



Suffolk County Voter

www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org

October 2008

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



Wed. Oct. 15
Sun. Nov. 9

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

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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

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!



**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
Results, Analysis, and Insights
from Journalists and Professionals**

**Local League Voter Service Awards
and LWVSC's Liberty Award**

Visit www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org for more details

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| 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*