The Voter

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

Founded in 1977 Volume XLI No. 45

July - September 2026



Ethel Sussman and Carol Gorman were easy to spot on National Voter Registration Day at the Riverhead Library with their big VOTE 411 table banner.

Voter Information Tables Blanket East End This Fall

By Arlene Hinkemeyer

Our League was busier than ever this year, with voter information tables fanning out all over the East End on National Voter Registration Day, September 15. Big, big kudos go to Tracy Grathwohl, our Voter Services Co-Chair for tabling, and to Voter Services' Neil Cohen.

The League also did tabling at various Farmers' Markets, at the East End Disabilities Cares Fair in Riverhead on Sept. 16; at Sag HarborFest on Sept. 19 (organized by Rachael Foggo); and other sites such as the Southampton Town Anti-Bias Task Force Picnic on September 19.

Here are photos of some of the places where we gave out voter information. The most popular hand-outs were rack

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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, 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.

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Co-President's Message

by Arlene Hinkemeyer

The National, State, LI Regional, Suffolk County and Local Leagues have all been gearing up for the Midterm Elections on November 3.

There have been umpteen LWV emails, zooms and webinars on protecting our democracy in the face of attempts to threaten voting rights, voter lists, mail-in ballots, and voter turnout.

Our League, via our Voter Services Committee leaders Tracy Grathwohl, Alicia Sullivan and Neil Cohen, has done an amazing job by setting up voter registration/voter information tables throughout the East End to educate voters, and by planning debates.

Our Government Committee chair Andrea Gabor organized a most impressive forum with two nationally-known election law experts.

And our Health Committee chair Valerie King also got in on the action by holding voter info events for Civic Health Month in August and after.

Please see the articles inside this Voter issue on these events, and if you haven't already, please be sure to watch the debate and forum at: www.youtube.com/c/SeaTVSouthampton When you go to YouTube, look for the League of Women Voters logo/title page for the events.

Terry and I also thank all the many members of our League who participated in the tabling events. Please see their photos in this issue.

And as the two election law experts David Becker and Jerry Goldfeder emphasized, Do Vote Early in Person! The Early Voting dates/times/sites for our East End Towns are printed in this Voter on page 14, along with a listing of What's On the Ballot. For the list of all the candidate names that will appear on your particular ballot, please go to www.Vote411.org and type in your address.

Wanted to also mention that the Brookhaven LWV had set up an interview on WLIW-FM with radio host Gianna Volpe on the topic of Early Voting, and Gianna contacted me to see if we would also participate. So do listen to 88.3 FM on Friday, October 23, at 10:30 a.m. when Tracy Grathwohl will be on air on this topic!

And of course, Do Vote Early from Saturday, October 24, through Sunday, November 1, or on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 6 a.m.-9 p.m.

Mensaje del Co-Presidente

por Arlene Hinkemeyer

Todas las Ligas de Mujeres Votantes (LWV) a nivel nacional, estatal, regional de Long Island, del condado de Suffolk y locales se han estado preparando para las elecciones de mitad de período del 3 de noviembre.

Ha habido innumerables correos electrónicos, reuniones por Zoom y seminarios web de la LWV sobre cómo proteger nuestra democracia frente a los intentos de amenazar el derecho al voto, las listas de votantes, las boletas enviadas por correo y la participación electoral.

Nuestra Liga, a través de los líderes de nuestro Comité de Servicios al Votante, Tracy Grathwohl, Alicia Sullivan y Neil Cohen, ha realizado una labor extraordinaria al instalar mesas de inscripción de votantes e información electoral en distintas localidades del East End para educar a los votantes, así como al organizar debates. Andrea Gabor, presidenta de nuestro Comité de Gobierno, organizó un foro muy destacado con dos expertos en derecho electoral de reconocimiento nacional. Valerie King, presidenta de nuestro Comité de Salud, también se sumó a estos esfuerzos al organizar actividades informativas sobre el voto durante el Mes de la Salud Cívica, en agosto y posteriormente.

Les invitamos a leer los artículos de esta edición de Voter sobre estas actividades. Si todavía no lo han hecho, no dejen de ver el debate y el foro en: www.youtube.com/c/SeaTVSouthampton. Una vez en YouTube, busquen el logotipo y la página de título de la Liga de Mujeres Votantes correspondientes a estos eventos.

Terry y yo también queremos agradecer a los numerosos miembros de nuestra Liga que participaron en las actividades en las mesas informativas. Encontrarán sus fotografías en esta edición.

Y, tal como destacaron los dos expertos en derecho electoral, David Becker y Jerry Goldfeder, ¡voten anticipadamente en persona! Las fechas, los horarios y los lugares de votación anticipada en las localidades de nuestro East End aparecen en la página 14 de esta edición de Voter, junto con una lista de los cargos y las propuestas que figurarán en la boleta electoral. Para consultar la lista de todos los candidatos que aparecerán en su boleta electoral específica, visiten www.Vote411.org e introduzcan su dirección.

También quería mencionar que la LWV de Brookhaven había organizado una entrevista en WLIW-FM con la conductora de radio Gianna Volpe sobre el tema de la votación anticipada. Gianna se puso en contacto conmigo para preguntarme si nosotros también participaríamos. ¡Así que sintonicen el 88.3 FM el viernes 23 de octubre a las 10:30 a. m., cuando Tracy Grathwohl hablará al aire sobre este tema!

Y, por supuesto, ¡voten anticipadamente! Pueden hacerlo desde el sábado 24 de octubre hasta el domingo 1 de noviembre, o el día de las elecciones, el martes 3 de noviembre, de 6:00 a. m. a 9:00 p. m.

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

Election Law Experts Becker & Goldfeder at Sept. 30 Forum Have Positive Message for Midterm Elections

By Arlene Hinkemeyer

An expected high voter turnout, a series of recent judicial decisions that have thwarted efforts to rewrite voting rules, and the professionalism of state and county Boards of Elections and poll workers should ensure that the upcoming midterm elections run smoothly, according to David Becker and Jerry Goldfeder who spoke at our League's recent virtual forum "Voting Rights and the 2026 Midterms: Election Challenges, Threats and Integrity."

On Wednesday evening, September 30, nationally-recognized and highly impressive election law experts Becker and Goldfeder participated in a lively conversation with our LWV Government Committee chair Andrea Gabor, who organized the event about the November elections. The forum was streamed live on Southampton Town's SEA-TV's YouTube channel and can still be accessed at www.youtube.com/c/SeaTVSouthampton

Becker is the founder and executive director of the nonpartisan, non-profit Center for Election Innovation & Research (CEIR) based in Washington D.C., and the former senior trial attorney in the U.S. Justice Department's Civil Rights Division Voting Section.

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

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

In opening remarks, Becker said he's been working in elections for nearly 30 years and even though people may be worried about how the midterm elections will go, he felt our election system is a story of resilience. He said the government cases trying to thwart election integrity have mostly failed (such as the one to implement new mail-in voting rules in November), and he expects a record-high turnout.

Goldfeder felt that it was vitally important to have a huge turnout of voters for election resilience. Election workers are very professional in handling the voting process, he said, but he felt that election monitors outside the polls were also important in case anything untoward occurs.

When Andrea asked how concerning it was that the government might send armed federal agents to polling places on election day, Becker responded that over half of all Americans don't vote on election day. They vote early or by mail. Sending armed agents could backfire on the Republicans. We should prepare for the worst, but he felt the likelihood of ICE at the polls is 0.

Goldfeder added that there are many non-partisan organizations throughout the country that provide election protection at polling sites.

As for the best way to vote, both panelists strongly discouraged voting by mail and strongly emphasized the need to vote early in person!

As for the role of Secretaries of State in the elections, both said state election officials are doing a remarkable job.

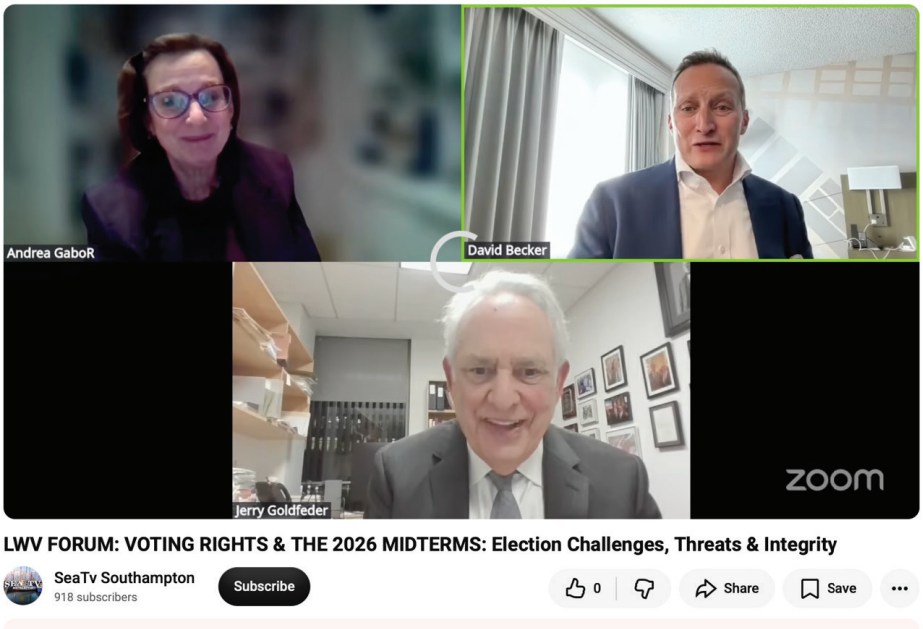
Goldfeder emphasized that in New York State, the Board of Elections is bi-partisan, and poll workers at every polling site include both Democrats and Republicans.

Becker encouraged people to become poll workers so they can see how reliable the voting system is. If ICE does appear at the polls, he encouraged poll workers and poll monitors to call the Board of Elections right away to handle it, not to try to do anything themselves.

In answer to Andrea's question if we should be concerned about deep fakes or outside interference, Becker said China, Russia and Iran will try to amplify false information, but they can't affect the actual election mechanism, because it's so de-centralized.

In conclusion, Becker said that in our nation's entire history—through civil war, two world wars, pandemics, etc.—we have never postponed an election.

Both Becker and Goldfeder agreed we should embrace the "joy of voting." We should celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation's democratic system by voting, recruiting 25 other people to vote, and trying to reach a record 55% turnout for a midterm election!



LWV Government Committee chair Andrea Gabor (top left) led the important forum on the midterm elections with eminent election law experts David Becker (top right) and Jerry Goldfeder (bottom).

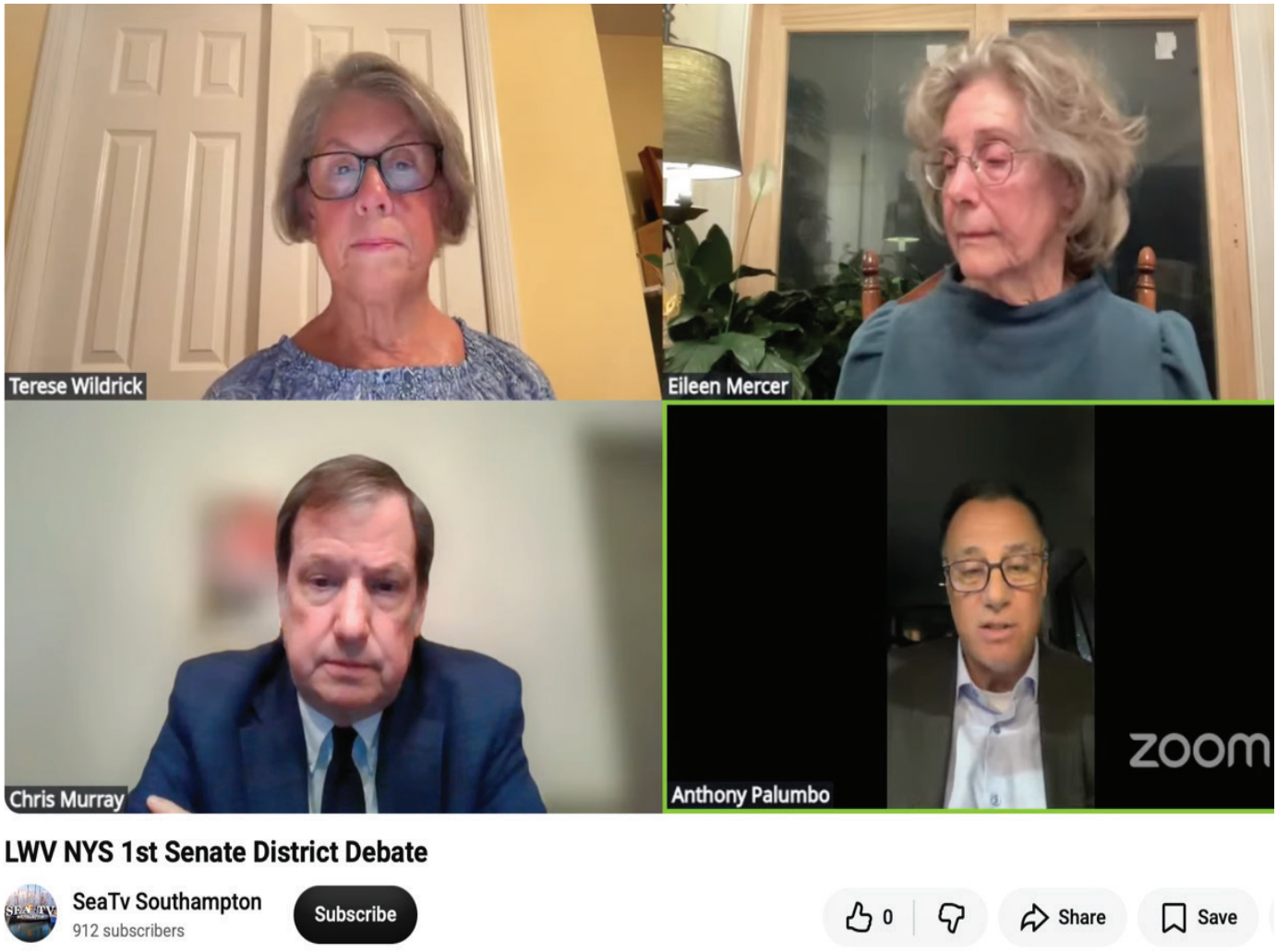
LWV Hosts NYS Senate Virtual Debate, Sept. 28

By Arlene Hinkemeyer

In a year that saw a smaller number of local debates being held for Congressional, state and local offices, the League was pleased to be able to host a virtual debate on SEA-TV's YouTube channel for the two candidates Christopher Murray (D) and Anthony Palumbo (R), who were running for the first Senatorial District seat. The district covers the East End towns and a section of northern Brookhaven Town.

Expertly moderated by LWV Co-President Terry Wildrick with Eileen Mercer as timekeeper, the debate featured timed opening and closing statements and a wide range of questions. These included: the candidates' motivations for running for office; their greatest accomplishments; the most important issues facing NYS now; their top priority in Albany this year; their views on the Packaging Reduction & Recycling Act; how they plan to protect Long Island's drinking water and waterways; their position on data centers in NYS; how they would address growing electricity rates; their views on immigration issues, the NY Health Act, and a NYS Independent Redistricting Commission.

Be sure to watch the debate on www.youtube.com/c/SeaTVSouthampton before the election.



For the 1st Senate District debate on Monday, September 28, between Democratic challenger Christopher Murray (bottom left) and incumbent Republican Anthony Palumbo (bottom right), Terry Wildrick (top left) was the moderator, with Eileen Mercer (top right) serving as timer.

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(Continued from page 1)

cards on What's on the Ballot, and a flyer on the Early Voting dates/sites/times. But League members spoke to hundreds of people and handed out hundreds of other flyers, too.

The ballot information and early voting information are both on page 14 of this Voter.

Right: Tracy Grathwohl, Voter Services Co-Chair for Tabling, on right, headed up the huge fall effort. With her is Valerie King at the East Hampton Health Care Foundation's Health Fair on October 2 at St. Luke's.





Susan Wilson at Southampton's Red Horse Market.



Neil Cohen and Renee Charles at the East Hampton Post Office.



Mary Ann Eddy and Fay Mack at Sag Harbor Schiavoni's Market



Terri Levin Davgin and Mary McKenna at the East Hampton Healthcare Foundation.



Rev. Kimberly Johnson and Marian Zucker at the East Hampton Library.



Arlene Hinkemeyer at the Springs One Stop Market.



Jan Kumar and Stacy Menzer at the Bridgehampton Post Office.



Ursula Lynch and Mary Pellicane at the Westhampton Free Library.



Megan Noonan and Margo Manukian at Southampton CVS.



Eva Roberts and Kerry Flanagan at the Riverhead Stop & Shop. (Not in photo is Maxine Utter.)



Valerie Levenstein, Judi Roth and Sylvia Baruch at Peconic Landing in Greenport.

Some sites where no photos were taken are: East Hampton Stop & Shop (Renee Charles and Sue Blair); Sag HarborFest (Rachael Foggo, Neil Cohen, Mary McKenna, Marianne Goerges, Merry Fronz, Mary Ann Eddy, Andrea & Ron Klausner); Floyd Memorial Library in Greenport (Linda Sabatino and Kris Palaez), and Sylvester Manor on Shelter Island (Cathy Kenny and Jo-Ann Robotti).



Heather LoNigro and Ursula Lynch at the Westhampton Beach Farmers Market on August 22.



Linda Sabatino at the Farmer's Market in Greenport on August 29.



Mary O'Brien and Sharon Lewis at the East End Disabilities Cares Fair in Riverhead on September 16.



Terry Wildrick at Southampton Town's Anti-Bias Task Force Picnic at Red Creek Park on September 19.



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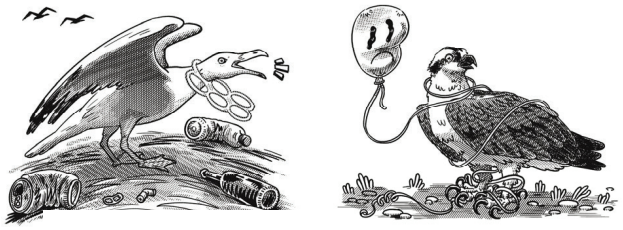
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LWV Commemorates Voting Rights Act and Women's Equality Day in August with "Suffrage Cantata"

By Arlene Hinkemeyer

As part of the national commemoration of the August 8 passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, and the August 26 ratification of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote in 1920, Leagues of Women Voters throughout the nation were asked by LWVUS to schedule special programs for the public in August.

Organized by Co-President Terry Wildrick and Board member Martha Potter, our League's offering was a free screening of the 2022 Carnegie Hall premiere of Dr. Andrea Ramsey's "Suffrage Cantata" on Sunday, August 23, at the Westhampton Free Library.

The Cantata, both written and composed by Dr. Ramsey, is a unique, nearly one-hour concert in five movements that tells in choral song, piano, strings, percussion and narration—plus historical images projected on a screen above the chorus—the hard road women traveled to win equal rights.

Featured prominently were Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who introduced the Declaration of Rights and Sentiments at the 1848 Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, N.Y.; Susan B. Anthony's trial for trying to vote, based on the rights of citizens listed in the 14th Amendment; Ida B. Wells' long struggle to bring the vote to black women; the March 1913 suffrage parade of 8,000 women in Washington D.C., led by Inez Milholland on a white horse; Harriot Stanton Blatch, Alice Paul and Lucy



Terry Wildrick and Martha Potter, dressed in suffrage garb, introduced the screening of the "Suffrage Cantata" on August 23 at the Westhampton Free Library.

Burns picketing the White House gates in 1917; the final passage of the Susan B. Anthony Amendment by both houses of Congress in 1919; and the final ratification of the 19th Amendment by 36 states in August 1920.

The Suffrage Cantata also explained how for some—Native Americans, Chinese and Blacks—the struggle for the vote took longer.

As an important part of the program, Terry Wildrick and Martha Potter also spoke about the unfortunate steps that have been taken over the years to erode the purpose of the Voting Rights Act since its passage in 1965.

WHAT'S VOTING GOT TO DO WITH HEALTH ???

By Valerie King, PhD., Health Committee Chair

The League of Women Voters believes that every individual should have access to quality health care at an affordable cost. There is a vital link between voting access and community health! Voting is civic engagement to advocate for healthcare and a chance to contribute to public health and well-being. Voting is empowering community health at the ballot box!

This is the message the LWVHSINF Health Committee and Voter Services Committee provided in a collaboration of voter registration efforts. Based on some of the ideas and concepts of VOT+ER, an organization to encourage healthcare organizations and providers to engage in civic activity, the two committees met in June with Sheila Rogers, Executive Director of the East Hampton Healthcare Foundation (EHHF) and planned three opportunities for Civic Health activities.

Neil Cohen and Tracy Grathwohl from the Voter Services Committee, and Valerie King, Terri Levin Davgin and Mary McKenna from the Health Committee, with support from Co- President Arlene Hinkemeyer, provided voter registration at the EHHF lobby on August 11 as part of Civic Health Month, on September 15 for National Voter Registration Day, and on October 2 at the EHHF Health Fair at St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

To learn more about the Health Committee, contact Valerie King, 646-217-1825, valeriekingphd@gmail.com



Valerie King and Tracy Grathwohl at the East Hampton Healthcare Foundation on August 11 for Civic Health Month.

EARLY VOTING DATES/ TIMES/SITES

Sat./Sun./Mon. Oct. 24-26	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Tues./Wed., Oct. 27-28	7 a.m.-3 p.m.
Thurs./Fri., Oct. 29/30	12 p.m.-8 p.m.
Sat./Sun., Oct. 31/Nov. 1	10 a.m.-6 p.m.

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Stony Brook Univ. Southampton
Gym, 70 Tuckahoe Rd.

TOWN OF SOUTHOLD
Southold Recreation Center
970 Peconic Lane, Peconic

Leaguers Attended Stony Brook Dialogue on NY Climate Exchange

By Arlene Hinkemeyer

After Stony Brook University President Dr. Andrea Goldsmith spoke at our May 17 Annual Meeting, she invited LWV members to attend Stony Brook University's "Southampton Dialogues," held over the summer in Chancellor's Hall.
Several of us attended her exciting interview with the new New York Climate Exchange CEO, Dr. M. Sanjayan, on August 28.
The NY Climate Exchange, for which Dr. Goldsmith functions as the Board chair, is a first-of-its kind climate solutions center, which is being built on Governor's Island.
Dr. Sanjayan, who is a globally-recognized conservation scientist and former CEO of Conservation International, has the job of leading efforts to accelerate real-world climate solutions through research, education and innovation there.
The Governors Island campus, with its laboratories and dormitories, will have continuous programming with academicians from all over the world, participation by businesses centered in New York City, and also non-profits.
It plans to focus on climate data stewardship and science; how to make cities livable; and climate finance.

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT

NYS Governor
NYS Lieutenant Governor
NYS Attorney General
NYS Comptroller
NYS State Senate, District 1
NYS Assembly, District 1
Suffolk County Clerk
Suffolk County Comptroller
County Court Judge (vote for 4)
Family Court Judge (vote for 3)
East Hampton Town Supervisor
Riverhead Town Supervisor
Shelter Island Town Supervisor
Shelter Island Sup't of Highways
Shelter Island Town Justice
Southampton Town Supervisor
Southampton Board of Trustees (vote for 5)
No propositions on ballot this year.

For candidate names on your particular ballot, go to Vote411.org and type in your address.



Dr. Andrea Goldsmith interviews Dr. M. Sanjayan at the August 28 Southampton Dialogue on the new New York Climate Exchange.

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To contact the Board, leave a message at lwvhsinf@gmail.com or go to our website at lwvhsinf.org and leave a message there, where it says "Contact Us.

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