



The Beacon

The League of Women Voters of Long Beach

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East Atlantic Beach Long Beach Lido Beach Island Park Point Lookout

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September/October 2008

UPCOMING EVENTS		
Sat., 9/6	Noon to 4PM	VOTER REGISTRATION in the Library in conjunction with the Jazz Festival. We need volunteers. Please call Jeanne Browne – 889-4343.
Sat., 9/20	9:30 AM to 1:30PM	BEACH CLEANUP Volunteers needed. Please call Jeanne Browne – 889-4343. Meet at Riverside Boulevard on the boardwalk to assist the American Littoral Society in their global effort. Data from trash collected is used by environmentalists to detect trends in pollution and its sources for the purpose of stopping the culprits. Rain date-September 27.
Thurs., 10/2	7:30 PM	ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AS THEY IMPACT OUR CHILDREN AND OUR FUTURE – Presentation given by Patty Woods of Grassroots Environmental Education. This event is being co-sponsored with the Long Beach Public Library.
Wed., 10/22	7:30 PM	CANDIDATES' FORUM – FOR OFFICES OF NYS SENATOR AND ASSEMBLYMAN AND U.S. CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE. Bring your questions.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE ECONOMY OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH

Employment in Long Beach reached 8,000 in 1006 – a new record – but declined slightly during 2007. Despite the pause, employment is 8.6 percent higher than in 2000.

In 2007, Long Beach's unemployment rate fell to 3.5 percent, the lowest rate since 2000. The unemployment rate was lower than that of Nassau County and New York State. A total of \$82.5 million in wages were paid in Long Beach in the first quarter of 2007, four percent higher than one year earlier. Average salaries in Long Beach reached \$42,350 in the first quarter of 2007 – an increase of 6.8 percent from the prior year. Education and health service is the largest employment sector in Long Beach accounting for almost 27 percent of all jobs and wages. Long Beach Medical Center is the largest employer in the area and is the only company with more than 500 employees. The health care and social assistance sub-sector accounts for 16.1 percent of all businesses in Long Beach, many of which support the Long Beach Medical Center. The median home value in Long Beach increased by 80 percent between 2000 and 2005. Housing stock in Long Beach contains a higher concentration of rental units than in Nassau County overall. After six years of budget deficits, Long Beach realized a \$3.1 million budget surplus in 2005. Long Beach recently approved the Long Beach Comprehensive Plan which aims to enhance the waterfront while providing opportunities for new residential and commercial development.

Above information was compiled by the Office of the State Comptroller, Thomas P. DiNapoli.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences the public policy through education and advocacy.



Co-Presidents' Message

We hope everyone's summer is progressing positively. Right now, as I write this, Riza is cruising in Europe and I have returned from an amazing trip to Australia and New Zealand. In between those two trips, our Summer Supper was held under the able auspices of Diana Edwards and Veronica Rose. We thank you both for your hard work. Our theme was HOT, HOT, HOT, and a "hot" time was had by all. As usual, we had wonderful weather reminding us how lucky we are to live in the location that we do. It was unfortunate that our speaker had her dates mixed up and didn't make it but we made the best of the situation and found out that we can have a terrific time just being together. It gave some of our tried and true members a chance to catch up and gave others a chance to get to know some of our newer and potential members. We also thank Ronnie Gilligan for filling in as our speaker. Don't forget that in the Southern Hemisphere it gets warmer as you go north.

Additional thanks go to Maxine and Diana for some worthwhile raffle gifts and to Rosalie for her diligence in keeping track of our finances. We are looking forward to an active fall, not only because of this all-important election, but because we intend to be visible and active in our community. We will be looking for volunteers in September for registering voters during the Jazz Festival, and for manning tables or grabbing a bag for the beach clean-up. We also will be having an environmental information meeting in October as well at our Candidates' Forum. We hope to see member support at these activities and events.

The best to all,
Jeanne and Riza



TAKE YOUR KIDS TO VOTE

On Election Day, take your kids into the voting booth with you to show them how democracy works. You may prepare them beforehand by telling your own story of your first voting experience. Sharing your memories of voting makes kids realize their family is part of the American experience.

**League of Women
Voters
Of Long Beach
Board of Directors**

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Co-Presidents.....Jeanne Browne
Riza Laudin..... Laudin4@aol.com
897-6850
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.....and Estelle Sealine

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Special Events...Diana Dow Edwards
.....and Veronica Rose
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Beacon.....Ronnie Gilligan,
Rena Iacono, Eileen Lilly, Estelle
Sealine, Jaclyn Feldman

Quote:

*"Liberty is the breath of
life to nations."*

George Bernard Shaw

**PROPOSED STUDY for LWVNY: "SHOULD NY STATE JOIN
THE COMPACT FOR A NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE?"**

*The following is a summary of an article written by Carol Mellor, LWV
Hamptons.*

BACKGROUND: HOW THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE WORKS

The Electoral College (EC) is a process established by the founding fathers as a compromise between election of the president by Congress or by popular vote. The people of US vote for electors who vote for the President. Some states put the names of the electors on the ballot; NYS does not.

Each State is allocated a number of electors equal to the number of its US Senators (always two) plus the number of its US Representatives based in turn upon the number of people in the State which is determined by the Federal census.

There is no Constitutional provision or Federal law that requires electors to vote according to the results of the popular vote in their States nor does the Constitution require that electors be completely free to act as they choose. Some States, although NY is not one of them, require electors to cast their votes according to the popular vote. Historically, more than 99 percent of electors have voted as pledged. Forty-eight out of 50 States award electoral votes on a winner-takes-all basis. For example, all 55 of California's electoral votes go to the winner of that State election, even if the margin of victory is only 50.1 percent to 49.9 percent. As a result, the winner of the nation-wide popular vote is not necessarily the winner of the election.

OBJECTIONABLE EFFECTS OF THE EC:

1. A person who has not received the majority of citizens' votes can be elected President and, this indeed happened in 2000
2. It is thought that the EC can discourage voter turnout if a voter feels that his choice will not win the popular vote in his state.
3. There is a great deal of evidence that the EC has created an election process in which candidates only campaign in "battleground" states that are not traditionally associated with one party or another. A recent analysis found that 31 states of the 50 have been written off, so to speak, leaving 19 states up for grabs. **CALIFORNIA AND NEW YORK VOTERS FIND THEMSELVES IRRELEVANT IN A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.**

**Long Beach City Council
Meeting Schedule**

Tues. Sept, 16 7:00 PM
Tues. Oct. 7 7:00 PM
Tues. Oct. 21 7:00 PM

The Long Beach City Council meets at City Hall, 6th floor, One West Chester Street, 431-1000 Ext. 264. Citizens may speak on agenda items during the meeting. Good and Welfare sessions are held on the 1st meeting of the month. Council agendas are available in the City Clerk's Office 3rd floor, and the Long Beach Public Library and online at www.longbeachny.org

**Nassau County Legislature
Meeting Schedule**

Wed. Sept. 3 10:00 AM
Wed. Sept. 15 10:00 AM
Wed. Oct. 6 10:00 AM
Mon. Oct. 20 6:00 PM

The Nassau County Legislature meets in the Legislative Chamber, Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building, 1550 Franklin Avenue, Mineola, NY 571-4252.

**Town of Hempstead Board
Meeting Schedule**

Tues. Sept. 16 10:30 AM
Tues. Oct. 2 10:30 AM
Tues. Oct. 23 2:30 PM
Tues. Oct. 23 7:00 PM

The Hempstead Town Council meets at Town Hall in the Nathan H. Bennett Pavilion, One Washington Street, Hempstead, NY – 489-5000.

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE STUDY

Just as they did in 2006, LWVNY with the help of other Leagues, convinced delegates at the LWVUS Convention to adopt a non-recommended item. In 2006 it was concurrence on the position abolishing the death penalty. In 2008, Lori Dawson, LWV Saratoga County, NY and Carol Mellor, LWV, The Hamptons, with major help from LWV Arizona and LWV El Dorado County, California, the issue was The NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE (NPV) study.

The NPV first caught the attention of New York League members at the 2007 State Convention. It was not a recommended item then, but through the efforts of Lori Dawson, enough delegates were intrigued by the concept that it was passed as a study item.

Lori and Carol went to work. In October 2007, however, after four months of extensive time and commitment to the study process, the study came to a halt when LWVNY was notified by LWVUS that a state League cannot establish a position on the National Popular Vote Compact. LWVUS maintained that adoption of such a position would represent a state League adopting a position on a national issue. Lori and Carol with the encouragement of the Board of LWVNY made plans to take NPV to the LWVUS Convention. With the victory in Portland in 2008, the study is on track. KUDOS TO LORI & CAROL!

THE PROPOSED SOLUTION: The National Popular Vote

The National Popular Vote bill would guarantee the presidential candidate who receives the most votes in all 50 states wins the presidency. The presidential electors would exercise their votes reflecting the voters' nationwide choice.

There is nothing in the US Constitution that needs to be changed in order to implement NPV of the President. The States can adopt the new system using their "exclusive and plenary" power just as they adopted the electoral system now being used.

Under state legislation proposed by NPV, the popular vote counts from all 50 states would be added together to obtain a national grand total for each presidential candidate. Then state election officials in all states participating in the plan would award their electoral votes to the presidential candidate who receives the largest number of popular votes in all 50 states.

In summation NPV plan is an interstate compact – a type of state law authorized by the US Constitution that enables states to enter into a legally enforceable contractual obligation to undertake agreed joint actions.

BENEFITS OF ADOPTION of the proposal would mean that the person elected President of the US is elected by majority of the voters of the US, a goal which 70% of the citizens of this country favor. NPV plan would also eliminate the possibility of a presidential election being decided by the House of Representatives (where each state would have one vote) and the vice-presidential election being decided by the US Senate. It would reduce the possibility of close elections and recounts.

NEGATIVES OF NPV – Those who oppose the compact say it is unconstitutional, although the Constitution permits such compacts, subject to certain restrictions. Another argument against it and NPV is that it affects the political power of states and their voters who are not party to it.



Be a part of the action!

Paid Election Inspectors are needed to work at the polls on Primary Day and on Election Day. The Nassau County Board of Elections is seeking qualified people to fill these positions. Training will be provided. The positions for working with the new accessible Ballot Marking Devices, to be used by voters with disabilities, require people that are comfortable with computers. Tech-savvy people are especially needed.

Election Inspectors must be registered voters in the county. They will be paid \$25 for the training and \$150/day for working at the polls on Primary Day and on Election Day.

For a copy of the "I want to be an Inspector" application, go to <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/BOE/index.html>.

Fill it out and mail the completed application to:
Nassau County Board of Elections
400 County Seat Drive
Mineola, NY 11501-4800

For additional information, or to receive an application by mail, contact: The League of Women Voters of Nassau County: 516-431-1628, info@lwvofnassaucounty.org,
New Yorkers for Verified Voting - LI: eacen@aol.com,
Nassau County Board of Elections: 571-4935 or 571-3807

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Labor Day – City Hall and Recreation Center are closed
- 2 LB City Council meets at 7:00 PM. Public may address the City Council at the Good and Welfare Session
- 3 Schools open. Please drive carefully.
- 4 Long Beach Public Schools – Envisioning Meeting 6:30 PM in the Administration Building conference room
- 4-7 Sixth Annual Long Beach Jazz Festival – Long Beach Public Library www.longbeachjazzfest.com
- 6 LBLWV voter registration table from noon to 4:00 PM in the Library in conjunction with the Jazz Festival.
Volunteers needed. Please call Jeanne Browne at 889-4343
- 8 LWVLB Board Meeting at the home of Riza Laudin, 91 Ivy Lane, Lido Beach at 7:30 PM
- 9 LB Board of Education Meeting – LB Middle School at 8:00 PM in the cafeteria
- 11 Patriot Day in memory of lives lost at the World Trade Center
- 16 LB City Council meets in City Hall on 6th floor at 7:00 PM.
- 17 LB Library Board meets at the Library at 8:00 PM.
- 20 LBLWV Volunteers are needed to assist the American Littoral Society in global effort to clean up our beaches.
Call Jeanne Browne at 889-4343 and offer to be at Riverside Boulevard and the Boardwalk for an hour or two.
- 23 Board of Education Worksession – LB Middle School at 8:00 PM in the cafeteria
- 27 Rain date for ocean cleanup

OCTOBER

- 2 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AS THEY IMPACT OUR CHILDREN AND OUR FUTURE – Presentation by Patty Woods of Grassroots Environmental Education. This event is co-sponsored with the Library.
- 6 LBLWV Board meeting at 7:30 PM – location to be announced
- 7 LB City Council meets at 7:00 PM. Public may address the City Council at the Good and Welfare Session.
- 9 Religious Holiday – City Hall and Recreation Center are closed
- 11 Annual Fall Festival at Kennedy Plaza. Food, rides and fun – all day.
- 13 Columbus Day. City Hall and Recreation Center are closed.
- 14 LB Board of Education Meeting – East School at 8:00 PM in the cafeteria
- 21 LB City Council meets at 7:00 PM.
- 22 CANDIDATES' FORUM for NYS Senator and Assemblyman and US Congressional Representative
- 23 Zoning Board meets at 7:00 PM – 6th floor, City Hall.
- 28 LB Board of Education Worksession – LB Middle School at 8:00 PM in the cafeteria

The League of Women Voters of Long Beach
248 West Park Avenue – Suite 238
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Address Correction Requested

To:

Postmaster:
Dated Material...Please Rush!