



Suffolk County Voter

November 2007

www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org

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



Sun. Nov. 11
Wed. Nov. 14
Wed. Nov. 28

LWVSC Post-Election Brunch, Bellport Country Club 10:30am-1:30pm
LWVSC Board Meeting—Riverhead Library 9:30am-11:30am
Briefings on the Effects of War on Women Around the World— UN NYC

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LWVSC Supports Ballot Proposition Extending 1/4% Tax for Drinking Water and Environmental Protection

The LWVNY supports a proactive role for the state in conserving natural resources and containing sprawl. We support legislation that will provide regional land use planning, enhance urban neighborhoods, and protect agricultural land, open space, watersheds and other sensitive areas. Therefore, the LWV of Suffolk County supports this current proposition which extends an existing law accelerating the Suffolk County 1/4% drinking water protection for environmental protection from Dec. 31, 2013 to Nov. 31, 2030.

LWVSC Speaks Out For ATI, Housing for the Mentally Ill

Several League members attended County Executive Levy's Public Budget meeting on August 25th at the H. Lee Dennison Building in Hauppauge to present him with our strong concern that he more fully put financial support behind Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) programs. We stressed the efficacy of these programs and the fact that they save the County financially because they enable people with mental illness and substance abuse difficulties, especially, to lead constructive lives free of the criminal justice system, frequent visits to emergency rooms and other like facilities.

We also emphasized the ongoing crisis in our County for supportive housing for people with mental illness. We learned that there is \$700,000 in the Discretionary Section of the Omnibus Resolution (DO67) which could be applied to providing this housing. It was placed there by the Legislature, and it awaits Mr. Levy's approval. Should the County approve this funding, it would increase the likelihood of State support for it, as well.

League members also addressed the Legislature at its General Meeting in Riverhead on September 20th with these same concerns. We acknowledged the Legislature's support for the Probation Department which runs the ATI programs, and its provision of \$700,000 in the Omnibus Resolution which could be applied to housing. We again asked for County Executive Levy's financial approval for both.

Katherine Hoak

League and Shelter Island Lose a Leader Betsy Jacobson 1954-2007

The Shelter Island Town Board acknowledged "with great sadness the death of Betsy Jacobson, President of the League of Women Voters. Betsy's interest in town government was never negative or self-aggrandizing, but rather, at all times, thoughtful, helpful and insightful... although the chair she occupied may now be empty, her quiet and gracious presence will remain."

On Shelter Island, "It's so hard not to be on one side or another" of a political issue, her husband Bill Friedman said. "Betsy was on all sides" and had friends on every side of the argument.

Betsy carried credentials from the world of high finance (in her work as a vice president for JP Morgan, she handled a \$6 billion bond portfolio), accomplishments she did not publicize in her work to bring information to voters and to organize candidates forums. Betsy reinstated the Observer Corps with volunteers from the League. She reviewed every detail of the town budget and prepared a synopsis for the Town Board and the public. Membership and participation in LWV Shelter Island has grown noticeably under her administration.

Betsy received a Certificate of Appreciation from the LWVSC at the May annual meeting for her many efforts on behalf of the Shelter Island League

Our condolences go out to her husband, family and many friends. She will be missed.

(excerpted from the Shelter Island Reporter 9-5-07)