



THE VOTER

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

Founded in 1977

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June 4: League Tours 1776-2026 Exhibit

League Celebrates the 250th!

League members celebrated the semiquincentennial—the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence—this year, by taking a tour of the impressive Southampton Arts Center exhibit titled “The Story of America, 1776-2026, A Celebration of Freedom and Independence.”

The exhibit, from the Museum of Democracy’s Wright Family Collection, showcased 250 years of American presidential campaign history through artifacts and archival video, bringing each era of American history to life through its culture, leaders and social issues such as women’s suffrage, civil rights, labor rights and other movements. Leading our tour was none other than Madison Wright, far left, of the actual Wright family.

Other Southampton stops on the tour that day included the WLIW-FM studio with “Heart of the East End” radio host Gianna Volpe; lunch at the Southampton Inn, with a talk by owner Dede Gotthelf on its plans for expansion and workforce housing; and tours of all four new theaters at the historic Southampton Playhouse.

July 4: LWV Marches in 4th of July Parade (see p. 15)

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COMING UP: DO ATTEND!

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Sunday, Aug. 23, 1-3 p.m.

at Westhampton Library

In Celebration of Voting Rights Act

See the Carnegie Hall Premiere of

“The Suffrage Cantata”

on Women Winning the Vote

Wed. Sept. 30, 6:30 p.m.

on SEA-TV’s YouTube Channel

**“Voting Rights & the 2026 Midterms:
Election Challenges, Threats & Integrity”**

A forum with election law experts

David Becker & Jerry Goldfeder.

Moderated by LWV’s Andrea Gabor



The League of Women 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, Shelter Island, and North Fork 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 the Town of Southampton, East Hampton, Shelter Island, and the North Fork, 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 four times a year: Jan-Mar/ Apr-June; July-September, and October-December by the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island, and the North Fork
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Co-President's Message

By Terry Wildrick

This summer is very busy with numerous celebrations of the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. We will also be busy at numerous tabling events throughout the area, providing voter information and voter registration materials. Encouraging voter turnout will require a strong effort as election day draws near.

Although we had planned to march in the Southampton 4th of July parade, we decided not to. The weather, logistics, and health issues combined so that we had only a small handful of marchers. This demonstrates that it is essential for our League to recruit active members. As discussed at the Program Planning meeting in January and approved at the Annual Meeting, Mary O'Brien, Mary Pellicane, Ursula Lynch and I invited all the members and friends from Westhampton, Quogue, East Quogue and Hampton Bays to a happy hour at the Sunset Theater in Westhampton. Three potential new members attended, and the conversation was light and lively. We plan to continue this fun, easy outreach in different areas.

Voters in the June 23 primary election were pleased with the new voting machines. They worked quickly and smoothly. People were happy with the return of privacy curtains, and poll workers appreciated the light that confirmed a successfully cast ballot. Let's hope for the same on November 3, when we hope that voter turnout will be much higher.

LWVNYS, in collaboration with NAACP, Common Cause, the Asian American Legal Defense Fund and Education Fund has established the NYS Command Center for the 1-866-OUR-VOTE hotline. It was active during the primary this year and responded to 75 calls from all over the state, mostly from New York City. Election protection training will be offered soon. Check the website lwvny.org and the LWVNY State Voter for information and to sign up. If attending town board meetings is something that interests you, please consider serving as an Observer on behalf of the League. There are a few guidelines to follow, but the Observer does not speak at meetings.

As part of Unite and Rise 8.5, LWVUS has asked all local chapters to plan activities to call attention to the Voting Rights Act, which passed in August 1965. The VRA has been gradually eroded since 2013, and the Supreme Court recently decided in favor of partisan gerrymandering, even after primary voting had begun. We cannot forget the original purpose of the VRA, to expand and protect the vote and to let minority groups have a fair share of representation. The SAVE Act, still lurking in the Senate, would effectively disenfranchise millions of voters. On the website lwv.org, you can find a letter urging Senators to vote no on the SAVE Act and all of its newer, more restrictive variations. We can use the form to thank and congratulate our Senators for standing strong against voter suppression. The designated day of action is August 8, but events are planned around Suffolk County all during the month of August. Our League is planning an August 23 screening of *The Suffrage Cantata* at Westhampton Library at 1 pm. We hope to see many of you there.

Mensaje del Co-Presidente

Por Terry Wildrick

Este verano está siendo muy intenso, con numerosas celebraciones del 250.º aniversario de la Declaración de Independencia. También estaremos muy ocupados participando en distintos eventos informativos por toda la zona, donde ofreceremos información para los votantes y material para la inscripción electoral. Fomentar la participación electoral requerirá un gran esfuerzo a medida que se acerque el día de las elecciones.

Aunque habíamos previsto participar en el desfile del 4 de julio en Southampton, finalmente decidimos no hacerlo. La combinación del tiempo, la logística y algunos problemas de salud hizo que solo contáramos con un pequeño grupo de participantes. Esto demuestra que es fundamental que nuestra Liga atraiga a miembros activos. Tal y como se habló en la reunión de planificación del programa en enero y se aprobó en la reunión anual, Mary O'Brien, Mary Pellicane, Ursula Lynch y yo invitamos a todos los miembros y amigos de Westhampton, Quogue, East Quogue y Hampton Bays a una reunión informal en el Sunset Theater de Westhampton. Asistieron tres posibles nuevos miembros y la conversación fue distendida y animada. Tenemos previsto continuar con este tipo de actividades de acercamiento, sencillas y divertidas, en diferentes zonas.

Los votantes que participaron en las elecciones primarias del 23 de junio se mostraron satisfechos con las nuevas máquinas de votación. Funcionaron de forma rápida y sin problemas. La gente agradeció el regreso de las cortinas de privacidad, y los trabajadores electorales valoraron la señal luminosa que confirmaba que el voto se había emitido correctamente. Esperemos que ocurra lo mismo el 3 de noviembre, cuando confiemos en que la participación electoral sea mucho mayor.

La LWNYS, en colaboración con la NAACP, Common Cause y el Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, ha creado el Centro de

Coordinación del Estado de Nueva York para la línea telefónica 1-866-OUR-VOTE. Estuvo activo durante las elecciones primarias de este año y atendió 75 llamadas procedentes de todo el estado, en su mayoría de la ciudad de Nueva York. Próximamente se ofrecerá formación sobre protección electoral. Consulte la página web lwvny.org y la publicación LWNYS State Voter para obtener información e inscribirse.

Si le interesa asistir a las reuniones de los ayuntamientos, considere la posibilidad de colaborar como observador en representación de la Liga. Existen algunas normas que deben seguirse, pero el observador no interviene durante las reuniones.

Como parte de la iniciativa Unite and Rise 8.5, la LWNYS ha pedido a todas las delegaciones locales que organicen actividades para llamar la atención sobre la Ley de Derecho al Voto, aprobada en agosto de 1965. Esta ley se ha ido debilitando gradualmente desde 2013, y el Tribunal Supremo falló recientemente a favor de la manipulación partidista de los distritos electorales, incluso después de que ya hubiera comenzado la votación en las primarias. No podemos olvidar el propósito original de la Ley de Derecho al Voto: ampliar y proteger el derecho al voto y garantizar que los grupos minoritarios tengan una representación justa.

La Ley SAVE, que continúa pendiente en el Senado, privaría de hecho del derecho al voto a millones de personas. En la página web lwv.org se puede encontrar una carta en la que se insta a los senadores a votar en contra de la Ley SAVE y de todas sus versiones más recientes y restrictivas. Podemos utilizar el formulario para agradecer y felicitar a nuestros senadores por mantenerse firmes frente a la supresión del voto.

El día de acción designado es el 8 de agosto, aunque se han organizado actividades por todo el condado de Suffolk durante todo el mes. Nuestra Liga está preparando una proyección de The Suffrage Cantata el 23 de agosto, a las 13:00 horas, en la Biblioteca de Westhampton. Esperamos ver allí a muchos de ustedes.

NOT A MEMBER or TIME TO RENEW? WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US!

To join or rejoin the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork in NYS, go to our website – LWVHSINF.org – and click on the JOIN button. Follow the prompts and be sure to indicate that you wish to be a member of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork. The recommended dues is \$75. We look forward to having you join us!

From Membership Co-Chairs Estelle Gellman and Mary Pellicane

League Serves the Community Via Advisory Boards and Debates



LWV Program Features Members Who Serve on Town Advisory Boards, April 27

In a community information program at the East Hampton Library, twelve members of the League made impressive presentations on “Serving on Town Board Advisory Committees,” speaking about their responsibilities and what the committees have accomplished.

They were, left to right, Glorian Berk, Southampton Town Sustainability Committee & Town Planning Board; Jacqui Lofaro, chair, Southampton Town Planning Board; Honorable Deborah Kooperstein, Southampton Town Historic Burying Ground Committee; Mary O’Brien and

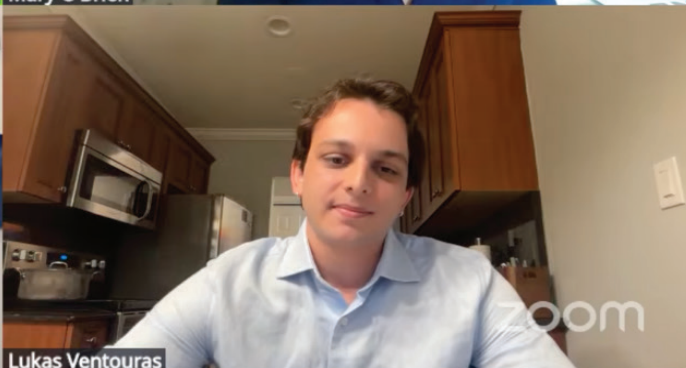
Olivia Motch, Southampton Town Dark Skies Committee; Judy Samuelson, East Hampton Town Board of Ethics; Lois Morris, Shetler Island Town Board of Ethics; Evelyn Wolff, East Hampton Town Community Housing Advisory Board; Marian Zucker, East Hampton Town Housing Authority and East Hampton CAC (Citizen Advisory Committee); Alicia Sullivan, East Hampton Town Latino Advisory Committee; Cathy Kenny, Esq., Shelter Island Town Community Preservation Fund Advisory Board; Loring Bolger, Springs CAC Chair and East Hampton Town Latino Advisory Committee.

LWV Moderates Southampton School Board “Meet the Candidates” Night, May 12



The League was invited to moderate a “Meet the Candidates” Night on May 12, for the two candidates running for a seat on the Southampton School Board. LWV members Susan Wilson, left, and Eileen Mercer (not in photo) ably moderated and timed the debate between Margaret “Midge” Fowler and incumbent Germain Smith, while Ana Kestler, the President of OLA, right, translated the proceeds into Spanish. A record crowd of over 75 attended in the Southampton Intermediate School Library. Winner of the school board election on May 19 was Midge Fowler.

League Educates Voters For June 23 Primary Election



1st C.D. Democratic Primary Debate, June 8, Draws Over 300 Viewers on SEA-TV

In advance of the Early Voting dates of June 13-21 and the NYS Primary Election on June 23, the League held a virtual 1st Congressional District Democratic Primary Debate on Monday, June 8, 7-8 p.m., live and also viewable later, via SEA-TV's YouTube channel, www.YouTube.com/c/SeaTVSouthampton

The debate was co-sponsored by the Leagues in the Towns of Brookhaven, Huntington and Smithtown. Participating were the two Democratic Congressional

candidates in the 1st C.D.—Christopher Gallant (bottom left) of Amity Harbor and Lukas Ventouras (bottom right) of Northport.

LWV moderator was Kathleen Mulcahy (top left), with Mary O'Brien (top right) as timer.

The ultimate winner on June 23 was Chris Gallant, who will now face incumbent Congressman Nick LaLota (R) of Amityville in the general election on November 3.



LWV Provides Voter Information on the North Fork

Judi Roth, left, and Valerie Levenstein set up a table on June 20 at the Juneteenth Festival and Parade in Greenport to distribute information to voters for the June 23 primary election.



LWV Provides Voter Information on the South Fork

Voter Services co-chairs Alicia Sullivan and Tracy Grathwohl, along with Renee Charles, right, hosted a table at the Springs Farmers Market on June 6 to provide flyers about What's On the Ballot, How to Use the New Voting Machines, the Early Voting dates/sites/times, and the upcoming June 8 Democratic Congressional Primary Debate.

49th Annual Meeting, May 17, Features New Stony Brook University President As Guest Speaker



Co-presidents Arlene Hinkemeyer, left, and Terry Wildrick, right, welcomed Dr. Andrea Goldsmith at the start of the Annual Meeting. They were later re-elected as co-presidents for 2026-27.

By Arlene Hinkemeyer

Our League felt honored to have the new president of Stony Brook University, Dr. Andrea Goldsmith, as our featured speaker this year. She spoke eloquently, highlighting Stony Brook's vision, updating us on programs offered at the Southampton campus, and telling us about the new "Future Scholars" program it established with local schools.

Dr. Goldsmith came to Stony Brook after five years as Dean of Engineering and Applied Science at Princeton, and holds Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees all in engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. Her long resume includes 38 patents in the field of wireless technology, and in 2020, she became the first woman to receive the Marconi Prize, the highest honor in telecommunications research.

Dr. Goldsmith opened her impressive talk by saying she wanted to "ignite all on the dimensions of Stony Brook's strategic vision." She enumerated five aspirational goals under the acronym ASPIRE—Accelerate discovery; Set a new standard for educational excellence; Propel Stony Brook into global leadership; Ignite regional prosperity; Re-imagine health and wellness; and Enable the foundations of our success.

She wants the Southampton campus to be a protector of local history and culture, in part by keeping the Amram Theatre open, as well as the historic Southampton windmill. The campus is continuing or expanding its



Youth Committee member Anne Marshall, left, and Youth Committee chair Susan Wilson, right, presented the \$2,000 LWV Betty Desch Student Leadership Award to Brooke Walling, center, of Mattituck-Cutchoque High School. Brooke served as her school district's ex officio student school board member this year and plans to attend Providence College in the fall, to study political science.



Co-presidents Terry Wildrick, left, and Arlene Hinkemeyer, right, presented the red Susan B. Anthony shawl as a gift for Ursula Lynch, the recipient of this year's LWV Carrie Chapman Award for Distinguished League Service. Cited were Ursula's many years on the LWV Board, her longtime membership on the Youth Committee, Fundraising Committee, Voter Services Committee, and her years as chair of the Nominating Committee, and co-chair of the Membership Committee.



Newly elected to the Board this year (photo taken at New Board Member Orientation on July 7) were, left to right, Ena Pappas, treasurer; Renee Charles, secretary; Tracy Grathwohl, Off-Board Voter Services co-chair, with Sarah Hussain, appointed director, zooming in; Margo Manukian, appointed director; Martha Potter, appointed director; and Alicia Sullivan, appointed director and Voter Services co-chair for debates.

high-demand program in health careers and speech pathology, its noted program in marine and coastal sciences, and its arts programs in writing, while providing a jazz fest and film festival this summer. “You have my commitment to ensure that we will be a great partner,” she said.

Stony Brook also established Future Scholars this year, a five-year, 8th-12th grade program for five local school districts, to provide financial and educational support to 100 students a year to give them the foundation to be successful and believe in themselves.

In conclusion, Dr. Goldsmith invited all to the free Dialogues it has scheduled on a variety of topics on the Southampton campus, and reiterated Stony Brook’s proud claim as the top public university in New York State, noting public education’s important role as the greatest engine of upward mobility.



Assemblyman Tommy John Schiavoni attended our Annual Meeting to hear Dr. Goldsmith’s speech.

In Annual Meeting business after Dr. Goldsmith’s speech, the League voted on a Bylaws change, presented by membership committee co-chair Estelle Gellman; passed the Budget for 2026-27, presented by new treasurer Ena Pappas; voted on officers, directors and nominating committee members, presented by nominating committee chair Mary O’Brien; presented both the Betty Desch Student Leadership Award and the Carrie Chapman Catt



Andrea Gabor received detailed accolades and the Carrie Chapman Award last year at the Annual Meeting, but was not able to attend, so she received the red shawl and more accolades for her outstanding educational forums at this year’s Annual Meeting.

Award for Distinguished League Service (see enclosed photos); passed Program Planning Recommendations for 2026-27; called for Directions to the Board; heard a Report on 2025-26 activities and upcoming events; and enjoyed refreshments prepared by the hospitality team of Sharon Lewis and Mary O’Brien.

COMING UP: DO ATTEND!

(continued from page 1)

Sunday, August 23, 1-3 p.m. “The Suffrage Cantata” at Westhampton Free Library

The LWVUS has asked all Leagues nationwide to hold a special Day of Action on August 8 or thereabouts in honor of the anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Terry Wildrick and Martha Potter have arranged to show the “Suffrage Cantata” by Andrea Ramsey at the Westhampton Library. It is a video recording of its premiere at Carnegie Hall, telling in song and historical images, of the hard road women have traveled to win equal rights. If you would like to volunteer to read a portion of the narrative, please contact them. The program is also being shown by the Brookhaven LWV in two libraries in their area.

Wednesday, September 30, 6:30 p.m. “Voting Rights and the Midterms” on SEA-TV’s YouTube Channel

Our Government chair Andrea Gabor has organized a special program before the November 3 midterm elections, titled “Voting Rights and the 2026 Midterms: Election Challenges, Threats & Integrity.” Andrea will be interviewing two election law experts:

David Becker is the executive director and founder of The Center of Election Innovation & Research (CEIR), a



David Becker



Jerry Goldfeder

nonpartisan, nonprofit based in Washington D.C.

Jerry Goldfeder is the director of the Voting Rights and Democracy Project at Fordham Law School, and also the chair of the American Bar Association’s Election Law Committee.

Andrea is the Bloomberg Professor of Business Journalism at Baruch College/CUNY.

This virtual program is accessible live that evening and also later on Southampton’s SEA-TV YouTube channel at: www.YouTube.com/c/SeaTVSouthampton

More information will be disseminated closer to the date.



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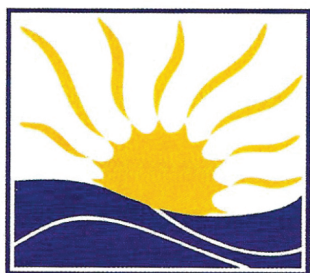
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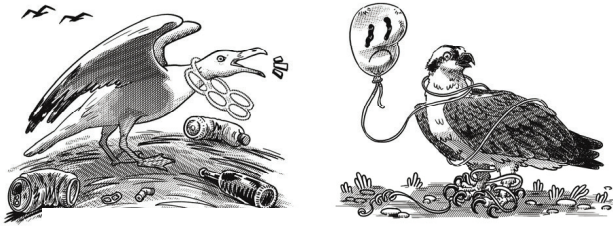
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Prior Results Do Not Guarantee A Similar Outcome

Wildrick Honored to Speak at AAEC Festival, June 3

By Terry Wildrick

The African American Education and Cultural Festival, Inc. is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with the mission of improving the quality of life for Black people, Indigenous people and People of Color. They focus on education, the arts, entrepreneurship and advocacy.

On June 3, at the Riverhead Library, the AAECF presented a forum entitled “America and the Black Vote.” The vibrant social atmosphere was uplifting. After introductions and thank yous, Frederick Brewington, Esq. spoke briefly about the history of the Black vote via video presentation. His law firm specializes in civil rights issues. The panelists discussed what motivates people to vote, and how to encourage civic engagement, especially voting, in younger people. That discussion and goal are very much in line with the goals of LWV. #LiVoteready is the tag that AAECF uses for their voter outreach efforts. After the serious panel discussion, attendees enjoyed a delicious meal, including traditional soul food, served by young people. The evening continued with a special performance by Louis Irie. Basketball fans left to



Speakers at the AAEC Festival on June 3 were, left to right, Godson Michel (President, Blue Surge Marketing Agency), Collette Morgan (Chair, Brookhaven Women’s Caucus), Honorable Dr. Taylor Darling (former NYS Assemblywoman), Alyson Bass, Esq., Terry Wildrick (Co-President, LWV Hamptons/Shelter Island/North Fork) and Jason Richberg (Suffolk County Legislator, 15th L.D.).

view the Knicks game, but many of us stayed on to enjoy the reggae-style music and dancing. This event was free and open to the public, as are most library events.

League Honored at Juneteenth Jubilee by Eastville Community Historical Society

By Arlene Hinkemeyer

Our League was one of 10 organizations honored by the Eastville Community Historical Society in Sag Harbor at their 3rd Annual Jubilee Juneteenth Awards & Celebration Ceremony on June 19 at East Hampton’s Guild Hall.

The theme this year, stated Historical Society executive director Dr. Georgette Grier-Key and her event co-chair Michael Butler, was “Conveying Community Through Culture: Commemorating the Unfinished Revolution.” Keynote speaker was retired Assemblyman Fred Thiele, providing the history of Juneteenth. Also attending were local elected officials from Town, County and State, who presented certificates to each group being honored. The nine other organizations recognized were the Montauk Library, Christ Episcopal Church, the Watermill Center, the Suffolk County Historical Museum, Sag Harbor Whaling Museum, Peconic Land Trust, the Village of Sag Harbor, Sag Harbor Chamber of Commerce, and the Southampton Arts & Culture Committee.

All attendees were asked to wear white. It was a truly outstanding event and involved a great deal of work in organizing the award ceremonies, food, music, flowers and raffles. Congratulations are certainly due the Eastville Community Historical Society on their memorable Juneteenth celebration.



Attending the Eastville Community Historical Society’s 3rd Annual Juneteenth Jubilee on June 19, headed by its executive director Dr. Georgette Grier-Key, center, were LWV Co-Presidents Terry Wildrick, left, and Arlene Hinkemeyer, right.

“Women Unite & Rise” at LWVUS Convention, June 25-28

By Renee Charles and Arlene Hinkemeyer

Our League participated in the LWVUS National Convention titled “Women Unite & Rise,” held in Columbus, Ohio, on June 25-28, with Enass Pappas serving as our virtual voting delegate, and Renee Charles and Arlene Hinkemeyer as our two virtual non-voting delegates.

Altogether, 1,073 delegates from 49 states and the District of Columbia attended the convention, with the NYS League represented by approximately 40 in-person and 25 virtual delegates.

The agenda contained both learning/discussion sessions as well as plenary/voting sessions throughout the four-day meeting and was chaired by the LWVUS President, Dianna Wynn.

Among the major events at the Convention:

Welcoming Address. At a welcoming address, Lucy Baines Johnson, in a recorded message, recounted the struggle for voting rights that took place during her father Lyndon Johnson’s presidency, when the landmark Voting Rights Act passed Congress in August 1965.

State of the LWV Address. LWVUS President Dianna Wynn reviewed how the League was not only bigger now, by thousands, under the new membership structure, but also bolder, as it had to declare for the first time in its 106-year history that the United States was in a constitutional crisis, of the Courts, of Congress, and of

the Presidency. “We’re the largest non-partisan, voter registration organization in the United States,” she added, “and have been engaged in 136 state and federal lawsuits, with a 77% success rate in court.”

Elected to Office for 2026-28 were: Dr. Sania Irwin, President (of Illinois, who holds a PhD in Industrial Engineering & Electrical Engineering from Northwestern University); Vedna Lacombe-Heywood, Vice President; Julie Stackhouse, Treasurer; and Toni Monette, Secretary.

New Programs Passed were: (1) A new over-arching program titled “**Defending a Democracy Under Siege**,” which includes planks on Voting Rights, Protecting Elections, Redistricting, Immigration, Individual Rights, and The Presidency. (2) **A concurrence with the LWV Washington State position on “Protecting the Rights of Immigrants,”** stating that the LWV believes that all residents of the United States, regardless of immigration status or citizenship, should be treated with dignity and respect; that they should have access to essential state-funded services, have the opportunity to avail themselves of legal representation in court and immigration proceedings, and have the opportunity to live and work in safety. The League encourages all elected officials and government leaders in the U.S. to take action to ensure these fundamental rights. It also means that political leaders have an obligation to condemn xenophobia, discrimination, and anti-immigrant rhetoric.

The LWVUS delegates also passed six resolutions to: (1) Continue support of a non-partisan Civil Service; (2)



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Continue support of District of Columbia statehood; (3) Continued mobilization to hold Congress accountable; (4) Abolish the Electoral College in favor of the National Popular Vote; (5) Proper oversight of surveillance technology used by federal, state and local government; (6) More advocacy against human trafficking.

Special speaker Chris Sally-Davis. As the Senior Director of Girl Scouts USA, she spoke about their “Promote the Vote” project taking place in 111 Girl Scout Councils around the nation, and their six Democracy badges.

Several Bylaws Amendments were passed. One in Article II, Section 2, Policies. Members Rights and Responsibilities, will have to be added to our LWVH/SI/

NF Bylaws at our Annual Meeting in 2027, since our Articles I, II and III have to be identical to the Nat’l Bylaws. It states: “League members and leaders shall comply with the Member Rights & Responsibilities Policy and shall participate in accordance with League governance standards. The League expects that members treat others with respect and civility when participating in all League activities.”

The Budget for 2026-28 was passed.

In Conclusion. The LWVUS National Convention ended with an encouraging, uplifting, mission-focused fireside chat with LWVUS CEO Celina Stewart, Esq. (who is a voting rights attorney) and incoming President Dr. Sania Irwin. The next LWVUS National Convention will be held in 2028.



July 4: League Marches in Shelter Island Parade

Despite the record heat and humidity, League members on Shelter Island dressed in white, donned historic “Votes for Women” gold sashes, and carried signs proclaiming the League’s motto, “Democracy Is Not a Spectator Sport” to march in the Shelter Island 4th of July Parade celebrating the semiquincentennial.

Teens Talk Voting 2026 Survey Results Are In

By Kathleen Mulcahy

During the winter and spring of 2026, the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork surveyed 130 high school students from five East End Long Island schools to better understand young people’s knowledge, attitudes, and intentions regarding voting and civic participation. The respondents were primarily Juniors (70%), with Seniors making up the remaining 30%, representing students who are either eligible to vote or soon will be.

The survey found that East End students are generally enthusiastic about participating in the electoral process. A large majority plan to register to vote, with nearly eight out of ten expecting to register through the Department of Motor Vehicles, highlighting the importance of automatic and convenient voter registration opportunities.

Students also demonstrated a growing understanding of voting procedures, including where and how they can cast a ballot. Responses suggest increasing awareness of the various voting options available, including Election Day voting, absentee voting, and early voting.

One of the most notable findings was the increase in students planning to register with a political party. In the 2024 survey, only 26% said they intended to register with a party. The 2026 results show a substantial increase, suggesting that today’s students are becoming more engaged with the political process and more willing to identify with a political affiliation as they prepare to vote.

Overall, the 2026 survey paints an encouraging picture

of the next generation of voters. While continued voter education remains important, particularly regarding registration options and election procedures, the results indicate that many East End high school students are entering adulthood with a strong interest in civic engagement and a greater readiness to participate in democracy than was observed just two years earlier.

What are the issues that concern teens most (and how have they changed in the past two years)

Economic concerns continue to dominate.

Inflation remains the top concern by a wide margin, increasing slightly from 64% to 66%. Students also expressed greater concern about employment opportunities, while concern over the cost of higher education remained virtually unchanged. This suggests that economic security continues to be foremost in students’ minds.

International issues have become much more important.

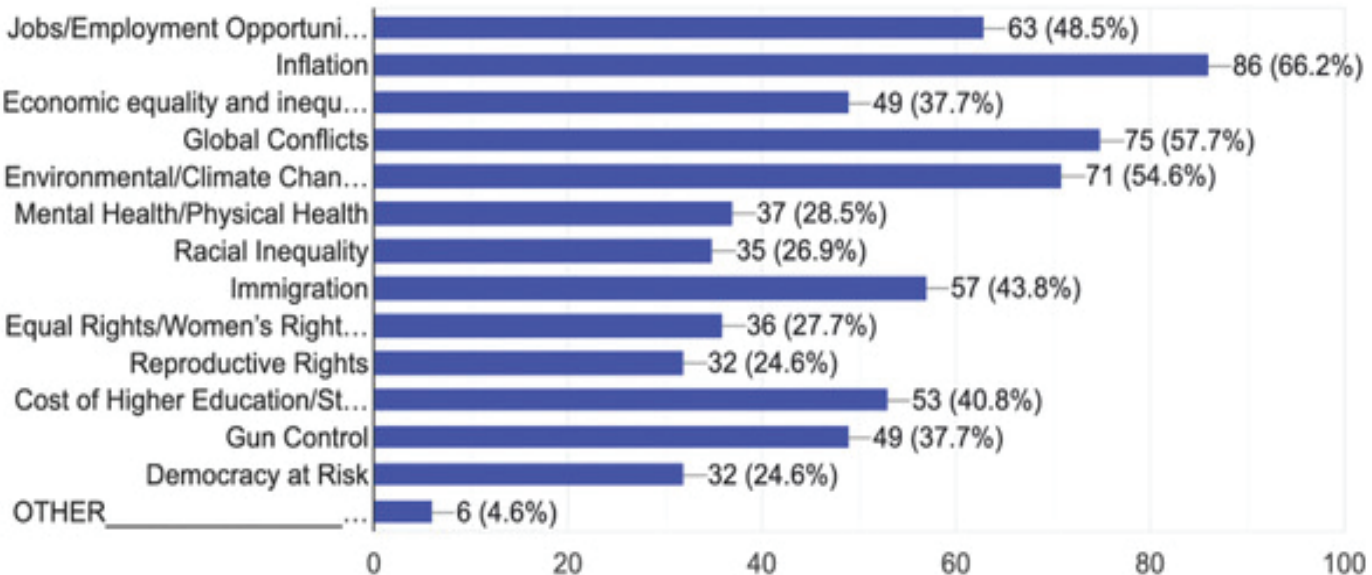
Concern about global conflicts rose dramatically from 43% to nearly 58%, making it the second-highest priority in 2026. This likely reflects growing awareness of ongoing international conflicts and global instability.

Climate remains a top-tier issue.

Concern about environmental and climate change increased modestly, remaining one of the five most important national issues for East End students.

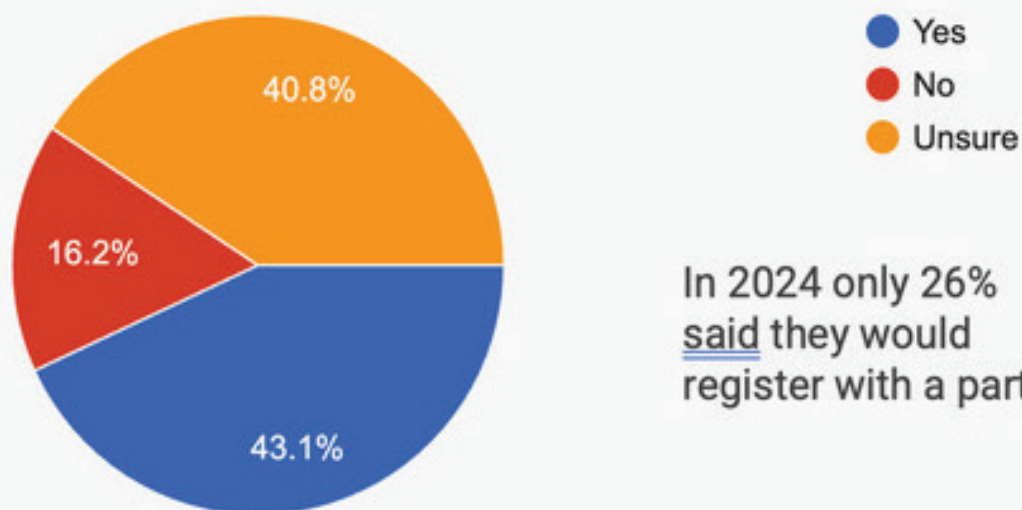
Thinking about NATIONAL issues, what concerns you most (Choose your top 5)

130 responses



Did you, or will you, register for a political party?

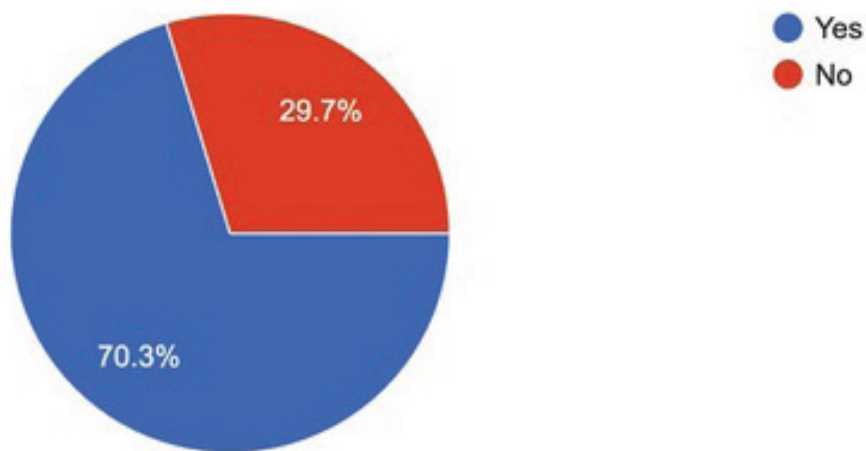
130 responses



In 2024 only 26% said they would register with a party

If asked, would you know how and where someone (or you) can register to vote?

128 responses



Social justice issues declined in priority.

Several issues that ranked relatively high in 2024 declined in 2026:

- Racial inequality experienced the largest drop (42.5% to 26.9%).
- Gun control fell from 48% to 37.7%.
- Equal rights, reproductive rights, and mental health all showed smaller declines.

This does not necessarily indicate students view these issues as unimportant—rather, when limited to selecting only five concerns, more students prioritized economic and international issues. Survey comparisons should be interpreted cautiously because differences in percentages alone do not establish statistically significant changes.

Concern about democracy increased.

Although still not among the highest-ranked issues, concern that “democracy is at risk” increased substantially, from 15.5% to 24.6%, suggesting greater awareness of political institutions and civic issues.

On a Local Level

In concerns about Local Issues, the results were almost identical to the previous surveys with cost of living and housing costs being far and away the major concerns. Over-development took the third place, climbing above transportation and water quality from the previous survey.

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork, I am writing to ask for your financial support of our ongoing work to protect democracy and safeguard our communities' fundamental right to vote.

At a time when public trust in institutions is strained and access to accurate information is more critical than ever, our League remains committed to nonpartisan, fact-based civic engagement. Our mission is simple but essential: empower voters and defend the democratic process.

Your contribution directly supports meaningful local initiatives, including:

- **New Voter Registration Drives** – Ensuring that eligible residents are registered and prepared to participate in elections.
- **New Citizen Voter Registration** – Welcoming newly naturalized citizens into the democratic process and helping them understand their voting rights and responsibilities.
- **High School Civic Programs** – Introduce students to the democratic process through experiential learning, and our **Teen Voter Survey**.
- **Student Leadership Scholarships** – Awarded annually to a local high school senior who demonstrates a strong commitment to civic engagement and community service.
- **Meetings with Local Officials** – Facilitating informed dialogue with elected representatives about issues that impact our communities.

These programs require sustained financial resources. Printing voter guides, hosting educational forums, organizing student programs, awarding scholarships, and maintaining outreach efforts all depend on the generosity of supporters who believe, as we do, that democracy works best when citizens are informed and engaged.

Your donation—of any amount—will help us continue this vital work across the Hamptons, Shelter Island, and the North Fork.

Please consider making a contribution today to strengthen civic participation and protect the integrity of our local democratic institutions by sending a check, made out to League of Women Voters, to our PO Box 2253, East Hampton, N.Y. 11937, or donating via the enclosed QR Code, which goes to our website.

Thank you,

Co-Presidents Arlene Hinkemeyer & Terry Wildrick
LWV of the Hamptons, Shelter Island & North Fork

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venmo

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