



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2010

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lwvtompkins.org/

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WHO DECIDES: THE CASE FOR REDISTRICTING REFORM IN NYS

AN INFORMATIONAL FORUM

MONDAY, SEPT. 27, @ 7:00 pm

**Women's Community Building
100 West Seneca Street**

Refreshments Provided

(more information on page 2)

October meeting. You'll be hearing more as we progress. We are looking forward to co-sponsoring these meetings with other organizations. That is one of my goals, to coordinate meetings with other interested agencies. I want our good work better known by the community.

I hope that you have renewed your membership. Your participation is essential to the success of our League. Take a moment to make sure you have sent in your money. And don't forget to invite your family, friends and neighbors to join too.

Kay Sharp, President

CANDIDATES' FORUM

**ATTORNEY GENERAL AND SHERIFF
(DEMOCRATIC)**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 7:00 PM

LIBRARY — BORG-WARNER ROOM

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

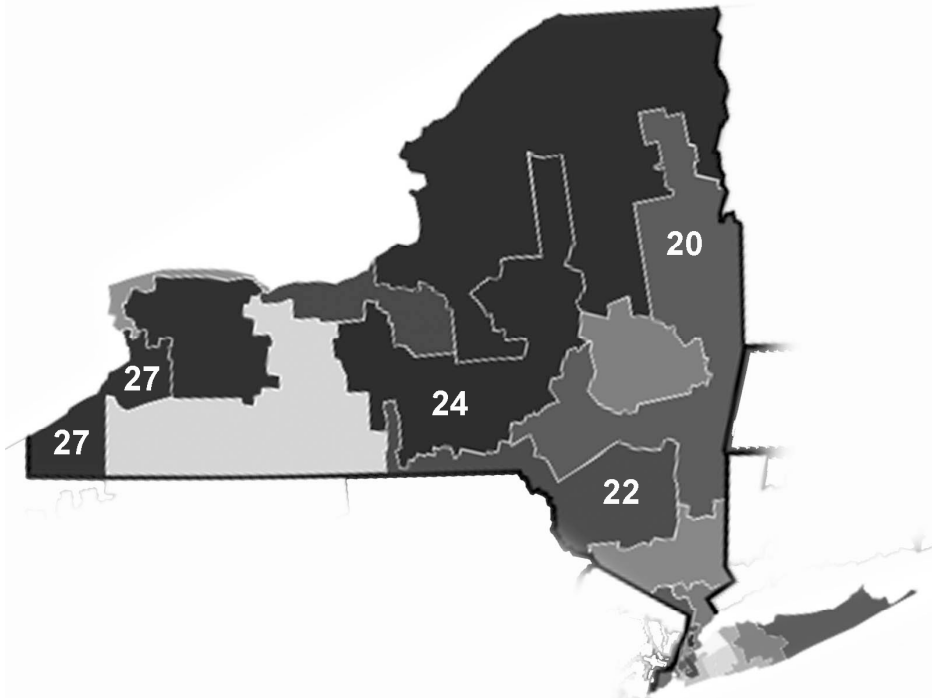
Good-bye summer, hello fall. I hope all of you had a good time visiting friends, family, vacationing and just relaxing at this beautiful time of year. All good things must end, though. So here we go with a fantastic League year!

By now, you all should have received your invitation to our September 1st candidates' forum. Did you see the article in Wednesday's Ithaca Journal? We're co-sponsoring this forum with the Journal and the Library. It promises to be an exciting evening. I hope you can come.

This Fall we have planned a number of great programs for you. We start with a program on re-districting reform. Then we have a special guest speaker, Barbara Bartoletti, for our

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This map shows the Congressional districts for NYS. The shapes for districts 20, 22, 24, and 27 suggest a very creative mind. Or was there some political motivation involved? Tompkins County is at the very end of the tail of Hinchey's tadpole (22).

PROGRAM MENU FOR 2010-11

It's probably not news to most of you, that New York State has one of the highest rates of incumbency in the nation. This year the local LWVs with direction and help from the New York State League are educating themselves and providing information for the general public about how the voting districts are fixed to maintain the long standing power structure in Albany.

In September our program will be an informational forum on the need for redistricting reform. The program title will be, **WHO DECIDES: THE CASE FOR REDISTRICTING REFORM IN NEW YORK STATE**. The forum will be held at the Women's Community Building, Monday September 27th, 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Please make a note on your calendar. And invite your friends. There will be a lively presentation and discussion period.

An October public meeting will be held Saturday, October 30th, from noon to 2:30 in the Library and we've invited the Cortland

League to join us. Barbara Bartoletti, Legislative Director of the LWVNY, will speak about **MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN ALBANY**. Barbara is an effective advocate for the Leagues positions among the elected officials in Albany and their staffs, and a popular public speaker.

In November, there will be a round-table discussion of local League members, to follow up on the ideas generated at the October meeting, and to devise action plans for the Leagues to address local issues. The discussion is scheduled for Saturday, November 13th from 10:30 to 12 noon in the Women's Community Building.

Plans for 2011 programs include: a healthcare panel on Monday evening January 24, and a celebration of the life of Eleanor Roosevelt and her involvement with the League of Women Voters on February 26. The Annual Dinner will be May 2nd and include a discussion of the economics of fracking.

Florence B. Smith, VP Program

VOTER SERVICES

Voter Services has been working hard to spread the word that voter participation in elections is very important.

Voter Registration

Susanne Lipari coordinated a group of LWV members and supporters to spread the word about the LWV and to register new and moving voters at Grassroots Festival – thanks to all members who helped that weekend. Further voter registration sessions are planned at the Farmers Market on and on the Commons at the Apple Harvest Festival. Please contact Susanne Lipari at sel3@cornell.edu (387-9308) to sign up for shifts at the Apple Harvest Festival. It is interesting to meet and talk to newcomers to Ithaca and to encourage 18 year olds to register to vote for the first time.

Candidate Forums

Voting this year seems to be less of a priority in the local community than it was in 2008. Few races are contested and among those that are contested, the primary races seem more interesting. As a result, the Voter Services Committee decided that the League should co-sponsor a candidates forum with the Ithaca Journal and the Tompkins County Public Library for the Sheriff's and Attorney General's Democratic primaries. This forum is being held in the BorgWarner Community Room at the Library from 7:00 – 9:00 PM on Wednesday September 1.

A Second Forum, again cosponsored by the League, the Library and Ithaca Journal is scheduled on Thursday, October 7, for the 125 Assembly district race and the 53rd and 54th Senate District races. There is no contested race for the 51st NY Senate district.

Sally has very effectively in coordinated these events with our cosponsors.

Please join the Voter Services committee in our efforts to increase voter participation in our elections and help at some of the events we have scheduled. We plan to offer a moderator training session in the course of the coming year in order to increase the pool of trained

moderators for future candidate forums. We hope many of you will take advantage of that opportunity.

Sally Grubb & Susanne Lipari, co-chairs

FROM THE NYS LEAGUE:

Demonstrations of New Voting Machines

All voters in NY will encounter new voting machines this fall. To watch a demonstration of the voting machine for your county, click on link below and then select your county from the dropdown menu in the upper right corner of the page, www.vote-ny.com/english/index.php

Local Consolidation Study

The state League board approved the results from the 2009-2010 statewide study on local consolidation and shared services at its July meeting. Check out the full position on the League's website.

The League of Women Voters of New York State (League) supports the efficient and effective operation of government. Consolidation of governmental units and the sharing of major governmental services may be a way of promoting the efficient and effective operation of government. In achieving this goal, the League supports a cooperative and transparent process, in which citizens have sufficient and timely information with which to make informed decisions about proposed actions, and well-defined channels for citizen input and review.

SEARCHING THE U.S. WEBSITE

Have you been frustrated trying to find things on the LWV-US website? Try using Google: type in lwv.org and the relevant keywords. I've tried it: it works!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership renewal letters were sent out on June 17. Over half of our members have responded as of this writing. **Thank you to all who have renewed.** Our fiscal (and membership) year is July 1 to June 30. To help in our planning for the current year I urge all of you who have not renewed your membership to please do so soon. Your local League of Women Voters depends on its members to support all of the activities that we do throughout the year. With elections coming up, there will be candidate forums and voter registration tables at the Farmer's Market, the

Apple Festival and other sites around town. We need members and volunteers for all of these activities.

We are sending reminders to all who have not renewed; to save us time and money for postage, please send in your renewals now. Send checks payable to LWVTC to Deborah Levin, 211 Strawberry Hill Circle #3, Ithaca, NY 14850. And a final reminder: to continue receiving the printed bulletin we are asking you for an additional \$10 to help cover printing and mailing costs.

Deborah Levin

LWV-TC CALENDAR—2010-2011

(tentative programs in italics)

Sept 1	Wed	CANDIDATES' FORUM: ATTORNEY GENERAL AND SHERIFF	Tompkins County Library
Sept 14	Tues	PRIMARY ELECTIONS	
Sept 27	Mon 7:00 pm	WHO DECIDES: REDISTRICTING REFORM	Women's Community Building
Oct 4	Mon 7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Burlitch
Oct 7	Thur 6:30 pm	CANDIDATES' FORUM: STATE ASSEMBLY & 2 SENATE SEATS	Tompkins County Library
Oct 30	Sat 12:00 pm	MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN ALBANY: with BARBARA BARTOLETTI	Tompkins County Library
Nov 8	Mon 7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Levin
Nov 9	Tues	ELECTION DAY	
Nov 13	Sat 10:30 am	ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSIONS AND ACTION PLANS: ALBANY AND LOCAL ISSUES	Women's Community Building
Dec 11	Sat 9:30 am	Board Meeting	Lipari
Jan 3	Mon 7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
Jan 24	Mon 7:00 pm	WHAT DOES THE HEALTHCARE BILL MEAN FOR YOU?	TBA
Feb 7	Mon 7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
Feb 26	Sat 1:00 pm	LWV HISTORY: ELEANOR ROOSEVELT	History Center
Mar 7	Mon 7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
Mar 26	Sat 12:00 pm	ANNUAL SOUP & BREAD MEETING: TBA	TBA
Apr 4	Mon 7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Silsbee
May 2	Mon 7:00 pm	ANNUAL DINNER MEETING: NATURAL RESOURCES — THE ECONOMICS OF FRACKING	TBA
Jun 6	Mon 7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Sharp

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

We were pleased to see the recognition, both by the LWV-NYS and in the newsletters of local League bulletins, of the successful campaign for passage of our “Safe Drilling and Mining” resolution at the National Convention.

The EPA is initiating a two-year study of the threats to water quality implied by the use of hydrofracking in the extraction of natural gas. Kay Wagner, the leader of the resolution effort at the convention, has prepared both written and oral comments to present at the EPA hearing which has been so evident in the papers these last weeks. We hope that the EPA will soon

settle on a time and venue for the hearing so that Kay can have her say.

The NY Senate has passed a moratorium on the issuance of permits for fracking until May of 2011 and the Assembly is expected to consider the same bill when it reconvenes in September. Unfortunately, delay of permitting until next May is not sufficient to allow the NY DEC, in preparing new rules for regulating the gas industry, to profit from the findings of the EPA study. A stronger bill, requiring the DEC to wait for completion of the EPA study, was not reported from committee.

Bob Silsbee

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY: BOARD 2010-11

LWV NYS website			www.lwvny.org
LWV US website			www.lwv.org
LWV-Tompkins County	leave message at	272-4748	lwvtc@twcny.rr.com
			lwvtompkins.org/
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Immediate Past President	Marnie Johnson	257-2948	
Off-Board Members:			
Webmaster	Michael Duttweiler	277-0006	mduttweiler@twcny.rr.com
Health Care — Chair	Rebecca Elgie	272-0621	healthylink@earthlink.net
Natural Resources — Chair	Kay Wagner	539-3322	cwm18@cornell.edu
NYS Consolidation — Chair	Alene Wyatt	257-1894	alene@lightlink.com

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

SENATORS:

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