



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF EAST NASSAU

voter

*At local, state and national levels
the League works to influence public policy
through education and advocacy.*

October, 2008

Save the Dates

Tuesday, October 7 – 7:00 PM
Community Forum
Topic: How the Attorney
General’s office can help Nassau
Stay to watch the Presidential Debate
Sponsor: AAUW
Caroline G. Atkinson School
58 W. Seaman Ave., Freeport
RSVP – wstoner@aarp.org or
212-407-3736

Tuesday, October 12 - 4:00 PM
LWVNC Board Meeting
Hempstead Library
115 Nichols Court, 481-6990

Saturday, October 25
Make a Difference Day
Makeadifferenceday.com

Tuesday, October 28 – 6:30 PM
Planned Parenthood of NC
Topic: A Conversation About
Race & Reproductive Freedom
Speaker: Dr. Kenneth Edelin
African-American Museum
110 N. Franklin St., Hempstead

Wednesday, Oct. 29 – 7:30 PM
(Note change of date from previous bulletin.)
LWVEN General Meeting
Topic: Are We Undergoing a
Political Tsunami?
Speaker: Herbert Rosenbaum,
Pol. Sci. Professor - Hofstra
(See next column.)

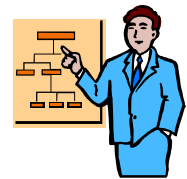
Tuesday, Nov. 4 – 6 AM–9 PM
ELECTION DAY
Be an Paid Election Inspector
VOTE

Are We Undergoing a Political Tsunami?

Is the U.S. political system undergoing a seismic shift?

Join us to hear Herbert Rosenbaum, retired Professor of
Political Science at Hofstra University present his views on
this fascinating topic.

When: Wednesday, **October 29, 7:30 PM**
Where: Plainview Library
Old Country Road, Plainview



The public is invited. Bring your friends and neighbors.



PAID ELECTION INSPECTORS are needed to work at the polls on Election Day.



Work at the polls on Election Day and earn \$150.00 for the day,
plus \$25.00 for the training session.

Work as a HAVA Inspector (helping voters with disabilities to use
the new ballot marking machines) and earn \$180.00 for Election
Day, plus \$25.00 for each of two training sessions.

By working at the polls, you are helping to assure that every
voter gets his/her vote counted. Perform a public service and
get paid to do it.

Call 571-4935 or 571-3807 to take the first step.

Call or email Paula (785-3213, paulablum@hotmail.com) for
more information.

League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

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Paula Blum, Editor
 1385 Lyon Place, Wantagh
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Mary Price, Circulation
Lesley Pollak, Advertising

County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Monday, October 6 10:00 AM
 Monday, October 20 6:00 PM
 Monday, November 17 10:00 AM

The Nassau County Legislature meets in the Legislative Chamber, 1st floor, 1550 Franklin Ave, Mineola, 571-4252. An admittance pass must be obtained on the first floor of the building, at the north elevator.

Town of Hempstead Meeting Schedule

Thursday, October 2 10:30 AM
 Thursday, Oct. 16 2:30 PM, 7 PM
 Tuesday, November 18 10:30 AM

The Hempstead Town Board meets at Town Hall, in the Nathan H. Bennett Pavilion, 489-5000.

Town of Oyster Bay Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, October 7 10:00 AM
 Tuesday, October 21 10 AM, 7 PM
 Tuesday, October 28 10:00 AM
 Tuesday, November 18 10:00 AM

The Oyster Bay Town Board meets at 54 Audrey Ave., Oyster Bay, 624-6390.

**Call before
attending.
Schedules
are subject
to change.**



LWVEN Board of Directors – 2008-2009

OFFICERS

President:	Barbara Epstein	221-1948
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5. & 6. VOTER Advertisers, Membership Enrollment Form
7. Message from LWVUS, News from NYS League, Ethics Reform
8. League Day at the UN

Keeping Connected

LWVUS & LWVUS Education Fund

1730 M Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036-4508
 202-429-1965, www.lwv.org, lwv@lwv.org

LWVNYS & LWVNYS Education Foundation

62 Grand Street, Albany, NY 12207
 518-465-4162, www.lwvny.org, lwvny@lwvny.org, www.lwvny-bulletins.org

LWV of Nassau County:

Post Office Box 539, Point Lookout, NY 11569, 516-431-1628
www.lwvofnassaucounty.org, info@lwvofnassaucounty.org



Barbara's Corner

By Barbara Epstein, President

Welcome back to a new League year. We have a lot of exciting programs and activities planned for this year. I look forward to seeing many of you at our general and board meetings.

This is the time of the year when we determine our **2009 New York State Legislative Agenda**. The state League uses the following criteria:

- a review of the unfinished business of the 2008 legislative session
- input from NYS off-board specialists and legislative director
- local league recommendations
- whether the issue is likely to receive attention in the 2009 session
- whether action on the issue is supported by a League position.

On page 4 is a brief description of our NYS positions. Please read it; then I NEED INPUT FROM YOU as to what you feel our state priorities should be for 2009.

Please send your recommendations to me by email to: byeppie@aol.com, or by snail mail to: 142 Tardy Lane South, Wantagh, NY 11793, by Oct.28th.



Product Safety Reform Legislation Passed

In August, President Bush signed strong product safety reform legislation that will overhaul the Consumer Product Safety Commission. This measure contains the most significant improvements to the Consumer Product Safety Commission since the agency was established in the 1970s. This law will boost safety in the following ways:

- Lead and toxic phthalates will be essentially eliminated from toys and children's products.
- Consumers will have an Internet database where they can share information with each other about dangerous products.
- Toys will be tested for safety before they're sold, so our children aren't treated like guinea pigs.
- Whistleblowers will be free to alert the public to important safety problems without fear of reprisal from their employers.



Voter Service Report

By Norma Schaeffer & Polly Nager

During this Election Season, the members of the LWV of East Nassau have been doing what we do best. This is not to overlook the ongoing work we do all year with regard to our legislative agenda. Currently, registering voters; some new, and others who have changed their addresses, for the very important election on November 4, is at the forefront of our activities.

Every Tuesday and Wednesday from September 2 through October 8, **Polly Nager's** group was at Hofstra University registering students who have turned 18 and those from out of state. The members registering voters at Hofstra include: **Anne Ostling, Norma Schaeffer, Barbara Levine, Janet Spar, Claire Gavrin, Shirley Bard, Mary Price, Judy Schecter, Judy Moskowitz, Lillian Broad, Lorraine Newman**, and of course, coordinator **Polly Nager**.

Barbara Levine and **Norma Schaeffer** registered voters at the Seaford Library and **Lorraine Newman**, at the East Meadow Library. **Mary Price** and Norma were at Molloy College to train a group of students to register their peers. They will be registering their classmates on an ongoing basis until the cutoff date of Oct 10.

Norma registered people at the Freeport Inn where approximately 200 people arrive every day for prepared lunches. On Sept. 25, **Barbara Epstein, Mimi Hirsch** and others were planning to be at the Wantagh train station, bullhorn in hand, giving out registration forms to commuters, and informing them that they could return them when they returned from work. The rain dampened their efforts.

Of course, we don't stop our activities on Oct. 10. We have many names on our membership list. Become active, tell us if you're interested in joining a committee. Read "The Voter". See what we're about.



LWVNYS

Positions in Brief

ELECTION LAW

Support of measures to protect, extend and encourage the use of the franchise; open the political system by enacting a public campaign financing law for statewide offices; establish legal, ethical campaign guidelines; monitor campaign practices; simplify rules for ballot access. Restore integrity to the election process – specifically support for uniformity in election laws and procedures in their implementation and enforcement; promote measures that ensure the integrity of all ballots; support adequate funding for these procedures, including training of all involved election personnel.*

Opposition to term limits for members of the NYS Legislature.
Opposition to term limits for NYS statewide elected officials.

GOVERNMENT

Support of standards to ensure equitable representation in the State legislature and the congress.
Support of improved measures to provide representation for legislative districts in case of a vacancy.
Support of responsive and responsible legislative processes which increase the role of the individual member and the committee system.
Support of effective lobbying and ethics regulation.
Support of procedural reforms in the constitutional convention process to promote openness and nonpartisanship.

HEALTH CARE

Support a single payor concept as an acceptable approach to implementing League positions on equitable access and cost containment.
Support of measures to assure a basic level of quality physical and mental health care for all state residents including regulatory incentives to encourage development of cost-effective alternative methods of delivery; funding for health promotion and disease prevention programs; provisions for effective citizen participation in health policy decisions.
Support of measures that enable individuals to assume responsibility for their own health and to participate in decisions including termination of extraordinary life-extending procedures.
Support for uniform eligibility and coverage of basic health care costs through public financing.

JUDICIAL

Support of a unified state court system with improved provisions for judicial selection.
Support of statewide guidelines for law enforcement at all levels to prevent racial and economic profiling.
Support of measures to improve pretrial procedures in the criminal courts.

Support of measures to promote a fair and efficient jury system.
Support of alternatives to incarceration.
Opposition to the death penalty, with life without parole as the primary alternative

NATURAL RESOURCES

Support for measures to achieve watershed protection including limiting pesticide use and applying Best Management Practices.
Support for a state-established, intergovernmental system for land resource management.
Support for a proactive role for New York State in regional land use planning, containing urban sprawl and protecting sensitive areas.
Support of reconditioning of the New York State Erie/Barge Canal System and its development for recreational uses.

SOCIAL POLICY

Support measures to meet the needs for low-income housing through use of state funds and incentives to localities

STATE FINANCES

Support reforms for greater equity in education financing for both pupils and taxpayers.
Support raising funds to provide New York's children with a sound basic education through increases in the New York State personal income tax, implemented in a progressive fashion.
Oppose in principle the use of public funds to support non-public schools, kindergarten-twelfth grade.
Support a uniform equitable assessment and property tax system.
Support for the replacement of the existing local residential property tax relief programs in which relief goes to all with programs based on need, with annual cost of living adjustment.
Support of measures to provide for openness and accountability in the operation of the New York State public authority system.
Support of a timely and responsive state budget.
Support the funding of public higher education and the existing formula for financing the community system, 1/3 tuition, 1/3 state aid, and 1/3 county support.

WOMENS' ISSUES/SOCIAL POLICY

Support of measures which hold marriage to be an economic partnership with a presumption of equality between the spouses.
Opposition to measures that contain a presumption of joint custody of the children.
Support for equity in employment laws and practices and equal pay for jobs of comparable worth.
Support of measures to reduce the incidence and effects of domestic violence.
Support for measures to meet the needs for affordable and accessible housing through use of state funds and incentives to localities.

The League of Women Voters,* a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters of East Nassau wishes to take this opportunity to thank the Legislators who have supported us over the past several years.

We appreciate the understanding of those who are running for office this year that we are unable to include their ads in this issue, due to the proximity of the election and our need to remain non-partisan regarding parties and candidates.

We urge everyone to become familiar with the candidates who are running and the issues, and to be sure to

VOTE on November 4th.

**Democracy
is not a
Spectator Sport!**



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FAX: (516) 571-6287
E-MAIL: jjacobs@nassaucountyny.gov

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(516) 571-6219
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DAVID W. DENNEBERG
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George Nager
Attorney-at-Law
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Mineola, NY 11501
(516) 742 0700



(516) 571-2660
Fax: (516) 752-4099

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COUNTY CLERK

NASSAU COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK 240 OLD COUNTRY ROAD MINEOLA, NY 11501



(516) 571-2386
Fax: (516) 571-5900
E-MAIL: hweitzman@nassaucountyny.gov

HOWARD S. WEITZMAN
NASSAU COUNTY COMPTROLLER

NASSAU COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMPTROLLER 240 OLD COUNTRY ROAD MINEOLA, NY 11501-4247

Membership Form

Yes, I want to support the LWV's work in citizen education and advocacy.

Name: _____ Tel: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Areas of interest: _____

Please clip and send with your check to: Barbara Josepher, Treasurer; LWVEN, 339 Cold Spring Road, Syosset NY, 11791

Enclosed is a check for : _____ membership dues (\$50 Individual / \$75 household) _____ contribution _____ Total

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WANTAGH

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VOTE411.org

255 Sunrise Highway
 Merrick, New York 11566
 Tel: (516) 546-2312
 Fax: (516) 623-0870



**MINUTEMAN
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 OF MERRICK

PRINTING "FOR THE JOB YOU NEEDED YESTERDAY"


**Plan to visit the Levittown Library
 between October 17 and November 4
 to view our Presidential Election Display
 in the large display case behind the
 circulation desk.**



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LICIL

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 Disabled Rights Initiative for Voter Empowerment we would be
 a favorable factor in bringing about legislation fair to all persons with disabilities.
 Who do you know would like to D.R.I.V.E?
 Please refer them to www.licil.net to register for membership.



Long Island Center for Independent Living, Inc.
 3601 Hempstead Turnpike, Suite 500, Levittown, NY 11756 • Tel: 516-796-0144



Message from the President of the LWVUS

In this critical election year, do your friends and family have the information they need to make an informed decision on Election Day? The League of Women Voters has all the information you need at VOTE411.org – the one-stop shop for all your election information needs, including a nationwide polling place locator, voter registration tips, important dates, and much more.

Today, I'm inviting you to visit VOTE411.org and click on "Sign up" to receive special [VOTE411](http://VOTE411.org) alerts that will keep you in the know about general and state-specific information on the all aspects of the election process. There is no other single resource that provides this level of comprehensive information.

For 88 years, the League of Women Voters has provided communities across the country with a wide range of voter education tools--and this year is no different. Please **take advantage of all [VOTE411](http://VOTE411.org) has to offer by signing up for email alerts today!**

News From Your State League.....

Voting Rights pamphlet series-The LWVNY has five new pamphlets related to the voting rights of five different special populations. These are: *college students, individuals incarcerated and with criminal convictions, homeless individuals, those with mental health disabilities, and individuals with other disabilities, primarily physical*. The pamphlets are available on the LWVNY.org website.

Access to information - Three new websites provide taxpayers with information about where their tax dollars go. www.SeeThroughNY.net, www.osc.state.ny.us/openbook, www.SunlightNY.com. Links to these websites can be found on the LWVNY website: www.lwvny.org.

Domestic Violence update- Governor Patterson signed into law a bill that expands access to civil orders of protection for all victims of domestic violence, regardless of marital, parental, or blood relative status.

Tips for Debate Watchers

Think Ahead – about which issues are important to you.

Pay Attention – to how the candidates answer the questions. Are they specific? Knowledgeable? Sincere?

Keep Track of Topics – Are the questions fair and pertinent? Are they your priority issues?

Talk about it afterwards – with friends and family. Did you learn something new about the candidates' positions?

Governor And Legislative Leaders Urged To React To Mounting Ethics Controversies And Scandals By Passing Sweeping Ethics Reforms



On September 18, several civic groups called on Governor Paterson and the state's legislative leaders to react to mounting ethics controversies by agreeing to sweeping new ethics reforms. **Citizens Union of the City of New York, Common Cause/NY, the League of Women Voters/N.Y.S. and NYPIRG** issued their call days after the US Attorney's office unveiled allegations that a 30 year Assemblyman from Queens was caught on a wiretap pledging political favors in exchange for tens of thousands of dollars from a local hospital executive. The groups noted that while the Assemblyman is innocent until proven guilty, the case comes after a series of corrupt and unethical behaviors that have plagued the state Capitol in recent years.

The groups argued that the list of Albany's scandals has grown in recent years: now-former Assemblymembers Davis, Gordon, McLaughlin and Norman and Senator Velella have all been convicted of corruption charges. Two legislators are currently charged with political crimes and others are reportedly under investigation. Former Comptroller Hevesi was convicted of misusing state funds and former Governor Spitzer was driven from office for his involvement in a prostitution ring. And these actions are in addition to the many ethical controversies and conflicts that swirl around government.

The groups noted that although each of these cases has unique circumstances, in every case those involved believed that no one was watching; the belief that the government's internal ethics enforcement system was unlikely to catch them or even identify a problem.

The groups offered a five point plan to dramatically strengthen New York's ethics law by urging that the governor and the legislative leaders agree to:

- **Create a new, independent ethics oversight agency for both the executive and legislative branches.**
- **Establish more stringent requirements for financial disclosure for public officers.**
- **Strengthen the ban on use of campaign contributions for personal use.**
- **Restrict campaign contributions from lobbyists and those receiving government contracts ("pay to play").**
- **Toughen ethics enforcement.**

**The League of Women Voters®
of New York State**

in association with

**The United Nations
Department of Public Information
(additional co-sponsors to be named at a later date)**

INVITES YOU TO ATTEND

**BRIEFINGS ON THE IMPACT
OF GLOBAL WARMING ON
WOMEN AND CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD**



**Tuesday, December 2, 2008, *1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. United Nations Headquarters
First Avenue at 46th Street**

(*LWVNYS Registration Desk will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., Briefings will start promptly at 1:30 p.m.*)

Name: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Day Phone: () _____ E-Mail: _____

COST/PAYMENT INFORMATION

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	<i>Optional</i> Tour of the UN	\$ 12
4:30 p.m. -- 5:30 p.m.	<i>Optional</i> Tour of the UN	
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	<i>Optional</i> Lunch Buffet in the Delegates' Dining Room <i>Includes International Buffet, Dessert Bar and Coffee/Tea only</i>	\$ 40
<i>The Delegates' Dining Room Staff have reserved for this event tables of 10 UN requires proper attire: jeans, shorts, sneakers will NOT be permitted</i>		
1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Briefings Program in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium <i>\$55 League Members or Members of Sponsoring Organizations</i>	_____
	<i>\$70 Non-Member \$45 Students</i>	
	Discounted fee to members of sponsoring organization for Tour, Lunch, and Briefing	\$ 100
	ROUNDRIP BUS FROM ALBANY TO NYC	\$ 40
	TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____

My Check for \$ _____ is enclosed (make payable to LWVNYS) **OR**

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Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 518-465-4162

**SPACE IS LIMITED, SO RESERVE EARLY
REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 18, 2008**