

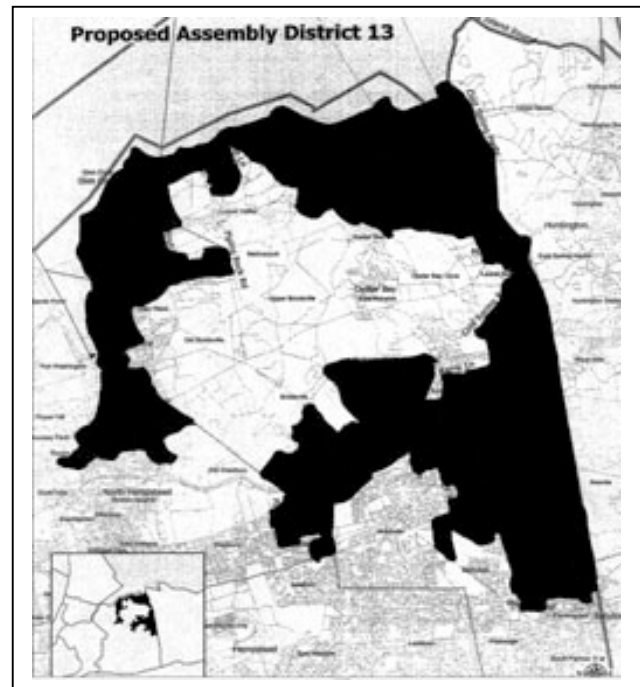
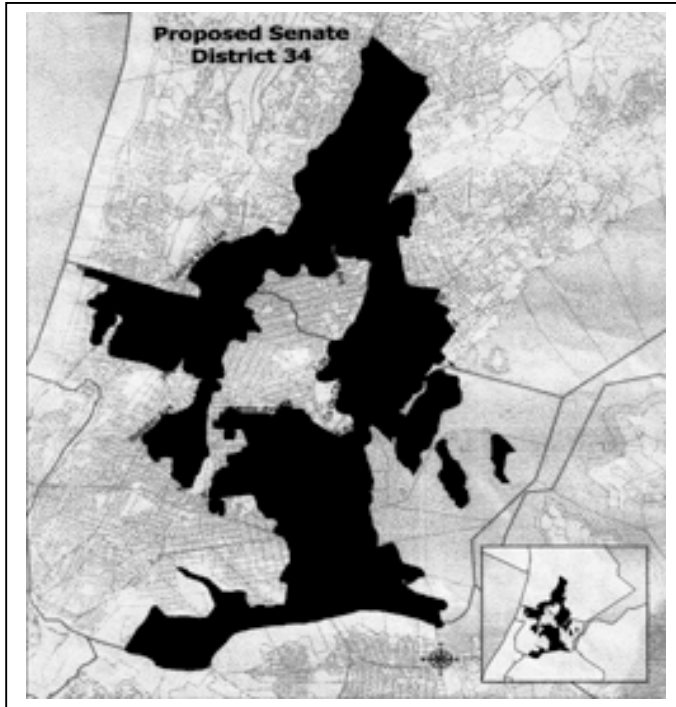


LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TOMPKINS COUNTY

JANUARY 2011

PRESIDENT: KAY SHARP 272-4748
lwvtompkins.org/

EDITOR: ROBERT SILSBEE 273-1436
MEMBERSHIP: DEBBIE LEVIN 273-7746



To the greatest extent practicable, New York state law requires “compact” and “contiguous.”

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! We're starting 2011 with two important programs.

As you might have been following in the Ithaca Journal, January 26th we are having Barbara Bartolleti and Laura Ladd Bierman speak on the issue of redistricting. Please come out to attend one of the two program times. I want to thank our Vice President for Programming, Florence Smith, for all the work she has done in planning this program.

Then in February we have a great panel on healthcare. It will focus on the impact of the new healthcare legislation on our lives.

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Rebecca Elgie has spent a great amount of effort in putting together a set of speakers who have current information on this topic. Thank you Rebecca and our Healthcare Committee.

I am sorry to announce that Kathleen Yen resigned as Secretary of the Board. She has increased family responsibilities due to the poor health of her father. Thank you Kathleen for doing a stellar job for the Board. Our thoughts are with you. A new member to the League, Julie Ann Dickens, has agreed to fill the vacancy.

We are doing great in the sale of cards. We have sold enough to start experiencing a profit. I'll have the cards at our meetings so you can purchase these beautiful, all-purpose cards. They are \$8.00 for a packet of six. Help make it possible for us to send two young people to Students Inside Albany.

I just received the first announcement for the New York State League Convention. It will be May 20-22 in Albany. The Board will send two delegates to vote for us on issues; but I'd like to see more of you attending. It is truly an educational experience. I'll keep you up to date about the planning of this event.

I hope you have made a New Year's resolution to become more active in the League.

Kay Sharp

VOTER SERVICES

The Voter Services committee is planning to organize a moderator training session this winter. Please let Susanne Lipari (sel3@cornell.edu) or Sally Grubb (sally_grubb@gmail.com) know if you are interested in participating in such a training session and then be available to do moderating at future League events.

Susanne Lipari, Sally Grubb

WHO DECIDES? THE CASE FOR REDISTRICTING REFORM

Laura Ladd Bierman, Executive Director
Barbara Bartoletti, Legislative Director
LWV-NYS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26
First Unitarian Church
2nd Floor Annex
206 E. Buffalo St.

TWO SESSIONS
1:30 - 3:00 PM
and
7:00 - 8:30 PM

PROGRAM

The Upcoming program WHO DECIDES? THE CASE FOR REDISTRICTING REFORM IN NEW YORK STATE, is our contribution to the LWVNYS 2011 Legislative Agenda, FIX ALBANY NOW! STEPS TO A NEW AND BETTER STATE GOVERNMENT.

The League considers Redistricting Reform the most important step to end the dysfunction and chaos of the New York State Government. By changing the way voting districts are drawn we will attack the root of long standing power structure designed to keep legislators in office rather than to serve the people of New York State.

LWVTC has joined other local Leagues across the State and will present the program on redistricting reform to the community. The program is the result of years of study, collection of data and research by well known academic and public interest organizations, including the New York Public Interest Group, the

Brennan Center for Justice, and the Citizens Union of the City of New York.

Laura Ladd Bierman, Executive Director and Barbara Bartoletti, Legislative Director of the LWV-NYS will present a summary of these studies, discuss the importance of redistricting for effective state government, and suggest ways local communities can become actively engaged in a grass roots movement. Such action will be necessary to convince reluctant elected representatives to work across party lines and pass a reasonable and fair redistricting reform Law in 2011.

The presentations will be on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26.
We have arranged for two sessions, so

choose the one that suits you best.
AFTERNOON -1:30 to 3:00 OR
EVENING -7:00 to 8;30

Both sessions will be held at the 2nd floor of the Annex, First Unitarian Church of Ithaca. Enter the Annex building at 206 East Buffalo St. Use the elevator or the stairs to the 2nd floor auditorium.

Please take part in this important effort by attending the program, encouraging others to attend and continuing intelligent discussions about the issue with everyone you know.

If you have questions please call Florence Smith at 273-6147

Florence B. Smith VP-Program

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

LWV NYS website

LWV US website

LWV-Tompkins County

leave message at

272-4748

www.lwvny.org

www.lwv.org

lwvtc@twcnny.rr.com

lwvtompkins.org/

Officers

President	Kay Sharp	272-4748	kshepherdqueen@yahoo.com
V.P. — Program	Florence Smith	273-6147	FloSmith42@aol.com
V.P. — Membership	Debbie Levin	273-7746	dlevin01@twcnny.rr.com
Secretary	Julie Ann Dickens	589-4053	dickens.julie@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Susanne Lipari	387-9308	sel3@cornell.edu

Directors:

Bulletin	Robert Silsbee	273-1436	rhs1@cornell.edu
Publications/Public Relations	Kathy Burlitch	539-7316	klburlitch@frontiernet.net
Web	Linda Duttweiler	277-0006	ldutt@twcnny.rr.com
Co-Voter Services	Susanne Lipari	387-9308	sel3@cornell.edu
Co-Voter Services	Sally Grubb	257-6017	sally.grubb@gmail.com
Immediate Past President	Marnie Johnson	257-2948	
Natural Resources—Chair	Kay Wagner	539-3322	cwm18@cornell.edu

Off-Board Members:

Webmaster	Michael Duttweiler	277-0006	mduttweiler@twcnny.rr.com
Health Care—Chair	Rebecca Elgie	272-0621	healthylink@earthlink.net
NYS Consolidation —Chair	Alene Wyatt	257-1894	alene@lightlink.com

**THE IMPACT OF HEALTH CARE REFORM:
WHERE ARE WE AND WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

Wednesday, February 16th, 7:00 pm

Department of Social Services Bldg., Beverly Livesay Room – 320 W. State St.

Join us for a discussion of ongoing reforms to our health care system and the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and how they will impact our community.

Dr. Wm Klepak - Family Physician & Medical Director of TC Health Department — Impact of PPACA on doctors, patients and Social Agencies

Beverly Chin - Health Access Co-Ordinator , Health Planning Council — Impact of PPACA on Seniors and Uninsured

Martha Robertson, Chair of T.C. Legislature — The Health Care Consortium and Medicaid Reform

Rebecca Elgie, Chair of LWVTC Health Committee — Impact of PPACA on States

Fran Helmstadter, Member of LWVTC Health. Committee member — Facilitator

There will be a discussion by the panel of where we go from here and questions from the audience about the PPACA and other reforms.

LWV-TC CALENDAR—2010-2011

(tentative programs in italics)

Jan 26	Wed	1:30 & 7:00	WHO DECIDES? THE CASE FOR REDISTRICTING REFORM Barbara Bartoletti and Laura Bierman, NYS League	Unitarian Church Annex
Feb 7	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
Feb 16	Wed	7:00 pm	THE IMPACT OF HEALTH CARE REFORM Panel presentations and discussion	Social Services Building
Mar 7	Mon	7:00 pm	Board Meeting	Old Jail
Mar 26	Sat	TBA	ELEANOR ROOSEVELT'S INFLUENCE ON TOMPKINS COUNTY	History Center
<i>Mar 26</i>	<i>Sat</i>	<i>12:00 pm</i>	<i>ANNUAL SOUP & BREAD MEETING: TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>
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

The Natural Resources Committee has continued its work on the issues surrounding drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale. During December they worked with Betsey Swan of the LWVNY and members of other local Leagues in an effort to obtain an audience with Governor Cuomo. In this joint effort we developed a letter outlining some of the League's concerns and requests with regard to exploitation of the Marcellus gas shales and requesting an interview. Betsey and 3 or 4 members of the League will meet with the governor and staff to press our concerns, if our request is granted.

The LWVNY has been searching for a member who will be the new key issues person for the area of natural resources at the state level. Beth Radow, a member from Larchmont, New York, has offered to take on this job. We believe she will do an excellent job and look forward to working with her.

Kay Wagner

STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY-2011

Youth Program Coordinators Kathleen Yen and Susan Henninger have been planning for the Students inside Albany Conference which will be held April 10-April 13, 2011.

The Tompkins County student representative, chosen by a panel of local judges, will join high school students from across the state to learn about New York State government and how citizens can participate in the policy making arena. Students will tour the New York State Capitol, shadow their Assemblyperson and State Senator, and attend lectures by guest speakers, along with participating in other government-related activities.

League of Women Voters sponsorship includes the cost of the conference, room and board, and

round-trip reimbursement for car/bus transportation to Albany.

League members who know of any high school juniors or seniors in Tompkins County that have a genuine interest in government and a sense of adventure should encourage them to apply for this exciting opportunity.

Applications are available for download: go to <http://www.lwvtompkins.org/youth.htm> and click on the link to the conference application. For more information, contact Susan Henninger at sue@fingerlakeswriter.com or 387-7544 for further information.

LEAGUE URGES SENATE TO REFORM RULES

On Tuesday, League President Elisabeth MacNamara sent a letter <http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=16584> to the Senate, urging Senators to reform their rules in ways that maintain the best traditions of the Senate, while ensuring openness, accountability, decision-making capability and effective performance. See, also, Elisabeth's blog http://participate.lwv.org/p/salsa/web/blog/public/entries?blog_entry_KEY=21678

In addition, the League and coalition partners sent a letter <http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=16585> to the Senate, urging its members to make transparency and accountability a priority and end needless obstruction by filibuster that threatens the vibrancy of our democracy.

(If links give garbage, try hitting the "Reload" button or symbol in the browser.)

LWVUS

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

SENATORS:

Kirsten E. Gillibrand US Senate, 531 Dirksen Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4451 web-site: www.gillibrand.senate.gov

Charles E. Schumer US Senate, 313 Hart Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510
202-224-6542; Binghamton Office: 607-772-6792
e-mail: senator@schumer.senate.gov web-site: www.schumer.senate.gov

REPRESENTATIVES;

Richard Hanna 319 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3665; 110 Genesee St., # 300, Auburn, NY 13021
email; through the website website: <http://hanna.house.gov>

Maurice Hinchey 2431 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
202-225-6335; Ithaca Office: 607-273-1388; 123 S. Cayuga St. #201
e-mail: mhinchey@mail.house.gov web-site: www.house.gov/hinchey

League of Women Voters of Tompkins County
211 Strawberry Hill Circle, #3
Ithaca, NY 14850