



League of Women Voters of Smithtown Township

VOTER

The LWV is a non-partisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy

October 2008

website: <http://www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org/smithtown.htm>

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Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by Nationwide Popular Vote

***Wednesday October 15, 2008 at 7:00PM
Smithtown Library Main Branch***

The National Popular Vote bill would guarantee the Presidency to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Under the National Popular Vote bill, all of the state's electoral votes would be awarded to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Under this plan, the president would be elected by popular vote, without amending the Constitution to eliminate the Electoral College.

Last May, the League of Women Voters of the United States voted to study this legislation. That study has been started, and early next year the League's members will decide whether to support it or not. Carol Mellor and Judi Roth (LWV of the Hamptons) will present an introduction to the bill, and will discuss the arguments in support, and against, the legislation.



Useful Websites for the 2009 Election

www.vote-ny.com

www.elections.state.ny.us

www.vote411.org

www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org/voting//vote2008.htm

Library Budget Vote and Trustee Candidate Election
Tuesday, October 14
details inside this issue of the Voter

President's Message

We have had a very busy three month period July through September. We held four days of registration drives at five locations. Friday July 25th was the CSpan Mobile Unit Registration Drive. The event was held in two locations at different times of the day. Mary Zopf was at both the County office Building and The Main Branch of the Smithtown Library. She was assisted by Carol McNally and Lisa Scott. Sunday August 10th the Library held a Carnival for the Children who participated in the Summer Reading Program. Stella Baker, Carol McNally and I were there to register voters and distribute absentee ballot applications. Sunday September 7th, with the help of staff members of the Nesconset Library, we held a very successful registration drive. Sunday September 21st, The Smithtown Historical Society held its Heritage Day Fair. Sondra Irvine, Carol McNally and I were at a table holding our registration drive along side the Long Island Greenbelt Conference and the Smithtown Garden Club.

Sunday September 29th, Judie Gorenstein, president of the LWV of Huntington and I addressed the Haitian American United for Change group at Suffolk Community College, Brentwood Campus. Our subject was the Importance of Voting. Our future plans include working with, Nassau/Suffolk Hispanic Task Force, NAACP Islip Branch, National Association of Puerto Rican Hispanic Social Workers, Delta Sigma Theta Inc. Suffolk County Alumnae Chapter to hold a candidates meeting at the Brentwood Library. Our last scheduled event at this printing is to provide a Moderator and Time Keeper for the LWV of Huntington's October 27th Candidates Meeting.

Thursday September 25th the LWV of Huntington presented "The Exonerated" at the Cinema Arts Theatre in Huntington. It was a play that was filmed concerning the true stories of a number of individuals who were convicted of serious felonies and later proved innocent. They all spent many years on death row. It is a very powerful film. After the film Martin Tankleff, a Long Islander who was imprisoned and later exonerated was a guest speaker. Marty and the others are testaments to the LWVUS position against the death penalty. In addition Mr. Tankleff clearly stated that doing life in prison is a far more severe punishment than death.

Also, thanks to all for the hard work before and during our successful Trash and Treasure appraisal and fundraiser with STAC at the Mills Pond House on Sept. 12

Joyce Rosenthal

Save the Date:

LWV Suffolk County annual Post Election Brunch

**Sunday, November 9
Bellport Country Club**

*See details in the
October SC Voter*

Smithtown Town Board Meeting Schedule

Tuesday: October 7
9:30 am work session
2:00 pm regular meeting

*Smithtown Town Hall
Second Floor Board Room*

Thursday: October 23
7:00 pm regular meeting

*Eugene A. Cannataro
Senior Citizen Center
420 Middle Country Road,
Smithtown, NY.*

Library Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule

Regular meeting:

Tuesday: October 28
Smithtown Main Library
at 7pm



STAC
Smithtown Township Arts Council

Mills Pond House
660 Route 25A, St. James, NY 11780
631-862-6575 fax 631-862-8730

**The League of Women Voters of Smithtown thanks
Allison J. Cruz, Executive Director
and the staff of the Smithtown Township
Arts Council/ Mills Pond House Gallery
for its support of the League.**

***We encourage all Town Residents to support the Arts
Council, participate in its cultural programs,
and visit the historic Mills Pond House in St. James.
For info: www.stacarts.org.***

Candidates on the November Ballot in Smithtown

County Court Judge

(Vote for 3) (10 Year Term)

all are cross endorsed by D, R, I, C, WF

- Joseph Farneti
- James F. Quinn
- Jeffrey Arlen Spinner

Family Court Judge

(vote for 1) (10 Year Term)

cross endorsed D, I, C, WF

- David R. Freundlich

District Court Judge, 4th Dist. Town of Smithtown

(Vote for 1) (4yr Term)

- D William G. Holst
- R, I, C, WF John J. Toomey, Jr.

Representative in Congress 1st Cong. District
(Vote for 1) (2yr Term)

- D, I, WF Timothy H. Bishop
- R, C Lee M. Zeldin

Representative in Congress 2nd Cong. District
(Vote for 1) (2yr Term)

- D, I, WF Steve Israel
- R, C Frank Stalzer

New York State Senate, 2nd Senatorial District
(Vote for 1) (2 yr Term)

- D Michael J. DePaoli
- R, I, C John J. Flanagan

New York State Assembly 7th Assembly District
(Vote for 1) (2yr Term)

- D, WF Allen E. Huggins
- R, I, C Michael J. Fitzpatrick

Ballot Proposal, General Election 2008

Amendment to Article 5, section 6 of the Constitution,
in relation to additional civil service credit for members of the armed forces of the United States

The proposed amendment would eliminate the requirement that veterans who were disabled in the actual performance of duty in any war be receiving disability payments from the United States Veterans Administration in order to qualify for additional points on a civil service examination for appointment or promotion.

Under the proposed amendment, the disability must only be certified to exist by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The proposed amendment would also update the reference to the "United States Veterans Administration" to instead refer to the "United States Department of Veterans Affairs" to reflect current federal government structure. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

Pro: There is a long history (indeed, since the Civil War) of veterans, particularly disabled veterans, being afforded preferential treatment in qualifying for and being retrained for positions in the civilian world. Preferential treatment is a recognition of veterans' sacrifice and service to our country, and also serves to make military service more attractive. Voting against this amendment will continue the status quo, which makes it harder for disabled veterans to qualify for additional points on civil service examinations. This in turn makes it harder for them to be appointed or promoted to positions in the civil service.

Con: The League can identify no arguments against this proposal.

Voter Service

According to exit polls conducted by The New York Times, CBS News, Voter Research and Surveys, Voter News Service and Edison/Milofsky this is the breakdown of how women voted in the 2004 presidential election. 54% of voters were women of them 41% were white women.

Share of Voters		Dem.	Rep.
9%	18-29years old	56%	43%
15	30-40	49	50
17	45-59	50	49
13	60 and older	51	49
32	Married	44	55
22	Unmarried	62	37
24	Suburban	50	49
14	No College	50	49
18	Some College	49	51
22	College Graduate	54	44

The Office of President

You may wonder why so many individuals at large, governors and members of congress are willing to campaign for years, spend a great deal of time raising funds and place themselves in a position to be verbally attacked by others who too want the job of President of the United States of America. Below you will find the job description and perks of the position that were printed in the LWVUSA book "Choosing the President 20008".

The President is the Chief Executive of the USA, as such he is

- Commander in chief of the Army and Navy and of the militia (National Guard) when it is called up for federal service;
- Can grant pardons and reprieves:
- Can appoint judges of the Supreme Court and other federal courts, ambassadors, and other high officials, with the "advise and consent" of the Senate;
- Can veto legislation passed by Congress (though a two-thirds vote of both the House and the Senate can override a veto);
- Can make treaties, with the consent of two-thirds of the Senate;
- Shall report to Congress on "the state of the Union" and recommend laws for Congress to consider:
- "Shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed".
 - Beyond these official powers named by the Constitution, the president in fact has other powers, including being the head of his or her political party and being the spokesperson for the country, which gives the president a great deal of media exposure and informal influence over the nation's political agenda.

The Perks of the Office:

In addition to getting to ride in Air Force 1, the president receives a salary of Four hundred thousand dollars a year, plus a fifty-thousand nontaxable expense account, and retirement benefits. The president lives in the White house rent free. The work of the president is supported by the federal government's vast executive branch and its approximately 2.7 million civilian employees, as well as 1.7 million military employees.

As of this writing, the NYS Board of Elections has accepted petitions from the following independent candidates for the office of President/Vice President ("independent" because their parties are not recognized in NYS):

- Ralph Nader/Matt Gonzalez (Populist)
- Cynthia McKinney/Rosa Clemente (Green)
- Bob Barr/Wayne Root (Libertarian)
- Roger Calero/Alyson Kennedy (Socialist Workers)
- Gloria La Riva/Eugene Puryear (Socialism and Liberation).

Immediately serving the president are the White House staff; executive offices such as the Council of Economic Advisors and the National Security Council; and the members of the cabinet, which is composed primarily of the heads of the fifteen executive departments: Agriculture, Commerce, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development Interior, Justice, Labor, State, Transportation, Treasury and Veterans Affairs.

Joyce Rosenthal

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the many members of the LWV Smithtown and the LWVSC who upon hearing of the death of my father, Irving Forrest, responded with an outpouring of sympathy and condolences. I am honored to count myself as a member of such fine and caring group.

Joyce Forrest Rosenthal

If you will be out of Suffolk County, or are physically unable to get to the polling place, you may request an **absentee ballot** from the Board of Elections. To be sure your request is processed, ask for this form at least 4 weeks before Election Day.

Suffolk County BOE: **631 852-4500**

Town Board 9/908

A.M. Councilwoman Patricia Biancaniello proposed that resolutions for the Town Board agenda be submitted on Thursday afternoon instead of the present Friday at noon so that the resolutions can be printed in the agenda instead of being "read-ons".

P.M. The Town Board will consider an amendment to the zoning code in residential areas so that retractable awnings will now be legal. A gentleman from Country Pointe condominiums urged the Board to pass this revision.

Affordable housing "bonus" rental units are available under provision of the Code of the Town of Smithtown Section 322-101 for the period from September 22, 2008 through October 24, 2008 at 5:00 P.M.

In the public comment session several King Park citizens complained about a 6 foot retaining wall that an adjacent homeowner has built. On top of the wall there is a partially built 9 foot corrugated steel garage. The town lawyer, Yvonne Leifrig said this is in litigation so the town board could not comment on it.

Another recurring complaint came from a St. James homeowner, Michael Gallagher. He complained about water flowing from Route 25A through the St. James Firehouse parking lot and flooding his property. Supervisor Vecchio's answer was "Why should we in debt Smithtown taxpayers for private property?" saying that it is the responsibility of the Fire Department and New York State to install drains on their property.

Mary Zopf, Observer

Tuesday, October 14 from 10am to 9pm

Residents of the Smithtown Special Library District may vote on the Library Budget and for Library Trustees at their local library

2008 Smithtown Library Trustee Candidates

Four candidates are running for three seats.

Bruce J. Ettenberg (Incumbent)

Anthony J. Monteleone (Incumbent)

Carolyn J. Ciarelli

Rosalind F. Palazzolo

For biographies and photos of these four candidates and more on the budget and election details visit www.smithlib.org

Smithtown Special Library District 2009 Proposed Budget Details

Operating Budget Proposal	Adopted 2008	Proposed 2009
Salaries and Employee Benefits	\$ 8,087,400	\$ 8,798,600
Library Materials and Programs	\$ 772,500	\$ 784,400
Equipment and Other Capital Outlays	\$ 97,000	\$ 100,000
Operation and Maintenance of Buildings	\$ 792,500	\$ 726,000
Other Expenses (supplies, communications, internet, printing, postage, professional fees, etc.)	\$ 854,200	\$ 670,700
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	\$ 10,603,600	\$ 11,079,700
Anticipated Income	-\$285,372	-\$307,372
Property tax levy*	\$ 10,318,228	\$ 10,772,328
Dollar change in property tax levy		\$ 454,100
Percentage change in property tax levy		4.40%
Estimated tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation	\$ 39.47	\$ 41.21
Estimated change in tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation		\$ 1.74

* Expansion/Renovation debt service of \$1,740,000 represents the amount due this fiscal year on the capital improvement bond, which was approved by the voters on March 8, 2008.



Suffolk County Voter

www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org

October 2008

Box 1440, Stony Brook, NY 11790-1440 Phone 631 862-6860



Wed. Oct. 15

LWVSC Board Meeting, Riverhead Library 9:30am-12noon
Includes PR session 11:15—Noon

Sun. Nov. 9

LWVSC Post Election Brunch, Bellport Country Club 10:30am

Urgent: Immediate Action Required on Lloyd Aquifer Protection Bill S1558/A2986

Gov. Paterson must take action on this bill within the next three weeks and there is a strong lobby from NYC against the bill.

Potable water is one of our most precious natural resources. It is a renewable resource within circumscribed limits. Since Suffolk County's only source of potable water is from our aquifers, we MUST protect them!

The Lloyd is the smallest, most pristine, and deepest aquifer, which is reserved for communities which have no other source of potable water. Studies of the Lloyd Aquifer are rare, incomplete, and not comprehensive. However, we do know that the Lloyd recharge rate is only 3%.- we can use it up far more quickly than we can replace it.

We must protect this aquifer from those who wish to pump other, less pure water from other areas into, and pump excessive amounts of water out of, the Lloyd. There are political and business reasons why people are willing to gamble with our water supply. We cannot let that happen. Contact Governor David Paterson and urge him to sign the Lloyd Aquifer Protection Bill, S.1558/A.2986 now.

Dorothy Cappadona

For further information and a sample letter, visit www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org

Transportation Issues to Lead SC League Priorities in 2008-2009

With significant input from County Board members, the Legislative Committee met to determine our League's priorities for the upcoming year. What was most apparent in importance to us is the concern for transportation and its inadequacy within Suffolk County. It was unanimously decided that this issue was most prominent among those presented. There are League members who have been studying transportation over many years, so we will have access to what they have learned, and are hopeful that they will add their expertise to this mission.

Continued on page 2

SC League Urges County Funding for Services to Mentally Ill

As the Suffolk County Legislature and CE Levy negotiate the 2009 County Budget, the League is aware of the tremendous pressure to cut SC services across the board. The League, on many occasions over the last year, has given evidence that untreated mental illnesses increase costs to both public and private sectors.

- *There are more than 700 people in Suffolk County waiting for access to housing with supportive services*
- *There are hundreds of people awaiting therapeutic services who cannot get appointments in our clinics*
- *There is inadequate staffing in these clinics*
- *Deterioration of family functioning, loss of employment, and loss of health are direct results of under-treated mental illness*
- *There are 7,800 children who meet the criteria for service for the seriously emotionally ill- with only 510 service slots available*

The League strongly urges our elected officials to consider the effect of budget cuts on the underserved mentally ill in Suffolk County, and protect and even expand funding to them, in order to ensure the well being of ALL of our fellow SC citizens.

Katherine Hoak

For more details, visit www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org for LWVSC's presentation at the CE's September Budget hearing.

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Transportation Issues to Lead SC League Priorities in 2008-2009 *continued from page 1*

Several aspects of transportation were noted: the need to educate people to walk, to bike, to take public transportation; the importance of publicity so that people are more aware of what is available now; improvement in the coordination of services now in operation; accommodation to the needs of people with disabilities, among many others. From investigation, we noted that both the LWVUS and the LWVNYS, in their Energy & Environment positions, address public transportation. It is also addressed in regard to affordable housing and smart growth. This is a multi-faceted concern. We decided that our next step will be to form a committee to study all aspects of transportation and the effect of its shortfall in Suffolk County, and then to determine what our positions will be.

We were notified of the Lloyd Aquifer Protection Bill (S1558, A2986) which is awaiting Governor Patterson's signature. There are strong pressures being brought to bear against the signing of this bill, but protection of the Lloyd Aquifer is critical to Long Islanders. Dr. Dorothy Cappadona, our environmental specialist, is contacting League members to encourage their contacting the Governor to urge his support and signature on this bill.

The Legislative Committee determined that it would continue to support its positions in support of Affordable Housing, and Campaign Finance Reform. Our strong advocacy for Alternatives for Incarceration (ATI) will also continue. This includes the importance we see in both improved services for those with mental illness, and in Restorative Justice.

Environmental Issues are outstanding concerns, including the preservation of open space and the decisions made in regard to land use. Ground water conservation is of critical importance. We determined that it is important to form a committee to assess these concerns. This proposal will be presented at the next County Board meeting in Riverhead.

Not the least of our concerns is the status of health care in Suffolk County. The delivery of services here for years has been outstanding and a model for other municipalities. We now have grave concerns that the delivery of

services, both staff and hours, has been cut back. Many of our citizens are totally dependent on the accessibility of health care provided in our clinics. Preventive care, especially, is becoming less available, a condition which is necessary for us to monitor.

Katherine Hoak



**League of Women Voters
of Suffolk County**



2008 Post Election Brunch

Bellport Country Club

Sunday November 9, 2008

10:30am—1:30pm

National, State, and Local Election Insights

Journalists Karl Grossman & Rick Brand

NYS Assemblyman Fred Thiele

Local League Voter Service Awards

LWVSC Liberty Award

Visit www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org for more details

Cost:	League Members (paid in advance)	\$30
	Non-members or Pay at the Door	\$35

For information contact Sue Wilson, sswilson@hamptons.com 283-6549

*Please make checks payable to **LWVNYS***

*and mail **BEFORE OCTOBER 31** to*

Marilyn McKeown, 15 Mott Lane, Brookhaven, NY 11719

Voter Service Activities Prime Focus of Suffolk County Leagues in Election Season

Voter Registration Drives and Candidates Meetings filled calendars in September, October, and early November throughout Suffolk County. From the Nassau border to the East End, local League members set up tables outside supermarkets, at community fairs, at health centers, and local colleges. The list of possibilities was only limited by hours in the day, and our inability to clone our dedicated members!

Each year, LWVSC's Post Election Brunch honors our tireless volunteers, in particular with the county Liberty Award, as well as the well-deserved local League Voter Service Awards.

For the last few years, we have compiled the vast number of voter education, voter registration, and voter service activities held by our five local Leagues: Brookhaven, Hamptons, Huntington, Shelter Island, and Smithtown.

Join us Sunday, Nov. 9 at Bellport!

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS They Support Us!

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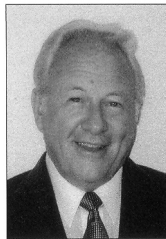


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Bonnie Luisi
Branch Manager

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Phone: 631-269-4900 Fax: 631-544-4881

2020 Jericho Turnpike
Commack, NY 11725-3097
Phone: 631-543-7400 Fax: 631-543-2754
E-mail: bluisi@bankofsmithtown.net

League of Women Voters of Smithtown
Membership Registration

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # _____

Email _____

Even if you do not have time for active participation, your membership alone will strengthen our voice.

Individual Membership	\$50.00
Household (2 at same address)	70.00
Student Membership	20.00
Additional Contribution	_____
Total	\$ _____

Make dues checks payable to LWV of Smithtown and mail to:

LWV of Smithtown
c/o Mary Zopf
21 Greene Drive
Commack, NY 11725

Please note:

If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation to the League beyond the dues amount, a separate check for the donation must be written to "LWVNYS Education Foundation" and mailed to the address above. Thank you.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ®
OF SMITHTOWN**

**322 River Road
St. James, NY 11780**

Address Correction Requested

**POSTMASTER:
DATED MAIL-
Please Rush!**

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 2008

Mon.	Oct. 6	LWV Smithtown Board Meeting, Mills Pond House, 7pm
Tues.	Oct. 7	Town Board Meetings, 9:30am-Work Session; 2pm-Regular Meeting, Town Hall
Fri.	Oct. 10	Deadline for Voter Registration for General Election
Tues.	Oct. 14	Smithtown Library Budget Vote and Library Trustee Election 10am-9pm
Wed.	Oct. 15	Compact for the Popular Vote: Presentation, Smithtown Main Library, 7pm
Wed	Oct. 15	LWVSC Board Meeting, Riverhead Library 9:30-11:15am Special PR informational discussion/training 11:15-12:00noon
Thurs.	Oct. 23	Town Board Meeting, Senior Citizens Center, 7pm
Tues.	Oct. 28	Library Board Meeting, Smithtown Main Library, 7pm

November 2008

Mon.	Nov. 3	LWV Smithtown Board Meeting, Mills Pond House, 7pm
Tues.	Nov. 4	Election Day, Polls are open 6am –9pm in Suffolk County
Sun.	Nov. 9	LWVSC Post Election Brunch, Bellport County Club, 10:30am-1:30pm