



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Woman Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork
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Congressional District #1 Republican Primary Debate

After much confusion about re-districting lines, we were able to put together a debate for the Republican Primary for CD #1. Originally it looked as if there might be a debate on the Democratic side with three candidates declaring for this position, but by the time it all shook out two of those candidates were no longer in the CD# 1 district and chose to withdraw. On the Republican side there were three candidates running and they all remained in the race. The GOP Party endorsed Nicholas LaLota, former Commissioner of the Board of Elections. He was challenged by Anthony Figliola, former Deputy Supervisor of Brookhaven Town and Michelle Bond, CEO of Association for Digital Asset Markets. The one hour Zoom debate was held on August 8th, 2022. It was facilitated by SeaTV of Southampton and broadcast live and later on demand on their YouTube platform. Members of the LWV of the Hamptons, Shelter Island & the North Fork worked diligently to contact and get the candidates to agree to the format and rules of the debate. Unfortunately, Michelle Bond, citing a scheduling conflict, did not attend.

Because this was on Zoom we were not able to have an audience submit questions during the debate, but we solicited questions from our membership, civic organizations, media and the public. All our questions must be issue oriented. The topics included gun control, climate change, reproductive rights, Social Security, Covid and the legitimacy of the 2020 presidential election.

Estelle Gellman moderated the debate with Cathy Peacock acting as timer. Behind the scenes Glorian Berk, Arlene Hinkemeyer, Tracy Grathwohl, Valerie Levenstein and myself assisted in this production. On the Zoom platform we have had great success acquiring viewers. As of the date of this writing, 656 viewers have watched the debate.

In the GOP Primary on August 23, 2022, Nicholas LaLota won the Republican primary and will face Bridget Fleming, Democrat, in the general election on November 8, 2022.

--Barbara McClancy, Chair, Voter Services Committee



Estelle Gellman, moderator, and Cathy Peacock, timer, with debaters Nicholas LaLota and Anthony Figliola. The debate had more than 656 views on SEA-TV's YouTube channel at www.YouTube.com/c/SeaTV-Southampton. More debates for Congress and NYS legislature are planned for October.



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.

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Letter from the editor

When I was a little girl, many decades ago, Election Day was an exciting event. I would walk with my mother to my neighborhood school in Rome, NY, which was transformed that day into a magical place with rows of curtained boxes. As I watched, my mother would step into one of the boxes and pull a lever sideways: whoosh, the curtain closed. A few seconds later – whoosh—the curtain opened. Then came the best part for me-- a visit to the Election Day Bake Sale. In the evening, my father, a volunteer “runner”, would help deliver the votes in our district to the main office to be counted.

I had to wait until I was 21 and living in Manhattan before I could finally enter one of those magical boxes, cast my vote, and proudly sport an I Voted badge. My parents had instilled in me the importance of voting, the Constitutional right that is the backbone of American democracy (though it wasn't until 1920 that all American women won the long battle to be included in process).

Fast forward to the present. Voting booths have been largely replaced by curtailless “stations”, machines count the votes, and results are televised, sometimes a few minutes after the polls close. The next day the losers concede and congratulate the winners. Everyone accepts the results and life goes on in our democratic country.

Or that's how it's been until 2020. For the first time in American history, a candidate for the highest office in the land has broken the ages old standard and not only refused to acknowledge his loss but has set in place a scheme to overthrow the election and regain his position as president; otherwise known as a coup, or the Big Lie.

Millions of American citizens have fallen for the Big Lie, thus damaging the public's trust in our electoral process. Several states have been considering changing the rules to supersede the authority of impartial boards of election, giving this power to whatever party is in office.

As President Joe Biden said in his nationally broadcast speech of September 1st, “This is a nation that respects free and fair elections. We honor the will of the people. We do not deny it. ... democracy endures only if we, the people, respect the guardrails of the Republic. ... I will not stand by and watch the most fundamental freedom in this country, the freedom to vote and have your vote counted, be taken from... the American people.”

Now, even election workers are being harassed and threatened. We all remember the testimony of devoted election workers Shaye Moss and her mother Ruby Freeman whose lives were turned upside down by false accusations fueled by the past president. Recently, workers in a city in Texas resigned due to vicious threats on their lives. We fear that these deplorable acts will only increase the closer we come to the November general election.

We must not let this kind of intimidation discourage anyone from signing up to serve as poll workers this fall. Contact your local county's Board of Elections office for information. It is more important than ever to stand up for country over party, truth over falsehood, common sense over conspiracy.

--Eva Moore

President's Message



One of my favorite seasonal songs is "Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer" by Nat King Cole. It's a relaxed, unstructured time with family and friends. We may "wish that summer could always be here" but reality returns late in September along with our "regular" routines.

The League's regular routine always includes a focus on educating voters and getting every registered voter to the polls. We traditionally hold voter registration events all summer, but in September we enter our busiest time and ramp up voter registration efforts with a major push on National Voter Registration Day, this year, September 20th.

With the August primary candidate debate behind us we are now planning candidate debates for the general election.

Our goal of getting more environmental voters to the polls begins this year begins with Carbon CREW, an educational project in cooperation with Drawdown East End to motivate and educate voters in ways they can personally reduce their carbon footprint. For more information or to join a CREW contact Susan Wilson at 631-495-9288.

VOTE411.org is the League's one-stop-shop where you can find all the information you need to cast your ballot: Check your voter registration, find your polling place, learn about the candidates and more. It is available in English and Spanish.

Election Day, November 8, 2022

Ballot Referendum for the Peconic Bay Region Community Housing Act, signed into law last year, authorizes the five East End towns to establish community housing funds. Should the referendum pass, the fund would become operational in January. The .5-percent tax would be in addition to the 2-percent-transfer tax that funds the community preservation fund.

To educate the voters about the Ballot Referendum regarding the funding of affordable housing opportunities in four of the five East End towns --Southampton, East Hampton, Southold and Shelter Island-- the Government Committee is hosting a Public Information Meeting Meeting on September 13 via Zoom entitled: Affordable Housing: Hope or Promise?

You can view the program anytime on SeaTV's YouTube channel at www.YouTube.com/c/SeaTVSouthampton.

Susan Wilson

Mensaje del presidente

Una de mis canciones favoritas de temporada es "Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer" de Nat King Cole. Es un tiempo relajado y desestructurado con familiares y amigos. Podemos "desear que el verano siempre pueda estar aquí", pero la realidad regresa a finales de septiembre junto con nuestras rutinas "regulares".

La rutina regular de la Liga siempre incluye un enfoque en educar a los votantes y llevar a cada votante registrado a las urnas. Tradicionalmente celebramos eventos de registro de votantes durante todo el verano, pero en septiembre entramos en nuestro momento más ocupado y aumentamos los esfuerzos de registro de votantes con un gran impulso en el Día Nacional de Registro de Votantes, este año, el 20 de septiembre.

Con el debate de los candidatos a las primarias de agosto a nuestras espaldas, ahora estamos planificando candidate debates para la elección general.

Nuestro objetivo de llevar a más votantes ambientales a las urnas comienza este año con Carbon CREW, un proyecto educativo en cooperación con Drawdown East End para motivar y educar a los votantes de manera que puedan reducir personalmente su huella de carbono. Para obtener más información o para unirse a un CREW, comuníquese con Susan Wilson al 631-495-9288.

VOTE411.org es la ventanilla única de la Liga donde puede encontrar toda la información que necesita para emitir su voto: Verifique su registro de votante, encuentre su lugar de votación, conozca a los candidatos y más. Está disponible en inglés y español.

Día de las elecciones, 8 de noviembre de 2022

El referéndum para la Ley de Vivienda Comunitaria de la Región de Peconic Bay, promulgada el año pasado, autoriza a las cinco ciudades del East End a establecer fondos de vivienda comunitaria. Si se aprueba el referéndum, el fondo entraría en funcionamiento en enero. El impuesto del .5 por ciento sería adicional al impuesto de transferencia del 2 por ciento que financia el fondo de preservación de la comunidad.

Para educar a los votantes sobre el referéndum electoral con respecto a la financiación de oportunidades de vivienda asequible en cuatro de las cinco ciudades de East End --,Southampton, East Hampton y Southold, el Comité del Gobierno está organizando una Reunión de Información Pública a través de Zoom titulada: Vivienda asequible: ¿Esperanza o promesa? Puedes ver el programa en YouTube

LWV Conventional Wisdom

By Neil Cohen

In the previous issue of the Voter, vice-president Arlene Hinkemeyer reported on the highlights of the National League's biennial convention on June 23-26 in Denver. In addition to the plenary sessions, the convention also featured workshops on issues of importance to the league. Here are summaries of six that were of particular interest. Neil Cohen is a longtime member of the League of Women Voters. This was his first "visit" to the national convention.

Climate Interest Group

This session, fueled by the work of 1,500 members across the country, focused on how climate change is threatening our sustenance, health and well-being and impacting the world on all levels: economy, infrastructure, politics, immigration, equity, defense, and democracy. Presentations made by teams focused on Water, Health, and Agriculture emphasized the biblical consequences of inaction: that 35 percent of the worldwide greenhouse gases come from food production, and one-third of what we produce is not eaten and winds up in landfills, breaking down into methane gas; that most climate change will be connected to water in the form of erosion, rising sea levels, floods in coastal areas, and salt water intrusion; that climate change is also a health crisis, leading to food crop failure, more ticks and Lyme's disease, longer allergy seasons, and algae blooms. The presentation emphasized that while there is "no silver bullet, there is silver buckshot", calling on leagues around the country to share information and speak with one voice about the need for action by local governments.

Climate Action Guidelines for League Members

This session highlighted 10 actions that local

leagues can urge their local governments to do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions: 1. Terminate fossil fuel purchase contracts and only enter into renewable energy contracts; 2. Permit new construction only without fossil fuel energy; 3. Retrofit or build municipal structures for renewable energy supply and energy efficiency. Install solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. 4. Require or create incentives for retrofit of privately owned buildings for renewable energy supply and energy efficiency. 5. Offer incentives for and facilitate residential, neighborhood, and commercial rooftop solar. 6. Offer community solar programs to enable renters/low-income persons to enjoy benefits of low-cost renewable energy. 7. Replace fossil fuel municipal vehicles with renewable energy powered vehicles. 8. Install or incentivize the installation of EV charging stations in public and private parking lots and convenient locations. 9. Offer incentives and rebates for EV and electric appliance purchases. 10. Reduce vehicle miles travelled by planning measures and incentives to use public transportation.

Innovative Strategies for Getting Out the Vote

The emphasis of this workshop was on turning citizens into voters, beginning with voter registration that should be "transformational rather than transactional." Studies have shown that contact from a league member is more likely to turn out the vote. Attendees were urged to target the most underrepresented groups in their area with postcards, canvassing, texts, and phone calls, and to promote VOTE411 as a vital source of information. Among the suggestions: Take down the name and address of everyone you register and send them a follow-up postcard. In certain states, local leagues have access to a Voter Access Network that can provide that information.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion on the Road

The Florida league used a tour of the state by its new league president to provide insights into how to reach out to Black, Brown and LGBTQ+ communities by holding events with different communities that can be as informal as family-friendly picnics (catered by the local league and including a speaker) or as structured as speaking at organization meetings. The intention would be to have fun while providing information or, better yet, listening to the concerns of that group. This can be initiated by reaching out to local colleges or community organizations, getting help from league members who are also members of local communities, and sponsoring events tied into major months and days of recognition, such as Black History Month and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Young Voters, New and Returning Citizens: Winning Voter Outreach Campaigns

As the name proclaims, this was all about voter mobilization. To reach new citizens, league mem-

bers were encouraged to establish relationships with court clerks and arrange to register voters at naturalization ceremonies. For young voters, enlist the help of members with school connections or contact local high schools (especially history teachers). Teachers can be provided with handouts with frequently asked questions about voting and registration as well as step-by-step guides to the voter registration forms so that they can help register students.

Youth Vote to Save Democracy

The focus in this action-oriented session was how to amplify the youth vote by enlisting the power and energy of youth themselves. The presentation was made by students with Anchorage Youth Vote, who were encouraged and facilitated by the Anchorage league to come up with and execute a youth-driven awareness campaign. Their work included videos, posters, public service announcements, and mock elections. The key, said the local league representative is not to tell students what to do, but to ask, “What they want to do, and how I can help.”



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In Memoriam to Anita Katz

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island & the North Fork was saddened to learn of the untimely death of a good friend of the league, Anita Katz. She was a 20 year Democratic Commissioner of the Suffolk County Board of Elections. The league works with the Board of Elections in learning the changing laws that affect our elections in NYS. Anita was always available and happy to help us by meeting and disseminating current information we can use in our goal to promote voting and understand changes in Election Law. She was a welcoming friend of ours at the Board of Elections. We always looked forward to our annual meeting with the Board of Elections to discuss the Boards reaction to recent changes. Anita, with her Republican counterpart, helped ease in recent changes like Early Voting and the purchase of Electronic Voting Logs. They were able to react in a positive

way to all the changes to Election Law and manage to implement these changes smoothly.

Anita was born in Brooklyn but moved to Suffolk County at an early age. She graduated from Adelphi College and Touro Law Center. She had a lifelong interest in politics and believed in and worked within the bi-partisan election system to ensure fair and free elections for all qualified voters in Suffolk County.

We will miss her comprehensive knowledge of Election Law and her generous ability to explain it understandably to us.

Rest in Peace Anita.

Submitted by Barbara McClancy

Chairperson, Voter Services Committee

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