



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*

January 2011

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

## LWV of Smithtown Proposed Program for 2011

### **A. Voter Service and Citizen Education**

Voter Service is a primary function of the LWV of Smithtown. We will serve as a non-partisan source of information and education for voters and take action by:

1. Conducting voter registration drives throughout the community and encourage all eligible citizens to vote
2. Organizing as needed and providing trained moderators to serve for candidates forums to give every citizen the opportunity to hear the candidates views on important issues
3. Conducting educational forums about the local government process in order to promote greater citizen awareness
4. Training speakers as needed
5. Developing ideas for community service projects for students and youth organizations

### **B. Library**

We will continue to have an observer at Library Board meetings to keep us aware of any changes in policy that will either improve or diminish service to the public.

### **C. Natural Resources Preservation**

Under the Natural Resources position for preservation of open space and wetlands of the LWVNYS, we will continue action in support and enforcement of measures for preservation of the waterfront, wetlands, bird sanctuaries and open space usage of properties within Smithtown township, including the former Kings Park Psychiatric Center property and others as they become available.

### **D. Township Development**

1. We will support an updated Master Plan to provide for controlled growth within the Township and revitalization of downtown Smithtown within the context of our present and projected economic conditions.
2. We will explore and address other items of concern relating to the welfare of the Township and its residents as they may arise.

## **WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

### ***SHARE YOUR VIEWS ON LOCAL PROGRAM ISSUES!***

All Smithtown LWV members are invited to a meeting on

### **2011 Program Planning**

to be held at the

Mills Pond House on Wednesday,  
**January 12** at Noon

*(LWV Smithtown Board meeting will be held at 11am)*

Tea, coffee, and dessert will be provided,  
please bring your own lunch.

*Please read proposed local program, and LWVNY positions in brief in this issue of the VOTER to prepare for the meeting.*

## LWV of SMITHTOWN

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## President's Message

At the beginning of the New Year it is often the time to ponder what we do and why. Many of us are active in a myriad of activities and organizations. The groups may be more or less formal; some have specific guidelines or purposes. The range is from book clubs, sewing clubs, knitting clubs, boating clubs, hiking clubs, study groups, regular games with friends, regular sports activities, continuing education and others too numerous to list. Why do we participate in these pursuits?

We as a group are members of the League of Women Voters. Most of us sought the league; we made a determined effort to find the group and joined. There is loyalty to the League. Some of us have been members from the time we were young adults with families to raise. We raised the children, went to work then retired from work. The league was a constant. Sometimes we were more or less active. Others of us came to the league later in life you too, sought the league and are fiercely loyal.

The league can be defined as a voter service organization, or as group that studies pertinent issues and then comes to consensus. Only then will the league lobby for what the members feel is the correct. The league is willing to take a stand on issues important to the United States of America, the state, the county or the town the league is located in. The stand may or may not be popular with the public in general. The league is more than that; it is the people who are members that make the league what it is. They are capable of doing whatever is necessary.

League members participate in the league because of the ideals of the league. Those who join may not always agree with each other. They all have the ability to work together and recognize each other's differences. The ability to understand and work for an objective is the definition of a league member. The members make the league, which is why we are loyal, keep up our membership and are willing to give of ourselves our time and energy to this group.

Wishing all of you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2011.

*Joyce Rosenthal*

## *Carol Forgash, L.C.S.W., B.C.D.*

Consultation and Training Services  
Psychotherapy Services  
EMDR & Performance Enhancement

### *THE LIFELINE CENTER*

353 North Country Road  
Smithtown, New York 11787

Tel: (631) 265-3194  
Fax: (631) 265-8676

email: [cforgash@optonline.net](mailto:cforgash@optonline.net)  
website: [www.advancededucationalproductions.com](http://www.advancededucationalproductions.com)

## JOURNEY TRAVEL & EVENTS

*Marie Roman Sesti*

*Formerly Aventura Travel*

631-360-3600

631-724-9085 (Res)  
Fax: 631-360-3682

106 E. Main Street  
Smithtown, NY 11787  
e-mail: [journeyaa@aol.com](mailto:journeyaa@aol.com)



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532 Rte. 25A  
(North Country Rd.)  
St. James, NY 11780  
631.862.6660



*Salon Dee La Rosa*

[www.salondeelarosa.com](http://www.salondeelarosa.com)  
Email: [info@salondeelarosa.com](mailto:info@salondeelarosa.com)

**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, par-  
ticipate in its cultural programs,  
and visit the historic Mills Pond  
House in St. James.***

*For info: [www.stacarts.org](http://www.stacarts.org).*

**STAC**  
Smithtown Township Arts Council

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

## **LWVNYS POSITIONS IN BRIEF 2009-2011**

### **ELECTION LAW**

Support of measures to protect, extend and encourage the use of the franchise; open the political system by enacting a public campaign financing law for statewide offices; establish legal, ethical campaign guidelines; monitor campaign practices; simplify rules for ballot access. Restore integrity to the election process – specifically support for uniformity in election laws and procedures in their implementation and enforcement; promote measures that ensure the integrity of all ballots; support adequate funding for these procedures, including training of all involved election personnel.\*

Opposition to term limits for members of the NYS Legislature.

Opposition to term limits for NYS statewide elected officials.

### **GOVERNMENT**

Support of standards to ensure equitable representation in the State legislature and the congress.

Support of improved measures to provide representation for legislative districts in case of a vacancy.

Support of responsive and responsible legislative processes which increase the role of the individual member and the committee system.

Support of effective lobbying and ethics regulation.

Support of procedural reforms in the constitutional convention process to promote openness and nonpartisanship.

Support of the consolidation of governmental units and the sharing of major governmental services as a means of promoting the efficient and effective operation of government when done through a cooperative and transparent process.

### **HEALTH CARE**

Support a single payor concept as an acceptable approach to implementing League positions on equitable access and cost containment.

Support of measures to assure a basic level of quality physical and mental health care for all state residents including regulatory incentives to encourage development of cost-effective alternative methods of delivery; funding for health promotion and disease prevention programs; provisions for effective citizen participation in health policy decisions.

Support of measures that enable individuals to assume responsibility for their own health and to participate in decisions including termination of extraordinary life-extending procedures.

Support for uniform eligibility and coverage of basic health care costs through public financing.

### **JUDICIAL**

Support of a unified state court system with improved provisions for judicial selection.

Support of statewide guidelines for law enforcement at all levels to prevent racial and economic profiling.

Support of measures to improve pretrial procedures in the criminal courts.

Support of measures to promote a fair and efficient jury system.

Support of alternatives to incarceration.

Opposition to the death penalty, with life without parole as the primary alternative

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## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Support for measures to achieve watershed protection including limiting pesticide use and applying Best Management Practices.

Support for a state-established, intergovernmental system for land resource management.

Support for a proactive role for New York State in regional land use planning, containing urban sprawl and protecting sensitive areas.

Support of reconditioning of the New York State Erie/Barge Canal System and its development for recreational uses.

## **SOCIAL POLICY**

Support measures to meet the needs for low-income housing through use of state funds and incentives to localities

## **STATE FINANCES**

Support reforms for greater equity in education financing for both pupils and taxpayers.

Support raising funds to provide New York's children with a sound basic education through increases in the New York State personal income tax, implemented in a progressive fashion.

Oppose in principle the use of public funds to support non-public schools, kindergarten-twelfth grade.

Support a uniform equitable assessment and property tax system.

Support for the replacement of the existing local residential property tax relief programs in which relief goes to all with programs based on need, with annual cost of living adjustment.

Support of measures to provide for openness and accountability in the operation of the New York State public authority system.

Support of a timely and responsive state budget.

Support the funding of public higher education and the existing formula for financing the community system, 1/3 tuition, 1/3 state aid, and 1/3 county support.

## **WOMENS ISSUES/SOCIAL POLICY**

Support of measures which hold marriage to be an economic partnership with a presumption of equality between the spouses.

Opposition to measures that contain a presumption of joint custody of the children.

Support for equity in employment laws and practices and equal pay for jobs of comparable worth.

Support of measures to reduce the incidence and effects of domestic violence.

Support for measures to meet the needs for affordable and accessible housing through use of state funds and incentives to localities.

These state positions are based on LWVUS principles and public policy positions. State actions on other items not covered under a state position can also be taken under LWVUS positions.

Reproductive choices (Government Positions) and welfare reform (Meeting Basic Human Needs) position are two examples.

## PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

Hydraulic fracturing (fracking) can extract more gas from a well than traditional methods. Water or water with chemicals is injected into a well under very high pressure. Wells are now drilled vertically for a mile or more then horizontally for a mile or more, followed by forcing 3-6 gallons of water into the well with chemicals and sand to break up the underground formations, which then release the gas. This process leads to the problem of dealing with toxic liquid and solid waste materials which include radioactive materials, heavy metals brought to the surface from deep within the earth.

The following proposed resolution includes some of the history, as well as a request to LWVUS to include the prohibition of fracking as a priority issue for advocacy in 2011. If you disagree with the please email [lwvsmithtown@gmail.net](mailto:lwvsmithtown@gmail.net). No response will be taken as agreement. If a majority of members agree this will be sent to LWVUS as an issue for priority advocacy.

### RESOLUTION ON SAFE DRILLING PASSED IN JUNE 2010 AT LWVUS ATLANTA CONVENTION

The following Resolution, sponsored by the LWV of Tompkins County (NY), entitled "A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SAFE DRILLING AND MINING FOR ENERGY RESOURCES," was unanimously passed at the 2010 national convention of LWVUS, held in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Whereas** The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that natural resources should be managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Resources should be conserved and protected to assure their future availability. Pollution of these resources should be controlled in order to preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of ecosystems and to protect public health." (Statement on Natural Resources, as Affirmed by the 1986 Convention);

**Whereas** the LWVUS supports "full disclosure of pollution data;"

**Whereas** the LWVUS supports "management of land as a finite resource not as a commodity;"

**Whereas** the LWVUS supports "identification and regulation of areas of critical concern..." including "...rare or valuable ecosystems; significant wildlife habitats; unique scenic or historic areas; wetlands..." and "renewable resource lands, where development could result in the loss of productivity (such as watersheds, aquifers, and aquifer-recharge areas, significant agricultural and grazing lands, forest lands);"

**Whereas** the LWVUS supports "policies to ensure safe treatment, transportation, storage and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes in order to protect public health and air, water and land resources;"

**Whereas** current practices of and disposal of waste from drilling and mining for energy resources have caused serious and permanent damage to the environment and public health;

**Whereas** new drilling and mining technologies are being developed and used for the extraction of energy resources, which techniques have the potential to cause additional damage to the environment and public health, as has already been experienced in a number of states;

**Whereas** legislation and regulations regarding the protection of water, air, and other environmental resources do not now adequately cover the problems caused by drilling and mining for energy resources and most have explicit exemptions for various forms of drilling and mining;

**Whereas** the orientation, mission and policies of the EPA and other federal regulatory agencies vary with the presidential administration in power, so that legislation is needed to ensure continuity across administrations;

**Whereas** enforcement of existing legislation and regulations has been severely inadequate;

**Whereas** current pressure for energy independence is encouraging the hasty development of energy resources, necessitating early action for strong protective legislation; and

**Whereas** gaps in federal legislation and oversight have left much of the responsibility to the individual states, with the consequence that each state must develop its own studies and regulations while possibly also causing pollution to the water and air of neighboring states;

**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 write letters to the President and the Congress putting them on notice that Leagues across the country are very concerned about this issue.”

### **ADVOCACY PRIORITIES FOR 2011**

In order to implement the above Resolution (including the Statement on Natural Resources affirmed by the 1986 Convention), the undersigned chapter of the League of Women Voters strongly recommends the following priorities for LWVUS Advocacy for 2011:

1. Passage of new legislation similar to the 2009 FRAC Act (Fracking Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals), as defined in companion bills HR 2766 and S 1215, which requires disclosure of all chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing and repeals the exemption from the Safe Drinking Water Act previously granted to the oil and gas industry.
2. Passage of legislation or development of regulations, or both, mandating the discontinuance of use of diesel fuel in drilling or fracturing, or both.
3. Lobbying for the elimination of subsidies and exemptions from federal law or federal regulations for the oil and gas industries.
4. Lobbying for legislation which supports or helps to create renewable energy sources which "preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of ecosystems and protect public health" (in accordance with the Statement on Natural Resources, as affirmed by the 1986 Convention).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of LWV Chapter

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Title of Chapter Representative

Submitted on behalf of:

Self: \_\_\_\_ Committee: \_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_

**DO YOU KNOW AN OUTSTANDING  
HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORE, JUNIOR, OR SENIOR?**



Each year, the League of Women Voters of New York State Educational Foundation (supported by NYSUT, CSEA, Price Chopper's Golub Foundation, and Stewart's Shops) sponsors a conference called **Students Inside Albany, to be held April 10-13, 2011**

LWV (Smithtown) is accepting applications from high school students for a place at this year's conference. **There is no cost to the student who is selected.**

**Enclosed in this issue of the Smithtown Voter is a brochure with conference details, as well as a letter to prospective students, including details on how to apply for a place at the conference.**

*Please make copies of the letter and brochure,  
and share with any school or student that may be interested.*

**Deadline for application letters and reference letters is February 1, 2011.**  
*For more information, email [lisawscott@optonline.net](mailto:lisawscott@optonline.net) or call 631 523-1653.*

**Library Board of Trustees  
Meeting Schedule**

Regular meeting:  
**Tuesday: January 18**  
Smithtown Main Library  
at 7pm

**Smithtown Town Board Meeting Schedule**

**Tuesday: January 4**  
**9:30 am** work session  
**:00 pm** regular meeting  
Smithtown Town Hall  
Second Floor Board Room

**Thursday: January 20**  
**7:00 pm** regular meeting  
*Eugene A. Cannataro  
Senior Citizen Center  
420 Middle Country Road,  
Smithtown, NY.*

**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*

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### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

#### **November 2010**

<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Nov. 1</b>	<b>LWV Smithtown board meeting Smithtown Main Library, 7pm</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Nov. 2</b>	<b>Election Day, Polls open 6am-9pm</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Nov. 2</b>	<b>Town Board Meetings, 9:30am-Work Session; 2pm-Regular Meeting, Town Hall</b>
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Nov. 7</b>	<b>LWVSC Post Election Breakfast, Bellport Country Club, 10:30am-1:30pm</b>
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Nov. 16</b>	<b>Library Board Meeting, Smithtown Main Library, 7pm</b>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Nov. 17</b>	<b>LWVSC Board Meeting, Riverhead Library, 10am-12noon</b>
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Nov. 18</b>	<b>LWV Smithtown League Lunch and Discussion, Bonwit Inn, 12noon-2pm</b>
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Nov. 18</b>	<b>Town Board Meeting, Senior Citizens Center, 7pm</b>

#### **December 2010**

<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Dec. 9</b>	<b>LWV Smithtown Holiday Party Mills Pond House, 6pm</b>
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