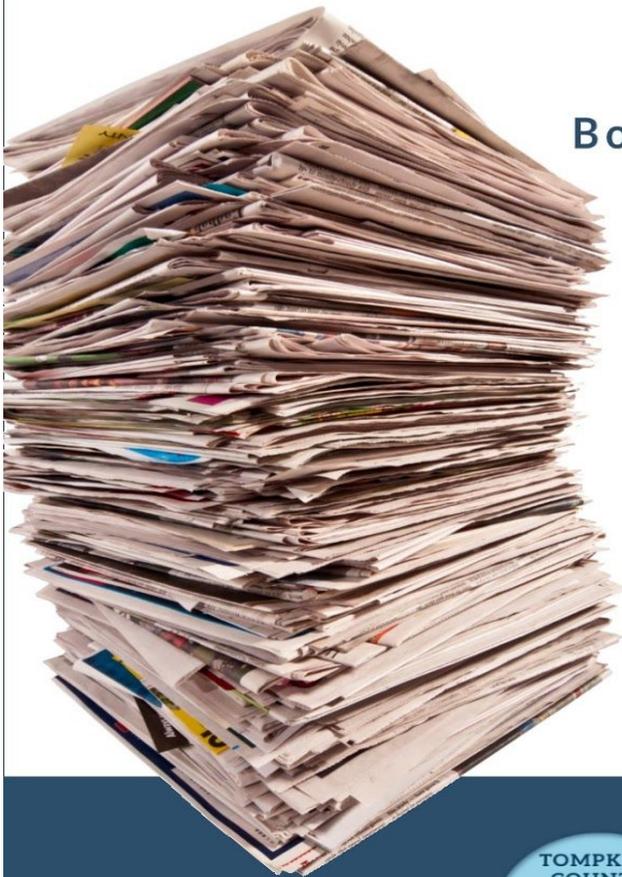
The recent hurricanes that hit Texas, Florida and the Caribbean are not only reminders of the effects of climate change, they have also pointed out the fragility of much of our electrical grid and the effect of storing toxic chemicals in areas prone to flooding. Puerto Rico's electrical grid was almost totally destroyed. There is now some discussion (including proposals by Elon Musk) of the possibility of rebuilding the island's power grid with solar power. It could provide a real opportunity to do a complex experiment that looks to the future, but it is likely to only be possible if government assistance is provided.

Our committee is currently planning a program for February. We hope to address the issue of the local need for affordable housing and how to address these needs in environmentally healthy ways. We are also in the process of compiling a list of interesting books that focus on environmental issues. We plan to post the list on the LWVTompkins website, giving a short description of each book. If you have any suggestions of books to include please send them to Kay Wagner and include a couple sentences of description. In keeping with the League's commitment to remaining unbiased with regard to political parties and candidates, please keep our non-partisan stance in mind when suggesting books.

We would love to hear from all of you. If you want to add to our book list or be included in the emails for our committee or, even better, attend our committee meetings, get in touch with Kay Wagner, cmw18@cornell.edu, 607-539-3322.



Is That Really True? Fact or Fake News



Monday October 23
from 7-9PM
BorgWarner Community Room

A panel discussion featuring **Neill Borowski**, executive director of "The Ithaca Journal," Cornell University Research Librarian **Michael Engle** and **Chris Sperry**, director of curriculum and staff development for Ithaca College's Project Look Sharp media literacy program.



Tompkins County Public Library
101 E. Green St, Ithaca NY 14850
tcpl.org 607-272-4557



A note from Programs, by Charlotte Coffman, VP for Programs

The program committee met on September 13 and, in addition to planning the upcoming programs, agreed to implement four program-related strategies:

-Experiment with ways to tape our programs and post those recordings on our website. Ann Warde recorded the September meeting using her laptop; videographer Jim Blizzard will tape the October meeting; and Megan Nettleton will use a GoPro video camera during the November meeting. The board can then compare the results and the cost of the three methods, as well as evaluate whether the posted videos are actually viewed.

-Invite the program audience to consider League membership. We will have membership forms, informational brochures, and a friendly face to answer questions at the upcoming events. We will try this for the fall programs.

-Work harder to obtain co-sponsors and strive to be more active co-sponsors ourselves. This has always been a League goal and the study groups have excelled at bringing in community partners. We just want to extend their good practice to our other programs.

-Train more members to use the Library audio-visual equipment. On September 22, Megan Nettleton and Charlotte Coffman were trained by Library staff – and we are willing to train others!

A SEPTEMBER SUCCESS

Our September program, The Constitutional Convention Debate, attracted over 90 attendees who asked thoughtful questions and even carried a few signs signaling their views. We are grateful to Dr. Henrik Dullea, Vice President for Community Relations Emeritus, Cornell University and NYS Assembly Representative Barbara Lifton for their careful preparation, clear explanations and willingness to give of their time. If you were not able to attend the program, the video is available on our website
http://www.lwvtompkins.org/constitutional_convention.html

We are all reminded that the vote of the Constitutional Convention referendum is yet to come and that we should continue to educate ourselves on its many facets.

Barbara Lifton encouraged attendees to learn about the work of Reclaim New York:

Conservative nonprofit plans to expand statewide presence:
<http://www.politico.com/states/new-york/albany/story/2015/05/conservative-nonprofit-plans-to-expand-statewide-presence-022325>

Reclaim New York: Mercer-funded, Bannon-guided campaign sows distrust of local government:

<https://theberkshireedge.com/reclaim-new-york-mercere-funded-bannon-guided-campaign-sows-distrust-in-local-government/>

Reclaim New York:
<https://www.reclaimnewyork.org/>



Dr. Dullea has shared these additional websites:
Decision '17: The citizens' guide to the constitutional convention:

http://www.rockinst.org/nys_concon2017/pdf/Citizens_Guide.pdf

Siena College Research Institute poll:
https://www.siena.edu/assets/files/news/SNY_October_2017_Poll_Release_-_FINAL.pdf

Don't miss our exciting upcoming program on OCTOBER 23, 2017. Is That Really True? Facts or Fake News?

Member and Public Meeting

Date: Monday, October 23, 7pm

Place: Borg Warner Room, Tompkins County Public Library, 101 East Green St., Ithaca, NY.

With the increase in use of social media, the broad range of media outlets claiming to deliver the news, and the finger pointing about what is and is not true, it is important for citizens to be aware of various methods for evaluating the reliability of what we read, see and hear.

To facilitate the exploration of this topic are three excellent speakers:

- Michael Engels, a research librarian at Cornell University who developed a website guide that helps people evaluate news sources (http://guides.library.cornell.edu/evaluate_news)

- A representative from Project Look Sharp, an Ithaca College program that teaches media literacy in the schools at all educational levels (<https://www.projectlooksharp.org/>).

- Neill Borowski, Editor, Ithaca Journal, who will present the journalist perspective.

The League is pleased to announce that the Tompkins County Public Library has agreed to be a co-sponsor for this exciting program. Pegasys has invited Kay Sharp and Sheila Stone to discuss the program on the air and Sheila agreed to write a letter to the editor to further publicize this event. We are grateful to Jim Blizzard for videotaping. Please join us and bring a friend.

OCTOBER 24, 2017. Voting Perspectives. Public Meeting sponsored by the History Center with LWV Co-sponsor

Date: Tuesday, October 24, 7pm

Place: The History Center in Tompkins County, 401 E State St #100

New York ranked 41st in the country for voter turnout in the 2016 general election, with just more than 57 percent of the "voting-eligible population" casting ballots. Why don't more citizens vote? What does voting mean to individuals? What does the lack of participation in elections mean for the country. Let's explore this interesting topic as we hear diverse voting perspectives from Herb Engman, Linda Duttweiler (representing the LWV), Kirby Edmonds, Sean Bradwell and others. See you there!



NOVEMBER 2, 2017. Women's Suffrage and Political Office: A Seat at the Table. Public Meeting sponsored by the History Center with LWV Co-sponsor

Date: Thursday, November 2, 7pm

Place: The History Center in Tompkins County, 401 E State St #100

Women's suffrage and the increase in the number of female candidates running for political office have been recently reported in the news.

This program will explore the motivation, challenges, and successes of women elected to public office, and touch on issues such as encouraging young women to participate in the political arena.

The event will be moderated by Leslie Danks Burke. Panelists include: Martha Robertson, Leslyn McBean-Claiborne, Pam Bleiwas, Deb Mohlenhoff, Liz Thomas, and Deborah Cippola-Denni

s. Each panelist will answer a few prepared questions before the session is opened for questions from the public. This lineup promises an exceptional and lively exchange of information. Mark the date on your calendar!

NOVEMBER 13, 2017. Impact of Federal and State Budgets on Tompkins County.

Member and Public Meeting

Date: Monday, November 13, 7pm

Place: Borg Warner Room, Tompkins County Public Library, 101 East Green St., Ithaca, NY.

Budget development and implementation are important governmental responsibilities. Thus, it is no surprise that budget discussions often headline political campaigns.

We have invited a stellar panel to explain how budget cuts, reallocation of monies, and state and federal mandates can affect local resources:

- Joe Mareane, Tompkins County Administrator
- Frank Kruppa, Tompkins County Health Dept.
- Patricia Carey, former Director of Dept. of Social Services-TC
- Lisa Homes, County Office of the Aging Director
- Beverly Chin, Human Services Coalition-Health Planning Council Director

Mr. Mareane will provide the framework and general overview. The remaining four panelists will provide specific examples of major county programs and populations impacted by funding from each level of government. The panel discussion will be followed by audience Q/A.

We are pleased that the AAUW, the Tompkins County Public Library and the New York Statewide Senior Action Council will co-sponsor this event. We are also grateful to Kathy Yen for suggesting this topic and working with the panelists.



2017 Local Voter Guide for Tompkins County Voters: Offices, Candidates, and Ballot Proposals for County, Town and City Races www.vote411.org

The League of Women Voter of Tompkins County is pleased to announce the launch of Vote411.org, an electronic voter guide, for the November 7, 2017 county, town, and city races in the General Election.

The three New York state ballot proposals that will appear on the ballot, and the City of Ithaca proposition that voters in the City of Ithaca will be asked to vote on are included. Candidate information, supplied by the candidates, includes biographical information and responses to questions posed by the League. Candidates who did not submit their information are listed with "Candidate Has Not Responded". Other election and voting information is also provided.

A six-page PDF, "2017 Local Voter Guide for Tompkins County Voters: Offices, Candidates, and Ballot Proposals" is posted on the League website. It is also included in the n the [Vote411](http://Vote411.org) electronic guide. It summarizes who and what Tompkins County voters will be asked to vote on in the 2017 General Election and includes: candidate for State Supreme Court Justice, 6th J.D.; candidates for the 2017 county, city, and town offices to be filled in Tompkins County;

and how the ballot proposal questions will appear on the ballot.

Both can be accessed by going to the local League website, www.lwvtompkins.org or online at www.vote411.org.

The League is a nonpartisan organization, open to men and women and encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. For more information or if you are interested in working on this project, please contact the Voter Services Chairperson, Mandy Qualls (mandyqualls@gmail.com), or Kathy at 257-8199.

****Please see attached PDF for the complete Guide****



CONTACT PAGE

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON

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Charles E. Schumer 202-224- 6542; senator@schumer.senate.gov ; www.schumer.senate.gov

REPRESENTATIVES:

Tom Reed 202-225- 3161; 607-654- 7566; e-mail and web-site: reed.house.gov

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN ALBANY

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Pamela Helming 518-455- 2366, 315-568- 9816 helming@nysenate.gov
54th—Town of Lansing

Thomas O'Mara 518-455- 2091; 607-735- 9671 www.nysenate.gov/senator/thomas-f-omara
59th—Towns of Ithaca, Newfield, Enfield, Ulysses; City of Ithaca

ASSEMBLYWOMAN

Barbara Lifton 518-455- 5444; 607-277- 8030 www.assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Barbara-Lifton

The League can be found all over the internet!

Did you know that the league has a facebook page and a twitter? It is so very 2017 of us.

-Please like us on facebook to follow along, and get exciting updates. To like the page, please just click the "Like" button in the left hand corner. You will then see all of the league updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/LeagueOfWomenVotersOfTompkinsCounty/>

Our Twitter handle is [@LWVTompkins](https://twitter.com/LWVTompkins)

For help navigating facebook or Twitter, please reach out to Megan Nettleton, nettleton.megan@gmail.com

You can even donate while you shop!

You can support the League's Education Foundation with every purchase you make on Amazon.com. Just select the LWVNYS Education Foundation as the organization you want to support, and Amazon provides .5% of each purchase price to the EF.

An easy way to support us! More info at:

<https://org.amazon.com>



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY: BOARD 2017-18

LWV NYS website www.lwvny.org LWV US website www.lwv.org

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6/19	Director	Ann Warde	241-0192	amw38@cornell.edu

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