

# League of Women Voters

Port Washington-Manhasset September 2010



President Jane Thomas

Patricia Maher, Editor

Ann Marie Benzinger, Circulation

The League of Women Voters of Port  
Washington-Manhasset  
invites members and the public to the

## **LWV 2010 Opening Meeting**

### **State Elections ...What to Expect (or, More Likely, Not to Expect)**

Lawrence Levy, Executive Director of the  
National Center for Suburban Studies at  
Hofstra University

**Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.**  
**(Primary Election Day)**  
**Port Washington Public Library**

Before joining Hofstra, Mr. Levy was Senior Editor and Chief Political Columnist for Newsday. During his 30 years as a reporter, editorial writer, columnist and PBS talk show host, Mr. Levy's columns focused on suburban politics, education, taxation, and housing, among other key issues. He covered six presidential campaigns. He has won many of journalism's top awards and was a Pulitzer Prize finalist. He appears regularly on local and national television and now writes on politics for the Albany Times Union. At Hofstra, Mr. Levy works to shape an innovative agenda for suburban study and to promote the study of the suburbs nationwide.

Further information: contact LWV program chairs  
Amy Bass 516-944-9472 or Rita Tanski at (516)  
767 - 0666 or [amygbass@gmail.com](mailto:amygbass@gmail.com)

## **Message from the President's Desk** **Jane Thomas**

Well, that was one hot summer, right? But in spite of the persistent heat, I hope you all enjoyed a restful vacation. And given the current temperature in our political sphere, I am assuming the heat will continue at least until November...

The "hottest" issue for League this year has to do with the DISCLOSE Act. In our Jan-Feb 2010 Newsletter, we ran the LWVUS response against the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. FEC* that allows corporations and unions to spend unlimited amounts to determine the outcome in candidate elections. Since then, the League has strongly supported the DISCLOSE Act that would restore transparency by requiring full disclosure of who is running and paying for all election TV commercials. Unfortunately, in July, the Senate fell just short of the votes needed to begin debate on the DISCLOSE Act -- the most important campaign finance bill since McCain-Feingold.

Here's part of the League's press release on this: "In the wake of Citizens United, the DISCLOSE Act is essential. It requires CEOs to stand by their ads, and exposes special interest groups behind last-minute attacks. It stops manipulation of elections by fly-by-night hit groups, and prevents U.S. corporations controlled by foreign – or even hostile – governments from pumping secret money into our elections." The bottom line is that voters deserve to know who is paying for election advertising. This is not

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only common sense – it is crucial if voters are to remain the cornerstone of our democracy. Luckily, both of our U.S. Senators Gillibrand and Schumer support the DISCLOSE Act but it is still important that they play a part in reviving it this session. Use “They Represent You” to find their telephone numbers and addresses to let them hear from you.

On another front and in accordance with the approval of delegates at Convention 2010, the LWVUS will undertake a study on the “Federal Role in Public Education.” The study would focus on the role of the federal government in education policy-making, with possible consideration of funding, common standards and/or governance relationships among all levels of the government. A study committee is being formed to establish these parameters and come up with consensus questions. If anyone is interested in joining a local league’s study committee this year, contact me at my new e-mail address, [jane.thomas107@gmail.com](mailto:jane.thomas107@gmail.com).

I hope to see many of you at our Opening Meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> at the Port Library. Larry Levy of Hofstra University will speak on "State Elections ...What to Expect (or, More Likely, Not to Expect)." Again, we all know it’s going to be a “hot” election year. Your participation needed and welcomed. Stay in touch at our website: [lwvpwma.org](http://lwvpwma.org). See you at our meetings, I hope.

Jane

**To contact elected officials regarding hydrofracking:**  
**Sheldon Silver, Speaker NYS Assembly:**  
**518-455-3791**  
**Senator Craig Johnson: 516-746-5923**  
**Assembly Member Michelle Schimel:**  
**516-482-6966**

## Call for Voter Registration Volunteers

Anyone interested in registering new voters please contact Cathy Persons 767-1776. Volunteers will register voters at local colleges, libraries, shopping centers. Voter registration is one of the core activities of the League. Volunteers provide an invaluable contribution to the democratic process and rights of citizens.

### 2010 GENERAL ELECTION DEADLINE

MAIL REGISTRATION Sec. 5-210(3)

Applications must be postmarked not later than October 8th and received by a board of elections not later than October 13th to be eligible to vote in the General Election. Registration deadline for Primary elections is August 20<sup>th</sup>.

**To see a video on how to use the new electronic voting machines, go to either**

[www.nassauvotes.com](http://www.nassauvotes.com) or

[www/vote-.ny.com](http://www/vote-.ny.com)

## Redistricting - New York LWV Lobbying Topic for Fall

The League of Women Voters is encouraging all local Leagues to present information and discuss the issue of redistricting with the goal of having a non-partisan commission for redistricting. The League is sponsoring a training session on Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to noon in New York City and Albany and by conference call-in. In New York City the meeting will be held at 4 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street (just west of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue), ground floor -- same building at LWV NYC offices. Any members who wish to attend, please contact Jane Thomas at 516-883-0698 or [jane.thomas107@gmail.com](mailto:jane.thomas107@gmail.com).

Conference Call-In: call 1-866-866-2244 and use passcode of 2250672.



## Hydrofracking - Uncertain Future

By Star Anthony

Over two thirds of NYS Senators, including 28 Democrats and 20 Republicans, voted to pass a bill placing a one-year moratorium on "hydrofracking" – designed to ban this controversial method of gas drilling while experts study the risks it poses to the purity and safety of our drinking water.

Environmentalists have been arguing against hydraulic fracturing. It is a drilling method used to extract natural gas. Some of the chemicals commonly used in the drilling process are high-risk carcinogens, while other chemicals used may also have negative health effects. In states where hydrofracking has already been taking place repercussions have included fatalities from exploding wells, 30-mile stretches of streams without any living organisms, exploding tap water, sick children and adults, plummeting property values, farmland that is no longer tillable, and the destruction of vast swaths of once-beautiful scenery.

The State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is due to release their study on the environmental impact of hydrofracking at the end of August. Depending on their report, the natural gas companies may be able to begin drilling.

The moratorium cannot become law until the Assembly passes their bill and the Governor signs it into law. Assembly member Michelle Schimel said, "Up until a year ago, no one in New York knew what [the word] hydrofracking meant. We need the time to understand the technology impact on our water resources, our environment, and the aesthetic landscape."

As of now, the Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver has not put the bill up for a vote. League members who are concerned about this need to contact Sheldon Silver's office, as well as legislators in other areas of NY state. Fortunately, both Craig Johnson and Michelle Schimel have been supportive in protecting the environment.

### CALENDAR:

**Tuesday, Sept 7<sup>th</sup>:** last day to postmark applications for absentee primary ballots.

**Wednesday, Sept 8<sup>th</sup>:** **LWV PW-M Board Meeting**, Manhasset Library (NOTE: new location this year), 9:30 a.m.

**Tuesday, Sept 14<sup>th</sup>:** **PRIMARY ELECTION DAY**, polls open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Tuesday, Sept 14<sup>th</sup>:** **LWV PW-M Opening Meeting, 1 p.m. at Port Washington Public Library**, Lawrence Levy of Hofstra Univ., National Center for Suburban Studies, speaking on "State Elections .....What to Expect (or Not to Expect)"

**Thursday, Sept 16<sup>th</sup>:** **"Obama, the Suburbs and the 2010 Elections:** "Panel discussion with Howard Dean, Ed Rollins, Rob Lang of Brookings and Glenn Thrush of Politico, presented by Hofstra Univ, National Center for Suburban Studies , 9 a.m. continental breakfast, at Hofstra's Student Centre Theater. Admission is free. RSVP to reserve space. Call 516-463-9939.

**Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>:** **LWV PW-M Board Meeting**, Manhasset Public Library, 9:30 a.m.

**Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>:** **Last day to register for November General Election.**

**October 26<sup>th</sup>:** **last day to post mark application for absentee ballot for General Election.**

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>:** **GENERAL ELECTIONS. Polls open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Sunday, Nov 21<sup>st</sup>:** **Fall Fundraiser** featuring Steve Weiner speaking on the Supreme Court, Village Club, Sands Point (invitations to follow).

### **LWV of Port Washington-Manhasset Recognizes Anniversary of the 19th Amendment**

August 26 marked the 90th anniversary of the constitutional amendment that granted women the right to vote. The nonpartisan League of Women Voters—founded the same year women achieved this right—celebrated Women's Equality Day by remembering this historic achievement, and looking forward to greater civic participation and healthy debate on the issues that matter most to our communities.



VOTER INFO HOTLINE:  
**1-800-367-8683**  
For TDD/TTY call the  
**New York State Relay 711**

## DS&S DS200 Ballot Scanner

The DS200 Ballot Scanner system is a portable electronic voting system that uses an optical scanner to read marked paper ballots and tally the results. This system allows for paper ballots to be immediately tabulated at your polling site. The DS200 also notifies you of any voting errors. You will be able to immediately correct these errors to ensure that Your Vote Counts!

This ballot scanner system will be used on Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> in the primary elections. Take the time to visit this website [www.vote-ny.com](http://www.vote-ny.com) and watch the tutorial on how to use the system.

The League of Women Voters of  
Port Washington-Manhasset  
Post Office Box 305, Port Washington, NY 11050  
Website: [lwvpwma.org](http://lwvpwma.org)  
E-mail: [mail@lwvpwma.org](mailto:mail@lwvpwma.org)

Non-Profit Organization  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 278  
Port Washington, NY 11050  
Return Service Requested

**Mission Statement:** *The League of Women Voters is a civic, non-partisan organization dedicated to building citizen participation in the democratic process and to fostering government that is responsive to its citizens. It takes positions on issues but supports no political candidates or parties.*