STATE BOARD REPORT
August 2018

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Dear Local League Presidents and Leaders,

“Going to Convention was like joining LWV all over again. Admittedly, I went to Chicago a bit tired and dispirited. Yet I returned home invigorated and inspired. Now I have the resources to distribute to my local League and get stuff done.”

This quote from Pam Perron of the Ridgewood League captures what many of the 14 New Jersey delegates felt after traveling to Chicago for the League of Women Voters 53rd National Convention. We were joined by delegates from 48 other states and the District of Columbia, all eager to connect with new and old League friends, share ideas, attend caucuses, workshops and trainings, and help set the direction of the League for the next biennium. For more information on what we learned in those three jam packed days, please refer the summary of delegates’ notes and action items compiled by Kristin Burke, Camden County League president in this SBR.

Up through the last plenary of the Convention, the energy in the room remained palpable and few seemed focused on making their trains, planes, and automobiles home. Even though we had already voted on the recommended program for the next biennium – continuation of a League-wide campaign for Making Democracy Work - I was struck by the determination of the membership to reaffirm and emphasize existing League positions. Delegates passed several resolutions reaffirming our positions on the Equal Rights Amendment; gun control, gun safety and gun ownership; the constitutional right to privacy; abolishing the Electoral College; carbon pricing; and the recognition of carbon science and affirmation of the UN COP 21 Paris Agreement. I was reminded that despite the daily distractions of a 24-hour news cycle, League members know the road to a better democracy is paved with vigilance, focus and attention to our long established vision.

One of the things we had hoped to bring back from Convention was more information about the Transformation Road Map. What we learned was that New Jersey is ahead of the transformation curve. The goals in our strategic plan and the strategies we’ve identified to achieve them are very much in line with those of the Transformation Road Map. Both plans are committed to improving diversity, equity and inclusion so that our organization reflects the population of the communities in which we live and both call for increasing the capacity of the state League to provide administrative support so local Leagues can focus on doing the on the ground work of the League in their communities. New Jersey is leading the way and we are excited about the League’s future!

Please be sure to mark your calendars for our next Presidents’ call on September 1 at 7 pm. I will send more information about participation later this month.

In League,

Nancy Hedinger,
# State Board Members Contact

## STATE BOARD
**2017 – 2019**

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<tr>
<td>Nancy Hedinger, President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hedingern@gmail.com">hedingern@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathy Abbott, Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dawn Clarke, VP, Voters Service</td>
<td><a href="mailto:clarkeda@comcast.net">clarkeda@comcast.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brendan Keating, Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bkleague@gmail.com">bkleague@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ed Gracely, VP, Program</td>
<td><a href="mailto:edgracely@verizon.net">edgracely@verizon.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Uyen “Winn” Khuong, Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:atnjwinn@gmail.com">atnjwinn@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Sferas, VP, Development</td>
<td><a href="mailto:suesfer@aol.com">suesfer@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Timothy Priano, Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Saunders, VP, Governance</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Saunders12@verizon.net">Saunders12@verizon.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Katharine Schumacher, Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:katherineanne@gmail.com">katherineanne@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellen Kemp, Treasurer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ellenkemp@gmail.com">ellenkemp@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa Scott, Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mebscott@comcast.net">mebscott@comcast.net</a></td>
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<td>Jill Lewis-Spector, Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Jlewisprof1@yahoo.com">Jlewisprof1@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Terry Thompson, Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Ta-thompson@hotmail.com">Ta-thompson@hotmail.com</a></td>
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### Off-Board
- Lena Smith, Strategic Advisor: smith.madeleineruth@gmail.com
- Sandra Matsen, Budget Committee (and Lobbyist): slmatsen@aol.com
- Marlene Sincaglia, Nominating Committee (chair): jcsmm@verizon.net
- Michelle Bobrow, Nominating Committee: m.bobrow@verizon.net
- Eileen Gallagher, Nominating Committee: eileengallagher99@gmail.com
# BOARD LIAISONS TO LOCAL LEAGUES

## 2017 – 2019

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<th>Nancy Hedinger</th>
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Meetings held: Thursday, July 19 and Friday, July 27 2018

League of Women Voters of New Jersey:

1. Voted to support S2762 – Requires Board of Education to provide civics instructions in middle schools and requires the Department of Education to provide funding to New Jersey Center for Civics Education at Rutgers to help prepare civics teachers.
2. Voted to accept new LWV guidelines for forming a new League with modifications to the nonpartisanship policy.
3. Voted to recognize the League of Women of the Greater New Brunswick Area (J. Burns will apply to LWV on their behalf for national recognition)
4. Voted to recognize the League of Women Voters of Atlantic County (J. Burns will apply to LWV on their behalf for national recognition)

League of Women Voters of New Jersey Education Fund:

1. Voted to spend $1212 for tree removal
2. Voted to purchase Donor Search software for the Centennial Campaign launch.
2018

September

- September 5 – President’s Call with Local League Presidents and Leaders 7 pm
- September 8 – Board Meeting
- September 25 – National Voter Registration Day

October

- October 6 – South Jersey Regional Training (tentative)
- October 13 – Board Meeting
- October 16 – Last Day to Register or Change Voting Address for General Election
- October 30 – Deadline for Mailed Application for a Vote by Mail Ballot to the County Clerk

November

- November 5 – 3 PM Deadline for Applying for a Vote by Mail Ballot in Person at the County Clerk’s Office
- November 6 – General Election Day

December

- December 5 - President’s Call with Local League Presidents and Leaders 7 pm
- December 8 – Board Meeting

2019

February

- February 4 – First Call for Convention
- February 9 – Board Meeting

March

- March 6 – President’s Call with Local League Presidents and Leaders 7 pm

April

- April 13 – Board Meeting

May

- May 3 – Making Democracy Work Awards Cocktail Reception
- **May 4 – 63rd Biennial State Convention of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey**
Building a Stronger League

During our National Convention last month, LWVUS offered Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training sessions that provided attendees with a comprehensive look at each component of DEI and the value of engaging in developing a strong DEI program within the organization.

The follow up materials from the DEI training are now available on the League Management Site. Additionally, LWVUS has posted the definitions of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, as well as our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policy. For those looking for more resources and tools, LWVUS has also provided continued learning materials.

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey included an emphasis on building a more inclusive organization as part of our 2016 – 2020 Strategic Plan. Now, coupled with the additional resources and support of LWVUS, the state board is exploring ways we can support our local Leagues in this process. We will be dedicating our next board meeting to training sessions and discussion so look forward to receiving more materials soon.

There are many more helpful and reliable DEI documents on the internet. An interesting website to visit is Nonprofits You Are The Champions. The site is hosted by the National Council of Nonprofits and it offers a wealth of information, including examples of how the nonprofit community is currently championing the values of DEI. The site also contains links to short videos, a Nonprofits, Leadership and Race Survey, and links to other resources and websites to help guide you on your DEI journey.
Thank you to the NJ Delegates for sharing this information from Convention and thank you to Kristin Burke for compiling it all into this report! A few of the delegates attending Convention for the first time had this to say about the experience:

*I was impressed by the sheer number of topics covered by the great many caucuses and presentations, many of which were made by local Leagues. We made a note to ask our local League if we want to share or present on something in 2 years, because that's a great opportunity to increase the impact of successful local programs and ideas.* — Anne Burton Walsh

*I was impressed with the number of women and men, nearly 1000, and with the level of preparation, intensity and intelligence of the ideas brought to the floor, debated and voted on. I also see that the procedure for decision making is very important to the delegates, such as red cards (points of order), time limits on speaking, hearing both sides at different microphones. We are thoroughly orderly and democratic!* — Kathy Abbott

*I have to say, that it was one of the most memorable moment in my life, watching all the members working together, fighting for the right to Vote, living history of the League, I left energized and thrilled that I can call myself a member of LWV.* — Timothy Priano

**LWVUS Daily Briefing** — Includes plenary business

**LWVUS Convention Presentation Archive**

If you have a question about a particular session, consider contacting one of the NJ delegates who attended before reaching out directly to the presenter(s).

**OTHER LEAGUE TOOLS YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF THAT WERE NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IN A SESSION**

- [Empowering Voters in 2018](#) — League challenge from the LWVUS Mission Impact Team
- [Creating a More Perfect Democracy Video](#)
- [Mission impact tools](#) (voting rights, elections, other issues)
  - [Impact on Issues report 2016-2018](#): Detailed explanation of League issues/positions
- [New census action kit](#)
- [Demo of new website](#) (intentionally has no sound)
Expanding Your Reach with Social Media (SM)

Presenter/Contact:
LWV Arlington Heights
Social.lwvah@gmail.com

Key Points:
- Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are the three most popular platforms (don’t need to be on Snapchat)
  - Instagram is where younger crowd is who have bailed from FB
  - FB generally 30-50 yr-old audience
  - Twitter – mixed bag audience, mostly useful for spreading news fast
- Use the same post across all three platforms:
  - Suggest free tools like Hootsuite that can pre-schedule posts across all platforms
  - Not every Insta post has to be a photo of people, you can simply post a graphic, e.g. created with the free online tool Canva.com
- Have multiple administrators on all accounts so there is sufficient coverage
- Ideas for engaging your audience:
  - Post frequently
  - Tag members/people in posts or comments to engage them
  - Like other League’s posts
  - Share articles and posts
  - Mini tip: “Loving” a FB post is more likely to get attention, as you are trying to engage with others sites they are more likely to notice your reaction if you “love” their post
- Like and follow other Leagues to get ideas from their SM accounts
- Paid advertising: mixed success reported by Leagues buying SM ads, so plan carefully before choosing to spend money on ads

Handouts:
NONE

LWVUS Resources:
- Join LWVnewmedia FB group to share ideas
- Online communications resources (2014 but still useful)
- Online community building (LWV OK) (includes extensive website advice)
- Social Media Toolkit (guidelines for Insta, Twitter, FB)
- Sample content specifically for a Get Out the Vote social media campaign

NJ Delegates in Attendance:
Ed Gracely

Get Out the Vote Strategies That Work

Presenter/Contact:
Elizabeth Bennion and Judy Bradford from LWV South Bend, IN
Lori Thiel from LWV San Diego, CA
Lawson Wetli from LWV Greenville, SC

Key Points:
- Collect contact info at time of registration: Our biggest opportunity to target GOTV efforts!
  - In most states it is legal to take non-personal contact info from voter reg forms you’ve collected and use that to follow up with strictly election-related info
    - Someone will need to look up NJ’s laws!
  - A safe way to do it is to have a separate sheet at the voter reg table, make it clear what the intended use is and have people opt in to getting reminders
Keep a master spreadsheet to contact before elections
- Example given of one League collecting email and cell phone and using a service (Tell My Cell) to text reminders (requires opt in and League pays a fee)
- Personal texts to a voter also effective (& “free”- no fees beyond your usual cell plan)

- Voters need to be followed up about 3 times if they are a first-time voter
  - Send simple reminders like when election day is!
  - Explain how vote by mail works
  - Remind people to check registration status (include a link to do so)
  - Don’t just send generic emails with links to long PDFs; personalized emails and links to online resources more effective

- Other effective means of follow-up besides text and email
  - Door to door (perhaps impractical for small Leagues, but given as an example)
  - Phone calls: if you identify yourself and they can tell it’s one-on-one

- Consider shared calendar for voter registration with other involved groups; i.e. either partner with other appropriate groups to do reg, or at least see where other groups are registering voters, so you can make sure your region is covered

- Want to get into high schools? If your County Clerk doesn’t already have an in-school effort, you may need to get your League members who won’t take no for an answer to make the push, i.e. some schools make it very hard
  - Start at the superintendent/district level but work down if you don’t make progress
  - If the school uses any kind of app with students, can you utilize that to offer an opt in for voting reminders: 30% of students did.

Handouts:
- Book suggestion
- Elizabeth from South Bend has conducted her own “experiments”

LWVUS Resources:
- Get Out the Vote email/phone scripts
- Track Your Election Year impact
- A long menu of options in the League’s mission impact toolkit under elections

NJ Delegates in Attendance:
Ed Gracely

Youth Voter Registration: Learn Winning Tactics!

Presenter/Contact:
Marilu Guivera (Los Angeles, CA)
Leigh Ann Tidey (Milwaukee, WI); tideyla@gmail.com
Betsy Cushman (Dearborn, MI); betsy.cushman@gmail.com

Key Points:
- Check with County Clerk before pursuing an in-school registration effort; county may already have a program
- If no local govt body is doing in-school reg, start with superintendent and then work your way down if you are not getting cooperation
  - Repeated message was that you need to be persistent to get into the schools!
- Presenting in a school or doing a drive in a school? Try to have your younger League members be the majority of your presence; better chance at reaching students
- Distribute a voter “pledge card” and use it to follow up via text with reminders (see GOTV session summary in this report; ALWAYS COLLECT VOTER INFO AND ASK TO FOLLOW UP)
- One League created cards they could hand out to students waiting in line to register (i.e. if the kids had to leave the line and couldn’t register, card had info where to get forms online)
- One League targeted schools in “underprivileged” neighborhoods and followed up with voters they registered
- One clever assembly “stunt” with students of voting/near-voting age:
  - Have all stand, then instruct half to sit; “You aren’t registered”
  - Instruct half of remaining to sit; “You chose not to vote”
  - “Now look at those still standing; hopefully you’re happy with how they voted because they just voted for you”

**Handouts:**
- Dearborn Heights handout about diversifying (age and race/ethnicity) and working with diverse audiences

**LWVUS Resources:**
- LWVUS High School Voter Registration Training Manual
- Get Out the Vote email/phone scripts

**NJ Delegates in Attendance:**
Kristin Burke

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### Beyond Youth Vote – Empowering Generation Z

**Presenter/Contact:**
LWV Anchorage
anchorageyouthvote@gmail.com
https://www.anchorageyouthvote.com

**Key Points:**
Anchorage Youth Vote (AYV) is a standalone organization of the LWV Anchorage. ATV is youth led and members range from 14 years of age (middle school) through college. AYV plans, hosts and moderates candidate forums based on questions the members want to ask. They do mock elections, build connections with politicians, and feel it is essential to educate youth about rights and responsibility of living in democratic society. AYV members also work on different projects such as bullying prevention campaigns that incorporate student-created posters, and a community project called WAM!? Wait a Minute – Truth and Trust in Journalism, which fosters discussion and education around the rising concern of misinformation or “fake news” and the lack of civil discourse seen in social and other media. They also do voter registration and education in schools and have created a 30 second PSA designed to encourage youth participation in civil society. The three components of their work are: Communication, Connection, and Co-conspirators (the adults who work with them.) Presenters emphasized how important it is to empower youth, not to talk down to them, and to value the contributions youth can make to initiating and implementing ideas.

**Handouts:**
- Session handouts about the Youth Vote program and levels of youth participation

**LWVUS Resources:**
NONE

**NJ Delegates in Attendance:**
Kristin Burke
Jesse Burns
Jill Lewis-Spector

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### The Case for Lowering the Voting Age

**Presenter/Contact:**
LWV San Diego, CA
LWV Berkeley-Alameda-Emeryville CA
LWV San Francisco, CA; Ashley Raveche, ashyraveche@gmail.com

**Key Points:**
Takoma Park, MD lowered the voting age for local elections to 16 in 2013. Berkeley, California passed a measure allowing
16 and 17-year-olds to vote in school board elections in 2016. Many more campaigns are ongoing at local and state levels. The caucus organizers believe the issue of lowering the voting age will only continue to gain traction.

**Handouts:**
- Summary of Vote@16 campaigns
- Community Assessment for Leagues looking to engage youth activists

**LWVUS Resources:**
NONE

**NJ Delegates in Attendance:**
NONE – notes were distributed via the Convention Google Group and pasted here

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**Improving Civics Education (IN HIGH SCHOOLS) with the Harvard Case Study Method**

**Presenter/Contact:**
Deirdre Kamlani, deirdre.kamlani@gmail.com

**Key Points:**
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS PROGRAM, NOTE THAT IT REQUIRES TRAINING FOR THE TEACHER/INSTRUCTOR LEADING THE PROGRAM, WITH SOME ASSOCIATED TRAVEL COSTS. PLEASE CONTACT DEIRDRE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN DOING A PILOT PROGRAM AND NOTIFY SOMEONE AT LWVNJ.

The Greenwich CT league presented on their case study civics event – in concert with Prof. David Moss of Harvard. Students prepare by reading a case from Moss’s book, each centered around a pivotal episode in American democracy (e.g. James Madison and federal vs. state power, the Constitutional Convention, and modern events like the SCOTUS Citizens’ United decision). Adults were also invited to participate. Lively debate and an interactive format created a more dynamic delivery of civics education. Post-event surveys were extremely positive. The Greenwich League shared details on how the program can be implemented in your area.

League has secured the rights to use 4 of the 19 case studies developed by Moss/ Harvard (**I believe the caveat is that you will still need to have someone complete the training, i.e. we cannot just take these cases and start using them):
- James Madison, the "Federal Negative," and the Making of the US Constitution, 1787 (this is the full title of the Madison and Federalism case study I mentioned);
- A Nation Divided: The United States and the Challenge of Secession, 1861;
- MLK, Jr. and the Struggle for Black Voting Rights, 1965;
- Democracy and Women's Rights in America: the Fight Over the ERA, 1982

**Misc extras:**
Another local league had done a “government bee,” and Ridgewood League informed the group about their civics ed event*. A possible source of funding: Palm Beach County, FL League reported that the Masons have donated a large amount of money to hold civics education events.

*Ridgewood followed Fair Lawn League example (Ilene Kahn) and held an evening event in Feb 2018 for the whole community where they partnered with the Board of Ed and several social studies teachers. Set up the game Kahoot! and had question modules on federal, state and local government. The teachers gave live presentations on the correct answers to each question. Over 100 attended - students received credit for attending. There were prizes for the top scorers in each category.

**Handouts:**
- LWV Harvard Civics presentation

**LWVUS Resources:**
NONE, this is not an LWVUS program

**NJ Delegates in Attendance:**
Timothy Priano
Anne Burton Walsh

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**Building League Leadership for the Future**
Speakers emphasized that communication with young people is typically characterized as harsh and judgmental and makes youth feel they are being criticized. As an example, some young League members were reluctant to invite their millennial peers to join LWV due to how some members talked down to them. The audience did role-plays to demonstrate how we could move from “yes, but” dialogue with youth to “yes, and,” exhibiting a more positive response and tone (i.e. don’t shut down ideas). Speakers also explained that some young folks want to be told what to do; others want to run with an idea and just come to adults for guidance. Further, we should consider relaxing our tone in communications. It was suggested that we use the same message in different places, e.g. FB, email, but with a varying tone. Also suggested was having a meeting where all members bring their devices and younger members show others how to do FB, Twitter, etc.

Some additional ideas from New Brunswick: Have been trying to bring in younger folks, starting with getting to schools with voter registration, having students as “Ambassadors” to league so they can coordinate activities between League and their schools, an essay contest for high schoolers, and recognizing first time young voters.

Handouts:
- Guidance on Flexible Leadership

LWVUS Resources:
- Misc leadership resources: https://www.lwv.org/league-management/search?search_api_fulltext=leadership
- Leadership development in depth: https://www.lwv.org/league-management/manage-your-league/leadership-development

NJ Delegates in Attendance:
Jill Lewis-Spector

Transformation Journey Info

Suggest that everyone review the full report or the executive summary at a minimum (linked below). Material from the session was essentially Q&A.

Handouts:
NONE

LWVUS Resources:
- Transformation Roadmap full report and executive summary

NJ Delegates in Attendance:
Doris Schapira, Ed Gracely

Telling the League Story to Raise Money for your League

Kate Kennedy, MBA, CFRE
Chief Development Officer, LWVUS; k kennedy@lwv.org
Kim Lauth, LWVUS board member; kim@kimlauth.com

Key Points:
- People donate to the MISSION, not the organization
- Largest percentage of charitable donations come from individuals
- We should focus more on individuals than on corporate donations or grants
- One of the #1 reasons people give? Because they were asked!
- Yes, many of us think that members “give their time” – but don’t assume that all members won’t also make a contribution, you can ask them once and see
- You should aim for 100% board contributions as a best practice, so that in your future giving
- Make sure that your efforts (cost point) are in line with the donations
- What story can you tell about your League’s work that will excite people about giving
- A strong story has:
  - A hook at the opening
  - A relatable story/a relatable character
  - Tension; a problem or issue
  - Positioning the League as the one to solve that tension
  - Make it EASY to give (e.g. in an email, provide multiple links throughout)
- A few email tips (shown in sample linked below)
  - Bullets are actually not as effective anymore; use bold and highlighting
  - Use images, but not too many
  - Don’t go crazy with statistics, people remember stories not a bunch of numbers
- What makes the League unique?
  - Breadth
  - Longevity
  - History
  - Experienced
  - Impressive litigation influence

**Handouts:**
- Session handout

**LWVUS Resources:**
- Sample fundraising email
- Sample fundraising appeals
- Landing page of various fundraising resources

**NJ Delegates in Attendance:**
Kristin Burke
Timothy Priano

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### Hosting a “Party with a Purpose” to Raise money for Your League

**Presenter/Contact:**
Kate Kennedy, MBA, CFRE
Chief Development Officer, LWVUS; k kennedy@lwv.org
Kim Lauth, LWVUS board member; kim@kimlauth.com

**Key Points:**
See handout and toolkit – the general idea is that an ask event with the right audience can be a great way to raise a significant amount of money.

**Handouts:**
- Session handout

**LWVUS Resources:**
- How to host an “ask” event

**NJ Delegates in Attendance:**
Timothy Priano

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### Redistricting in States without citizen/ballot referendum

**Presenter/Contact:**
LWV North Carolina
Jennifer Bremer, bremer.jennifer@gmail.com and Janet Jones, LWV New York State; Laura Ladd Bierman executive director, laura@lwvny.org

Key Points:

- Jennifer presented the NC study on emerging alternatives for redistricting (reviewed 50 bills introduced in 2017 in 15 states—all non-referendum states—and Congress)
- While LWVUS supports independent citizen commissions (ICC), NC is focusing on a plan that will work reasonably well and that has a chance of passing (i.e. keeps some kind of role for the legislature but will hopefully control extreme gerrymandering)
- NC does recognize that commissions are generally better because they encourage non-extremism, but unfortunately any model can be “gamed” to some extent
- They prefer branding the effort as “reasonable redistricting reform”
- They see it as important that independent voters are represented, that public hearings are meaningful
- Their white paper found that in proposed bills there is a correlation that the more control you give the legislature in choosing the commission, the more likely they are to be OK with not actually voting on the maps themselves
- Laura presented the NY approach, branded “Reshape NY”
  - The state League does research and prepares PowerPoints and then distributes to local Leagues to do forums/public education
  - In NY they went right to their governor for support/input/discussion
- How do you address concerns that “independent” commission members are actually independent, vs. just partisans parading as independent to get on the commission and swing the vote easily?
  - Having the R and D members of the commission agree on the I members may address this
- Much of what was discussed is in line with what NJ already has, and what our approach to public education has been
  - A potential hurdle for NJ is that even if we got our legislation passed this session and next, the legislature could still delay the ballot vote and not allow it to happen in 2019 (this happened in another state where they used the argument that it was not a regular election and turnout would be low)
- [In a Google Group conversation prior to the meeting, the Iowa model was mentioned. Jennifer’s response was that no other state has adopted the Iowa model and only 1 has even proposed to go down that path. It reportedly performs poorly on racial equity grounds. Other Iowa model concerns:
  - Legislative staff may not be as independent as one would like
  - If leg rejects the first two maps, they can do whatever they want on the third map, which also means there is no independent failsafe method that kicks in, and
  - It does not necessarily provide for real public participation, especially as it provides no voice for "independents," which is the fastest-growing segment of the voting population]

Handouts:

- White paper by the North Carolina League – extensive and well written, take a look!
- Folder of resources/samples compiled by NC; folder includes the white paper linked separately above
- A PowerPoint was used but not distributed, contact Jennifer
LWVUS Resources:
- Quick graphic on strategies for redistricting reform in your community
- NEW Redistricting action kit
- NEW JERSEY ALSO HAS SEVERAL RESOURCES AS PART OF OUR FAIR DISTRICTS NJ EFFORT: for access to these materials and to learn more about NJ’s efforts, email Helen Kioukis at hkioukis@lwvnj.org

NJ Delegates in Attendance:
Kristin Burke

voTE411.org: online voter’s guide Training — PR and fundraising
Presenter/Contact:
Megan Brown, MBrown@lwv.org

Key Points:

ADVERTISING VOTE411
- The states with the highest success rates of Vote411 usage are states where the local Leagues are publicizing their local guide
- Items that cost money include: yard signs, bumper stickers, billboards or bus ads, signage and/or flyers inside local businesses, promo items/giveaways for tabling
- “Free” items (require someone’s time): create a local Facebook page for your Vote411 guide, may get more traction than your existing local League page (Example: Kansas)

FUNDRAISING FOR VOTE411
- Think of Vote411 as a service the League provides that business/individuals may be interested in supporting
- Fundraising comes in handy to be able to promote your guide (promotional items, printing, tabling, etc)
- Fundraising by local Leagues stays with local Leagues to promote locally
- Most direct methods:
  - Face-to-face asks
  - Letters to community leaders and business owners
- Other options include:
  - House party with paid tickets; those who cannot attend may still donate; requires out of pocket/up-front costs
  - Community grants
    - Try searching in your local area; county govt, local foundations, etc.
- What can we offer to individuals/corporations who donate?
  - For a fee ($300 or up is suggested, please consult with Jesse at LWVNJ if you have questions) we can offer to put their logo on the Vote411.org website (multiple sponsor logos will rotate; higher donation gets more frequent rotation)
  - For a smaller donation, there is a widget available that local businesses could embed on their website that would be the screen where a user enters their address, then they would be sent to the full Vote411 site
  - For even smaller donations, consider a flyer for the business’s window or a small “Proud Supporter” easel sign with a pocket for postcard flyers
- There are media partnership opportunities (a media outlet can link to our site, embed our
You should first contact LWVNJ who will connect you with Megan to go through the proper channels for a media partnership.

- We can also offer the exported candidate questions to a media outlet (this export must be run by the state League).
- Official Vote411 logos are available upon request from LWVUS/Megan

**Handouts:**
- [PowerPoint presentation](#)

**LWVUS Resources:**
- Facebook group for Vote411 administrators: request invitation from Megan Brown (contact above)
- [Widgets html code](#) for putting a snippet of the Vote411 site onto another website
- Contact Jesse Burns at LWVNJ if you want to know more about Vote411 and are not already involved

**NJ Delegates in Attendance:**
Kristin Burke
Ed Gracely

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### 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4): Which or Both?

**Presenter/Contact:**
LWVCO
Thomas Carson: Finance and Tax Consultant: tpcarson@outlook.com

**Key Points:**
- Some Leagues may find it beneficial to switch to being only a 501c3 instead of maintaining both a c3 and c4
  - The handout explains it well but the main arguments are to ease bookkeeping/treasurer responsibilities for a state or local League that maintains both, and also to encourage tax deductible donations
  - The process is straightforward (technically speaking) for Leagues who are both c3 and c4 and there are little to no associated fees
  - The process is more challenging for local Leagues who are only a c4 where the state manages the c3 education fund, and there is a fee for a local League to become a c3
- Buy-in from membership is important before making such a change
- 501c3 organizations call still do lobbying work, as long as they do not spend more than 20% of their budget on lobbying activities
  - e.g. sending a volunteer on a lobbying visit is not money spent as far as the IRS is concerned

**Handouts:**
- [Session handout](#)/FAQs

**LWVUS Resources:**
NONE

**NJ Delegates in Attendance:**
Ellen Kemp
Nancy Hedinger

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### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

**Presenter/Contact:**
Various speakers; we were split into workgroups
Key Points:
Diversity means “difference” of all types (racial, ethnic, religious, economic, age, gender identity, etc), and the LWVUS called for local leagues to make a major push in this area, which is part of the LWVUS “Transformation Journey” and key to making democracy work. There many inspiring speakers on this topic as well as a 3-hour training on how local leagues can reach out to minority communities. The method is to (1) meet people where they are; (2) do not make assumptions; (3) try to obtain invitations to do voter registration; (4) work towards a more diverse membership, in every sense of the word. The takeaway: We need to recruit more diverse, active members.

Listening was a major focus of the training:
- Don’t interrupt
- Ask questions (more than might even feel natural!) to learn more about the other person

6 ways to mitigate your unconscious biases:
1. Recognize and accept that you, like most people, hold biases
2. Develop the capacity to shine a light on yourself
3. Practice “Constructive Uncertainty” (foster a curious mindset, mind your personal assumptions)
4. Explore awkwardness and discomfort
5. Engage with people who are different from you and expose yourself to positive role models in that group
6. Get feedback: listen and ask questions

Understanding your relationship:
- “Our League wants to help your [racial/ethnic] community” has good intentions but comes off as disingenuous; we (the generally older, white League) are not the saviors of any community
- Instead, build one-to-one relationships, over time learn their pain and problems
  - Example given: do you want to be more active in a community? Find events in that community and attend, but don’t go handing out League cards at the first event – meet people, share community, and introduce the League at the 2nd or 3rd event you attend
  - This allows you to 1) learn about the community instead of thinking you already know what the League could do to “help” 2) build a relationship more naturally and from a place of trust
- One particular speaker, in reference to communities of color, said “Don’t be another white person who just shows up right before an election”

Handouts:
- Session handouts

LWVUS Resources:
- Definitions of DEI
- Continued learning/enrichment on own
- Chris Carson included this link in a recent League Update email

NJ Delegates in Attendance:
ALL

Advocacy Around the League
Presenter/Contact:
Celina Stuart, Director of Advocacy and Litigation; cstuart@lwv.org
Judy Karandjeff, Past President Planned Parenthood and President of Michigan’s LWV; jkarandjeff44@aol.com
Kary L. Moss, Executive Director of ACLU Michigan
LWV South Carolina representative
Jackie Coolidge, LWVUS National Lobby Corps

Key Points:
- LWVUS will help with engagement letters, e.g. MOU (memorandum of understanding) having
to do with litigation or collaboration, or where work may be amplified on national level

- Ms. Karandjeff discussed ways to advocate; Michigan is doing them all at once: emails; initiating, supporting and opposing legislation or initiatives; giving testimony; writing letters; filing lawsuits
  - One person has trained others how to track legislation online
  - Similar to LWVNJ, board receives a request to support then votes whether to take position
  - Michigan participates in coalitions; legislation to stop gerrymandering and protect voting rights
  - They also have pro bono attorneys assisting them

- Ms. Moss reported that it will cost about $10 million to amend the Constitution to protect the right to secret ballots
  - ACLU MI works on/promotes: ensuring overseas military personnel and others get ballots on time; automatically registering citizens to vote; permitting citizens to vote by mail up to 15 days prior to election; abolishing straight party line voting; allowing citizens to register to vote in person through Election Day; permitting no-reason absentee voting, audits election results to ensure integrity of voting.
  - Legislators don’t have great response rate to letters; you have to make it something people care about.

- South Carolina LWV does a lot of training and has local people who are advocates
  - Write action alerts that are clear – what does the person need to do and what should they say
  - LWVSC is the only group fighting for voting rights and redistricting in SC in a nonpartisan way

- Ms. Coolidge says Lobby Corps members have specific states assigned to them and have a standard package related to Making Democracy Work
  - They can go to Congress and discuss this with members if there isn’t a hot button issue
  - Focus is on swing votes
  - Currently bills are going to floor on short notice; LWV scrambles to find advocates to get to Hill
  - Lobby Corps works with other orgs
  - Being with the League Lobby Corps is not enough, bringing constituents to MOC meetings is important.

**LWVUS BUDGET Q&A**

**Presenter/Contact:**
Tom Wells
Budget Chair

**Key Points:**
- LWVUS reports the US and Education Fund financials are very strong. As compared to a 2016 Convention-approved ($448K) budgeted operating deficit, it is projected that the biennium will
end with an operating surplus of nearly +$3M for LWVUS/EF combined.

- **Revenue**
  - Individual contributions are at a record high
  - Received some large planned gifts

- **Expenses**
  - Largest expense is fundraising; Direct marketing campaigns are expensive.
  - Budget includes funding for the Transformation. Mostly funded by grants

- PMP rate will not increase.

Summary – Investing in the future of the organization

**Handouts:**

- Budget report PowerPoint presented onsite (please contact a NJ delegate to request a copy as this is not a publicly-circulated document)
- 2018-2020 LWVUS and LWVEF budgets presented and approved onsite

**LWVUS Resources:**

NONE

**NJ Delegates in Attendance:**

Ellen Kemp
Susan Sferas

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**Gun Safety**

**Presenter/Contact:**

LWVFL

**Key Points:**

The focus was on school shootings. The caucus focused on current regarding state gun laws and how best to make a difference in the states at preventing gun violence. The local league presenting urged all other leagues to form a gun safety committee to study up on this issue, and work to advocate for a revived assault weapon ban by writing and calling their representatives. Also consider partnering with/recruiting young people to work on this issue.

**Handouts:**

NONE

**LWVUS Resources:**

NONE

**NJ Delegates in Attendance:**

Anne Burton Walsh

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**Immigration Sharing Session**

**Presenter/Contact:**

LWVIL

Kim Hesterman Reed
LWVIL Immigration Issues Specialist
kimreed178@gmail.com

**Key Points:**

- Session opened with a brief update on DACA status from a member of Senator Dick Durbin’s staff. Sen. Durbin was an original proposer of the “Dream Act”. The expectation at this point is that nothing will happen legislatively until after mid-term elections.
- Discussed action taken and concerns at the state and local level
- Action
  - Meet at educational gatherings to inform/involve students
  - Citizen watchers for ICE raids
  - Educate ourselves
  - Provide multilingual volunteers
  - Work with other groups
  - Keep pressure on legislature
- Provide voting information in multiple languages
- Visit, provide support at detention centers
- Concerns
  - How to get people to open door to census takers, when they’re afraid it may be ICE
  - Military bases as detention centers
  - Removal of veterans
  - Local police working with ICE

**Handouts:**
NONE – there is a League Immigration Google Group. Contact Linda Wassenich (LindaVote@gmail.com) LWV-Dallas to be added to group.

**LWVUS Resources:**
NONE

**NJ Delegates in Attendance:**
Dawn Clarke
Ellen Kemp

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### Promoting Effective Action on Carbon Pricing

**Presenter/Contact:**
LWVCA, LWVMA, LWV Evanston, IL, LWV Lake Michigan Region, LWVOR

**Key Points:**
The resolution presented and explained in this caucus passed (see below): LWV takes no position on how the generated funds would be used. Various leagues have a carbon network that supports tax/fee or cap & trade because the market is the most efficient way to combat climate change. The caucus suggested partnering with other organizations to evaluate proposed legislation to ensure 80% reduction of carbon emissions by 2050.

**Handouts:**
- Session handout
- [www.priceoncarbon.org](http://www.priceoncarbon.org)
- Resolution passed at Convention

**LWVUS Resources:**
- [Climate Action Toolkit](http://www.priceoncarbon.org)

**NJ Delegates in Attendance:**
Pam Perron

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### Climate Change Lawsuit: Leagues' Amici and Positions in Support of the Kids in Climate Change Lawsuit

**Presenter/Contact:**
LWV Corvallis, OR, LWVOR

**Key Points:**
In 2015, twenty-one youth plaintiffs filed a lawsuit against the US Government in Oregon’s US District Court. The premise of the suit is that, through the government's affirmative actions that cause climate change, it has violated the youngest generation’s constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property, as well as failed to protect essential public trust resources. The Government argued that it is not the role of the Court, but of the Legislative and Executive branches to set climate change policy. The LWVUS and LWVOR filed an amicus brief in support of the plaintiffs stating that Youth Plaintiffs will have lost the constitutionally protected right to preserve their liberties since, by the time they are able to participate in the political process to preserve their rights, the stable climate system on which their rights depend will have already sustained irreparable damage. In her decision to send the case to trial, Judge Aiken quoted from the League’s statement. It is now scheduled for October 2018. This landmark case shows the unique contributions of the LWVUS/LWVOR amicus briefs and positions for League advocacy on climate change.

**Handouts:**
- Amici brief final

**LWVUS Resources:**
Climate Action Toolkit

NJ Delegates in Attendance:
Nancy Hedinger
Ellen Kemp

Working at the UN

Presenter/Contact:
LWVUS

Key Points:
See handout

Handouts:
- Live stream/recording
- PowerPoint from session

LWVUS Resources:
NONE

NJ Delegates in Attendance:
Jennifer Howard

Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds Threatened

Presenter/Contact:
LWV Greater Peoria, IL

Key Points:
Peoria, Illinois LWV presented a power point lecture on a riverfront park that they were able to create & protect from developers by using funds they got from the FLWC, which is administered by the National Park Service. Congress has inadequately funded the FLWC, however, and is threatened under the current administration. They urged us to write to our federal representatives to authorize full funding of the FLWC.

Handouts:

NJ Delegates in Attendance:
Pam Perron

Open Primaries: Is This a More Democratic Way to Select Candidates for Public Office?

Presenter/Contact:
LWV of Florida

Key Points:
LWV Florida, one of nine states with closed primaries, presented the results of their study about whether open primaries increase voter turnout. The study results were inconclusive, so they are calling for further study. One thing was clear which is that the major parties support closed primaries as open primaries weaken their influence. They argue that open primaries are conducive to “strategic voting” (making it easier for members of an opposing party to vote for the weaker candidate of the other party).

California and Oregon representatives presented as well. California concluded that open primaries have no demonstrable effect on voter turnout in primary elections; there are so many other variables. Oregon - which already has high voter participation (80% on average in general elections) - concluded the opposite, that open primaries increased turnout. Primary turnout in Oregon is over 50%.

Handouts:
NONE

LWVUS Resources:
NONE

NJ Delegates in Attendance:
Anne Burton Walsh
Guidelines for New League Formation

Executive Summary: As interest in the organization grows, it is beneficial to streamline our process for starting new local Leagues.

Background: Both LWVUS and LWVNJ have been working together and separately to grow the organization by introducing a more flexible organizational structure. This work has looked different in every state, depending on capacity. In New Jersey, we have been able to absorb more of the administrative burden on new Leagues, making it easier to bring on new chapters. LWVUS has already adopted policies which allow for the new model.

Currently, local Leagues spend a disproportionate amount of time and resources maintaining the local League structure. A more flexible model for new Leagues (and any already established Leagues that wish to adopt it) would allow local League leadership to bring a sharper focus to advocacy and education, voters service, volunteer recruitment and retention, and community impact.

The critical change accomplished by the new model is to bring local Leagues under the umbrella of the state League.

Characteristics and criteria of the new model:
1. Leadership group, consisting of a chairperson and at least 2 other members (suggest co-chair/voters service chair/advocacy chair).
2. Adherence to the Nonpartisan Policy for newly formed Leagues.
3. Adherence to all League position, policies, and procedures.
4. The League of Women Voters of New Jersey (state League) will maintain membership roster, collect and retain membership dues, and send out membership renewal notices.
5. The League of Women Voters of New Jersey will pay PMP to LWVUS for members. No PMP would be due to LWVNJ. See membership arrangement.
6. The League of Women Voters of New Jersey will maintain funds (including $5 set aside for each member) for local League and ensure best accounting practices. See accounting..
7. There is no requirement for incorporation or local League bylaws.
8. All newly formed local Leagues must work with LWVNJ prior to applying for recognition from LWVUS. LWVNJ will grant permission to transition to a newly formed League.

Accounting:

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey will hold funds for newly formed Leagues and properly account for those funds in our records. In addition to any funds sent from the League, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey will also set aside $5 per member from dues for newly formed Leagues.
When a local League wishes to use their funds they will work with the state office to request the funds to ensure best accounting practices are followed (receipts, reimbursements, etc.). The state office will either pay the vendor directly using the local League’s funds or will reimburse the member for money spent. Local Leagues can solicit tax deductible donations for programs under the League of Women Voters of New Jersey Education Fund with permission and arrangement with the state.

Membership: The League of Women Voters of New Jersey will maintain the membership roster for newly formed Leagues. The League of Women Voters of New Jersey will collect and hold membership dues, send out renewal notices, and pay PMP owed to LWVUS. No PMP would be owed to LWVNJ (because newly formed Leagues’ members would fall under the League of Women Voters of New Jersey).

Already Established Leagues

If any already established Leagues are interested in converting to this structure to reduce administrative burdens and would like to discuss your particular situation further, please contact Jesse Burns at jburns@lwvnj.org.
We are continuing to lay the foundation for our statewide redistricting reform campaign, Fair Districts New Jersey (www.fairdistrictsnj.org). Fair Districts New Jersey aims to establish an independent citizen-led redistricting commission and increase transparency around the legislative redistricting process. So far, volunteers have worked to research coalition partners, analyze other states’ reform movements in order to identify best practices, set up Fair Districts public forums across the state, and draft letters to their local papers. Our first Fair Districts Letter to the Editor, written by Burlington County League President Karen Hendershot, was published in the Burlington County Times on June 29th https://bit.ly/2KcTcu8. League Program Associate Helen Kioukis has worked with staff at the Brennan Center for Justice and the Princeton Gerrymandering Project to draft language for an amendment to the New Jersey State Constitution that would ensure district lines are drawn in a way that is transparent and fair, and we are currently setting up meetings with potential legislative sponsors in the Senate and Assembly. If your local League is interested in organizing a Fair Districts public forum, or if you’d like to schedule a presentation for your next monthly meeting, please reach out to Helen at hkioukis@lwvnj.org.
Voter Registration Drives

Publicizing Voter Registration Drives

We want to share your drives with your community! Please send your list of planned voter registration drives to Pat Thompson at contact@lwvnj.org. We will advertise them through our network.

Request Materials for Your Drives

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey has Vote411 postcards, Don’t Forget to Vote postcards, and choosing a candidate brochures for your voter registration drives. To request materials, please email Pat at contact@lwvnj.org. You can also purchase Citizen’s Guides to hand out at your drives for the discounted rate of $1 each.

National Voter Registration Day 2018

National Voter Registration Day is Tuesday, September 25! Sign up your League as a partner in this celebration of democracy. Join thousands of organizations, elected officials, celebrities, and other partners—including hundreds of participating state and local Leagues—by signing up today to host a voter registration drive! The League has been the single largest on-the-ground partner for NVRD since 2012. Let’s keep up the trend! If your League is participating in National Voter Registration Day, if you participate in National Voter Registration Day, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey will give you 50 Citizen’s Guides free of charge to hand out at this drive. Please let Pat know you plan on participating and request your Guides at contact@lwvnj.org.

Keep Records

Develop a simple system for your volunteers to document the number of registrations they take: new registrations, name change, address change, and political party affiliation. Also document the number of registration forms and vote-by-mail forms that are given out. This information is needed to document and evaluate your success. Report out here: https://goo.gl/forms/9osIkuS1FE5I4VEE2. Please access and complete the form after each event. It is a very short form and will not take much time.
Candidate Forums

1. Demand for trained moderators is high! If your League is interested in hosting a moderator training, please contact Pat Thompson at contact@lwvnj.org. We provide the materials and the trainer, but we ask the local League host to provide the venue and some light refreshments.

2. Coordinating with other Leagues: It is absolutely crucial that Leagues that share voting districts coordinate their debate efforts (particularly in congressional races). When candidates receive more than one debate invitation from the League of Women Voters, we are competing against ourselves! It is much more effective to have multiple Leagues sponsor the same debate and to work together to ensure it is successful!

VOTE411.org

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey has purchased VOTE411 for the entire state. It is our goal to cover as many races around the state as possible so we need every local League to seriously consider participating in Vote411 to cover your local races (the state office does congressional races) as well as volunteers interested in covering races where we do not have a local League or the local League is not participating. If you are interested in volunteering or if your local League will cover races in your area, please contact Jesse Burns at jburns@lwvnj.org.
IN MEMORIUM

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of the following members, leaders, and loved ones:

Jean Clark – Montclair Area
Rupert Crawford – Plainfield
Mariah Hasker – Morristown Area
Mildred Kass – Maplewood – South Orange
Estelle Padawer – Northern Valley
Harriet Jean Shelby – Maplewood- South Orange
Carol Starr – Montclair Area
Connie Stroh – Morristown Area
Carrolyn Williams – Montclair Area
Doris Younger – Maplewood-South Orange

We offer our deepest sympathies and condolences to their families, friends and all who were fortunate enough to have known them.

We have made all attempts to ensure this list is as complete as possible for deaths that we have been informed of since the May 2018 SBR. However, we apologize if your loved one is missing and we ask that you notify the state office at contact@lwvnj.org. We will include his or her name in the future. If you wish to make a memorial donation, please include the name of the person you are honoring on the memo line of the check and mail to 204 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608. We will notify the family of your generous gift.