News from the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle
November 2017

Over 120 Westchester County Races and 233 Candidates!
GET ALL THE ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED for the November 7th Election
Find out about local candidates and create your own ballot at
www.vote411.org

LWVW 2017 VOTERS GUIDE On Line at
www.lwvw.org

New Rochelle LWV Holds Forum for Local County Board Legislature Candidates, Oct 23 at City Hall

The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle presented a forum for candidates running for Westchester County Board of Legislators in Districts 7 and 10 on October 23rd in New Rochelle City Council Chambers. The public was able to submit questions and mingle with candidates at 6:00 PM, and the forum started at 6:30.

The candidates for District 10, which includes Eastchester and half of New Rochelle, were incumbent Sheila Marcotte (R) and challenger Damon Maher (D). They both gave opening statements and responded to questions from the audience.

Marcotte favors the plan to privatize the county airport. She does not believe it is significant if gun shows are held at the County Center because of the tough gun laws in our state. Marcotte stated that funding for county daycare had been increased, and claimed that the county had been able to recover from the lower sales tax collections to meet its budget goals and had even run a surplus last year. She also noted the low cost of borrowing. Marcotte opposes early voting. She does not support a Constitutional Convention.

Maher is against airport privatization. He stated that gun shows were not part of the County Center's mission statement. Maher declared that funding for quality day care had been cut. He noted that he was concerned about the County borrowing money to fund pensions and tax certiorari refunds. Maher supports early voting. He does not support a Constitutional Convention.
The candidates for District 7, which includes a portion of New Rochelle, were incumbent Catherine Parker (D) and challenger Norman S. Rosenblum (R), current Mayor of Mamaroneck Village. Parker and Rosenblum both gave opening statements and answered questions from the audience.

Parker noted that Westchester County could do more to help senior citizens stay in their communities and help those who need help from social service agencies such as the Child Abuse Prevention Center, which has lost funding. She is opposed to the leasing of Westchester County Airport. Parker is opposed to a Constitutional Convention due to the possible loss of protections for women and the environment. She supports a ban on gun shows.

Rosenblum praised affordable housing built in Mamaroneck during his tenure. He is concerned about the County's fiscal responsibility. Rosenblum supports the County Center hosting an annual gun show. On the question of a State Constitutional Convention, Rosenblum would like to see some measures put in place to address pension system problems, but pointed out that a convention would cost too much money and would be run by politicians.

In closing statements, Parker hoped that citizens would be educated by their debate. She emphasized the importance of an honest and transparent discussion of the county budget, which should not, she argued, be based on borrowing. Rosenblum reiterated the importance of fiscal responsibility in spending and highlighted how he, as mayor, had helped to pass an anti-puppy mill law and had procured money for flood control in Mamaroneck.

Paul Schwartz was the League moderator of this event. Readers are encouraged to go online to Vote411.org for detailed information about each candidate. The Candidates’ Forum was videotaped by NRTV and will air on Verizon Channel 28 and Cablevision Channel 75.
New Rochelle League Receives Generous Donation

Edith Corbin was a member of the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle for over 20 years in the 1950s and 1960s, serving as chapter President from 1963-64. Some of her proudest accomplishments were helping to register and educate voters and to open New Rochelle’s first shelter and counseling center for abused women. She participated in the chapter’s collaborative efforts to reform the state’s juvenile justice laws, and attended the State LWV Convention in Syracuse and the 25th National LWV Convention in Minneapolis. Edith Corbin died peacefully this summer in Laguna Niguel, California. In her will, she left a gift of $1000 to the LWV of New Rochelle “in recognition for its commitment to an enlightened electorate and pursuit of justice throughout the community.” The League will consider ways to use the gift that honor Mrs. Corbin’s legacy as a dynamic leader and activist for citizen participation in government.

County League Forced to Cancel County Executive Debate

Regretfully, the League of Women Voters of Westchester was forced to cancel its candidates’ forum, which was to be held on October 30th. The forum was to include four candidates, two each for the County Executive race and the County Clerk race. As of September 22nd, all the candidates had agreed to an October 30th forum at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry. Incumbent County Executive Rob Astorino subsequently withdrew his agreement to participate. The League nonpartisan policy does not allow a forum for a race in which only one candidate appears; therefore, the County League was compelled to cancel the event.

The League appreciates the offer of the Dean and Administration at Mercy College to host the forum. They hoped this program would engage first-time voters in the student body. The League regretted the lost opportunity for these young people to participate in fair and open campaigns, and to listen to and question candidates. This cancellation has been a disappointing and unprecedented development. The League’s time-proven format has consistently delivered civil and fair discourse. These programs are an important part of our mission of preparing voters for active and informed participation in our democracy. The League will continue to sponsor candidate meetings and hopes that, in the future, all candidates will be willing to appear at events that provide equal opportunity for candidates to speak.

Lohud and Fios sponsored a County Executive debate at Iona College on October 24th. Another debate, sponsored by Channel 12 News, was held on October 26th. The opening statements from the Iona debate can be seen at:

Voter Registration in New Rochelle

Voter Services Co-chairs Joan Alexander and Amy Weiser have been busy setting up voter registration sessions at the local colleges and at the New Rochelle Public Library.

They have also organized the distribution of 1000 printed copies of the 2017 Voter Guides throughout the community.

Voter Guides have been mailed to all active members.
Constitutional Convention Ballot Question

The NYS Constitution mandates that every 20 years, voters be asked to choose whether or not to have a convention to revise and amend the Constitution. The question appears on this year's ballot. If approved, 204 delegates would be elected on November 6th, 2018. Following the convention, a vote on the Convention's proposed changes would be scheduled to take place on November 5th, 2019. The Convention is estimated to cost anywhere from $50 million to $108 million. Supporters believe a Convention could streamline our State Constitution, pass voting reforms, reform the judicial system, create guarantees for healthcare and reproductive rights, and create an environmental bill of rights. Although the LWVNY expressed reservations, they took a position in support of the Convention.

On the other hand, many are concerned about the possibilities of losing protections for state pensions, the Adirondack Forests, and school funding. Opponents worry that this process will cost a lot of money and not necessarily produce any results because of how delegates are elected and how complicated the process is to actually effect change. They argue that the process is unnecessary since the state legislature can amend the State Constitution without a convention. This is a complex issue. Comprehensive information is available at: http://www.lwvalbany.org/constitutional-convention-2017.html

They’re on the Back! Remember to turn over your Ballot to Vote on these Three Propositions:

PROP #1: To approve the State Convention

PROP #2: To give judges the power to reduce or revoke the state pension of a public officer convicted of a felony related to his or her duties

PROP #3: To create a 250-acre land bank, which would allow local governments to request forest preserve land for projects in exchange for the state acquiring 250 acres for the forest preserves.

New Rochelle LWV Latest Cable TV Program Interviews: LWV Historian on Struggle for Women’s Vote; Mayor Noam Bramson on the Role of Mayor

November 6 will mark the 100th anniversary of women’s right to vote in New York-- the first Eastern state to give women that right. In this first segment, League of Women Voters historian Sydelle Herzberg describes the long, difficult journey to obtain that right on the LWV of New Rochelle cable television program, City People and Issues.

In a second interview, New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson describes the role of mayor in New Rochelle’s city manager form of government, and discusses his challenges as Mayor locally and, both regionally and nationally, as the representative of his city.

The interviews with Herzberg and Bramson will be shown on alternate weeks on Cablevision Channel 76 on Mondays at 7 PM, Wednesdays at 10 PM, and Thursdays at 9:30 PM. The interview with Herzberg will run during the weeks of November 6th and November 21st and is available on demand at www.vimeo.com/239628368. The interview with Mayor Bramson will run during the weeks of November 13th and November 27th and is available on demand at www.vimeo.com/240714589.

Ina Aronow continues to host, organize and produce these wonderful programs, but she could certainly use some help. Training is very easy, so any member interested in working with her should contact her at IAronow@aol.com.

Arts Westchester Exhibit Give Us the Vote

Arts Westchester has organized a very informative and colorful exhibit at their gallery at 31 Mamaroneck Ave. in White Plains. The gallery is open Tuesday-Friday 12-5pm and Saturday 12-6 pm. The exhibit will continue through January 27, 2018. The exhibit is in sections: Celebrating Suffragists, The Voting Rights Act, Gerrymandering, and The Heart of the Electorate. The pictures from the Gerrymandering section are especially startling, and the use of artistically inspired voting booths make thoughtful presentations. A $10 admission is suggested.
**Votes for Women: Celebrating New York’s Suffrage Centennial**

The New York State Education Department and the Office of Cultural Education will present a large-scale exhibition and companion catalog titled, *Votes for Women: Celebrating New York’s Suffrage Centennial*, at the New York State Museum from November 4, 2017 to May 13, 2018. There will be a State League celebration on the opening day of the exhibit.

*Votes for Women* will celebrate the centennial of women’s suffrage in New York State and raise public awareness of the struggle for women’s suffrage and equal rights in New York State from the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention through 1917 when New York State granted women the right to vote. The exhibition will also address the nationally significant role of New York State leaders in regards to women’s rights and the feminist movement through the early 21st century.

**Museum of the City of New York’s Exhibit of Beyond Suffrage: A Century of New York Women**

The exhibit traces women’s political activism in New York City, from the struggle to win the vote through the 20th century and into our own times. Beginning with the long battle for women’s voting rights that culminated in 1917 statewide and 1920 nationally, the exhibition highlights women at the center of New York’s politics over the course of 100 years. It features a diverse range of activists both familiar and lesser known, the battles they fought, and the many issues they championed.

The exhibition examines how women navigated New York politics in the 1920s through 1940s, often working behind the scenes for causes like health, labor, and good government; the central role of New York in the women’s liberation movement of the 1960s and its redefining of women’s roles in politics and government; and continued campaigns for women’s political power and grassroots mobilizations that demand equal gender rights today. This exhibit will be on display through July 22, 2018. The museum is located at 1220 Fifth Ave. on 103rd St and is open daily from 10am-6pm.
New Rochelle League of Women Voters Candidate Forum Replays On Demand and on NRTV Government Channels

The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle, in cooperation with the City of New Rochelle’s NRTV, announces a video replay of its October 23 forum for local candidates to the Westchester Board of Legislators. The election is November 7.

The video recording is available on demand at:

http://newrochelle.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=b4e2a5b7-b902-11e7-9d6f-00505691de41

It is also being shown on New Rochelle’s government access Cablevision Channel 75 and Verizon FIOs Channel 28 at the following dates and times:

- Thursday and Friday, October 26 and 27: 1 AM, 8 AM, 1 PM, 8 PM
- Saturday through Tuesday, October 28-31: 12 AM, 7 AM, 12 PM, 7 PM, 9 PM

Scheduled times for November replays will be indexed under City Services, NRTV, on: http://newrochelleny.com/745/NRTV or www.newrochelleny.com. Total recorded time is 1 hour, 37 minutes.

Incumbent Catherine Parker (D) in County District 7 and challenger Norman S. Rosenblum (R) debated first, followed by incumbent Sheila Marcotte (R) and challenger Damon Maher (D) in CD 10. James Maisano (R) is running unopposed in CD 11 and was not part of the forum. New Rochelle has no city elections this year.

Additional candidate information provided by the nonpartisan League of Women Voters is available on www.Vote411.org and in the printed Voters Guide. For further information, call 949-0507 or email lwvnewrochelle@gmail.com.

New Rochelle City Council to Honor League

The public is invited to the November 14th meeting of the New Rochelle City Council when it recognizes the 100th Anniversary of Women’s Suffrage in New York State (November 6th). At the beginning of the public session, the Council will present a commendation to the LWVNR for its contribution to voting rights. The meeting in Council Chambers starts at 7 PM. We look forward to seeing you there!
League Day at the United Nations

A Briefing on

Forced Labor and Human Trafficking

Nov. 16, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

(Lunch and tours available, too, starting at 11:30 am)

Join the League for an educational and delicious day at the United Nations! Come and learn how you can have an impact on this important global issue.

The Annual League Day at the United Nations will be held on Thursday, November 16. We will again offer a delicious lunch in the Delegates' Dining Room, tours of the facility, including the General Assembly room and the Security Council room, and then a briefing. This year we will have a panel of UN experts discuss the issue of Forced Labor and Human Trafficking. The panel will also discuss what individuals can do to help reduce this problem.

[Click here to register online](#) or [click here to download, print and mail the registration form](#) with payment to the state office.

## Dates to Remember

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 4 (Saturday)</td>
<td>State League Celebration in Albany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 6 (Monday)</td>
<td>100th Anniversary of Women’s Suffrage in NYS</td>
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<td>Nov. 7 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Election Day</td>
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<td>Nov. 8 (Wednesday)</td>
<td>Board Meeting of New Rochelle League</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 14 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>City Council Meeting and LWVNR Commendation</td>
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<td>Nov. 16 (Thursday)</td>
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Join THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE

The League depends on the work and financial support of all of its members to carry out its programs. Membership is open to women and men of voting age. Joining our local league confers membership in the State and National Leagues, enables you to receive publications from all three levels with access to members-only online resources, and provides the opportunity to be involved in local, state and national issues.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____________________________________________________________

ADDRESS: ___________________________________________________________

CITY, STATE, ZIP: ___________________________________________________

TELEPHONE: _______________________ EMAIL: _____________________________

☐ New Membership              ☐ Renewal

☐ Individual: $60.00 year          ☐ Household*: $85.00 year

*Additional Household Member Name: ______________________________________

Email: _____________________________________________________________

Please make your membership check payable to: LWV NR

☐ I would like to support the League with a tax-deductible contribution made payable to:

   LWV Education Foundation

      ☐ $100.00              ☐ $50.00              ☐ Other ________________

Return this application with your check(s) to:

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE
45 LONG VUE
NEW ROCHELLE, NY 10804

OR

Join and/or donate using PayPal on our website: www.lwvnewro.org
Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Suffrage in New York State

Join the League of Women Voters of White Plains at

**Give Us The Vote**

A contemporary art exhibit examining the state of voting rights in America today

**Monday, November 6th, 2017**

6:00 – 8:00 PM

at ArtsW Gallery

31 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains

At 6:30 p.m. Historian Louise Berkinow will present "The Art of Suffrage," followed by a curator-led tour of the exhibit

Free admission

The event is co-sponsored by The League of Women Voters of White Plains and ArtsWestchester

ArtsWestchester’s “Give Us The Vote” is inspired by the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage in New York State. This contemporary art exhibition features works by 20+ contributing artists who examine the state of voting rights in America today.

The exhibition is made possible thanks to the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and Westchester Medical Center.