

News From *Your* State League

Update from LWVNYS

May 2009

Big League Raffle

The Big League Raffle has returned! This is primarily a fundraiser for your state League. But did you know your local League gets a rebate for every ticket you sell? Remember, too, that the more tickets are sold, the bigger the prizes are! Selling to your friends and neighbors is fun and easy – a great way to help the League!

You should have received your initial packet of 10 tickets in the mail. If you think you can sell more, contact Stephanie in the LWVNYS office (phone 518-465-4162 or email Stephanie@lwny.org). She will gladly send you as many tickets as you think you might sell. Be sure to fill in the name of your local League in the bottom line of each stub so your League will get credit for the sale.

Silent Auction Bidding

You don't have to be at Convention to bid (and win!) in the Silent Auction! Just complete a Silent Auction Bid Form for each item you want to bid on and submit it by email, fax, postal mail, or telephone to the League office by May 11, 2009. The form and photos and description of items are available on the state League website. Take a look and submit a bid!

LWVNYS Tightens Belt

The LWVNYS will suspend publication of the hard copy paper version of the *State Voter* following the April 2009 issue. The LWVNYS Staff and Board are doing their part to minimize expenditures. Still there has been a significant decrease in funds to support our work. Please support our efforts to increase income by supporting our Big League Raffle and Silent Auction.

Advocating League Positions

Advocacy continues until the end of the legislative session, which is June 30. To take part, check the "Take Action" and "Advocacy" sections of the LWVNYS website several times a week for the latest alerts and how you can help. It's convenient and quick!

Natural Resources

The **Bigger Better Bottle Bill** has passed after seven years of advocacy! Though not perfect, it includes important requirements: deposits extended to bottled water, 80% of unclaimed deposits to be returned to the general fund, increased handling fee for retailers, and assistance for private, non-profits, and municipal entities.

A state-wide effort has begun to implement the LWVUS Action Packet on **Climate Change**. First steps include a Letters to the Editor campaign to increase grassroots awareness and asking people to sign onto our letters to our Senators urging firm caps on greenhouse gas emissions.

A knowledgeable member of the Broome-Tioga League has agreed to monitor **Gas Drilling** issues for us. The DEC will hold hearings on its proposed regulations concerning gas drilling. The LWV is asking that the time period and locations for these hearings be increased.

Voter Service/Elections

The **2009** elections are "off year" elections, with only local elections taking place. That is, everywhere in the state except New York City, where they face a contentious mayoral election with national visibility.

The rest of the state must wait until **2010** for exciting elections. Everyone except the President and local officials will face election. The LWVNYS expects to be able to cover statewide offices in the Voter's Guide for 2010. We will also be discussing the role the LWV will play in organizing debates for statewide candidates.

It's **Census** time again! Results of the 2010 Census will be used in the redistricting and apportionment that will take effect for the 2012 elections. The League can help by drawing public attention to the process and taking action on relevant League positions.

Transportation

The Legislature restored \$20 million to the upstate transit fund for 2009-2010. All of the federal stimulus funds for transportation are flexible – how they are used will depend on what effective pressure is applied. Local Leagues are encouraged to find out what the real transportation needs are in your area and apply pressure to get them funded.

Sprawl and Land Use

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has suggested that local communities take a pledge to reduce their impact on climate change. A key part of the pledge encourages land use planning that promotes a gentle impact on our climate.

Health Care Update

The 2009-2010 NYS Budget includes major health access provisions, expands public insurance coverage for New Yorkers in need, and increases accountability in the charity care system for the uninsured.

Updated LWVNYS Website

Everyone who logs onto our newly updated website will be greeted with a visually more appealing and user friendly home page. It even includes a search engine to help you find what you're looking for.

We hope you enjoy the new banner of photos featuring local and state League activities. Help us keep it lively and up to date by sending your digital photos of local League activities to us at lwny@lwny.org.

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