



**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.*

*October, 2010*

## Save the Dates

**Sunday, October 3, 8 AM – 2 PM**  
**E-Cycle Event** - Electronic items  
Newbridge Rd. Park, Bellmore

**Monday, October 4, 7:15 PM**  
**Candidates' Forum for SDs 5 and 6  
& ADs 12, 13 and 15**  
Plainview/Old Bethpage Library, 999  
Old Country Road, Plainview

**Wednesday, October 6, 7:30 PM**  
**LWVEN Board Meeting**  
Levittown Library, Bluegrass Lane

**Tuesday, November 2**  
**ELECTION DAY**

Be an active observer on Election Day.  
Let us know how smoothly things go with the  
new machines at your polling place.

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

**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.*)

## Patient Protection & the Affordable Care Act What Does it Mean for You?

### Health Care Forum

**Thursday, October 7, 2010 – 12:45 PM**

**Co-sponsored by:**  
**LWV of Huntington & LWV of East Nassau**

Doubleday-Babcock Senior Center  
45 East Main Street, Oyster Bay 11771  
516-922-1770



**Speaker: Diana Graham, of HIICAP**  
(Health Insurance & Information Counseling & Assistance Program of  
Nassau County)

Please join us to learn more about the Health Care situation in the country. Find out how the new health care law will affect Medicare benefits. We will learn the provisions of the new bill, and dispel the misinformation which was disseminated before its passage (and is still lingering). Call or e-mail Barbara 221-1948, [byeppie@aol.com](mailto:byeppie@aol.com), or Paula 785-3213, if you would like to carpool.

## *Midterm Election, Citizens Case, and the Founders*

**Thursday, November 4**

**7:15 PM**

*(Please note earlier than usual time.)*

**Merrick Public Library**

2279 Merrick Avenue, 516-377-6112

Speaker: Donald Beahm, PhD, Associate Professor of Political Science & Pre-Law Advisor, Dowling College  
Please join us for this very interesting and informative discussion of our political process, as well as the results of the election. The meeting, as usual is open to the community. Bring friends and family to participate in a lively discussion.

# League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

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## County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Monday, Oct. 4	10:00 AM
Monday, Oct. 18	10:00 AM
Monday, Nov. 8	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, Oct. 5	10:30 AM
Tuesday, Oct. 19	2:30, 7:00 PM
Tuesday, Nov. 9	10:30 AM
Tuesday, Nov 23	7:00 PM

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

## Town of Oyster Bay Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, Oct. 5	10:00 AM
Tues., Oct. 19	10:00AM, 7:00PM
Tuesday, Nov. 9	10:00 AM
Tuesday, Nov. 23	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

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<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)

## What the DEC is Doing to Reduce Drugs in Surface Waters



*The DEC is working to develop a safe, legal and environmentally sound way to dispose of unwanted medications*

Reducing the amounts of drugs that make their way to New York's surface waters is a complicated task that requires collaboration among state and federal agencies, institutions, drug manufacturers, pharmacies and individuals. DEC is working with all stakeholders to prevent drugs from entering the wastewater stream and ensure that they are disposed of in a safe, legal and environmentally sound manner.

### DEC's Plan of Action

- **Pro-actively protecting the environment**  
DEC has established a Pharmaceuticals Work Group including representatives from the Water, Solid and Hazardous Materials, Pollution Prevention, Public Affairs programs, the Policy Office and the NYS Department of Health (DOH).
- **Combining efforts with other states**  
DEC has joined the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission's pharmaceuticals working group to foster interstate communication on the issue of pharmaceuticals in the environment.
- **Continuing to study the environmental impacts**  
DEC is combining research efforts with the US EPA, United States Geologic Survey (USGS), the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission and the NYS Department of Health. DEC has been collaborating with the USGS since 2003 on a study of trace contaminants (including pharmaceuticals) in the New York City watershed.
- **Participating in a national system for the management of unwanted pharmaceuticals**  
DEC has joined with the Product Stewardship Institute's pharmaceuticals initiative and will be working with other states and stakeholders to develop a viable system for the return of unwanted drugs.
- **Beginning a public education and awareness campaign**  
DEC is developing educational materials to be posted in pharmacies to inform the public about the danger of flushing unwanted drugs and on the proper disposal methods. DEC will also keep the public up to date on the environmental and human health impacts of drugs in surface waters. (Source: Dept. of Environmental Conservation)

## Consolidation of Governmental Entities Position

*As the result of a year of study by the majority of Local Leagues, on the topic of consolidation and dissolution of governmental entities, the Leagues in NYS reached consensus and have come to the following position:*

The League of Women Voters of NYS supports the efficient and effective operation of government. Consolidation of governmental units and the sharing of major governmental services may be a way of promoting the efficient and effective operation of government. In achieving this goal, the **League supports a cooperative and transparent process, in which citizens have sufficient and timely information with which to make informed decisions about proposed actions, and well-defined channels for citizen input and review.**

Administrative and fiscal efficiency should be included in the criteria by which local governments consider whether to consolidate or share major services.

The League supports a system of state-funded grants to local governments to study the feasibility of the consolidation of governmental units or sharing of governmental services.

In determining whether to support a consolidation/shared services proposal at the local level, as a way of making government more efficient and effective, local Leagues must consider both the adequacy of the process and the likely effects of the proposal's implementation.

In determining whether to support a consolidation/shared services proposal as a way of making government more efficient and effective, local Leagues should apply the following criteria. While it is not necessary that each standard be met, the League recognizes that these standards represent potential benefits of consolidation, leading to more efficient and effective government:

- Will the proposal result in projected cost savings and a positive effect on taxes over the long term,
- Will the proposal either result in an increased quality and/or efficiency of services or, at a minimum, maintain services at existing levels;
- Will the proposal fairly address disparities in employee contracts;
- Will the proposal result in increased social and economic justice;
- Will the proposal result in a reduction in the number of governmental entities?

**The first lever voting machine was used in Rockport NY in 1892.** (source – NC Board of Elections)

### Barbara's Corner



October 10<sup>th</sup> is **Global Day of Climate Change**. It is the day thousands of communities across the globe will be taking action to address climate change. Global warming is happening faster than ever, according to scientists, and humans are responsible. Global warming is caused by releasing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere; the most common being carbon dioxide. There is an international movement to solve the climate crisis. Check out their website: [www.350.org](http://www.350.org). You can help stop global warming by taking action. Think of what you can do to reduce your carbon imprint. Some things that you can do include using: energy efficient light bulbs, faucet aerators, low-flow shower heads, caulking, window plastic, outlet gaskets, pipe wrap, etc. You can make a difference.

Remember to go to the national League of Women Voters voter education website: [vote411.org](http://vote411.org). And, the NYS League is working on getting its **SmartVoter** website up and running. It was available at the last minute for the Primary, and will have information on all of our candidates by the time Election Day rolls around. Check it out!!



## ***United Nations Day*** ***Microfinance:***



### ***From Struggle for Survival to Planning for the Future***

**Tuesday, November 9, 2010**

**2:00 - 4:30 pm**

**Church Center of the United Nations, 777 United Nations Plaza, NYC**

**(across the street from the UN Building)**

Join League members and friends from around the state for the annual United Nations briefing on Tuesday, November 9, from 2:00-4:30 pm in New York City. This year's topic will be Microfinance: From Struggle for Survival to Planning for the Future. Because the UN building is under renovations, the briefing will be held across the street in the Church Center of the United Nations (777 United Nations Plaza); speakers will be arranged by the United Nations Department of Public Information. An optional tour of the UN and reservations for lunch at area restaurants are also available.

The subject of this year's briefing is MICROFINANCE: From Struggle for Survival to Planning for the Future. The world's poorest people, who often reside in developing countries, are excluded from access to traditional financial services, including credit, necessary to increase and diversify incomes, build human, social and economic assets, and plan for the future. The microfinance movement, which, in its present permutation, stems from the 1970s, makes financial services, including small loans, available to poor people, often targeting women. These loans have enabled women to build profitable personal businesses. They have also had an indirect, positive impact on families and communities, as profits are invested in family health, education and nutrition. Come hear speakers discuss this important international issue.

**SIGN UP NOW - SPACE IS LIMITED! Call LWVNYS or go to [lwvny.org](http://lwvny.org) for registration form.**

League of Women Voters of NYS, 62 Grand Street, Albany, NY 12207

Tel: 518-465-4162 FAX: 518-465-0812

Website: [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org) Email: [lwvny@lwvny.org](mailto:lwvny@lwvny.org)

## If Roe Were Overturned, Then What?

By Polly Nager

The League of Women Voters has sustained a position for reproductive rights for women since 1983. The attacks on women's right for an abortion have been aggressive and ongoing -- personal assaults against clinic workers, murders of doctors, and judicial decisions - leaving the intent and strength of the Roe decision vulnerable and in jeopardy

New York State passed its own legislation legalizing abortion in 1970. This law allows legal abortion if a woman's life, not her health, is in danger. The law sits in the penal code, not the public health code, where all other medical practices are regulated.

Recently, Assemblymember Deborah Glick and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver introduced the Reproductive Health Act (A11484) to replace the current outdated law.

In the New York Senate the Act (S5808) was introduced by Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins. In both chambers the bills rest in the Health Committees.

Polls indicate that 75% of New Yorkers support this Act. However, anti-choice lobbyists outnumber pro-choice advocates five to one.

The Reproductive Health Act will

- Insure that a woman will be able to have an abortion if her health is endangered.
- Regulate abortion care in public health law rather than in the criminal code.
- Guarantee everyone the right to use or refuse contraception.

Those in favor of these bills should be alerting their legislators that these bills are important and need support.

(Source: "Perspectives" • Planned Parenthood NC • Summer 2010)

## Reapportionment & Redistricting

### What is reapportionment?

Reapportionment is the process of dividing the number of State Assembly members and Senators, & the number of US Congressmembers, among the state's population in order to assure, as close as possible, districts of equal size.

### What is the difference between reapportionment and redistricting?

While the terms are sometimes used interchangeably, "reapportionment" refers to the allocation of legislative seats, whereas "redistricting" concerns the drawing of district lines.

### When is reapportionment conducted?

Reapportionment is conducted once every 10 years, following the census.



## The New Voting Machines

"'Democracy, the Hard Way, (NYT, 8/22/10)' gets it part right, but throws the baby out with the bathwater. While citing real issues facing New York voters this year, it blames the new voting systems when the causes are in reality political. Fault for the ballot's small typeface lies with a Legislature that refuses to abandon the full face ballot. The requirement that ALL candidate contests be on one page leaves no alternative but small print.

Politicians eschew better ballot designs for political reasons -- every candidate's name appears on the first page. Similarly, the confusing over-vote message can be improved by a simple change to the scanner behavior. But the State Board of Elections refuses to make this important change.

"Filling in the bubble" is universal- anyone who has filled out a lottery ticket or taken a standardized test knows how to do it. In the 2009 Elections, 27 New York counties used the new paper ballot systems without difficulty. New England switched from lever machines to paper ballots without any significant problems. Metropolitan area voters, using the new systems for the first time, will be no different."

Letter to the editor of the New York Times, sent by Bo Lipari (former Director of New Yorkers for Verified Voting and current member of the board of the LWV of NYS) in response to the Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> "impending doom" article.

## NYS Legislation Signed into Law

A-2563a/S6177a - provides that employers who provide funeral leave for family members of deceased shall not deny such leave for same-sex committed partners of the deceased. Provides that employers who extend funeral or bereavement leave to an employee for the death of a spouse, child, parent or other relative shall not deny the same leave for the death of an employee's same-sex committed partner; defines same-sex committed partners as those who are financially and emotionally interdependent in a manner commonly presumed of spouses.

S5421/A1870A - authorizes family and supreme courts to issue orders of protection for the protection of witnesses.

A1470B/S2311E - relates to provisions regarding domestic workers and such workers' employment regulations concerning hours of labor and wages, employment restrictions and employment contracts.  
(source: NYS N.O.W.)

One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors. ~Plato



## Motions Adopted at National Convention

The following motions were approved by the delegates to the 2010 LWV National Convention.

to adopt the LWVUS Board recommended **study of the Federal Role in Public Education**. The study would focus on the role of the federal government in education policymaking, with possible consideration of funding, common standards and/or governance relationships among all levels of the government. The scope will be dependent on available resources, including committee and LWVUS staff time.

to adopt the **non recommended item on Privatization**: the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services and assets to the private sector.

to adopt the LWVUS recommended concurrence to amend and update the Arms Control position.

to adopt concurrence with the LWVMD & LWVME position on Marriage Equality to be added to the Equality of Opportunity position: The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. **LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples.** LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved.

to adopt concurrence, that the following words be added as the third sentence to the LWVUS position on selection of the president: **"We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished"**

to support the Florida resolution that the LWVUS support lifting the travel restrictions for Americans going to Cuba.

to adopt a resolution in **support of safe drilling and mining for energy resources**: Be it therefore resolved that we, representatives at the 2010 National Convention of the League of Women Voters, call upon the Board to use the resources of the League to support and lobby for significant strengthening of appropriate regulation, oversight, inspection, and penalties

associated with the development of fossil fuel resources. This strengthening should include elimination from national legislation of the exemptions for drilling and mining, as well as additional legislation requiring the federal agencies to regulate drilling and mining in a manner consistent with the preservation of a healthy environment. We also call on the Board to communicate with the President and the Congress putting them on notice that Leagues across the country are deeply concerned about this issue.

to adopt the following resolution: Be it resolved that the League of Women Voters call upon the Senate to change its rules to limit the use of the filibuster.

to amend motion 836-348: Be it resolved, therefore that the LWVUS add the principle of TRANSPARENCY to the SARA Resolution, as adopted at the 2004 LWVUS Convention and amended at the 2006 LWVUS Convention.

to adopt the following resolution: Therefore, be it resolved that we, the representatives of local and state Leagues assembled at the 2010 LWLVUS Convention, call upon the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for bills that legislate for **improved Medicare for all**.

to adopt the Emergency Resolution of Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill: Therefore, we request that the LWVUS highlight the need for those responsible for the oil spill to be held accountable. Further, the LWVUS demands that our government **hold those responsible for the environmental disaster accountable for the clean-up**.

to amend the resolution proposed in motion 448-462 relating to the oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico to add: "The LWVUS further urges the legislative and executive branches of the federal government to immediately take all necessary steps to maximize to the extent practicable the ability and efforts of all relevant federal agencies and departments to take action, and to work with the U.S. coastal states and communities most directly and immediately affected, to respond creatively, efficiently and effectively to the environmental, health and economic crisis created by the oil flowing from the out of control BP oil well in the Gulf of Mexico and by the efforts to contain and disperse it."

## The New National Board

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