



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF NEW JERSEY

STATE BOARD REPORT

September 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- President's Letter
- State Board Contact List and Liaison List
- Board Meeting: Key Decisions
- LWVNJ Calendar
- Voters Service
- LWVNJ Convention
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
- In the News
- In Memoriam

204 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608
609-394-3303 * 800-792-VOTE * Fax: 609-599-3993
Email: contact@lwvnj.org Web site: www.lwvnj.org

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/LWVNJ
Follow us on Twitter @LWVNJ

Dear Local League Presidents and Leaders,

In a Pew Research Study of U.S. adults conducted earlier this year, 74% of respondents ranked election participation as a very important determination of good citizenship – **above** paying taxes and following the law! So why have we been experiencing historic lows in voter turnout? We know there are many reasons cited, including: issues with registrations; voter apathy; lack of education about the candidates, issues and the process; a feeling that elected officials don't represent constituent interests; disenfranchisement of people convicted of crimes; and frustration with limited choices.

That's why the work of the League- that mighty experiment of 1920 - is still relevant and critical to our democracy and why so many of you are beyond busy registering voters, holding candidates' forums, participating in Vote411.org, and providing educational programs this election season. Because, the League of Women Votes envisions a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate!

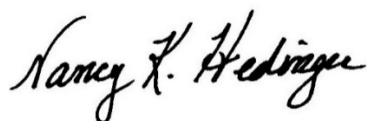
Speaking of this busy season, don't forget to let Pat (Thompson@lwvnj.org) know when you are holding registration drives, candidates forums and local programs so she can add your events to the calendar on our LWVNJ.org web site. We have many supporters and members at large who may want to attend or volunteer for one of your events. Help us help you spread the word about the good work you are doing.

Please consider joining our Voters Service Committee or recommending it to your voters service chair. Their thoughtful responses to our recent voters service survey, reminds us that we need to update our materials to respond to some of the questions and issues raised. Our voters service committee will be instrumental in this process. Information about the committee can be found on the voters service page of this SBR.

Finally, we thank all who participated in our call for presidents and leaders on September 5th. We were thrilled with the number of Leagues represented and hope you will mark your calendars for our next call on December 5th at 7 pm. If you are not able to make the calls at the scheduled time, ask another leader from your League to participate in your place.

Good luck with your League's voter registration drives, candidates' forums and get out the vote efforts. And thank you for all you do to empower voters and defend democracy!

In League,



STATE BOARD
2017 – 2019

Nancy Hedinger, President hedingern@gmail.com	Kathy Abbott, Director abbottkmr@gmail.com
Dawn Clarke, VP, Voters Service clarkeda@comcast.net	Brendan Keating, Director blkleague@gmail.com
Ed Gracely, VP, Program edgracely@verizon.net	Uyen “Winn” Khuong, Director atniwinn@gmail.com
Susan Sferas, VP, Development suesfer@aol.com	Timothy Priano, Director timothy@abtp.com
Ann Saunders, VP, Governance Saunders12@verizon.net	Katharine Schumacher, Director katherineanne@gmail.com
Ellen Kemp, Treasurer ellenkemp@gmail.com	Melissa Scott, Director mebscott@comcast.net
Jill Lewis-Spector, Secretary JLewisprof1@yahoo.com	Terry Thompson, Director Ta-thompson@hotmail.com

Off-Board

Lena Smith, Strategic Advisor: smith.madeleineruth@gmail.com

Sandra Matsen, Budget Committee (and Lobbyist): smatsen@aol.com

Marlene Sincaglia, Nominating Committee (chair): jcsmmm@verizon.net

Michelle Bobrow, Nominating Committee: m.bobrow@verizon.net

Eileen Gallagher, Nominating Committee: eileengallagher99@gmail.com

**BOARD LIAISONS TO LOCAL LEAGUES
2017 – 2019**

<p>Nancy Hedinger</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glen Rock • Mt. Lakes • Ridgewood • Montville 	<p>Susan Sferas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camden County • Princeton Area • Ocean County
<p>Dawn Clarke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutley • Wayne • Hillside • Livingston 	<p>Ann Saunders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cape May • Sussex Highlands • Pompton Lakes
<p>Ed Gracely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burlington • Greater Red Bank Area • Atlantic County 	<p>Ellen Kemp</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maplewood – South Orange • Monroe Twp. • Lawrence Twp
<p>Kathy Abbott</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hudson County • Montclair • Union 	<p>Melissa Scott</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hopewell Valley • East Windsor-Hightstown • Somerset County
<p>Brendan Keating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair Lawn • Newark • Morristown 	<p>Terry Thompson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Berkeley Heights - New Providence – Summit (BHNPS) • Teaneck • Northern Valley
<p>Jill Lewis-Spector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Township of Ocean • Western Monmouth • Plainfield 	

Meeting held: Saturday, September 8, 2018

League of Women Voters of New Jersey:

1. Approved amendments to FY 2019 budget.
2. Approved review of Local League IRS status and recommendations for new Leagues.
3. Approved motion to retain the auditor for a review of the FY 2017-2018.

League of Women Voters of New Jersey Education Fund:

1. Approved Education Ballot Question analysis.
2. Approved motion to retain the auditor for a review of FY 2017-2018.
3. Approved amendments to FY 2019 budget as approved by delegates at Convention, April 19, 2017.

2018

September

- September 25 – National Voter Registration Day

October

- October 6 – [South Jersey Regional Training](#)
- 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**

Voters Service

IMPORTANT: New Rules for Vote by Mail Ballots Effective Immediately

There have been significant changes to vote by mail procedures that impact the work your volunteers are doing right now. No League should continue distributing vote by mail applications or doing voter registration without learning the [new procedures available here](#). If you have any questions at all, please contact Jesse Burns at jburns@lwvnj.org.

Voters Service Survey

We are looking to better serve our local Leagues, but we need your feedback. If you are a current or previous voters service chair, or you are a voters service volunteer for your local League please fill out this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F78CH9Z>

Statewide Voters Service Committee

We are recruiting volunteers to serve on our statewide voters service committee. This is a group of members and supporters committed to growing their knowledge and expertise regarding League of Women Voters of New Jersey voters service policies, procedures, and best practices. Its major role is to make recommendations regarding voters service to the League of Women Voters of New Jersey Board of Directors.

Working closely and under the direction of the LWVNJ staff, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey Voters Service Committee:

1. Periodically reviews all statewide voters service materials, policies, procedures, and guidance to ensure it is up to date, accurate, in line with LWVUS materials, and sets clear guidelines for local Leagues to follow regarding their voters service activities.
2. Brings recommendations for changes to policies, procedures, best practices, etc to the League of Women Voters of New Jersey Board of Directors.
3. Recruits new committee members.
4. Serves as a resource and creates materials and guidance for local League voters service questions.
5. Helps raise the visibility of the League's voters service activities, and coordinate and track voters service activities across all levels of the organization.

If you are interested in serving, please email Jesse Burns at jburns@lwvnj.org.

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.

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/9oslkuS1FE5l4VEE2>. 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!

League of Women Voters of New Jersey Convention

Save the date for Saturday, May 4, 2019 for the League of Women Voters of New Jersey Convention. Also be sure to set aside the evening of Friday, May 3, 2019 for our Making Democracy Work Awards Cocktail Reception. More information about the location is coming soon.

Call for Award Nominations: Award nominations are now open! Nominate your local League to receive an award at Convention. We want to celebrate your great work. Nominations are due back February 4, 2019. Learn about the award categories here: http://lwvnj.org/images/convention/2019-0506_LLs-AwardInfo.pdf

Call for Board Nominations: The League of Women Voters of New Jersey is looking for nominations to the state board! We are looking for members who value equality, civil discourse, and community engagement. Board members are responsible for providing direction and oversight of LWVNJ by effectively planning, prioritizing, and securing resources to pursue and fulfill the League's mission. If you have knowledge of or interest in fundraising, public relations, human resources, or other skills you think are helpful in guiding a statewide organization, you can use this form to nominate yourself or someone else: <https://goo.gl/forms/n1KZTQ3Emo9suVFi2>
Nominations are due back to us by February 4, 2019.

Program Planning: In the next couple of weeks you will receive your Program Planning materials. Program Planning responses are due back February 4, 2019 so please get it on your local League calendars now.

Upcoming Webinar

When: Tuesday, October 30, 2:00PM - 3:30PM ET

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6304674833382783491>

This session will put DEI principles into action to increase the League's social impact work in communities across the nation. During this webinar, you will learn about State and Local Leagues' activities that are expanding their reach into more diverse communities. Speakers will discuss the ways individual leaders are overcoming discomfort with communicating across dimensions of difference. This session builds on content offered at the June LWV Convention in Chicago that covered communicating across dimensions of difference through active listening, asking powerful questions, and noticing and mitigating bias.

We encourage your participation in this webinar as a specific League activity in order to share collective ideas and strategies that would be helpful in the near term and in advance of the election cycle. We invite all League members to participate individually or in teams. It is not necessary to have attended the Chicago training to participate in this webinar.

The discussion will be facilitated by Diversity Dimensions Consulting, LLC—a Washington, D.C. based company that provides effective solutions to individuals and organizations seeking to harness the power of diversity and inclusion. Diversity Dimensions focuses on the intersection of culture, identity, and traditional leadership competencies and customizes strategic solutions to ensure business and career success.

As a reminder, 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](#).

In the News

[Independent Citizens, Not Partisan Politicians, Must Tackle Redistricting NJ to spend 10 million on election security – a ‘drop in the bucket’](#)

[League Executive Director talks elections on News 12 Power & Politics](#)

[League of Women Voters sponsors essay/video contest](#)

[League of Women Voters alerts public of important mail-in ballot changes](#)

[League of Women Voters mobilize for Fair Districts](#)

IN MEMORIAM

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

*J Millicent Cleveland – League of Women Voters of New Jersey
Donald Johnson – League of Women Voters of BHNPS*

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 August 2018 SBR. However, we apologize if your loved one is missing and we ask that you notify the state office at contact@lwnj.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.