

LWVNEW OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

VOTER SERVICE

VOTER REGISTRATION

Friday October 9th is the deadline to register in time for November's general election. Registrations must be postmarked by the 9th or dropped off in person at the Board of Elections (25 Quarropas St, White Plains) by the end of business on the 9th. Pretty sure you're registered but want to confirm? We recommend checking your voter registration status: www.Vote411.org

Download a voter registration form:

English:

<https://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com/images/stories/pdfs/voterregeng.pdf>

Spanish:

<https://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com/images/stories/pdfs/voterregspan.pdf>

LWVNEW registered voters at four local libraries on National Voter Registration Day, Tuesday, September 22. Read more about it on page six of this newsletter.

VOTING

THERE ARE 3 WAYS TO VOTE THIS YEAR

Get ready: Lots of detailed information ahead!

1. VOTE REMOTE: ABSENTEE BALLOT

All registered voters in New York now have the option of voting via absentee ballot due to the pandemic. Absentee applications (*applications*, not ballots) must be postmarked no later than **Tues., Oct. 27**.

**From the NYS Board of Elections: "Please be warned that despite this deadline, the*

Post Office has advised they cannot guarantee timely delivery of ballots applied for less than 15 days before an election."

 **Translation: Apply ASAP!**

Download an absentee ballot application:
><https://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/download/voting/AbsenteeBallot-English.pdf>
><https://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/download/voting/AbsenteeBallot-Spanish.pdf>

You can now request an absentee ballot *online* at the NYS BOE's new portal:

<https://absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov/>

Once you receive your absentee ballot, fill it out carefully and return it. The postmark deadline is Election Day, **Tues Nov 3rd**.

Additionally, completed absentee ballots can be dropped off at:

- > Westchester Board of Elections
25 Quarropas St, White Plains
- > Any Early Voting poll site Oct 24-Nov 1
 - This is during Early Voting hours only. (See 2. *EARLY VOTING* in this newsletter for the schedule and polling place locations.) The drop boxes are secure, will be taken back to WBOE at the close of every day, emptied, and returned the next day to the EV poll site.
 - A voter does not need to stand in line to submit an absentee ballot. They can walk up to the front, tell the election inspector they want to drop off their absentee ballot, then do so in the secure drop box.
- > Any polling place on Election Day, Nov 3

ALSO, ABSENTEE BALLOTS WILL NOW BE CURED! The New York State League has successfully settled its lawsuit to allow voters to address and correct issues with their absentee ballots. New York voters will also now be protected from having their ballots thrown out for small technical issues.

Under the League's settlement, voters will no longer have their ballot invalidated if they complete their ballot in non-black or blue ink, mark outside the designated areas, or seal the inner ballot envelope, also called an affirmation envelope, with tape or other sealing agent.

Voters will now also have the opportunity to correct issues with their affirmation signature and witness declaration including:

1. If the affirmation envelope is unsigned
2. If the affirmation ballot envelope signature does not match the voter's registration signature
3. If the affirmation envelope does not have the required witness signature for voters who had assistance completing their ballot
4. If the ballot is returned without an affirmation envelope in the return envelope
5. If the affirmation envelope is signed by the person that has provided assistance to the voter but is not signed or marked by the voter themselves
6. If the voter has failed to sign the affirmation envelope and someone else has signed the affirmation.

For the 2020 General Election, voters will be given five to seven days (depending on the date of receipt of the ballot) to verify their identity and fix any problems with their

ballot after being notified by the Board of Elections. The settlement specifies that Boards of Elections must contact voters by phone, email or mail. Voters can resolve any issues raised by the Board by returning a cure affirmation form and providing their name, date of birth, and voter registration address to affirm their identity.

These new changes are above and beyond the policy change that was passed by the legislature last month. With these additional protections, voters will not have to worry about their ballots being invalidated for small errors and will have the opportunity to ensure their ballot will not be rejected if there are issues with their signature.

One last thing about absentee voting: Requesting or receiving an absentee ballot **does not** preclude you from voting in person! Mailing in an absentee ballot **does not** preclude you from voting in person! New York's election laws allow for a registered voter to vote in person even if she or he has received an absentee ballot. Even if that absentee ballot has been mailed in. *If a person votes via absentee ballot and then votes in person, the absentee ballot will be discounted.*

2. EARLY VOTING

If you wish to vote in person, New York State will offer **Early Voting** from **Saturday, October 24 to Sunday, November 1.**

Early Voting Schedule:

Sat & Sun Oct 24 & 25: Noon to 5 pm
 Monday Oct 26: 8 am to 4 pm
 Tuesday Oct 27: Noon to 8 pm
 Wednesday Oct 28: 8 am to 4 pm
 Thursday Oct 29: Noon to 8 pm
 Friday Oct 30: 8 am to 4 pm
 Sat & Sun Oct 31 & Nov 1: Noon to 5 pm

Local Early Voting Polling Places:

Mt. Kisco Memorial Complex at Leonard Park, 1 Wallace Drive, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549
Pound Ridge Town House, 179 Westchester Avenue, Pound Ridge, NY 10576
Somers Town House, 335 Route 202, Somers, NY 10589

You may vote early at ANY of Westchester's 17 designated Early Voting polling places.

For a list of all Early Voting polling places: www.LWVNEW.org/elections-voting

3. VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

If you prefer to vote on Election Day, **Tuesday November 3rd**, polls will be open from 6 am to 9 pm.

Unlike Early Voting, you must vote at your designated polling place on Election Day.

Find your polling place here: www.Vote411.org

ANY QUESTIONS?

Any and all questions about voting can be answered by the folks at the **Westchester County Board of Elections**.

>Main 914-995-5700

>Absentee Ballots 914-995-5285

>Registrations 914-995-5713

<https://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com>

25 Quarropas St, White Plains NY 10601

Don't forget, our local **Town Clerks** are great resources, too:

> Bedford: 914-666-4534

> Lewisboro: 914-763-3511

> Mt Kisco (Village Manager): 914-864-0033

> North Salem: 914-669-5577

> Pound Ridge: 914-764-5549

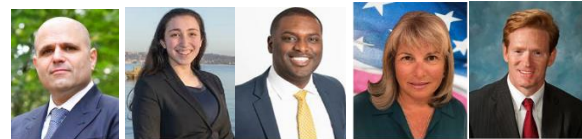
CANDIDATE FORUM SCHEDULE

All forums will be virtual due to the pandemic. The start time for each is 7 pm. Please aim to be on the video call a few minutes before that; the League hopes to begin promptly at 7:00.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 17

Tuesday, October 13 at 7pm

One of our towns, Mount Kisco, is in Congressional District 17. Josh Eisen (ECL), Yehudis Gottesfeld (C), Mondaire Jones (D, WF), Maureen McArdle Schulman (R), and Michael Parietti (SAM) are vying for this seat in Congress, which is currently held by Nita Lowey. The White Plains and New Castle Leagues are co-sponsoring.



To register, go to

<http://bit.ly/LWVCFCD17Zoom>

If you reside in CD17, you may submit a question in advance at

<http://bit.ly/LWVCFCD17Ques>

For more info: lwww.cf@gmail.com

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 18

Cancelled

LWVNEW was set to host the forum for U.S. Congressional District 18, which includes 4 of our 5 towns. If you live in Bedford, Lewisboro, North Salem or Pound Ridge, you live in CD18, currently represented by Sean Patrick Maloney (D). He is being challenged by Chele Farley (R) and Scott Smith (L). Mr. Maloney could not make the date work and Ms. Farley would not participate without the incumbent. (Mr. Smith was willing to participate.)

From the joint LWVNEW/LWV Putnam County statement on 9/28: *Three weeks*

ago, the League of Women Voters of Westchester and the Leagues of Women Voters of Putnam and Orange Counties invited the three candidates running for the U.S. House of Representatives New York Congressional District 18 to participate in a virtual Candidates Forum.

Today we are announcing that the League of Women Voters is canceling the Forum. We are forced to take this action because the Democratic candidate did not accept the League's invitation to participate.

The Democratic incumbent, Sean Patrick Maloney, did not reply to any of the several email, phone, or Facebook invitations from the League until 3 days ago, when a representative formally declined the League's invitation. The Republican candidate, Chele Farley, was unwilling to participate in a forum that did not include the incumbent. The third-party candidate, Sam Smith, was willing to participate in either a three- or two-person forum.

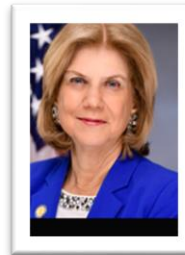
Eileen Nadelson, President of the League of Women Voters of North East Westchester (LWVNEW), said "During these days when the residents of CD 18 have so few options to hear directly from candidates and to address their own questions to them, we find this development disappointing. The League strives to run the Forums in a respectful, non-partisan environment that encourages civil discourse. We find it troubling that any candidate would not want to take this opportunity to communicate with the people they are seeking to represent."

The League urges the residents of CD 18 to communicate with these candidates via social media and email to express their desire for full participation in the League's Forum.

NYS SENATE DISTRICT 37

Monday, October 19 at 7pm

The town of Bedford is the only one of our five towns that lies within SD37. It is currently represented by Shelley Mayer (D, WF); her challenger is Liviu Saimovici (R, C). This forum is being put on by LWV White Plains and LWVNEW is co-sponsoring.



Mayer



Saimovici

To register, go to

<http://bit.ly/LWVCFSD37Zoom>

If you reside in SD37, you may submit a question in advance at

<http://bit.ly/LWVCFSD37Ques>

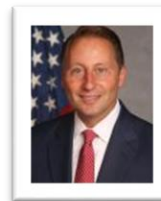
For more info:

lwwp.candidatesforum@gmail.com

NYS SENATE DISTRICT 40

Wednesday, October 21 at 7 pm

Lewisboro, North Salem, Mount Kisco and Pound Ridge are in SD40, which is currently represented by Peter Harckham (D, I, WF). He is being challenged by Rob Astorino (R, C, ROS). This forum is being put on by LWV New Castle and LWVNEW is co-sponsoring.



Astorino



Harckham

To register, go to

<http://bit.ly/LWVCFSD40Zoom>

If you reside in SD40, you may submit a question in advance at

<http://bit.ly/LWVCFSD40Ques>

For more info:

lww.newcastle.president@gmail.com

NYS STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 93

Cancelled

The LWV of New Castle has cancelled its plans for a forum, after Republican candidate John Nuculovic failed to respond to any of the League's invitations.

Chris Burdick (D, I, WF) and John Nuculovic (R, C) are running for this seat, which is currently held by David Buchwald.

This impacts you directly, as all five of our towns fall within this district.

You can read LWV New Castle's statement here: www.lwwnewcastle.org.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY D.A.

The Westchester County League has cancelled its plans for a forum, since Bruce Bendish (R) has withdrawn from the race. His name will still appear on the ballot alongside opponent Mimi Rocah (D, WF).

As you can see, candidate forums are sometimes scheduled and then cancelled.

We recommend periodic checks of the *Events* page on our website, www.LWVNEW.org/events-1.

FALL 2020 VOTING WORKSHOPS FROM LWV WESTCHESTER

The League of Women Voters of Westchester, in collaboration with the Westchester Library System, has been offering virtual public workshops on how to select which one of three ways of voting is best for you. There are one or two dates remaining. Consult the list below and

contact the host library website directly to register for *Prepare to Vote 2020: 3 Ways to Vote*, and you will then receive a Zoom meeting link.

List of libraries and remaining dates here: http://lwww.org/files/Fall_2020_Voting_Workshops.pdf

WORKSHOPS FOR DISABLED VOTERS

LWV New York State has partnered with Disability Rights New York to host a virtual webinar to explore how you can vote safely in the upcoming General Election.

There are four virtual presentations:

Wednesday, September 30 @ 11AM

<https://zoom.us/j/93899360970>

Thursday, October 8 @ 6:30 PM

<https://zoom.us/j/93979457378>

Tuesday, October 13 @ 1PM

<https://zoom.us/j/97621225258>

Friday, October 23 @ 10AM

<https://zoom.us/j/96409985919>

VOTE411.ORG

To find out who & what will be on your ballot, enter your address at www.Vote411.org.



STAYING INFORMED

OUR WEBSITE

Our *Elections & Voting* page is FULL of updated information and links:

www.LWVNEW.org/elections-voting

And for the latest on virtual candidate forums and other programs, go to:

www.LWVNEW.org/events-1


LWVNY'S TEXT MESSAGING SERVICE

So easy to sign up! important info and updates are sent directly to your phone.

**Stay Up to Date on Voting Changes
Related to COVID-19 in NY**

**Text VoteNY to
474747**

Text VoteNY to 474747 to receive updates from the League of Women Voters of NYS and stay in the know on all things voting in 2020.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Like, follow, lurk: a reminder that LWVNEW is on Facebook and Twitter. Check us out!

Facebook: League of Women Voters of North East Westchester

Twitter: www.twitter.com/LWVNEW

OTHER

WINNING THE VOTE, THEN AND NOW

Winning the Vote, Then and Now with historian Sandra Opdycke was held on September 22. Logging in to watch a virtual program live is the ideal way to do it (in this case, participants could ask the historian questions), but watching after the fact is the next best thing.

You can find *Winning the Vote* on our website: www.LWVNEW.org/events-1.

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

Many people in our area are already registered to vote. That being said, we ended up collecting 34 voter registration

forms and 7 absentee ballot applications; these completed forms were taken down to the Board of Elections in White Plains. We also fielded questions and supplied information about Early Voting. Some people took forms home with them. Many thanks to the Katonah Village, Lewisboro, Mount Kisco, and Somers libraries for allowing us to camp outside. A *huge* thank-you to all the volunteers, including our Voter Service Chair, Katherine Dering, who was interviewed on-site in Mount Kisco and appeared on News 12 Westchester several times that day. And a BIG thank-you to our Registration Jedi Master (unofficial title!) Allison Chernow, whose enthusiasm and organization made it all possible.

News 12 clip:

http://westchester.news12.com/sign-up-to-vote-on-national-voter-registration-day?fbclid=IwAR1K-iaFRayd6qB_6l6GLuT4cn_KO6sJ8AaOjrsNtq_OyDNYjhM_KpmolZw

FUNDING FOR 2020 ELECTION

The LWV of New York State called for increased funding to conduct the 2020 elections, signing a joint letter to Governor Cuomo that urges him to make funds available for the State Board of Elections. The BOE estimates that at least \$50 million will be needed to adequately prepare for an anticipated eightfold increase in voter turnout in November.

<https://reinventalbany.org/2020/09/groups-urge-governor-to-provide-emergency-boe-funding/>

CENSUS 2020

If you have not already done so, complete the 2020 Census: www.2020Census.gov

LWVNEW

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LWVUS

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Facebook: League of Women Voters of the U.S.

LWVNY

Website: www.lwvny.org Twitter: @LWVNY

Facebook: League of Women Voters of NYS

LWV Westchester

Website: www.lwvw.org

Email: WestchesterLWV@gmail.com

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Our Voting Districts

Bedford

US Congressional: 18 (currently Maloney-D)

State Senate: 37 (currently Mayer-D)

State Assembly: 93 (currently Buchwald-D)

County Legislative: 2 (currently Covill-D)

Lewisboro

US Congressional: 18 (currently Maloney-D)

State Senate: 40 (currently Harckham-D)

State Assembly: 93 (currently Buchwald-D)

County Legislative: 2 (currently Covill-D)

Mount Kisco

US Congressional: 17 (currently Lowey-D)

State Senate: 40 (currently Harckham-D)

State Assembly: 93 (currently Buchwald-D)

County Legislative: 2 (currently Covill-D)

North Salem

US Congressional: 18 (currently Maloney-D)

State Senate: 40 (currently Harckham-D)

State Assembly: 93 (currently Buchwald-D)

County Legislative: 2 (currently Covill-D)

Pound Ridge

US Congressional: 18 (currently Maloney-D)

State Senate: 40 (currently Harckham-D)

State Assembly: 93 (currently Buchwald-D)

County Legislative: 2 (currently Covill-D)


 Find us on
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*at League of Women Voters of North
East Westchester*
follow us on

at LWVNEW