

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

November 2021

SAVE THE DATES

Wednesday, Nov. 17 – 7:15 pm
LWVEN General meeting
Topic: Plastic Pollution
See right column.

Wednesday, Dec. 1 – 1:30 pm
LWVEN Business/Board Mtg.
Contact Barbara Josepher for
Location – 516-672-8252.

Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022
1:30 pm – LWVEN Business/
Board Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022
Holiday Party
Time & Place TBA

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The Perils of Plastic Pollution

“Ocean plastic pollution threatens the viability of critical marine ecosystems, and plastics never go away. Instead, they break down into smaller and smaller pieces, which act as magnets for harmful pollutants. When eaten by fish, some of those chemical-laden microplastics can work their way up the food chain and into the fish we eat.”

Please join us for our November General Meeting via Zoom, when we will learn more about this serious problem.

Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 7:15 pm

Brian Langloss, Field Representative for Oceana, will present their campaign to reduce plastic pollution. He will discuss:

- The plastic pollution crisis, which is a crisis of production, not litter,
- Why & how recycling falls short as a solution to plastic pollution,
- What the impacts of plastic are on human and environmental health,
- Some of the proposed policies to deal with this issue, at both the local and federal levels.

Brian was born on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and spent much of his life on the water. Seafood has always been an important part of his life, from growing up on his grandfather's shrimp boat to studying gastronomy on the Italian coast of Liguria. Brian works to protect the ocean and seafood traditions for future generations as the New York Campaign Organizer for Oceana, the world's largest nonprofit advocacy group dedicated to ocean conservation.

*A link to join the meeting will be sent to all members for whom we have email addresses.
Anyone without email who wishes to attend by phone can contact Barbara Josepher:
516-672-8252 for the needed information.*

"I have left orders to be awakened at any time in case of national emergency -- even if I'm in a Cabinet meeting."

"Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed, there are many rewards. If you disgrace yourself, you can always write a book."

"I am not worried about the deficit. It is big enough to take care of itself."

Ronald Reagan

"Forgive your enemies, but never forget their names."

(On becoming a war hero) "It was absolutely involuntary. They sank my boat."

John F. Kennedy

*"If one morning I walked on top of the water across the Potomac River, the headline that afternoon would read:
'President Can't Swim.'"*

Lyndon Johnson

Election Day History

January 7, 1789 – The first electors were chosen for the first US presidential election.

February 4, 1789 – George Washington was elected president.

January 23, 1845 – By act of Congress, the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November was designated as Election Day for presidential elections.

Why November?

Harvest season was ending, so farmers could take the time to go to vote.

Why Tuesday?

It could take quite a while for voters to get to the polls. That way they did not have to travel on Sunday.

November 7, 1848 – The first U.S. Election Day occurred.

Zachary Taylor defeated Lewis Cass and Martin Van Buren (who was then a former president). Taylor's vice presidential running mate was Millard Fillmore.

July 10, 1850 – President Taylor died and Millard Fillmore became president.

November 6, 1984 – Ronald Reagan won 525 out of 538 electoral votes – the most ever.

Voter Service

Kudos to Barbara Epstein for her indefatigable work presenting and explaining the ballot proposals to just about every group in the county that was interested in hearing about them.

Barbara's talk and our PowerPoint presentation (produced expertly by Peggy Stein and Barbara and reviewed by our board of directors) helped to insure that many voters truly understood the issues involved. Barbara's presentations were made to 14 different groups in September and October, including our local League.

The State League's "Voters Guide, Part II" which gave pros and cons for each proposal was a big help as well. We distributed these as widely as possible to libraries, organizations and individuals.

Special thanks to several of our members, without whose assistance, the job would have been overwhelming. These super assistants are: Ginny Carew, Michele Greenblatt, Anne Osling, Norma Schaeffer, Jude Schanzer, Dania Smith and Peggy Stein.

Barbara and Paula Blum also gave talks on voting rights to a couple of groups who requested them; and made sure to include information on the proposals.

Public Mapping Project

The U.S. Constitution mandates that electoral district lines be redrawn following each decennial Census, as we learn where we, the people, live.

"The drawing of electoral districts is among the least transparent processes in democratic governance. All too often, redistricting authorities maintain their power by obstructing public participation. The resulting districts embody the goals of politicians to the detriment of the representational interests of communities and the public at large.

We seek to change this power balance by making it possible for the public to draw the boundaries of their communities and to generate redistricting plans for their state and localities -- through their web-browsers. The Public Mapping Project is developing District Builder, an open source software redistricting application designed to give the public transparent, accessible, and easy-to-use on-line mapping tools.

This technological innovation will enable greater public participation where redistricting authorities solicit public input. Where redistricting authorities are not responsive to the representational needs of the public, plans drawn by the public may be used as a yardstick by which to compare a redistricting authority's plan against. And where the courts must step in when the regular redistricting process breaks down, judges will have a greater menu of options to consider."

Dr. Michael P. McDonald - Associate Professor, George Mason University
Dr. Micah Altman - Senior Research Scientist, Harvard University

The NYS Government Compared to the US Federal Government

	NYS	Federal Gov't
Executive	<p>Governor 4 year term, no term limits</p> <p>Lieutenant Governor Nominated on same ticket as Governor</p>	<p>President 4 year term, 2-term limit</p> <p>Vice President Nominated on same ticket as President</p>
Legislative Bodies	<p>Assembly 2 year term, no term limits 150 Assembly Members</p> <p>Senate 63 Senators</p> <p>Current Speaker of Assembly Current Majority Leader in Senate</p>	<p>Congress</p> <p>House of Representatives 2 year term, no term limits 535 Members of House</p> <p>Senate 100 Senators</p> <p>Current Speaker of the House Current Majority Leader in Senate</p>
Judicial	<p>Court of Appeals – Highest</p> <p>Appellate Court – Middle</p> <p>Supreme Court – Lowest</p>	<p>Supreme Court – Highest</p>

Did You Know?

LWVNYS has a whole assortment of products for sale on its website: lwny.org. These include promotional products such as pins, buttons, tee shirts (in adult and children's sizes), banners, lawn signs, license plate holders, note cards and banners. They even have chocolates available with the League logo. In addition they offer a large selection of League publications that are packed full of worthwhile information.

Take Action: Support DC Statehood (S 51)

The U.S. House Of Representatives has passed the *Washington DC Admission Act* (HR 51). The District of Columbia is home to over 700,000 people and yet does not have voting members in the U.S House or Senate. The people of DC are denied a voice in Congress, unable to advocate for or fight against federal policies, while simultaneously dealing with congressional and federal interference in its local priorities.

The people of Washington DC deserve the same rights as any American living in our 50 states. They deserve full representation in Congress and to be free of Congressional interference in their local governance. LWVUS supports the admission of the District of Columbia as our 51st state.

This legislation is an historic opportunity to ensure that DC residents are no longer disenfranchised. **Urge your US Senators to fight for DC statehood and support S51.**

Welcome New Members

Jeany Eier
East Meadow

Fran Weiss
East Meadow

&

Returnees to League

Roberta Rosenblum
Jericho

Mignon Smith
Freeport



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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www.topcutssalon.com

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ROOM 437 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING 111 WEST OLD COUNTRY ROAD
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HICKSVILLE, NY 11801
TELEPHONE : 518-455-4684 TELEPHONE : 516-937-3571
FAX: 518-455-5477 FAX: 516-937-3632

E-mail: montesanom@nyassembly.gov



(516) 571-2660
Fax: (516) 752-4099

MAUREEN O'CONNELL, RN, JD
NASSAU COUNTY CLERK

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK 240 OLD COUNTRY ROAD
MINEOLA, N.Y. 11501

www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/clerk/



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(516) 571-6213
FAX: (516) 571-6746
E-MAIL: tmckevitt@nassaucountyny.gov

THOMAS McKEVITT
LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT 13

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE 1550 FRANKLIN AVENUE
ROOM 209
MINEOLA, NY 11501

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE



SENATOR
KEVIN THOMAS
SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING 990 Stewart Avenue LL 45A
ALBANY, NY 12247 Garden City, NY 11530
(518) 455 3260 (516) 739-1700
e-mail: thomas@nysenate.gov FAX (516) 747-7430



NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

CHARLES D. LAVINE

MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY
13TH DISTRICT

1 SCHOOL STREET, SUITE 303B ROOM 713 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
GLEN COVE, NEW YORK 11542 ALBANY NEW YORK 12248
(516) 676-0050 (518) 455-5456
FAX: (516) 676-0071 FAX: (518) 455-5467

E-MAIL: LAVINEC@NYASSEMBLY.GOV



(516) 571-6217
FAX: (516) 571-6277
E-MAIL: rosewalker@nassaucountyny.gov

ROSE MARIE WALKER
NASSAU COUNTY
LEGISLATOR DISTRICT 17

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE 1550 FRANKLIN AVENUE
MINEOLA, NY 11501



JOHN MIKULIN
ASSEMBLYMAN
17TH DISTRICT



ROOM 550
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12248
TELEPHONE: 518-455-5341
FAX: 518-455-4346

EMAIL: mikulinj@nyassembly.gov

1975 HEMPSTEAD TURNPIKE, SUITE 202
EAST MEADOW, NEW YORK 11554
TELEPHONE: 516-228-4960
FAX: 516-228-4963



(516) 571-6216
FAX: (516) 571-6287
E-MAIL: adrucker@nassaucountyny.gov

ARNOLD W. DRUCKER
NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATOR, 16TH DISTRICT

MEMBER:
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES NASSAU COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS LEGISLATURE
GOVERNMENT SERVICES & OPERATIONS 1550 FRANKLIN AVENUE
RANKING PLANNING DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT MINEOLA, NY 11501

GARY D. KITZIS, D.M.D.
C.A.G.S. PERIODONTICS, C.A.G.S. PROSTHODONTICS
DIPLOMATE, THE AMERICAN BOARD OF PERIODONTOLOGY

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WOODBURY, NEW YORK 11797
(516) 692-7766

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DRROBERTIRWIN@GMAIL.COM

PHONE 516-623-2800
FAX 516-623-7115

143 MERRICK AVENUE
MERRICK, NEW YORK 11566



Steven Heller
General Manager

o: 516.221.2559
c: 516.322.1865
steven@tragar.com
www.tragar.com

1432 Wantagh Avenue, Wantagh NY 11793

LWVUS &
LWVUS Education Fund
1730 M St. NW, Ste. 1000
Washington DC 20036
www.lwv.org
lwv@lwv.org

LWV of Nassau County
PO Box 221
Port Washington NY 11050
516-431-1628
www.lwvofnassaucounty.org
lwvofnassaucounty@gmail.com

LWVNY & LWVNY
Education Foundation
62 Grand Street, Albany NY 12207
518-465-4162
www.lwvny.org
lwvny@lwvny.org

Climate Emergency Resolution

Rationale for Adoption of a Climate Emergency Resolution:

The past decade has been the hottest in recorded human history. The natural disasters of 2020, consisting of wildfires, droughts, floods and hurricanes, and the worst pandemic in more than a century are all symptoms, at least in part, of accelerating global climate change. The meteorological effects of global climate change have long been evident, but the new corona virus (covid-19) has confronted us with a more immediate peril: the eruption of novel, highly lethal, and at least initially intractable diseases. The ultimate causes of covid-19 remain controversial, but biologists have long warned that climate change, combined with habitat disruption (and economic globalization), will foster the eruption of devastating new pandemics for which we are utterly unprepared. In short, humanity no longer faces a merely impending climate crisis but an immediate climate emergency demanding immediate action.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE LWV NYS CONVENTION 2021:

Whereas, an environmental condition adversely affecting Earth and its inhabitants once referred to as “climate change” has advanced to become a climate emergency including:

Ocean acidification, damage to marine ecosystems and food sources, and a rise in sea levels resulting in flooding and the displacement of coastal businesses and residences;

Extreme weather events, including extremes of temperature as well as increasingly devastating storms and wildfires, causing severe harm to America’s agriculture, forestry and tourism industries;

Adverse impacts on human health, as well as the introduction of new vectors for infectious disease, and

Species extinctions and related threats to biodiversity, with accompanying grave impacts on food and water security, economic security, and social-emotional wellbeing, and

Whereas, the world’s leading climate scientists predict that the climate crisis will catastrophically intensify if prompt public action is not taken through public policy and legislation to curb emissions, and remove atmospheric CO₂ through natural and technological sequestration, and

Whereas, the climate crisis disproportionately afflicts the most vulnerable among us: members of indigenous nations, people of color, rural and coastal communities and low-income households in general—all of whom have fewer resources to cope with the common consequences of climate change, such as property damage, displacement, job loss, and health problems, and

Whereas, prompt and robust mobilization of civil society acting in concert with all levels of government to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions is necessary to avert, or even to mitigate, the progressive and increasingly catastrophic deterioration of Earth’s environment and with it, massive societal disruption;

Therefore, be it resolved,

We, as delegates of New York State League of Women Voters’ local Leagues assembled at the 2021 LWV NYS Convention, call upon the LWV NYS Board and local Leagues to urge state and local governments to adopt and publicize Declarations of Climate Emergency appropriate to local conditions and take appropriate action to implement the Declarations of Climate Emergency.

(LWV NYS)

Partisan Warfare

Paula Blum

In a Newsday article on Sunday, October 24, Yancey Roy cited a poll that said “Americans Share Values/Divided on Issues.” Many of us who grew up in the 50s, 60s and 70s remember a lot more cooperation, compromise, and willingness to work together to solve problems and resolve differences. We saw this among our parents, our teachers and our representatives in local, state and national government. It was often seen as making deals “behind closed doors” when done on the governmental level, but it worked. Now, it seems that we have a lot more of the transparency we asked for, but none of the working together to meet common goals that we hoped would continue.

We find this distressing. To many of us, it just does not make any sense. That’s not the way government in this country should work! Unbeknownst to us, it had been that way at a period of time in the past, and perhaps if we had learned about it in school we would be better prepared to know what to do about it.

In an article I recently read, about a book entitled “The Age of Acrimony: How Americans Fought to Fix Their Democracy,” by Jon Grinspan, I learned a lot about the “forgotten drama of fractious and furious partisanship” of the late 1800s.

As I read about this book, the descriptions really hit me. Weren’t they really talking about today?

“Though the electorate turned out in huge numbers, marchers filled squares and newspapers attacked rivals, politics failed to bring real change. This system – overheated and yet standing still – led only to anger and agitation.”

“Everybody, it seemed... had someone to blame for why democracy was failing.”

“American politics had hit on an amazing ability to mobilize citizens but also to agitate them to unspeakable violence.”

“A muckraking reporter remarked that ‘liberty produces wealth, and wealth destroys liberty.’”

Things did change. Voting became a more private event – behind a curtain, cast privately. But, the newer complicated ballots were difficult for some to deal with, and those whose English was not very good could no longer count on the color-coded ballots they had used to cast their votes. Voting became more sedate and not as exciting an event as it had been – thus fewer were drawn to vote. In the 1896 Presidential election, 80% of the electorate voted. In 1924, the number had fallen to less than 49%. Many were actually very pleased that the polls were “free of noisy crowds.”

So, are we seeing history repeat itself? Will changes made now change our currently divisive nation into one in which apathy reigns again or will it lead to more rational campaigning? The “2020 election was the first since 1900 to boast turnouts above 66 percent.” Are we on the way up or down? Have we gotten a sense of what the problems are? Is there some way we can avoid the two extremes, and have an involved electorate without the enmity and divisiveness we now encounter? Stay tuned!!

Political Parties

Although there are hundreds of political parties in the United States, only certain parties qualify to have the names of their candidates for office printed on election ballots. In order to qualify for ballot placement, a party must meet certain requirements that vary from state to state. For example, in some states, a party may have to file a petition in order to qualify for ballot placement. In other states, a party must organize around a candidate for a specific office; that candidate must, in turn, win a percentage of the vote in order for the party to be granted ballot status. In still other states, an aspiring political party must register a certain number of voters. See page 7 for the list of parties currently recognized in NYS.

Political Parties Currently Recognized in NYS

Parties are listed in the order in which they appeared on the voter registration form and ballot in 2021.

Descriptions are those of the parties themselves.

Conservative (<https://www.cpnys.org>) The NYS Conservative Party, founded in 1962 is dedicated to individual freedom, personal responsibility, the protection of traditional American values of capitalism and the rights that we are all guaranteed under our constitution. To that end, we support lower taxes, smaller government, pro-growth economic policies focused on job creation, a strong national defense and support for law enforcement. Tel: (631) 342-8070

Democratic (<https://nydems.org>) Established in 1792, the NYS Democratic Party is proud to be part of the oldest political party in the US. Its core values align with liberal ideology: ensuring economic opportunities for all, affordable education, criminal justice reform, quality and accessible healthcare, environmental leadership, and guaranteeing LGBTQ and Women’s Rights. NYS is the birthplace of the women’s rights movement and we continue to lead the fight today. Tel: (631) 439-0400

Republican (<https://nygop.org>) We are the party of taxpayers and individual liberty. We believe in American exceptionalism, the promise of the American dream and in the Constitution as our enduring covenant. We believe that all are created equal, endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We believe in limited, effective, efficient government that respects taxpayers. Tel: (631) 320-1900

Working Families (<https://workingfamilies.org>) We elect leaders who put workers over bosses and people over the powerful. We want to build a New York for the many, not the few. One where everyone can thrive, no matter what you look like, where you were born, who you love, or how much money is in your pocket. Where we can all be free.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

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		AMOUNT
Regular Membership (Voting or Associate Member)	\$60.00	\$
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Additional Contribution (Please see below.)		

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$

Note: most of your dues pay for membership in the LWV US, the LWVNYS and the LWV of Nassau County.

The League of Women Voters of East Nassau
 EastNassauLWV@gmail.com
Management Team: Barbara Epstein, Barbara Josepher, Norma Schaeffer, Peggy Stein
Editor: Paula Blum, paulablum@hotmail.com • **Advertising:** Rhoda Tanenbaum