



The Leaguer

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

www.lwvchautauqua.org 672-4275



National Popular Vote Compact Consensus Meeting March 12th at Noon The Brick Room

Background for the National Popular Vote Compact

The League has a long-standing position in support of the direct election of the president by popular vote. Now, League members have the opportunity to consider whether to support the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV Compact) as a viable process to achieve that result. The NPV Compact would avoid the need for a constitutional amendment abolishing the Electoral College (EC), and would assure

that the individual receiving the most votes would become president.

The NPV Compact proposal uses the mechanism of the EC. States that legislatively enact the NPV Compact would agree that their state electors would vote for the individual that received the most votes nationwide. Thus, the popular vote count from all 50 states and the District of Columbia would be added together. State elections officials in all states participating would award their electoral votes to the presidential candidate who receives the largest number of popular votes.

This alternative method of assigning a state's EC votes would take effect only when enacted by states collectively possessing a majority of the electoral votes. This 270-vote threshold also corresponds essentially to states representing a majority of the people of the United States.

The plan includes procedural provisions to help assure smooth functioning of the agreement – conditions that deal with states deciding to withdraw from the Compact at the last moment, enforcement issues and recounts.

Currently four states have passed legislation to enact the NPV Compact.

There are pros and cons to this plan, which are discussed in full in papers found on the LWVUS Web site. Summaries of these papers are also available. League members can learn more about the plan from these sources and consider its ramifications at consensus meetings across the country. Be sure to participate! Who better than the League to be ready to speak to this good-government issue?

To prepare for the consensus meeting, please read the complete version of this paper (available at www.lwv.org/NPV) by the LWVUS National Popular Voter Compact Study Committee.

Inside This Issue

NPV Consensus Meeting	1
Bi-Partisan Thank You Note	1
Luncheon Reservation Form	2
Marcia's Memo	3
Welcome to New Members	3
Health Care Agenda	4
Photos from February 3rd	4
LWVNYS Legislative Agenda	5
LWVNYS Legislative Agenda	6
Calendar	7
Membership Renewal Form	8

LWV Chautauqua County
42 Rosalyn Court
Fredonia, NY 14063



NY State Senator
Catharine M. Young

*Best wishes
Cathy Young*

STATE OF NEW YORK

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ALBANY, NEW YORK 12241
PHONE: 518-455-2800
FAX: 518-455-2801
DISTRICT OFFICE
SENATOR CATHARINE M. YOUNG
129 LAMBERT AVENUE
FREDONIA, NY 14063
PHONE: 716-322-5400
FAX: 716-322-5400

CATHARINE M. YOUNG
SENATOR
57TH DISTRICT

December 9, 2008

Ms. Genevieve Ludemann
129 Lambert Ave.
Fredonia, NY 14063

Dear Ms. Ludemann,

It was wonderful to meet you at the League of Women Voters' debate in Fredonia. Please accept this photo as a memento of that evening.

Please accept my best wishes and do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Cathy Young
Catharine M. Young
Member of Senate

CMY/wgs

*Hope you have
very happy holidays
warmest regards*

RESERVATION NOON at The Brick Room, March 12 -Main Street in Fredonia

"MEET OUR NEW ELECTION COMMISSIONER, BRIAN ABRAM" and CONSENSUS MEETING OF THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT AMONG STATES.

Please bring background materials.

All sandwiches come with a pasta or grain salad side

- Crab Cake Sandwich with aioli mayonnaise _____
- Grilled Portabella Mushroom Sandwich with roasted red pepper pesto _____
- Grilled Chicken Sandwich with bacon Avocado dressing _____
- (Cost includes tax, tip, and beverage)



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

Reservations \$13 to Paula Coats, 10432 Shore Acres, Dunkirk, NY 14048, 672-6596



Dear League Members,

We need the League for its respected voice on important national concerns, and its steadfast commitment to engaging citizens in these critical issues of the day. We need the League for its unique ability, as a trusted, nonpartisan institution, to bring together divergent voices, encourage reasoned debate, and foster consensus. We need the League for its dedication to improving our strong three-branch system of government and its expertise in voter outreach, voter education and election administration reform. Today, more than ever, the nation needs a strong League of Women Voters.

I want to thank all of you that renewed your membership in the local League of Women Voters, one of the most respected organizations in the country. I also want to extend a warm welcome to new members! If you know one of them, please invite him or her to join you at our next meeting on March 12th.

Click on this link <http://www.lwv.org/NPV>

to find resource materials for the next meeting on March 12th at the Brick Room in Fredonia at Noon. Once again we will be discussing the National Popular Vote Compact Among States and will work toward a consensus of opinion to report to LWVUS. We will also meet our new Election Commissioner, Brian Abram.

We had a wonderful meeting on February 3rd. Knowledge was gained and emotions were touched as Jan Schwert related stories about legal and illegal Hispanic immigrants and the difficulties and fears they face.

Meet the Candidates for the Village of Fredonia Board of Trustees will be on March 3 in the Fredonia H.S. Library at 7 p.m. Join Us!

Marcia



Laura Mitchell-Woolson, L.Ac.

Classical Five Element
Acupuncturist



One Park Place, Suite 207
Fredonia, NY 14063

(716) 672-9674

www.5blessings.com
fiveblessings@mac.com

Welcome Our New Members!

Judith Claire
6857 Webber Road
Sherman, NY 14781
Phone: 753-4660

Dr. Raja S. Gopalan
39 Birchwood Drive
Fredonia, NY 14063
Phone: 672-5280

Frieda Fairburn
3589 Lake Street
Jamestown, NY 14701
Phone: 484-9866
frieda@madbbs.com

Zdenka K. Safar
8 Drake Avenue
Silver Creek, NY 14136
Phone: 934-7331
zksafar@verizon.net

The Public's Health Care Agenda for the New President and Congress

The public ranks action on health care highly as part of efforts to stem the impact of the economic recession and also views reforming health care as one of the top priorities for President-elect Obama and Congress, according to a new national survey conducted by researchers from the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Harvard School of Public Health.

One of the key questions of health care reform is how to pay for it. The survey suggests that, as has long been the case, the public is split down the middle in its willingness to sacrifice financially in order to cover more individuals: roughly half (49%) say they are not willing to pay higher insurance premiums or taxes, while a similar percentage (47%) say they are. There are big partisan differences here, with most Democrats (59%) saying they are willing to pay, most Republicans unwilling to pay (67%), and independents divided (49% willing, 47% unwilling).

Any debate over health reform options will also involve negotiating the very different views of rank and file Democrats and Republicans. Democrats are significantly more likely to place a priority on action on health care, which ranks second on their priority agenda (61% say it is a top priority), compared to Republicans, who rank it eighth (23%). More than three-quarters (77%) of Democrats think health reform "is more important than ever" due to the economy, while six in ten (62%) Republicans believe the nation "cannot afford to take on health reform now." Democrats are more likely to favor a big push on coverage, and as noted above, more willing to pay for it.

The survey also suggests that as in the past early support for a number of reform proposals could fade in the face of arguments that opponents might raise in a public debate. For example, seven in ten Americans (71%) say they favor the idea of employer mandates. But when given the argument often made by critics that this may cause some employers to lay off some workers support falls dramatically, to just under three in ten (29%). The same pattern holds on the topic of individual mandates. Roughly two in three (67%) favor requiring all Americans to have health insurance with help for those who could not afford it. When given the criticism that some people may be required to buy health insurance they find too expensive or do not want, support falls to two in ten (19%).

Kaiser Family Foundation

Photos from our Luncheon on February 3rd on Immigration Issues for Hispanics in Chautauqua County



Jan Schwert, speaker



The League of Women Voters of New York State is a unique, multi-issue, nonpartisan, political organization. It encourages the informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through advocacy and education.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to women and men. There are over 50 local Leagues across New York State. Joining at any level automatically confers membership at every level: local, state and national. Membership enables you to support the League and provides the opportunity to be actively involved in local, state and national issues.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Individual Membership / \$55 Year
 - Household Membership / \$80 Year (2 people)
 - Carrie C. Catt Membership / \$75 Year
 - Susan B. Anthony Membership / \$100 Year
 - Sojourner Truth Membership / \$125 Year
 - Student Membership / \$25 Year
- Contribution in Support of LWVNYS Activities _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

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American Express MasterCard Visa Discover

Card # _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF NEW YORK STATE**

62 Grand Street, Albany, NY 12207

Phone: (518) 465-4162 Fax: (518) 465-0812

Email: lwny@lwny.org - Web: www.lwny.org

Contact Your Elected Official(s)

GOVERNOR DAVID A. PATERSON

State Capitol, Albany, New York 12224

(518) 474-8390

For additional information, please visit the Governor's

Web site: www.ny.gov/governor

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER, MALCOLM SMITH

Room 330, State Capitol, Albany, New York 12247

(518) 455-2701 / masmith@senate.state.ny.us

SENATE MINORITY LEADER, DEAN G. SKELOS

907 LOB, Albany, New York 12247

(518) 455-3171 / skelos@senate.state.ny.us

NEW YORK STATE SENATE

c/o Your Senator, Albany, New York 12247

General: (518) 455-2800 / Public Info: (518) 455-3216

Bill Status Hotline: (518) 455-7545 / (800) 342-9860

www.senate.state.ny.us

ASSEMBLY SPEAKER, SHELDON SILVER

932 LOB, Albany, New York 12248

(518) 455-3791 / speaker@assembly.state.ny.us

ASSEMBLY MINORITY LEADER,

JAMES N. TEDISCO

933 LOB, Albany, New York 12248

(518) 455-3751 / tediscj@assembly.state.ny.us

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

c/o Your Assembly Member, Albany, New York 12248

General: (518) 455-4100 / Public Info: (518) 455-4218

Bill Status: (518) 455-4218 / (800) 342-9860

www.assembly.state.ny.us

**NEW YORK STATE RESOURCES ON THE
LEGISLATURE, ASSEMBLY AND SENATE**

www.nysl.nysed.gov/ils/legislature/legis.html

FOR INFORMATION ON LEGISLATION:

You can access the NYS Legislative Info @

<http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/menuf.cgi>

Legislative Agenda 2009

Reforming State Government

Energy and the Environment

Cost-Effective and Accessible Health Care



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Email: lwny@lwny.org

Web Site: www.lwny.org

REFORMING STATE GOVERNMENT

Support ethics reform in state government. Support for public financing of statewide elections and enactment of the League's legislative proposal for campaign finance reform.

- ◆ Improve election processes which extend and encourage voting, including no-excuse absentee balloting, election day registration, support for enhanced training of poll workers and adequate staffing at polling places including the use of split shifts for election workers.
- ◆ Create a nonpartisan redistricting commission to draft the State Legislative and Congressional boundaries for the 2012 elections.
- ◆ Support an open and accountable state budget process.

ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Support New York State legislation which would:

- ◆ Reduce greenhouse emissions;
- ◆ Foster energy efficiency, renewable energy, green infrastructure;
- ◆ Protect water quality;
- ◆ Promote smart growth through regional planning that enhances urban neighborhoods, protects agricultural land, open spaces, watersheds, and other sensitive areas;
- ◆ Promote waste management, through the Bigger Better Bottle Bill;
- ◆ Promote effective and expanded public transit as a strategy to reduce air pollution and conserve energy.

COST-EFFECTIVE AND ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE

Support health care legislation that provides a basic level of quality physical and mental health care, and meets the League's criteria for equity, access, quality and cost containment.

TAKE ACTION!!! IT'S EASY!

To take action on the issues listed in this brochure or any other issues, log onto the League's website at: www.lwvny.org and click "Take Action" at the top of our homepage.

A central part of the mission of the League of Women Voters is to encourage the active and informed participation of citizens in their government. To that end, the League has created an easy-to-use resource on its website called the Citizen Action ToolkiT or CATT for short, that enables citizens to find a wealth of information about their state and federal governments.

Remember when visiting CATT to sign-up for the Action E-list to automatically receive League action alerts--because your involvement can make a critical difference!

Make your voice heard!!!

ADDITIONAL LEAGUE POSITIONS

To get information on additional League positions or read about the history of a League position, please visit our website: www.lwvny.org, click on Issues & Advocacy to view the document, "Impact on Issues."

Additional League positions that can be found in "Impact on Issues" include:

- ◆ Alternatives to Incarceration
- ◆ Children's Issues
- ◆ Court Restructuring
- ◆ Domestic Violence
- ◆ Equity in School Financing
- ◆ Gun Control
- ◆ Judicial Process
- ◆ Lead Poisoning
- ◆ Pay Equity
- ◆ Reproductive Choices

FOR INFORMATION ON TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT

- ◆ Open Book NY--
www.openbooknewyork.com
(Office of the State Comptroller)
- ◆ Project Sunlight--www.sunlightny.com
(NYS Office of the Attorney General, A Public Integrity Initiative)
- ◆ SeeThrough NY--
www.seethroughny.net
(Empire Center for NYS Policy, A Project of the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Dates to Remember

FEBRUARY 14	BOARD MEETING 9:30 A.M. Donnie Hover's, 22 Matteson St., Fredonia, 672-1045
MARCH 3	Meet the Candidates for Fredonia Board of Trustees 7 p.m. Fredonia High School Library
MARCH 7	BOARD MEETING 9:30 A.M. Judy Reynolds, 305 Chestnut St., Fredonia 672-4283
MARCH 12	LUNCHEON MEETING—NOON at The Brick Room—"MEET OUR NEW ELECTION COMMISSIONER, BRIAN ABRAM" and CONSENSUS MEETING ON THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT AMONG STATES. Please bring background materials. Reservations \$13 to Paula Coats, 10432 Shore Acres, Dunkirk, NY 14048, 672-6596
APRIL 4	BOARD MEETING 9:30 A.M. Gen Ludemann's, 129 Lambert Ave. Fredonia, 672-4771
APRIL 21	Luncheon Meeting with Judge Judith Claire at Moon Brook Country Club at Noon.
MAY 20	ANNUAL MEETING , Shorewood County Club at 6 p.m. Dr. Dennis Hefner, speaker

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Chautauqua County Association for the Education of
 Young Children



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 Carolyn Kieber Grady, RYT
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 Call to register: 672-2891
 Donation: \$4.00 *****For ages 50+


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Karen & Roy Harvey
 The most powerful weapon in the hands of the
 oppressor is the mind of the oppressed – *Steven Biko*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY



The League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

**Make Your Voice Heard
Join Us Today!**

League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County
Officers
Co—Presidents: Marcia Marrins and Shirley Pulawski
1st Vice President: Minda Rae Amiran
2nd Vice President: Nancy Bleck
3rd Vice President: Tillie Solomonson
Secretary: Claudia Ansell
Treasurer: Priscilla Bernatz
Directors: Gloria Garretson, Donnie Hover, Janet Jankowski-George, Gen Ludemann, Judy Parks, Judy Reynolds,

2009 Membership

LWV Chautauqua

Nancy Bleck, 38 Elm Street, Fredonia, NY 14063

Membership Dues: to December 31, 2009
Individual: \$60; Family: \$90; Student: \$25
(Check payable to LWV Chautauqua County)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

I would like to work on:

Local Issues

Voter Service

State/National Issues

Local Newsletter

Call me to discuss what I can do

I cannot be active at this time, but I want to support LWV goals with my membership.