



# The Broome-Tioga Voter

Bulletin of the *League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties*  
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## Upcoming Meetings

### *New Dates ... New Places ...*

- **The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education**

**Monday, November 7**

Southern Tier Independence Center\*, 135 East Frederick Street in Binghamton

6:30 PM Refreshments, 7:00 Program

- **The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education  
Consensus Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 15**

Southern Tier Independence Center\*, Helen Keller Room  
6:30 PM Refreshments, 7:00 Program

- **LWVBTC Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 29**

Southern Tier Independence Center\*, Lisa Th. Room  
6:30 PM

- **Brunch "Gas Leases and Mortgages"**

**Saturday, December 3**

Endicott Visitor Center, 300 Lincoln Avenue in Endicott  
9:30 AM Brunch, 10:00 Program

Our speaker is Albert Kukol from the law firm, Levene Gouldin & Thompson.

*\*See Page 4 for directions to the STIC.*

## President's Message

During a recent spin around the grocery store, I found myself next to a woman who was carefully checking her list and rearranging the items in her cart. She looked up, smiled, and said, "There! Now I feel combobulated."

With our fall schedule of important programs in disarray, your League board felt discombobulated, for sure. Finding dates and venues for rescheduling proved to be very difficult. As you will see in this issue, we are now "combobulated." Meanwhile, our Voter Service team has worked diligently on our pilot effort to put local election information on [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org). Thankfully, our December brunch plans have proceeded on course. We hope to see you there.

Of course, we are acutely aware that many of our friends and neighbors are not merely discombobulated. Their lives have been totally disrupted, and their possessions destroyed. Our hearts go out to them. May the concern, cooperation, and community spirit we are seeing in this crisis time continue into the long recovery period ahead.

Since this is the last VOTER issue for 2011, let me offer my perhaps premature, but certainly heartfelt, best wishes for the upcoming holiday season. May it be a time of joyous discombobulation for you and yours.

~ Jane Park

## The Role of Federal Government in Public Education Meeting—Rescheduled!

November 7th at the Southern Tier Independence Center, 135 East Frederick Street in Binghamton (see page 4 for detailed directions to the STIC). The program starts at 7:00 PM.

Education Finance Committee has arranged an outstanding meeting, "The Role of Federal Government in Public Education," with guest speakers from Binghamton University and the Binghamton City School District.

We expect that the consensus meeting on this topic will occur as planned on November 15th.

Consensus questions for your consideration were printed in the October Voter. In addition the Education Finance Committee has posted excellent study materials on our website <http://www.lwv-broometioga.org/Materials.html>

If you cannot access the website and want the materials, please contact Carol Oestrich at 797-0026 or [coestrich@aol.com](mailto:coestrich@aol.com).

## Election Night Reporting—We Need You

The LWVBTC is again providing phone clerks to the Broome County Board of Elections. We answer phones and record information being sent in from the various voting districts. This enables the Board of Elections to get the unofficial tallies out in a very timely fashion.

We can use more help to "staff" this effort. Phone clerks are needed.

When: Tuesday, November 8

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM Sign in; receive materials and training

9:00 PM -10:00 PM Answer phones

Place: Broome County Board of Elections, County Office Building

The tasks are straightforward, and our efforts are a real community service. The "event" is also very enjoyable. If you can help, please contact Joanne Gee, 775-4856 or [raygee@echoes.net](mailto:raygee@echoes.net).

We hope you'll join us. And bring friends, whether or not they are League members. Thanks.

~ Jane Park

## December Brunch Program

It is almost time for our annual December Brunch. As usual, we will be at the Endicott Visitor Center on December 3. The brunch starts at 9:30 AM, and the program at 10:00. Our topic this year is Gas Leases and Mortgages. You might think that you are not getting a mortgage any time soon so it does not affect you. However, if you or anyone you know with leases on their property plan to sell, the potential buyers may have a problem getting a loan. Albert Kukol from the law firm, Levene Gouldin & Thompson, will help us to better understand this situation. He is an Assistant Managing Partner and previously Real Estate Practice Manager with the firm. Please join us for breakfast and learn about another facet of gas leasing.

~ Mary Johnson

Albert B. Kukol is Assistant Managing Partner and previously Real Estate Practice Manager in the law firm of Levene Gouldin & Thompson, LLP, in Binghamton, NY. His areas of practice include real estate, elder law, trusts and estates, and taxation. He was admitted to New York State Bar in 1991. He is a graduate of Albany Law School (J.D.), Binghamton University (M.B.A.), and William and Mary (A.B.). He is a member of the Broome County Bar Association, the NYS Bar Association Trust and Estate Section and Elder Law Section. He has been a speaker at numerous community presentations and at continuing legal education for members of the Bar, including sessions on Abstracts of Title, Homestead Transfers, and Real Estate Practice for the Young Lawyer, Trusts, Homesteads, Elder Law, Taxation of Oil and Gas Leases, and also on Oil and Gas Leases for the NYS Society of CPAs.

## Voter Service Update

Due to flooding the Waverly Farmers' Market closed early. Therefore, our voter registration event scheduled in September was canceled for this year.

We will remain in contact with Andy Fagan at the Tioga County Co-operative Extension and try again next year.

~ Margaret Goodfellow

## Woman Of Achievement Dinner

Anne D. Taft Biography

The League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties is proud to honor Anne Taft as a woman of achievement. She was president or co-president of our League for six years. Her efficiency and dedication made for a productive organization. She also has served as our newsletter editor for nine years. Her work with the LWV is only a small part of her involvement in the community.

Among her achievements are honorary board director of Planned Parenthood of South Central NY; president of the LWV of Broome & Tioga Counties; secretary of BC Coalition for Free Choice; secretary, newsletter editor, vice president, and fundraising chair for the Southern NY Branch AAUW; and secretary, treasurer, president of Quaker Lake Yacht Racing Club. In 2007, Anne was profiled in the *Press & Sun-Bulletin* as a "DOER.."

In addition, Anne has been recognized for her volunteer work at WSKG Public Broadcasting, Binghamton, as Volunteer of the Year (1995), President's Award (1998); and by the National Friends of Public Broadcasting as Outstanding Public Broadcasting Volunteer (2007), awarded at Palm Desert, California. In 2007 WSKG renamed the Volunteer of the Year Award as the Anne D. Taft Volunteer of the Year Award. Anne began volunteering in WSKG's auction department in the 1980s and, except for a couple of years off, has helped with every auction since then. Recently she rewrote the auction database and completed design of a database for WSKG Radio's CD collection.

Anne has a degree in math and a master's degree in accounting. As a tutor, she has volunteered for the Gifted Children Coordinator for Mensa, and a judge for the Odyssey of the Mind Program. She enjoys all types of music, sailing, and playing with and caring for her dog "Thorby." She especially likes using her skills to help make the community a better place and to make a difference in some of the lives she has touched.

Anne's energy and enthusiasm for all of her projects is never ending. She truly is a woman of achievement.

Upon hearing that Anne was being honored as a woman

of achievement, her adult nephew David sent this note of congratulations: "Congratulations! That's pretty exciting :-)  
It even makes me a "Nephew of a Woman of Achievement. Love, David Nephew of a Woman of Achievement Demarest"

~ Eva Anderson

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## **LWVBTC Seeks Student for All Expense Paid Trip to Albany**

All members are being asked to share this information with their children, grandchildren, local relatives, friends, neighbors and co-workers.

The League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga Counties is seeking a high school student (Grades 10-12) to send to "Students Inside Albany," a four-day conference. This conference is designed to bring high school students from across the state to Albany to learn about New York State government and how they can participate in the process. Only one student will be chosen from the Broome and Tioga Counties area.

The requirement for entering is to fill in and send in an application form. Another option is to send in a letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, coach, band or orchestra director, Scout leader or other adult leader, excluding relatives. The letter should include information on the student's active participation in one or more of the following areas:

- Community service or project
- Civic responsibility
- Participation in specific organization, team, band, orchestra, club, etc.
- Academics

This may be an excellent opportunity to recognize a student's enthusiastic participation and cooperative spirit in any one or more of the above mentioned areas. Transportation, lodging, meals and all educational materials, as well as chaperones, will be provided by the League of Women Voters NYS. The deadline to submit applications and/ or letters is January 10, 2012. For information, call Clare Simeone at 775-0035.

Dates of the Conference are: March 25-28, 2012  
Place: Hampton Inn and Suites in Albany

~ Clare Simeone

## **\*Directions to the Southern Tier Independence Center**

STIC is located at 135 East Frederick St., Binghamton, 13904. Frederick runs off Broad Ave (near Binghamton Agway).

We are also not far from Cortese on Robinson St. There will be signs up inside the building to direct people to the Helen Keller Room.

**From Route 88:** Take Exit 1, "Binghamton Route 7." From Route 7, take the "Bevier Street" exit. From the exit, turn left on Bevier Street. At the second traffic light, turn right onto Broad Avenue.

Now that you're on Broad Avenue, go straight to the next traffic light, where you turn right onto E. Frederick Street. STIC is the tan building on the right. Parking is available in the lot on your right (adjacent to building), the lot on the left (across from building) or on-street in front of the building.

**From Route 17 East and Route 81 South:** Take Exit 3, "Broad Avenue". From the exit, turn left onto Broad Avenue. Now that you're on Broad Avenue, go straight to the next traffic light, where you turn right onto E. Frederick Street.

**From Route 81 North:** At the joining of Routes 17 and 81, stay on Route 81 South and Route 17 East. Stay in the second right lane because you want the first exit immediately after the merge (actually the second part of a two-part exit). After the exit, take the "Bevier Street" exit, about ¼ mile. From the exit, turn right onto Bevier Street. At the next light, turn right onto Broad Avenue.

**From Route 17 West:** Take Exit 4N, "Hillcrest". After the exit, take the "Bevier Street" exit, about ¼ mile. From the exit, turn right onto Bevier Street. At the next light, turn right onto Broad Avenue.

**From the City of Binghamton:** You can also reach STIC by proceeding east on Bevier Street, or east on Court Street. From Bevier, turn right onto Broad, go south to Frederick and turn right. From Court, turn left onto Broad, go north to Frederick and turn left.

~ Provided by the STIC

## **VOTE411 Going Online!**

The League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga Counties proudly announces our on line Voters Guide: [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org)

The League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga Counties is participating in the 2011 Vote 411 online voter guide for the November 8, 2011 General Election. In 2011, the League focus will be on thirteen Broome County races: County Executive, District Attorney, Family Court Judge, Broome County Legislature District 12, Binghamton City Council Districts 1 through 7, Johnson City Village Trustee and Town of Vestal Supervisor.

You can build your own personal ballot. You can link via <http://lwv-broometioga.org/> or go to <http://www.Vote411.org>, select "Build your Ballot" on the home page, then enter your address. You will be able to view Broome County races and compare all of the candidates' statements and/or responses to specific questions posed. Candidates may provide a picture, a link to their website and write a statement. The site is private and secure. You may write notes, check your selected candidate, and print or e-mail your personal ballot so you may take it with you to the polls.

League President, Betsey Swan, has described [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) as a "one-stop-shop" for election-related information, providing nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information on the following aspects of the election process:

- An electronic voters guide with information provided by candidates
- Absentee ballot information
- Ballot proposition information (where applicable)
- Election dates
- ID requirements
- Military and overseas voting
- Polling place locations
- Registration deadlines
- Voter qualifications
- Voter registration forms

~ Margaret Goodfellow, and Sara Wokan

## **2012 New York Redistricting Project**

On Tuesday, October 19th, Barbara Bartoletti, Legislative Director, League of Women Voters of New York, was a panelist/presenter at Binghamton University for the 2012 New York Redistricting Project. The 2012 Redistricting Project is designed to raise awareness about the 2012 redistricting cycle taking place in New York State and to encourage citizens to get involved in the process by designing districts using user-friendly, free-available software and submitting them for adoption.

The Project is hosting a series of workshops and software demonstrations throughout New York State during fall 2011. It will also host a student competition to encourage students to submit Congressional and state legislative maps for consideration. The student competition award will be announced on December 12th at Fordham University and carries a \$1,000 prize. The October 19th event was sponsored by the Fordham University Center for Electoral Politics and Democracy and the Center on Democratic Performance at Binghamton University. (The Center on Democratic Performance at Binghamton University was established in 1999 as a research center of the Research Foundation of SUNY.) Binghamton's presenters were Dr. Michael McDonald, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center, and Dr. Jonathan Krasno, Associate Professor of Political Science. Both the Project and contest show great promise in producing redistricting maps that will pass specific thresholds of excellence for use by lawmakers and legal scholars. The Project is supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Access to the mapping program is free at <https://districtbuilder.redistrictny.org/>. The program allows users to create and share maps while following state and federal voting guidelines, such as keeping districts contiguous and towns whole. In the past, it has been the politicians who mainly draw, and then redraw, their own political boundaries. Thanks to computer programming, with guidance from university researchers, the public may freely participate and contribute to the redistricting process from their own computers.

~ Margaret Goodfellow

# The Broome-Tioga Voter

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## Calendar

Visit [lwv-broometioga.org](http://lwv-broometioga.org) for the latest event details

November 7	LWVUS Education Study Informational Meeting
November 15	Consensus Meeting on LWVUS Education Study
November 29	LWVBC Board Meeting
December 3	Brunch—Gas Leasing/Impact on Mortgages
January 24	Solar Energy
February 25	Legislative Breakfast
March 27	Albany Update

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