



# THE VOTER

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

Founded in 1977

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## Meet Kathy Hochul, First Woman to be Elected Governor of New York State

By the time teenager Kathleen Courtney of Buffalo, New York, entered Syracuse University, she had already determined that she would dedicate her life to public service. Her first mission was to lead a boycott of the student bookstore over high prices. Her effort to persuade the university to name the school's stadium after alumnus Ernie Davis, a star player who died before he could play in the National Football League failed, but she was instrumental in lobbying the university to divest from apartheid South Africa. The student newspaper awarded her an "A" for the campus changes that came about from her efforts.

Kathleen (now Kathy) was the second of six children born to John P. and Patricia Courtney. Her mother's experience as a child greatly influenced Kathy's desire to fight for the rights for the downtrodden. "My mother saw her [mother's father] walk out when [their children] were very young and it was a lot of, I'd say, more verbal abuse than physical... but it was the same. And my mother, back in the 70's became an advocate for victims of domestic violence way before anybody in the Legislature was talking about it."

After receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Syracuse University and a Juris Doctor from the Catholic University Columbus School of Law, Kathy moved on to Washington DC and worked as legal counsel and legislative assistant to U.S. Representative John LaFalce and Senator Daniel Moynihan, and also for the New York State Assembly.

Her activism caught the attention of local Democratic leaders. In January of 1994, the Hamburg, New York, Town Board appointed Kathy (now Kathy Hochul, having married William Hochul in 1984) to a vacant seat on the board. She was elected to a full term that November and continued to win elections from

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### You're invited to THE LEAGUE HOLIDAY PARTY



Food, Fun, Camaraderie & Silent Auction  
December 13, 2022 5-7 PM  
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**The League of Woman Voters of the Hamp-  
tons, 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.

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## Meet Kathy Hochul

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1998 to April of 2007. During her tenure, Kathy led efforts to remove toll booths on some sections of the New York State Thruway, thus improving the flow of traffic.

Then it was onward and upward for Kathy:

-- January 2007: Elected Erie County Clerk

--November 2010: Reelected on four ballot lines: Democratic, Conservative, Independence and Working Families, and receiving 80% of the vote

--May 2011: Wins special election to fill a vacant seat in New York's 26th congressional district

-- November 2011: Wins reelection in the 26th district and serves in the United States congress for two years, calling herself an "independent Democrat" as she broke with some of the Democrat governor's proposals. She voted for a balanced budget amendment, which she called "a bipartisan solution."

--September 2014: Then Governor Andrew Cuomo endorsed Kathy for lieutenant governor. They win the election in November and are sworn in on January 1, 2015.

As lieutenant governor, Kathy, now the mother of two children, chaired the Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction, spearheaded the governor's "Enough Is Enough" campaign to combat sexual assault on college campus (2015) and served as the head of the New York State Women's Suffrage 100th Anniversary Commemoration Commission in 2016.

-- August 2021, Andrew Cuomo resigns. Kathy serves as governor and wins reelection in November 2022.

Kathy summed up her aspirations as governor. "...at the end of the day, I want people to say that I played a major role in restoring people's confidence in the ability of State Government to be on their side, to fight for them, and... I'll say it again, to get things done for them."

Looking ahead, our new governor encourages more and more political action among women.

"I want every young woman, just like I was as a high school assembly intern, to realize that this is a place where they have a role. We need their voices. We need that diversity. We're getting there. We're making progress on more elected women."

**--Eva Moore**

## President's Message

*"Every election, we get the chance to shape our democracy with our vote. Your participation is evidence of democracy in action".*  
— Laura Ladd Bierman, Executive Director  
New York State League of Women Voters.



In keeping with our core League mission we were very busy this election season holding tabling events to register voters, producing online candidate debates, promoting the use of Vote411, early voting, and educating citizens on the ballot referendum issues and the Absentee Ballot process.

Approximately 5.7 million New Yorkers across the state cast ballots in one of the closest races for governor in over two decades, according to unofficial 2022 election data. That amounts to roughly 43% of New York's 13.1 million registered voters, a lower turnout than in the 2018 gubernatorial election, when a surge of electoral enthusiasm driven by opposition to the Trump presidency and other factors pushed turnout to 48%.

But turnout this year is still higher than four of the five previous gubernatorial elections. It was significantly higher than the 33% turnout seen in the 2014 race – when Cuomo won a second term. Voter turnout is one indication that the League is successful in its efforts to educate voters and empower democracy.

On November 8, 2022 New York voters passed a significant piece of legislation: The Clean Water, Clean Air & Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022.

Bond acts of the 1960s and 1970s were passed with a focus on industrial pollution and air and water quality. The early part of the 20th Century saw New York State voters pass environmental bond acts with the purpose of conserving natural land and forests, thus establishing state parks and land preserves. The 2022 Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act is an amalgamation of those previous acts, with an overarching theme of combating climate change.

Passage of the 2022 Bond Act enables the State Comptroller to issue state bonds to improve the state's environmental condition, in this case \$4.2 billion. The funds will be allocated across a number of capital projects that aim to protect clean drinking water, modernize infrastructure, revitalize the economy, improve public health and safety and create green jobs.

Affordable Housing Ballot referendums in the towns of East Hampton, Southampton, Southold and Shelter Island were also passed. The referendum adds a half-percent transfer tax for affordable housing solutions. The tax will be added to the existing 2% Community Preservation Fund tax on real estate transfers in the four East End towns.



Susan Wilson

## Mensaje del presidente

*"En cada elección, tenemos la oportunidad de dar forma a nuestra democracia con nuestro voto. Su participación es evidencia de democracia en acción".* — Laura Ladd Bierman, Directora Ejecutiva de la Liga de Mujeres Votantes del Estado de Nueva York.

De acuerdo con nuestra misión principal de la Liga, estuvimos muy ocupados esta temporada electoral celebrando eventos de presentación para registrar votantes, produciendo debates de candidatos en línea, promoviendo el uso de Vote411, promoviendo la votación anticipada y educando a los ciudadanos sobre los temas del referéndum electoral y el proceso de votación en ausencia.

Aproximadamente 5.7 millones de neoyorquinos en todo el estado votaron en una de las carreras más reñidas para gobernador en más de dos décadas, según datos electorales no oficiales de 2022. Eso equivale a aproximadamente el 43% de los 13.1 millones de votantes registrados de Nueva York, una participación menor que en las elecciones para gobernador de 2018, cuando un aumento del entusiasmo electoral impulsado por la oposición a la presidencia de Trump y otros factores llevó la participación al 48%.

Pero la participación este año sigue siendo más alta que en cuatro de las cinco elecciones anteriores para gobernador. Fue significativamente más alto que la participación del 33% observada en la carrera de 2014, cuando Cuomo ganó un segundo mandato. La participación electoral es una indicación de que la Liga tiene éxito en sus esfuerzos por educar a los votantes y empoderar la democracia.

El 8 de noviembre de 2022, los votantes de Nueva York aprobaron una legislación importante: la Ley de Bonos Ambientales de Agua Limpia, Aire Limpio y Empleos Verdes de 2022.

Las leyes de bonos de las décadas de 1960 y 1970 se aprobaron con un enfoque en la contaminación industrial y la calidad del aire y el agua. La primera parte del siglo 20 vio a los votantes del estado de Nueva York aprobar leyes de bonos ambientales con el propósito de conservar la tierra natural y los bosques, estableciendo así parques estatales y reservas de tierras. La Ley de Bonos Ambientales de Agua Limpia, Aire Limpio y Empleos Verdes de 2022 es una amalgama de esas leyes anteriores, con un tema general de lucha contra el cambio climático.

La aprobación de la Ley de Bonos 2022 permite al Contralor del Estado emitir bonos estatales para mejorar la condición ambiental del estado, en este caso \$ 4.2 mil millones. Los fondos se asignarán a una serie de proyectos de capital que tienen como objetivo proteger el agua potable limpia, modernizar la infraestructura, revitalizar la economía, mejorar la salud pública y la seguridad y crear empleos verdes.

También se aprobaron referendos sobre viviendas asequibles en las ciudades de East Hampton, Southampton, Southold y Shelter Island. El referéndum agrega un impuesto de transferencia de medio por ciento para soluciones de vivienda asequible. El impuesto se agregará al impuesto existente del Fondo de Preservación Comunitaria del 2% sobre las transferencias de bienes raíces en las cuatro ciudades del East End.

### Two Debates : NYS Assembly District # 1 and NYS Senate District #1

The Voter Services Committee was busy in the run-up to Election Day, November 8th. We held debates on SeaTV in Southampton on Oct 17th. Facilitated by our friend at the cable station, Charles Certain, we broadcast the sessions live on that date and On Demand thereafter until Election Day.

The first debate for Assembly District # 1 between Assemblyman Fred Thiele (D) and challenger Peter Ganley (R, C) began at 7 PM moderated by Estelle Gellman.

Debate number two started at 7:45 PM and was between Senator Anthony Palumbo (R, C) and challenger Skyler Johnson (D, WF). This debate was moderated by Cathy Peacock.

The candidates were faced with timely questions and differing opinions that lead to an interesting exchange of ideas in both debates. It was notable in that there seemed to be some heated exchanges that made both events quite lively. It reminded me of a debate I attended years ago where the office holder lamented that it is easier to attack what they had already done than attack the dreams of young

office seekers.

Barbara McClancy was the timer in both debates and Neil Cohen monitored the debate for timeliness. Arlene Hinkemeyer was instrumental in facilitating and publicizing the event.

**Update:** In both races the incumbents re-won their seats and Assemblyman Fred Thiele and Senator Anthony Palumbo will continue in their respective state legislative offices.

We have been using Zoom technology for our debates since the COVID-19 outbreak which have been very successful with our outreach in that our audiences are much larger than in-person debates. For the above debate we had 360 viewers from Oct 17th until Election Day. Two years ago, we had close to 4,000 viewers for our Congressional Debate for District # 1.

*-- Barbara McClancy*

Vice President

Chair, Voter Services Committee



Timer Barbara McClancy, Moderator Estelle Gellman, Fred Thiele, Peter Ganley



Moderator Cathy Peacock, Timer Barbara McClancy, Skyler Johnson, Anthony Palumbo



# Voter Services Committee

## At Sag HarborFest, September 11-12



Claudia Hunt and Josephine DeVincenzi



Estelle Gellman, Eva Moore, Gerri Maslanka and Arlene Hinkemeyer



Ann Sandford, left, and Anne Marshall, right, with a UN specialist

## National Registration Day, September 26



Left to right: LWV Running & Winning participant Chloe Swickard with Social Studies Coordinator Devon Parkes, who organized the day, and student volunteer Dayris Pena. Altogether 28 voter registration forms were filled out and mailed.



Left to right: A student registering at the table, helped by LWV Running & Winning participant Nhi Duong, Student Gov't Vice Pres. Aryan Chugh, and LWV Running & Winning participant Chloe Swickard.



Susan Blair and Alexis Mayer in front of Schiavoni's Market in Sag Harbor.

### East Hampton High School



Ursula Lynch at Westhampton Free Library  
Not shown: Claudia Hunt and Stephanie Snider at Southampton Library



Eva Moore and Judy Samuelson at Montauk Post Office (photo by partner Estelle Gellman)



Sharon Nelson and Terry Wildrick outside Hampton Bays King Kullen

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**LEAGUE OF WOMEN  
VOTERS** **fighting**  
of New York State **for democracy**  
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100 YEARS STRONG

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVC # \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

You can also join or donate on our website [LWVHSINF.org](http://LWVHSINF.org)

**November 12: An informative meeting and luncheon for new board members was held in Rogers Memorial Library**



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# The Voter

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issue advocacy, and civic participation.