

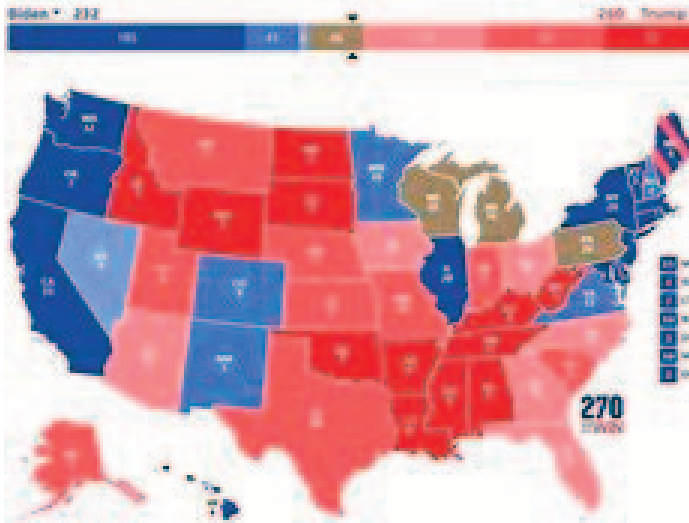


# THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Woman Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork  
Founded in 1977

Volume XXXIX, No. 22

## August/September 2021



2020 Election

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## Electoral College .. Yes or No?

Please join us on Monday, September 13, at 7 p.m. for what promises to be a lively and important panel discussion, via Zoom, on "The Electoral College and the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact—What Every Voter Should Know."

Note: *This Zoom presentation will be televised both live and later on SEA-TV's YouTube channel, and also aired later on Southampton Town's SEA-TV Channel 22. The Zoom link for SEA-TV's YouTube channel will be emailed to members via the League's Constant Contact.*

The discussion will help illuminate many of the issues that led The League of Women Voters to study the presidential electoral process over fifty years ago, culminating in a 1970 decision to support direct election of the president by popular vote, and that has led to growing interest in the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact in recent years.

At the time, the LWV found that jettisoning the Electoral College in lieu of the National Popular Vote, is

"an essential element of representative government." That decision was followed by several related resolutions.

The Electoral College was designed by the founding fathers as a compromise between election of the president by Congress and election by popular vote. Under the Electoral College system, U.S. voters vote for electors, who then vote for the president and Vice president. The most compelling argument against the Electoral College is that it prevents the direct election of the president by popular vote and is, therefore, contrary to the principles of representative government. Studies show that more than 70 percent of American citizens favor the election of the president by popular vote.

In practice, over the course of the nation's history, the Electoral College voted for the candidate who also won the most popular votes in all but five instances. However, two of those elections were during the last 20 years; both George W. Bush and Donald J. Trump

*continued on page 3*



**The League of Woman Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork**

**Mission Statement**

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

**Diversity Policy**

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork, in both its values and practices, is committed to diversity and pluralism. This means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of economic position, gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of the East End.

**Membership**

Any person who supports the mission of the League may become a member.

**The Voter Newsletter**

The newsletter of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork League, *The Voter*, is dedicated to bringing useful information, background, perspective and commentary on public policy issues confronting League members and other community citizens in Southampton and East Hampton Towns, Suffolk County and the State of New York. It explores the work of the League to promote positive solutions, and it empowers people to make a difference in their communities.

*The Voter* is published six times a year (October/November, December/January, February/March, April/May, June/July, August/September) by the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork, P. O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937.

Eva Moore, Editor  
Cathy Peacock, Advertising Manager  
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## President's Message



While we look forward to having more opportunities to meet in person as Covid 19 restrictions continue to ease, Zoom has made it easier than ever to take the League along no matter where you've chosen to enjoy your summer..... at the beach, on the patio or porch, in the garden, taking a hike, sailing or just sitting in the shade relaxing with your feet up. One of our members took us along to a Sustainability Committee meeting as she and her son jogged. As you can imagine, her Zoom photo was constantly moving and we saw lots of scenery but she was able to participate.

I hope you are having a great summer!

We have been busy too. Our committees are working on a wide variety of interesting and important subjects including DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion), Redistricting, Water Conservation, reduction of the use of plastic packaging and a program entitled The Electoral College and the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact: What Every Voter Should Know.

We are also planning to hold our very popular Silent Auction again, this time in the Spring. If you are interested in helping plan this fun event, contact me directly at hamptonssw@gmail.com.

Also check out the info about "Carbon Crew" in this issue and get involved.

And don't forget to Tell the Senate to Support S1!

The For the People Act is the fair representation bill the American people want and deserve. This legislation will put power back into the hands of American voters by making voting easier and more accessible and by modernizing future elections. The For the People Act addresses some of the most pressing issues facing our democracy by:

- Modernizing our voter registration system;
- Restoring voting rights to formerly-incarcerated individuals;
- Curbing partisan gerrymandering; and
- Making campaign contributions more transparent

Over the last two years, we have seen the bill pass the House of Representatives, but stall in the Senate. We cannot let this happen again. The House passed the For the People Act earlier this year. The bill came up for the first time ever for a vote in the Senate on June 23rd, unfortunately the vote deadlocked at 50-50. This just means it is more important than ever to make your voice heard as any movement serves to advance the legislation!

**Contact your Senators TODAY and tell them to:**

**Vote Yes on the For the People Act.**

Return control of our government back where it belongs—into the hands of the people.

**Now is the time to pass HR4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.**

**Call Representative Lee Zeldin at 202-225-3826 and urge him to Vote Yes!**

--Susan Wilson

*continued from page 1*

### Electoral College .. Yes or No?

won the presidency via the Electoral College even though they lost the popular vote, making this panel presentation particularly timely.

By contrast, the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, an agreement among a group of states and the District of Columbia, would award electoral votes to whichever presidential candidate wins the popular vote. So far, 15 states representing 195 electoral votes have enacted legislation to adopt the NPVIC (New York is one of those states); an additional 75 electoral votes are needed for it to go into effect.

The LWV panel will explore both the history and likely future of each electoral process. It will be led by the following three distinguished law professors and moderated by Cathy Kenny, co-chair of LWV's Government Committee:

--Prof. Derek W. Black is the Ernest F. Hollings Chair in Constitutional Law at University of South Carolina Law School. He is also an expert in education law and policy. In addition to his almost seventy essays and Law Review publications, he has written three books, his most recent, *School House*

*Burning*, explores why public-school education is essential to democracy and why the right to education is written into most state constitutions.

--Prof. Rebecca Green, is a law professor at William and Mary Law School where she is Co-Director of the Election Law Program, a joint project of the Law School and the National Center for State Courts. Prof. Green has served as a panelist and speaker on almost seventy occasions and has published some thirteen Law Review articles, including a recent 2020 article, *Secret Ballots and the Electoral College*. In addition to teaching Election Law, she is also an expert on Legislative Redistricting.

--Prof. Bruce Ledewitz is the Adrian Van Kaam Endowed Chair in Scholarly Excellence at Duquesne University School of Law. He specializes in state and federal constitutional law and jurisprudence. Prof. Ledewitz writes and speaks widely on a variety of legal and religious topics and is the author of four books, including a forthcoming book to be published in October, *The Universe Is on our Side: Restoring Faith in American Public Life*. Besides teaching, he writes a biweekly column on public af-



Derek Black



Bruce Ledewitz



Rebecca Green

## Summertime Voter Registration Events

Even the heat of summer won't keep the Voter Services Committee from trying our best to keep the public informed. We have been able to have Voter Registration events in Shelter Island, Southampton, Southold, and East Hampton with tables at Farmer's Markets and other locations. We provide up to date voter information to the general public.

These tabling events give us the chance to meet with our neighbors to help facilitate and explain the voting process in New York State. Even voters who live elsewhere in the state can benefit since most information has statewide consequences.

We have Voter Guides printed by the LWV-NYS available at our tables. There are guides containing facts for voters and brochures explaining the Proposals that will be on the November Ballot. We also have Registration Forms, Directory of Public Officials and Absentee Ballot Applications.



Springs Farmer's Market on July 17, with (left to right) Voter Services committee chair Barbara McClancy, Eileen Mercer and Mary Blake. Photo credit: Arlene Hinkemeyer

### Upcoming Events: Volunteers Needed

The committee is looking for a good turn-out for the following events:

Sag Harbor's Harborfest. This is a popular event in the Hamptons where we have great success in contacting and informing the public of our mission to register voters.

We will sponsor a Voter's Information table at Harborfest in Sag Harbor on the weekend of September 11 / 12 from 9 am to 5 pm each day. We will have a table offering



The voter information table at Shelter Island Farmer's Market, Saturday, July 3, with Natalie Hurwitz and Betsy Mathes. Photo credit: Andrea Gabor

Voter Information and Registration to all.

National Voter Registration Day National Voter Registration Day is Tuesday, September 28th, 2021 this year. We hope to have tables covering all the diverse areas in our league at Westhampton, Montauk, Southold and Shelter Island amongst others. All you need is a table and a friend to help out for two hours in a location of your choosing to register voters and dispense information to all your friends and neighbors.

We publicize in advance when and where we will be and always have a very successful day offering voter registration and dispensing up-to date voter information.

I will supply you with all the written material you will need including forms, information sheets and posters. A limited number of t-shirts are also available.

If you can volunteer on any or all of the dates (two-hour shifts) please give me a call or email me as soon as possible to get this effort started.

--Barbara McClancy, Chair

631-267-5280, bmcc343@aol.com



# Suffolk County Voter

<https://my.lww.org/new-york/suffolk-county> Box 1440, Stony Brook, NY 11790-1440 631 862-6860

September 2021

LWVSC Board Meeting: Wednesday September 15, at 10am via Zoom

## Making Democracy Work: Community + Government Dialog Needed Now

Planning and decision making in our county needs to be a more open, thoughtful process. There is a concern on the part of communities in the area surrounding the Brookhaven Town Landfill that the plans for closing it in 2024 are unclear and have not been fully disclosed to the public.

The League's March 2021 TBR column on zero waste <https://tbrnewsmedia.com/making-democracy-work-how-can-we-get-to-zero-waste/> set the stage... our goal is to significantly reduce our garbage, but we are far from getting significant action from our neighbors (and our consumer/disposable society) in the next few years. Thus, what the Town of Brookhaven (ToB) does with the landfill site, the surrounding area, and the ash disposal will be a major factor for central Suffolk residents in the coming years.

The ToB landfill was established on vacant land zoned mostly residential in 1974. Hamlets, developments, neighborhoods now surround the landfill site, including the areas of North Bellport and Horizon Village. Looking ahead to the closing of the landfill, which is scheduled for 2024, ToB officials have proposed changing the zoning of 136 acres on the landfill site from residential to light industry and selling some of the land for an industrial park, with a codicil to prevent certain waste-related uses. (The remaining acres include the municipal recycling facility and yard waste and composting operations and undisturbed woodland.) At the zoning hearing held by the ToB in July, residents from all parts of the town protested the plan to sell the acreage and suggested instead that the town seek community input about how to remediate and re-purpose the entire landfill property. Clearly information is required about possible contamination of water and soil and the testing results over the past 50 years (think of the Bethpage and Brookhaven Lab plumes).

The League is focused on civic education and government transparency. We urge the ToB Supervisor and Board to THINK BIG! The problems and possible solutions to the landfill closure, possible pollution and health effects, and ash-disposal are just one part of a proposed ongoing discussion. Appointing a sustainability committee could lead the ToB toward better understanding of the problem and solutions and lead a community education effort. The town needs to communicate the issues openly with the public and hold public listening sessions to get constituents' input. Garbage itself, and its costs in dollars, health, property values, and yes, our children's future, MUST be described and garbage volume reduced significantly. If the landfill is to close in 2024, time is of the essence. Everyone should have the opportunity to be heard. .

In a time of contentiousness and public strife, it's critical that government brings its citizens/residents into the tent and that accurate, thorough information is the basis. The people must be heard, and decision-making must be transparent and accessible. The Town of Brookhaven owes this to the people who elected them and placed their trust in these representatives.

*by Lisa Scott and Nancy Marr  
printed in TimesBeaconRecord newspapers, also available online*

### OFFICERS

*President/DPO/County Voter*  
Lisa Scott 523-1653  
[lisawscott@gmail.com](mailto:lisawscott@gmail.com)

*1st Vice President*  
Nancy Marr 730-6556  
[enpymarr@optonline.net](mailto:enpymarr@optonline.net)

*2nd Vice President/Voter Service*  
Barbara McClancy 903-3867  
[bmcc343@aol.com](mailto:bmcc343@aol.com)

*Treasurer*  
Glorian Berk 204-5382  
[glorianberk@aol.com](mailto:glorianberk@aol.com)

*Secretary* rotating local League responsibility as assigned

### APPOINTED DIRECTORS

Peggy Olness 751-2655  
[maolness@yahoo.com](mailto:maolness@yahoo.com)

Stephanie Quarles 219-8691  
[stephaniequarles@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniequarles@gmail.com)

Margaret Stevenson 653-4163  
[msteve1874@yahoo.com](mailto:msteve1874@yahoo.com)

### LEAGUE PRESIDENTS

*Brookhaven*  
Nancy Marr 730-6556  
[enpymarr@optonline.net](mailto:enpymarr@optonline.net)

*Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork (HSINF)*  
Susan Wilson 283-6549  
[hamptonssw@gmail.com](mailto:hamptonssw@gmail.com)

*Huntington*  
Lizbeth Thalheimer 754-8610  
[lizabeth04@mac.com](mailto:lizabeth04@mac.com)

*Smithtown (Leadership Team)*  
Pat Gibbons 780-6532  
[patriciajgibbons@yahoo.com](mailto:patriciajgibbons@yahoo.com)

Pat Grzetic 360-7734  
[msqrz46@aol.com](mailto:msqrz46@aol.com)

Lisa Scott 523-1653  
[lisawscott@gmail.com](mailto:lisawscott@gmail.com)

### OFF-BOARD SPECIALISTS

*Budget*  
Jacqui Lofaro 537-3361  
[jacqlo@hamptons.com](mailto:jacqlo@hamptons.com)

*Legislative Liaisons*  
Pat Fuchs 423-5178  
[pfuchs60@yahoo.com](mailto:pfuchs60@yahoo.com)

Pat LaWare 269-1537  
[patradcliffecraig@gmail.com](mailto:patradcliffecraig@gmail.com)

*Naturalization*  
Linda Devin-Sheehan 974-5122  
[ldevinsheehan@optonline.net](mailto:ldevinsheehan@optonline.net)

## Reflections on 50 Years in the League of Women Voters

*by Arlene Hinkemeyer*

This September 2021 marks my 50th year in the League of Women Voters! According to LWVUS rules, I have reached the rank of Life Member, excused from paying dues (though I am still expected to make donations to LWVUS, LWVNYS, and LWVH/SI/NF).

While in college and graduate school in Ohio and Illinois casting absentee ballots, I was so grateful to my hometown Cincinnati League of Women Voters for sending me voters guides with information on candidates and propositions, that I vowed to join a League when able.

The chance came in 1971 when we moved to New York after my husband took a position as an assistant professor at Queens College. In September of that year I walked into the Bayside Library and saw a poster recruiting people to join the Northeast Queens League. As a former history/government major and teacher, I became that League's Government Committee chair, attending monthly meetings in NYC with the government chairs from all the other LWVNYC "units," led by legendary LWVNYC member Selma Toback.

Four years later, in 1975, we purchased a home in Manhasset, and I quickly joined the Port Washington/Manhasset League of Women Voters—a long-established League, formed in 1937. As we were mostly young mothers, the Board meetings included babysitting!

One exciting experience was volunteering backstage at the Waldorf Astoria for the 1976 LWV televised candidates' debate for the presidential primary, when Jimmy Carter and others were running for president.

From 1982-85, I served as president of the Port Washington/Manhasset LWV. These were the years when the League studied and adopted so many of its positions on the environment, solid waste disposal and the bottle bill; on women's issues like equal pay and reproductive rights; and on NYS judicial reform. One year we had a LWVUS or LWVNYS consensus meeting every month. I remember vividly the women on our Board who were so knowledgeable and dedicated to advancing these causes. In 1983, my vice president and I started a yearly "Lunch with the League" where we invited the Town of North Hempstead Supervisor to give his State of the Town address to an audience of our League and scores of community leaders. This event has continued in the Port



Arlene Hinkemeyer

Washington/Manhasset League to the present day, 38 years later.

In 1984, we held a "Week for Women." For one of that week's events, I invited Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro—at the time the only female Congresswoman in NY State—to be our keynote speaker for a luncheon in honor of Port Washington and Manhasset women elected officials. Our local luncheon program was unexpectedly inundated with national media when Ferraro became touted as a possible vice-presidential candidate. (Later that summer she did become the nominee, along with presidential candidate Walter Mondale.)

As a vice president of the Nassau County LWV from 1985-90, I served for six years as editor of the Nassau County Voters Guide, a printed publication which some Leagues, like those in Great Neck, Port Washington/Manhasset, and Roslyn, mailed to every household in their districts. We never quit until we had responses and bios and answers to questions from all 150 of the yearly candidates for office in the county.

After my husband and I purchased our home in East Hampton in 1996, I joined the young Hamptons League, formed in 1977, while maintaining my membership in PW/M since I was still working in Nassau County and

driving back and forth each week. I always say that you can move anywhere in the country and meet wonderful women by joining a League.

When I retired in 2006 after 20 years as the public information/ community relations professional for a large school district in Nassau County, I was elected to the Hamptons LWV Board in May and became the public relations person and a vice president—a job I have been strongly committed to ever since.

From 2011-13, I also served a term as public relations director for LWVNYS, establishing a committee of the publicity persons in every NYS League, and giving workshops at LWVNYS conventions.

Since we participated in so many consensus studies in the PW/M League, I was pleased to promote consensus studies here, chairing the LWVUS study of immigration policy in 2007, with a wonderful committee composed of Afton DiSunno, Joy Lupoletti, Ann Sandford and Susan Wilson. But probably my fondest recent memories of our Hamptons League come from chairing the 100th Anniversary Committee, composed of Estelle Gellman, Barbara McClancy, Cathy Peacock, Martha Potter, Judi Roth, and Susan Wilson. The committee planned celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of women winning the vote in NYS in November 2017; the formation of the LWVNYS in November 2019; the formation of the LWVUS in February 2020; and of women across the country winning the vote with the 19th Amendment ratification, in August 2020.

As a 50-year member, I can personally remember half of those 100 years and all the national, state, and local issues we tackled!

A favorite 100th anniversary event was working with the Village of East Hampton in 2017 to install a NYS women's suffrage marker in front of the Main Street house where East Hampton/Suffolk County/NYC suffrage leader May Groot Manson lived. On August 24th we re-created Mrs. Manson's suffrage parade of August 1913. Like the parade of yore, we numbered about 200 marchers, all wearing white with gold "Votes for Women" sashes. For keynote speaker for the program held in the library after the parade, I enlisted our Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul, who was Chair of the NYS Women's Suffrage 100th Anniversary Commemoration Commission. Her speech, both excellent and humorous, included quotes from men opposed to women's suffrage. The men worried: "Who will cook our dinners?" "Who will darn our socks?" if women



Former Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul, speaking at East Hampton Library in August 2017.

got the vote.

As you know, Ms Hochul is now the first female NYS Governor!

Our League, expanded by co-presidents Estelle Gellman and Susan Wilson in 2020 to include Shelter Island and the North Fork, can certainly be proud of its leaders and members, its many voter service activities, its program for students, and its strong tradition before Covid-19 of live monthly public information programs for residents in libraries and other venues.

May we continue to recruit members for the next century and to energize our communities with the longtime LWV motto:

"Democracy Is Not a Spectator Sport."



## Now – more than ever – your vote counts

As you know, politicians in states across the country are hard at work making new laws that restrict voting rights, measures that, they say, will reduce or prevent election fraud.

In truth, there have been no accusations of massive fraud in American elections, ever. The 2020 election was, according to election pros, the safest election ever.

One of the rights targeted by the renegade states is early voting. The LWVs in New York State petitioned

the legislature for many years to give voters this option. In 2020 many voters took advantage of this new convenience.

Once again this fall LWVH/SI/NF will be working to get people registered, helping them apply for absentee ballots, and providing information about the election.

Anyone who is interested in joining our volunteers, please contact Susan Wilson or Vicki Umans...

## NOT A MEMBER? JOIN OR DONATE NOW

Membership Dues /\_ / \$60 Individual /\_ / \$90 Household /\_ / No Charge Full-time Student /\_ / \$ \_\_\_ Donation

Dues Year is June 1 through May 31.

Questions? Call us at 631-324-4637. Send this form and payment option (with check or credit card information) to League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937. Make checks payable to LWVH.

Individual Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Household Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I'm interested in these committees: \_\_\_\_\_

/\_ / Check or /\_ / Credit Card  
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## OFFICERS

### President

Susan Wilson  
631-283-6549  
hamptonssw@gmail.com

### Vice-Presidents

Arlene Hinkemeyer  
631-324-6713  
ahinkemeyer@optonline.net

Barbara McClancy  
631-267-5280  
bmcc343@aol.com

Lois Morris  
631-749-3349  
loismorris@gmail.com

### Recording Secretary

Mary Blake  
631-907-4499  
mecb@optonline.net

### Treasurer

Cathy Peacock  
631-267-6685  
treasurer@lwvhamptons.org

## ELECTED DIRECTORS

Vicki Umans  
631-324-9048  
umans22@aol.com

Eva Moore  
631-238-5134  
evamoore@optonline.net

Judi Roth  
631-283-0759  
rothhandj@yahoo.com

## APPOINTED DIRECTORS

Estelle Gellman  
631-324-9102  
estelle.s.gellman@hofstra.edu

Judy Samuelson  
631-267-3055  
webmaster@lwvhamptons.org

Bonnie Cannon  
631-287-1271  
bonniemcannon@gmail.com

Cathy Kenny  
631-749-1848  
cathy\_kenny@hotmail.com

Isabel Sepulveda Scanlon  
516-446-6565  
iscanlon13@yahoo.com

Stephanie Snider  
516-456-5994  
ssnider152@gmail.com

## PORTFOLIO CHAIRS

### Education

Judi Roth  
631-283-0759  
education@lwvhamptons.org  
and Terese Wildrick  
631-728-6897  
mswild@optonline.net

### Government

Cathy Peacock  
631-267-6685  
cathpeac@optonline.net  
Cathy Kenny  
631-749-1848  
cathy\_kenny@hotmail.com

### Health

Valerie King (Off-Board)  
646-217-1827  
ValerieKing78@aol.com

### Membership

Vicki Umans  
631-324-9048  
umans22@aol.com

### Sustainability Committee

Formerly Natural Resources  
Terese Wildrick  
631-728-6897  
mswild@optonline.net

### Publicity

Arlene Hinkemeyer  
631-324-6713  
ahinkemeyer@optonline.net

### Special Events

(Off Board)  
Ginny Charlow-Poveromo  
631-283-4591  
Sirone616@msn.com

### Voter Services

Barbara McClancy  
631-267-5280  
bmcc343@aol.com

### Webmaster

Judy Samuelson  
631-267-3055  
webmaster@lwvhamptons.org

### Nominating Committee

Ursula Lynch, Chair (Off Board)  
631-288-4721  
UMLynch@gmail.com



## The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork

P.O. BOX 2253, EAST HAMPTON, NEW YORK 11937

# The Voter

League of Women Voters of the Hamptons,  
Shelter Island and the North Fork  
P.O. Box 2253  
East Hampton, NY 11937  
Phone: 631-324-4637  
[my.lvw.org/new-york/hamptons](http://my.lvw.org/new-york/hamptons)

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The League of Women Voters

Nonpartisan. Political. Grassroots. Volunteer.

Making democracy work through voter education,  
issue advocacy, and civic participation.