



The Broome-Tioga Voter

Bulletin of the *League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties*
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**League of Women Voters of
Broome & Tioga Counties**

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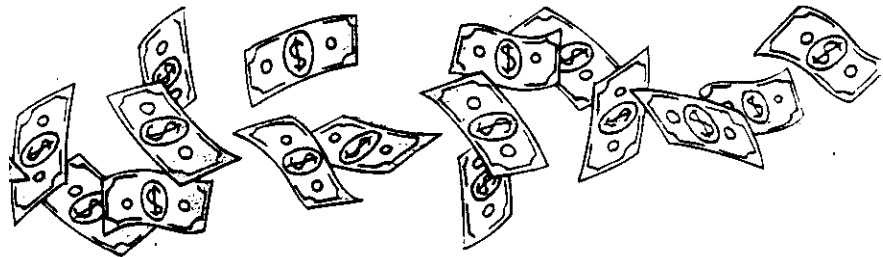
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Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Clean Money, Clean Elections



Speaker:

Jessica Wisneski,
Campaigns Director
Citizen Action of New York

7:00 p.m. ~ Refreshments

7:30 p.m. ~ Program

Vestal Public Library

Vestal Parkway E., Vestal, NY

(The library is accessible to persons with disabilities.)

Presidents' Message

An interesting report came to our attention recently via the national LWV leaders' listserv. A report on research by VolunteerMatch, an internet resource seeking to match potential volunteers with suitable volunteer opportunities in non-profits, it explored "Boomers & the Future of Volunteering."

The research compares volunteers and non-volunteers, age 55+ (Boomers) with those younger than 55. The most interesting finding is that these older volunteers seek volunteer opportunities that will be "interesting and challenging." They want to make use of their skills and personal strengths. Many are interested in developing new skills and exploring new interests. Most important, they want to be part of something and to feel that they are really needed. Their volunteer contacts become part of their social network, much as employees' co-workers become part of their community.

From the perspective of filling the needs of Boomers, the League seems to be a nearly ideal volunteer organization. People interested in an issue are welcome to join a committee or start one, to research the issue in depth, and to advocate for the issue within League guidelines. If you don't know how, the League offers materials to help you learn all the skills you need, and experienced Leaguers are always willing to help. Equally necessary are the "support" activities of the League: fund-raising, editorship of our *Voter*, and more. Here, too, there is a wealth of information for new volunteers on how to do these jobs. Finally, there are the friendships that develop as you work with other intelligent women who share your interests.

Are you looking for a new challenge, an opportunity to learn new skills or explore a new interest? Get involved. Talk to one of us about what League volunteer opportunity would best fit your needs as a volunteer.

~ Anne Taft & Clare Simeone

September Program Preview: "Clean Money, Clean Elections"

Jessica Wisneski, Campaigns Director for Citizen Action of New York in Albany, will be the featured speaker at our September meeting. Jessica has been a participant and leader in several forums across the state addressing the issue of Clean Money, Clean Elections (CMCE) and promoting legislation that will provide for public funding of elections. The CMCE bill would create a new system in New York that provides "clean money" candidates with a fixed and equal amount of public financing for their campaigns. To qualify, the candidates agree to limit campaign spending and contributions and to collect a set amount of small contributions from voters to show that they have real citizen support.

According to Citizen Action of New York, the CMCE approach provides a clear alternative to the current system of raising and spending largely special-interest money to finance election campaigns. It would level the playing field for candidates and focus on the needs of all voters. CMCE has been successful in several other states and is a common sense solution to restoring democracy.

Join us for this meeting to learn more about what the Clean Money, Clean Elections Campaign is and how it would work. Come and bring friends!

~ Mary Johnson

ANNUAL BOOK RECYCLING FAIR

Promoting literacy; protecting the environment.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County
840 Front Street, Binghamton**

**Household Book Drop-off: Thurs., Sept. 13- Sat.,
Sept. 15, 9-3 (Pack in easy-to-lift boxes or bags.)
Book Giveaway: Fri., Sept. 21-Sat., Sept.22, 9-3**

For more information, see www.gobroomecounty.com.

Election Night Reporting

We will again be assisting the Broome County Board of Elections in compiling the unofficial tally on Primary Election Night and General Election Night.

John Sejan, Republican Deputy Commissioner of the Board of Elections, has requested seven phone clerks, one supervisor, and one runner for Primary Night. For the General Election, thirty-two phone clerks, five supervisors, and five runners will be needed.

Please consider helping on either or both of these nights. We will be calling for your help. Thank you.

~ Clare Simeone & Joanne Gee

Lever Machines for 2007: What's Next?

New York continues its efforts to comply with the Help America Vote Act. Here are some recent developments.

1. Emergency legislation was passed to permit use of lever machines until new voting systems are tested, certified and available (date unspecified). Until then, counties are required to provide at least one location with one or more ballot marking devices for persons with disabilities.
2. The federal deadline for using lever machine replacement funds was extended. This means that New York will not forfeit \$47 million ***IF*** HAVA-compliant systems are in place for the September, 2008 primary. However, ...
3. ...New York may not be able to resume testing and certification until late fall. The Board of Elections has selected a new Independent Testing Authority but is awaiting final approval from the State Comptroller. Stay tuned!

~ Jane Park

Election Calendar

Primary Election – September 18, 2007

Only voters enrolled in a political party may vote in that party's primary.

- September 11 Last day to postmark application for absentee ballot
- September 17 Last day to apply in person for an absentee ballot
Last day to postmark an absentee ballot
- September 18 Last day to deliver an absentee ballot in person to your county Board of Elections

General Election – November 6, 2007

- October 12 Last day to register to vote in person
Last day to postmark voter registration form
- October 17 Last day for local Boards of Elections to receive notices of change of address
- October 30 Last day to postmark application for absentee ballot
- November 5 Last day to apply in person for absentee ballot
Last day to postmark absentee ballot
- November 6 Last day to deliver absentee ballot in person to the Board of Elections

For more information, call your county Board of Elections: 778-2172 (Broome) or 687-8261 (Tioga). You may also consult the state elections website www.elections.state.ny.us/law/calendar or access/print the forms in the "Election Board" section of Broome County's website www.gobroomecounty.com.

LWVNYS Legislative Priorities for 2008

In November, the LWVNYS Board will determine the NYS League's legislative priorities for 2008. Three criteria will be used:

1. Is the issue "unfinished business" from 2007?
2. Is the issue likely to receive legislative attention in 2007?
3. Is action on the issue supported by a League position?

In 2007, the State League gave priority to legislation on the following issues:

Reforming State Government

- **Ethics:** Create an Independent Commission and implement stronger restrictions on campaign contributions and "revolving door" practices.
- **Campaign Finance Reform:** Tighten lax laws, and move toward full public financing of campaigns.
- **Redistricting:** Support a constitutional amendment to create an Independent Redistricting Commission.
- **Lobbying:** Broaden the definition of lobbying, and improve disclosure of relationships between lobbyists and legislators.
- **Budget:** Support an Independent Budget Office, joint legislative budget conference committees, full disclosure of discretionary funds, and a three-year financial plan.
- **Public Authorities:** Support legislation holding public authorities to the same standards as state agencies regarding transparency, lobbying, and contracting.
- **Legislative Procedure Reform:** Strengthen standing committees so rank-and-file legislators can move bills to the floor without leadership approval; support greater use of conference committees and measures allowing legislators greater independence over their staff and resources.

Equity in School Financing

- Adopt the CFE foundation approach to financing education statewide.
- Raise any additional funds needed through the state's personal income tax, and create a substantial education reserve.
- Replace existing tax relief programs with ones that target relief to those most in need.
- Oppose increasing the number of charter schools without measures of their educational benefit and their financial impact on home school districts.

Cost-Effective and Accessible Health Care

- Assure a basic level of quality physical and mental health care for all state residents.
- Provide planning and regulations to assure New Yorkers, including the medically indigent, access to a basic level of health care.
- Provide a single-payer system as an acceptable way to contain costs and provide equitable access.
- Contain costs without compromising accessibility or quality care.
- Provide more resources for disease prevention.

Court Restructuring/Judicial Selection

- Support a two-tier trial court system which is user-friendly, efficient and consistent throughout the state.
- Support replacing judicial elections with a qualification-based appointive system for selecting all New York State judges.
- Support establishment of a broadly based, diverse, nonpartisan nominating commission.

The State League also actively supported these additional positions:

- **Capital Punishment:** Support abolition of the death penalty, with the use of life without parole as the primary alternative.
- **Elections:** Support adoption of a single statewide voting system using paper ballot/optical scan. Ensure the integrity of the election process and all ballots. Support increased state funding for pollworker and voter education.

- **Reproductive Rights:** Support women’s constitutional right of privacy in making reproductive choices.
- **Salary equity reform:** Enable private sector employees to obtain and reveal salary information without reprisal. In the public sector, require the use of gender-neutral job evaluation systems to end underpayment of job titles where women and minorities predominate.
- **Smart Growth/Containing Sprawl:** Promote regional land use planning, enhance urban neighborhoods, and protect agricultural land, open space, watersheds, and other sensitive areas.

Identification Statement

The Broome-Tioga Voter is published 9 times a year (January, February, March, April, May, July/August, September, October, and November/December) by the League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties, 38 Oakridge Drive, Binghamton, NY 13903.

Your Input Needed – Act Now!

What do you think the New York State League legislative priorities should be in 2008? Your local board needs your input by October 9.

Please review the above summary of the 2007 legislative priorities, and select three issues you believe should be considered. Prioritize your selections from one to three, one being the highest, and include your rationale for each.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Name (optional) _____

Please submit your suggestions either on the form above or in the format of your choice to Anne Taft by e-mail (anci@stny.rr.com) or by regular mail (38 Oakridge Drive, Binghamton, NY 13903). Or contact any Board member (see directory on p.1).

Deadline: October 9, 2007



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Men and women of voting age are welcome to join.

Be Part of the Action – Join Today!

Membership Application

- ___ Individual membership \$45/yr.
- ___ Household membership \$65/yr.
- ___ Student membership \$20/yr.
- ___ Send me information about the League.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Make checks payable to LWVBTC and mail with this coupon to LWVBTC, PO Box 944, Vestal, NY 13851-0944.

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The League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties

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CALENDAR

Tues., Sept. 11 **Board Meeting**, Vestal Library
Tues., Sept. 18 **PRIMARY ELECTION**
Tues., Sept. 25 **Program Meeting**, Vestal Library
Tues., Oct. 9 **Board Meeting**, Vestal Library
Tues. Oct. 23 **Program Meeting**, Vestal Library
Tues., Nov. 6 **GENERAL ELECTION**
Wed., Nov. 7 **Women of Achievement Dinner**,
Owego Treadway
Tues., Nov. 13 **Board Meeting**, Vestal Library
Sat., Nov. 17 **Legislative Breakfast**, Place TBA
Sat., Dec. 1 **Brunch & Program**, Endicott
Visitor Center

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