



**LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®**

LWV of East Nassau

**Voter**

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

*November, 2010*

**Save the Dates**

**Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2:00 – 4:30 PM**  
**United Nations Day – Microfinance**  
\*See below.

**Wednesday, November 10 – 6:30 PM**  
**LWVNC Post Election Dinner**  
Speaker: Rick Brand, Newsday  
Columnist – See November VOTER

**Wednesday, November 17 - 7:30 PM**  
**LWVEN Board Meeting**  
Levittown Library (*Please note new date  
for this meeting.*)

**Tuesday, November 30 – 6:45 PM**  
**LWVNC Board Meeting**  
Hempstead Library

**Wednesday, December 15 - 7:30 PM**  
**LWVEN Board Meeting**  
Levittown Library

**Tuesday, December 28 – 6:45 PM**  
**LWVNC Board Meeting**  
Hempstead Library

**Wednesday, January 5 - 7:30 PM**  
**LWVEN Board Meeting**  
Levittown Library

**Wednesday, January 19**  
**LWVEN Holiday Luncheon**  
See December VOTER for details.

\*It might not be too late to attend the **LWVNYS' UN Conference on Microfinancing**. If you have not yet made your reservation for this very interesting meeting, call the state League, 518-465-4162 and ask if you can still attend. The conference will take place at the Church Center of the UN, 777 UN Plaza, (across the street from the UN Building) because of construction currently taking place. (See above.)

Please Join  
**The League of Women Voters  
of Nassau County**

for a  
**Commentary & Analysis  
of the Election Results**

**Wednesday, November 10, 2010, 6:30 PM**

Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
48 Shelter Rock Road, Manhasset

**Special Guest Speaker:**

**Rick Brand**  
**Newsday Columnist**

We will enjoy a light meal and a lively discussion  
(Only \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door)

**Send your check, payable to LWVNC, to:  
LWV of Nassau County, POB 539, Point Lookout, NY 11569**

**For further information, call: Rachael: 538-0222, or the League  
office: 431-1628**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for the LWVNC Post-Election Event on Nov. 10 at 6:30 PM.  
Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to LWVNC.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



Please clip and mail with your check to: LWVNC, POB 539, Point Lookout, NY 11569

## League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

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### County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Monday, Nov. 8	10:00 AM
Monday, Dec. 6	10:00 AM
Monday, Dec. 20	10:00 AM

The Nassau County Legislature meets in the Legislative Chamber, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, 1550 Franklin Ave, Mineola, 571-4252. An admittance pass must be obtained. Call for scheduled committee meeting dates and times.

### Town of Hempstead Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, Nov. 9	10:30 AM
Tuesday, Nov 23	7:00 PM
Tuesday, Dec. 7	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, Nov. 9	10:00 AM
Tuesday, Nov. 23	10:00 AM
Tuesday, Dec. 14	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 – 2010-2011

### OFFICERS

<b>President/Affordable Housing:</b>	Barbara Epstein	221-1948
<b>Vice Presidents:</b>		
<b>Judicial Liaison/   Environment:</b>	Lorraine Newman	735-4876
<b>Voter Service/HAVA:   Bulletin Circulation/   Special Events:</b>	Norma Schaeffer	489-3133
<b>Secretary/ Health Care/   Natural Resources</b>	Mary Price	731-0812
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Anne Ostling	681-8996
	Barbara Josepher	921-8749

### DIRECTORS

<b>Bulletin Editor:</b>	Paula Blum	785-3213
<b>Budget/Bulletin Advertising:</b>	Lesley Pollak	731-1066
<b>Education:</b>	Maxine Stolzer	938-1172
<b>Health Care/Advocacy:</b>	Polly Nager	796-6211
<b>Immigration:</b>	Carole Goldfarb	626-3338
<b>Membership:</b>	Mimi Hirsch	822-5086
<b>Public Relations:</b>	Bobby Stim	731-1067
<b>Voter Service:</b>	Claire Gavrin	781-7274
<b>Programs:</b>	Janet Spar	735-8673
<b>Social Policy:</b>	Sandra Mintz	868-5578
<b>Special Districts/   Students Inside Albany:</b>	Lillian Broad	781-8685
<b>Member- at-Large</b>	Shirley Bard	781-9570
<b>Off Board</b>		
<b>Students Inside Albany:</b>	Judy Schecter	221-5448

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## Keeping Connected

### LWVUS & LWVUS Education Fund

1730 M Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036-4508  
 202-429-1965, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), [lwv@lwv.org](mailto:lwv@lwv.org)

### LWVNYS & LWVNYS Education Foundation

62 Grand Street, Albany, NY 12207  
 518-465-4162, [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org), [lwvny@lwvny.org](mailto:lwvny@lwvny.org), [www.lwvny-bulletins.org](http://www.lwvny-bulletins.org)

### LWV of Nassau County:

Post Office Box 539, Point Lookout, NY 11569, 516-431-1628  
[www.lwvofnassaucounty.org](http://www.lwvofnassaucounty.org), [vote@lwvofnassaucounty.org](mailto:vote@lwvofnassaucounty.org)



### Barbara's Corner

Now that Election Day has passed, in some states we have seen the impact of big spending by special interests and newly-formed organizations that don't disclose their sources of funding. Secret campaign cash should have no place in our American Democracy. Because of changes in the law, there are no disclosure requirements - even foreign government corporations could have been funding the ads. Some of these organizations functioned as Political Action Committees, but without any disclosure of their donors. Voters deserve to know who is paying for political advertising. We hope that the next Congress will pass the Disclosure Act, legislation which the League is advocating for. (See page 8.)

Sincere thanks to all who helped with *voter registration, Roosevelt Field voting machine demonstrations, distributing Voters Guides, and both Candidates' Forums*. You make this all possible. And, very special thanks to Claire Gavrin for stepping in to do the Candidates Forums, etc., and to those who helped her.

**Reminder: Pay your dues now – Support LWV.**

## Highlights of Health Care – Effective Now

by Polly Nager

On Sept. 23, 2010, several important changes in the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act (PPACA) took effect. Most outstanding are:

- Children with pre-existing conditions cannot be denied coverage.
- Insurers are prohibited from rescinding or taking away your coverage based on an unintentional mistake on an application.
- Ending of lifetime limits on the care insurers provide, plus banning insurers' annual limits on coverage.
- Allows children up to 26 years of age to remain on their parents' plans.
- Protects your choice of available doctors within a health plan.



### What About Medicare?

**This year:** Those entering the Part D “donut hole” in 2010 will receive a one-time \$250 rebate check.

**Next year:** In 2011, if you reach the coverage gap, you will receive a 50% discount when buying Part D-covered brand name prescription drugs. Additional savings will continue until the gap is closed in 2020. Free preventive services, e.g., colorectal cancer screening and mammograms; free annual physicals to encourage preventative health care.

Medicare has been paying \$1000 more per person on average to Medicare Advantage insurers, but will now equalize payments, without changing any guaranteed Medicare benefits.

Elder Justice Act – called CLASS helps pay for long-term care and support at home.

**Ongoing changes will continue. For further info, call 1-800-MEDICARE or go online at Medicare.gov. (Don't give your personal Medicare information to anyone who isn't a trusted source.)**

(Sources: U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services - Fact Sheet: 6/22/10, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) May 2010 – (Medicare and the New Health Care Law)

*Democracy is an experiment, and the right of the majority to rule is no more inherent than the right of the minority to rule; and unless the majority represents sane, righteous, unselfish public sentiment, it has no inherent right.*

**~William Allen White**

## NYS to Correct Miscount of Incarcerated People

In August, NYS passed legislation ensuring that incarcerated persons will be counted as residents of their home communities when state and local legislative districts are redrawn next year.

The state legislature and some counties and municipalities have previously counted incarcerated people as residents of the prison location, inflating the local population counts used for legislative districts. Padding legislative districts with prison populations artificially enhances the weight of a vote cast in those districts at the expense of all districts that do not contain a prison.

The new law requires the use of data from the department of corrections to identify the home addresses of incarcerated persons and to include them in the population counts for those areas prior to redistricting. Because the bill does not change the core Census data, no federal funding based on Census data would be affected. The bill will affect state senate, state assembly, county and municipal districting that will begin in 2011.

The law will put all state and local districting in New York in line with the practice of 13 rural New York counties with large prisons that conduct their own adjustments to census data to avoid prison-based gerrymandering.

The new law will help New York correct past distortions in representation.

"How wonderful it is that no one need wait a single moment before starting to change the world." ~ **Anne Frank**

"Discretion in speech is more than eloquence." ~ **Sir Francis Bacon**

"For in reason, all government without the consent of the governed is the very definition of slavery."

~**Jonathan Swift, The Drapier's Letter**

### Town of Hempstead S.T.O.P. Collection

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
For Information: 378-2200

Saturday, November 20 – Baldwin Park  
3232 South Grand Avenue, Baldwin

Sunday, December 12 – Parking Field Three  
Eisenhower Park, East Meadow



### Town of Oyster Bay S.T.O.P. Collection Electronic & Household Hazardous Waste

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
For information: 677-5943

Sunday, November 14 – TOB Department of Public Works Garage  
150 Miller Place, Syosset

## Computer Tips

**<http://printgreener.com>** - When you are printing from the web, you can use your print preview function and only print the specific pages you want. Another option is to use the free program "*GreenPrint*." If you use this, you can automatically remove blank pages before printing, remove the pages you do not want and remove banner ads and other images. You can then either print the file or document, or save it as a pdf. *GreenPrint* also offers more sophisticated programs at a cost.

**[www.jott.com](http://www.jott.com)** - This service used to be free – it no longer is, but you can try it free for a week. You can call a phone number and record a voice message, then that voice message is sent to someone as text. You can send messages to yourself or others as email or text messages. There is also a reverse service available: you can get email messages that are sent to you converted to voicemail and sent to your phone.

**[L-Mail.com](http://L-Mail.com)** - To send an email letter to someone who does not get email, you can use *L-Mail.com*. You write the message – the site will address, stamp and mail a traditional letter. Prices start at \$1.16, depending on the destination of the letter.

**[www.keepyousafe.com](http://www.keepyousafe.com)** – Get military-grade encryption for any vital personal information, digital copies of important documents, etc. The basic service is free, and you can access your files on any computer with internet access. (Source: **BottomLine**)

# What's the Point? - What's the Penalty?

Many drivers in NYS take the approved safe driving classes given by AAA, AARP and others which enable them to reduce some of their insurance rates by 10% and, if needed, to remove points from their records. Hopefully, enough knowledge is gained to reduce accidents. However, some who take these courses do not really internalize the information or focus on just what the penalties are for violations of our traffic codes. So, here is some information to share with your significant others.

## POINTS

Speeding (mph over the posted limit)	
3 points	1-10 mph
4 points	11-20 mph
6 points	21-30 mph
8 points	31-40 mph
11 points	over 40 mph

### 5 points

Reckless driving  
Failing to stop for a school bus

### 4 points

Tailgating

### 3 points

Failure to yield right of way  
Violation involving traffic signal  
Violation involving stop or yield sign  
Railroad crossing violation  
Improper passing  
Unsafe lane change  
Driving in wrong direction  
Driving left of center  
Leaving scene of an accident  
Safety restraint violation involving person under 16

### 2 points

Other moving violations (source: DMV)

## PENALTIES

Failure to stop at a traffic light	\$230.00
Operating a motor vehicle without a valid license	\$230.00
Failure to stop at a stop sign	\$180.00
Following too closely	\$180.00
Failure to signal or improper turn	\$180.00
Expired inspection (60 days or less)	\$130.00
Expired inspection (61 days or more)	\$155.00
Equipment violations (only sec. 375, 376 & 381)	\$100.00
Seat belt violations	\$130.00
Cell phone use	\$180.00

*Above are the penalties for traffic infractions in NYS, as a result of increased surcharges added with last year's budget. Be forewarned. Be sure to drive carefully and observe all traffic laws. (source: Assemblymember David McDonough)*



This van, one of two belonging to the Board of Elections, was present at Roosevelt Field for the 10 days leading up to Primary Day and the 10 days leading up to Election Day. During this time, BOE staff, assisted by Leaguers, helped voters learn how to use the new voting machines.

## New York's Redistricting Practices Undermine Democracy

New York State's redistricting process rigs elections to benefit legislative incumbents and political parties by undermining the democratic principle of "one person, one vote," allowing legislative districts with huge population disparities, and minimizes the number of "competitive" legislative districts with close party enrollments to protect incumbents. New York State allows "gerrymandered" districts with vast differences in population size that while technically legal, undermine democratic principles.

During the period 1980 through 2008, nearly 3,000 state legislative general elections were held, yet in only a tiny fraction of those races (39) were challengers successful in knocking out incumbents. This staggeringly high re-election rate is a direct consequence of New York's system of legislative redistricting. As a result of mapmakers' efforts to limit electoral competition, incumbents win – and win big. From the general elections in 2002 through 2008, over 65 percent of Senate winners won by more than 2 to 1 or greater. Nearly 75 percent of Assembly winners won by that margin or greater. Roughly 5 percent of races were close.

At Candidates' Forums in October, just about all state legislative candidates who were asked indicated they would support having the 2011 redistricting done by a non-partisan Commission. Now, let's see if they keep their word.



## League Calls on Media to Stop Secret Political Advertising

In October, the LWV called on television and radio stations to refuse political advertising paid for with secret money. The League also called for political candidates to repudiate campaign advertising in their races that comes from front groups and organizations that fail to disclose their big donors.

"We are seeing huge sums of money from secret sources going into campaign advertising, much of it the negative advertising that poisons the airways," said **Elisabeth MacNamara, national president of the League of Women Voters.**

"Millions upon millions upon millions of dollars are being spent secretly in this election and it threatens to drown out the voices of individual voters. Because of changes in the law brought about by recent Supreme Court decisions, there are no disclosure requirements that let the voters know who is paying for the ads," she said. "Voters need to know who is paying – it is a vital part of their decision-making process in deciding whether to believe the ads," she said.

"That's why we are calling on media outlets and political candidates to act responsibly. The media should refuse these secretly-funded ads and candidates should repudiate the ads – even if they help the candidate get elected," she said. "Protecting our democracy and the vital role of informed voters is more important than any one election," MacNamara argued.

"We understand that political advertising is very lucrative for media outlets, but we believe the public would be better served in this election season if TV and radio stations required full disclosure of the funders of campaign advertising – and refused such advertising if the sponsor fails to disclose the major funders," she said. "It's not enough to know that an ad was paid for by 'Moms for Apple Pie,' 'Dads for Cherry Pie,' or some other innocuous sounding name. The voters need to know exactly who gave the big money to such organizations to pay for the advertising," MacNamara said.

"Organizations like the national Chamber of Commerce proudly announced their campaign advertising, but then refused to disclose which major corporations are funding the ads. Consumers and voters need to know," MacNamara maintained. "Candidates have to 'stand by their ads.' Big donors should stand up and be counted when they are paying for election advertising."

The League of Women Voters has been calling attention to secret money being spent on political advertising for months, but the U.S. Senate has refused to act to require disclosure, even though the House of Representatives passed a strong disclosure bill which was supported by the League.

Though the Supreme Court recently changed campaign finance law, the Court approved of enhanced disclosure. It said that disclosure is important to "providing the electorate with information." It also supported disclaimer requirements "so that the people will be able to evaluate the arguments to which they are being subjects."

Now we are seeing the largest campaign expenditures in history even as organizations accept hundreds of thousands of dollars from secret sources. Essentially, these organizations are functioning as Political Action Committees but without having to follow the laws requiring disclosure of their donors. It should come as no surprise that they lobbied against the DISCLOSE Act in Congress, which would have stopped manipulation of elections by fly-by-night anonymous hit groups, and prevented the infusion of undercover expenditures.

"These activities are directly detrimental to our democracy. Voters deserve to know who is paying for election advertising. The League of Women Voters calls on all candidates to disavow secret advertising and asks media outlets not to accept ads unless the names of the true major donors are made public," MacNamara said.