



# THE VOTER

MAY 2008

website: [www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org/brookhaven.htm](http://www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org/brookhaven.htm)

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## Issues in Health Care in Suffolk County

Speakers: Dr. Elaine Fox  
and a representative of the  
The Suffolk County Dept of Health

Monday, May 19, 2008, 7:30 pm

Consewogue Library  
176 Terryville Road  
Port Jefferson Station

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PAGE 9-IN MEMORIAM- VIRGINIA ERDMAN

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**— We will hold our Annual Meeting on Friday, June 27, at 7:30 p.m. We are looking for a location on or near the North Shore since our last meeting was on the South Shore, and we try to rotate it. If you know of a home or location where about 25 people would be welcome, please call me (the Board provides the refreshments). The Nominating Committee is interviewing League members who would like to serve on the Board—call Esther Glass, 475-3803 if you would like to help with membership, publicity, voters service, or if you would like to be part of the board.

Please note that our meeting on May 19 on health will be in the evening, at 7:30 at the Comsewogue Library. We recognize that moving many of our meetings to the afternoon made it impossible for people with daytime schedules to attend. We are interested in knowing how that has affected you. Please let us know.

**FOR MEMBERS ONLY**—This Voter includes a list of current members for your information. The booklet, with addresses and phone numbers, will be ready soon.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS  
LEE AND HERBERT BECKER—BROOKHAVEN**

### IMMIGRATION STUDY CONSENSUS

The League of Women Voters recently completed the two-year Immigration Study aimed at helping communities understand the implications of immigration at the local, state, and federal level. As part of this project. After a lengthy and comprehensive study of this complex issue by our grassroots members, the LWVUS Board of Directors unanimously adopted the League's position on immigration which calls for a path to citizenship for current unauthorized immigrants. The 18-month study was successful thanks to the hard work of the Immigration Study Committee, led by LWVUS Board Member Carolie Mullan, and the high level of participation - 67 percent (560 Leagues). The new position provides for federal enforcement of immigration laws and full due process rights for immigrants. State and local Leagues may oppose efforts in their communities to deport, detain or harass unauthorized immigrants who have no history of serious criminal activity. Read the full consensus report on the next page.

## **LWVUS Immigration Position**

**(adopted April 1, 2008. by LWV-US)**

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the U.S. on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

The League supports federal immigration law that provides an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry of immigrants into the U.S.

To complement these goals the League supports federal policies to improve economies, education, job opportunities, and living conditions in nations with large emigrating populations.

In transition to a reformed system, the League supports provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status

The League supports federal payments to impacted communities to address the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

### **Criteria for Legal Admission to the U.S.**

The League supports the following criteria for legal admission of persons into the United States:

Family reunification of spouses or minor children with authorized immigrants or citizens;

- Flight from persecution or response to humanitarian crises in home countries;
- Economic, business and employment needs in the U.S.;

- Education and training needs of the U.S.;
- Educational program opportunities; and
- Lack of a history of serious criminal activity.

### **Administration and Enforcement**

The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and right to humane treatment.

The League supports:

Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee status;

- Verification documents, such as status cards and work permits, with secure identifiers;
- Significant fines and penalties for employers who hire unauthorized workers;
- Improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies;
- More effective tracking of individuals who enter the United States; and
- Increased personnel at borders.

The League also supports programs allowing foreign workers to enter and leave the U.S. to meet seasonal or sporadic labor needs.

### **Unauthorized Immigrants Already in the U.S.**

In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity.

## HEALTH MEETING—MAY 19

As the year draws to a close, we had hoped that we could say that we had convinced our legislators to support a single payer health insurance system, but we haven't—yet. .

In New York State the Department of Health is planning to reform the health care system to provide universal coverage through public and private health coverage mechanisms. The Urban Institute has been hired to assist the state in developing a roadmap for achieving universal health insurance.

Assemblyman Richard Gottfried's New York Health Plus would make it possible to include all New Yorkers in Child Health or Family Health Plus, giving them a choice of insurance company and paying the bills with payroll taxes. In addition to the private insurance companies (that would be publicly financed) the state could start a public plan (like Medicare). It would eliminate the employer as the insurer of all; it would keep the insurance companies in place, but would use the power of the state, as purchaser of the coverage, to make sure that quality care is delivered. .

For May's meeting, our speaker will be Dr. Elaine Fox, who has long been an advocate for health insurance reform as a result of her own experiences as a physician. She brings expertise about the single payer plan and how it would work on a national level.

We have also invited a representative of the Suffolk County Health Department to speak about the new Division of Preventive Medicine and its asthma management program aimed at reducing hospital and emergency room visits of children with asthma, possibly resulting in an annual savings of \$370,000 in Medicaid costs for hospitalizations and emergency room costs.

## MESSAGE FROM MARY WILSON

### PRESIDENT, LWV-US

Just last week, I wrote to you about the Supreme Court ruling that upheld Indiana's voter identification law — **the most restrictive in the nation**. League members responded in full force to fight back against this blatantly discriminatory law.

We are already seeing the negative effects of this law. At Tuesday's Indiana primary, for example, about 12 nuns — all in their 80s or 90s — were turned away from a polling place by a fellow sister because they didn't have state or federal identification bearing a photograph.

Nationwide, it is estimated that as many as 11% of U.S. citizens don't have government-issued photo identification— that is as many as 21 million Americans.

Already, in Missouri, a state representative has tried to pass legislation that would require voters to obtain and show a government-issued photo ID. Fiscal estimates indicate that this bill would cost cash-strapped Missouri taxpayers more than \$6.4 million — and could disenfranchise 240,000 Missourians, especially the elderly, low-income individuals, minorities, the homeless and handicapped people.

**That's why we can't stop now.** Only the LEAGUE has the knowledge, reputation, experience and grassroots network to fight back against politicians that are trying to rig our elections to expand their political power. And we will continue our work to fight all the challenges we face.

A REPORT ON BROOKHAVEN TOWN BOARD MEETING ON APRIL 18

RESOLUTIONS (PASSED):

5% CUT ON ALL BUDGETS;; \$8,000,000 REDUCTION—HOLD SPENDING TO '07 LEVELS

NO EXPANSION OF SERVICES—\$6,000,000 REDUCTION

VACANT POSITON NOT TO BE FILLED; REDUCES SALARIES AND BENEFITS BY \$2,000,000

OVERTIME TO BE CUT 10%

AL:L OF THESE CUTS WILL ADD UP TO \$8,250,000

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1? Kathy Mead = Defended herself related to her leadership in the Building Division—related to Building permits improperly given; Mead wants support officially on this.

2) Ira Brickman—addresses the Board relating to the Town Board change in public hearings that come after resolutions rather than before, keeping people here until late at night. Mr. Foley defends this decision because it gives the public more time to speak.

3) Mr. Kemp—re cemeteries in incorporated villages; need a concrete retaining wall. He requested permission to construct this around his family plots; This chore will be given to the appropriate department.

4) Skateboarding state park—a number of speakers (including many young people) on the issue of the need for a park in the area of Mastic—a place for young people to do skateboarding in safety. . The response of the Board was supportive and suggested it would be looked into.

5) Final public hearing was related to traffic symbol changes and needs in local area.

Esther Glass

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SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

An item sent by League member Manya Dickinson from her new home in Vermont:

The Performing Arts Series is pleased to announce that his year's programs are printed on 100% post-consumer content, chlorine-free paper. Additionally, this paper was manufactured entirely by wind-generated power. The environmental savings realized by these choices include: 12 trees, 515 lbs. of solid waste, 5000 gallons of wastewater, and 4000 gallons of natural gas. Please recycle your program in the designated receptacles in the lobby. Thank you.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BROOKHAVEN**  
**P. O. BOX 92, BELLPORT, N.Y 11713-9998**

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 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 E. SETAUKET, NY 11733  
 PERMIT #100

### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### MAY

Thurs May 1      BROOKHAVEN LWV BD MEETING, Ruth Schwarz', 12 noon  
 Thurs....May 15.....SUFFOLK COUNTY LWV ANNUAL CONVENTION, Bellport Country Club, 4 pm  
 Mon    May 19      MEETING ON HEALTH—COMSEWOGUE LIBRARY, 7:30 PM

#### .JUNE

Thurs June 5      NO BROOKHAVEN BOARD MEETING  
 Fri    June 27      ANNUAL MEETING , 7 PM, Place to be determined

Directions to Comsewogue Library (928-1212) - from the east, on Nesconset Highway, go past Route 112 and turn right on Terryville Road (there is a gas station on the corner) - from the west, turn left at the gas station onto Terryville Road—from Route 112 in Port Jefferson Village, turn right onto Terryville Road before you get to Nesconset Highway