



## LWVNYC Calendar

(Meetings are held at 4 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, unless otherwise noted.)

### Board Meeting: (Suite 615)

11:00am, Tuesday, August 10, 2010

NEW! Members are welcome to observe, but space is limited, so please call and let us know if you plan to attend - 212-725-3541.

### League Information Meeting: Hands-on Demonstration of the New Paper Ballots and Optical Scanners by the NYC Board of Elections

4:00pm and 5:30pm, Tuesday, August 24, 2010

Practice voting with NYC's new voting system before the September primaries. Members and general public welcome! Invite your friends! And meet our new League officers and directors who will be at both sessions.

### League Membership Meeting:

5:30pm, Wednesday, September 21, 2010

### Your League in Action: City, State and National Initiatives

### League Membership Meeting:

Tuesday, 5:30pm, October 19, 2010

### Election 2010: Ready, Set, Vote

## News in Brief

### Annual Meeting, June 5, 2010

We unanimously elected new officers and directors to lead our League through the next two years of elections, charter revision, a new voting system, redistricting and campaign finance reform, and environmental issues. We wish them well and ask you to lend your support as they apply their creativity, energy and wisdom to the challenges ahead!

Officers: President: Miriam R. Adelman; Vice Presidents: Laura Altschuler, Adrienne Kivelson, Nancy Schwartz; Treasurer: Alison Alpert; Secretary: Mary Lou Urban

Directors: Editor of Inside: Toni Coffee; Publications: Jane Colvin; Website liaison: Beatrix Dinitz; City Affairs Chair: Kate Doran; Voter Service Chair: Hope Freeman; Hospitality Chair: Sheila Hosni; Legislative Action Co-Chairs: Joanne Pugh and Evie Katz; Telephone Information Service: Donna Landay. \*

#### Call to Action on Redistricting

We wrote our legislators urging their support of S. 1614B and A.5279B in the Assembly that will establish an independent citizens reapportionment commission, ensuring adequate disclosure

and transparency and requiring even-handed, sensible redistricting guidelines and guards against gerrymandering.

#### Direction to the Board

There was a recommendation that Board Meetings be open to League Members. (See LWVNYC Calendar)

\* At their first meeting in June the new Board appointed five additional members. Gladys Krasner, Elinor Miller, Nicky Heller, Fannie Conner, and Kathy Jacobson.

## National Convention June 11-15, 2010

It was an action-packed Convention in Atlanta, with over 600 delegates in attendance. LWVNY and LWVNYC had notable successes as we conducted Caucuses and proposed Concurrences and Resolutions that were approved – sometimes unanimously – by the delegates.

In the months ahead, we can look forward to working on the National Program for the 2010-2012 biennium, and on the Concurrences and Resolutions that the delegates adopted. (For a complete list of actions taken, please visit [lwv.org](http://lwv.org).)



**The League welcomed new President, Elisabeth MacNamara at the 2010 Biennial LWV Convention**



**Concurrences and resolutions prompt standing ovation**

**Program**

Two new studies:

- 1.) The Federal Role in Public Education, which will 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.
- 2.) Privatization, which will focus on transfer of local, state and federal government functions, services and assets to the private sector.

**Concurrences:**

- 1.) that the LWVUS Arms Control position be amended and updated to recognize technological advancements, and geopolitical changes, including the role of terrorists.
- 2.) that the LWVMD & LWVME position on Marriage Equality to be added to the LWVUS Equality of Opportunity position
- 3.) that the National Popular Vote Compact be approved 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

**Resolutions, that call upon LWVUS:**

- 1.) to support lifting the travel restrictions for Americans going to Cuba
- 2.) to support safe drilling and mining for energy resources, including elimination of exemptions for drilling and mining from national legislation and legislation requiring federal agencies to regulate drilling and mining to preserve a healthy environment.
- 3.) to call upon the Senate to change its rules to limit the use of the filibuster
- 4.) to add the principle of Transparency to the SARA (Security, Accuracy, Reaccountability, Accessibility) Resolution, regarding new voting systems as adopted at the 2004 LWVUS Convention and amended in 2006.
- 5.) to advocate strongly for legislation that improves Medicare for all
- 6.) to demand our government hold those responsible for the Gulf oil well disaster accountable

for the clean-up and to work with all coastal states and communities to address the crisis

**New National Leaders**

Officers, elected by unanimous consent:  
 President: Elisabeth MacNamara; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Judy Duffy; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Judy Davis; Secretary/Treasurer: Susan M. Wilson, Board of Directors: Patricia Donath, CO; Margaret Hill, TX; Mary Klenz, NC; Janis McMillen, KS; Marcia A. Merrins, NY; Marlene O'Brien, MA; Norman Turrill, OR; and Dianne Gilotti, FL

Our new PMP (per member payment) financial commitments: \$29.70 for FY2010-2011; \$30.00 for FY 2011-2012



# Coming Up

## Debates

LWVNY has reached an agreement with PBS and is planning a series of debates in the fall before the General Election. These debates will be shown on Channel 13 in our area. Additional debates may be arranged with WABC-TV, Channel 7. New Yorkers were able to see the first debate of the season cosponsored by the League and Univision on July 18th when the five candidates for Attorney General running in the Democratic Primary appeared on Channel 7. The debate was also broadcast on WNYC Radio. The debate is available on our website [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org).

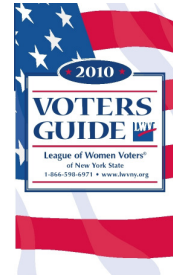
It was a unique opportunity to compare the candidates,

their backgrounds, positions and how they would use the office of Attorney General. The winner of the Democratic Primary will face the Republican candidate in the General Election on November 2nd. We are also negotiating with Public Access stations and other venues for possible debates in the State Senate, Assembly and Congressional races. For up to date information consult the League's website or call our office.

## 2010 Voters Guide

Part I of the LWVNY's 2010 Voters Guide, *Facts For Voters*, is now available. It's everything voters need to know about the registration

and voting process. It covers the who, what, when, where, why, and how of Election Day 2010 in a comprehensive, easily understandable Q and A format. It also explains the new paper ballot/optical scan voting system that New Yorkers will be using. Contact our office or LWVNY for copies to give to friends and neighbors! Part II will be available AFTER the September Primary Election and will include information about the offices on the ballot - Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, all members of State Senate and Assembly, two US Senators and all members of Congress. In addition any State ballot proposals will be included.



## League Presents Proposals to 2010 Charter Revision Commission

The Charter Revision Commission was created by Mayor Bloomberg in March 2010 to review the City Charter and propose to city voters amendments that would improve it. Implicit in the Mayor's charge to the Commission was an understanding that term limits would be considered. In April, the Commission held a series of public hearings in all five boroughs, during which LWVNYC Vice President Adrienne Kivelson presented the League's position on charter issues. Included in her testimony were League proposals to codify the Department of Education in the City Charter, provide an independent budget for the Public Advocate, strengthen community boards,

streamline the charter, substitute Instant Runoff Voting for the citywide primary runoffs and offer voters a full range of options on term limits.

On July 18<sup>th</sup> the staff of the Commission issued a Preliminary Report. It was apparent from reading the report and listening to the Commissioners that they were committed to putting term limits on the ballot in November, along with several proposals to increase voter participation and strengthen public integrity, while deferring consideration of government structure, independent budgets, land use, non-partisan elections and streamlining the charter to future charter commissions

or to the City Council and the Mayor.

Under the State's Home Rule Law, a City's Charter Revision Commission goes out of business when its recommendations appear on the ballot, so the decision to put term limits on the ballot in November cut short the opportunity for a more deliberative consideration of many of the issues the League and others hoped they would address. If they don't put anything on the ballot this November they can stay in business until next November giving them a full year to complete their review. A term limits recommendation voted upon in 2011 or 2012 is still in time to affect the next city election in 2013.

On July 28<sup>th</sup> LWVNYC Vice President Adrienne Kivelson again presented testimony to the Commission reiterating some of our proposals and our concerns with the rush to complete the process. We also urged the Commission to include a "no term limits" option on the ballot and even provided them with a format for presenting the term limits questions.

**All of the League's testimony is available on our website: [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)**  
**You can follow the activities and watch all of the Commission's hearings on their website: [www.nyc.gov/charter](http://www.nyc.gov/charter)**



**New York League of Women Voters**

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**Voter Services**

We participated, along with League members from LWWNY, New Jersey and Connecticut in two voter registration drives at the offices of JPMorgan Chase on July 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. We are also working on plans for a grant from LWWUS to work with American Express to reach out to their employees to register and train their employees to register other voters.



**Please fill out and return to the NYC League office.**



<p><b>I want to help with:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Voter outreach and education:</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Speaking to Groups (speakers notes provided)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Voter Registration</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Training volunteers to register voters</li> </ul>	<p><b>I want to join the:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> City Affairs Committee</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Action Committee</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Education Committee</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Telephone Information Service</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality Committee</li> </ul>
<p><b>I want to work on the issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Environment and water purity</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> National Popular Vote</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> New York City Charter</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Redistricting</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Campaign Finance Reform</li> </ul>	<p><b>I want to help bring in new members:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Telephoning</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Organizing events and membership meetings</li> </ul>
<p><b>I want to help in the office:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mailings, Collating, Filing</li> </ul>	<p><b>I want to volunteer for research projects:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> City Charter Revision, Information on City Agencies, Columbia University Archives, etc.</li> </ul>

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_