



HEADLINES

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WHITE PLAINS

July 2017

President, Stephen Cohen
www.lwwvp.org



Editor & Designer,
Libby Hollahan

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From the national League of Women Voters website:

LWV Statement on Kobach Request for Voter Records

06/30/2017 | by Caitlin Rulien

League Opposes Kobach Request for Voter Records

WASHINGTON, DC- The request for voter records confirms fears of Kris Kobach continuing his tactics of voter suppression and the genesis of the Elections Integrity Commission in general. The League of Women Voters president, **Chris Carson** released this statement on the issue:

“There is no justification for this giant fishing expedition. The Commission itself is a distraction from the real issue of voter suppression, and that efforts to ‘investigate voter fraud’ threaten our most fundamental voting rights.

“This most recent move by Mr. Kobach is an indicator that the so-called Election ‘Integrity’ Commission is not interested in facts, but false accusations and dangerous policy recommendations.

“State laws govern the release of voter registration information, and, at a minimum, election officials must follow those laws before releasing data. The League stands with those state leaders who have already come out to support their voters and refuse these requests from Mr. Kobach and the EIC.”

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President's Message

July 2017

I write this on a warm, sunny Independence Day. It is peaceful. Chatter and laughter rises from my neighbor's yards as they relax with friends and family. I think of our nation's history and the struggles to promote and protect life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all. That struggle is ongoing both overseas by our armed forces and here at home. It is a battle waged on many fronts. For the League of Women voters it includes the fight against efforts to curtail the right to vote and against those who would cast doubt on the legitimacy of our nation's elections. I am both disheartened and enraged that there are those in our country who for selfish self-serving reasons demean the great (and unprecedented) democracy that was launched 241 years ago today.



Your League of Women Voters of White Plains is strongly committed to protecting voter's rights and promoting an informed and engaged electorate. This past Spring LWVWP held our Vote 18 program; we sponsored a forum on the November ballot question about convening a NYS Constitutional Convention (<http://bit.ly/2tlPinZ>), and a forum on voter issues and voter reforms in New York State (<http://bit.ly/2smNgGD>).

This Fall LWVWP's efforts continue with our participation in National Voter Registration Day, Tuesday September 26th. Earlier in the month, on September 7th we will host a Forum for candidates running for Mayor and Common Council in the Democratic primary. Local elections are as important as our national elections. It is in your interest to come and learn where the candidates stand on the issues that impact your daily lives.

Speaking of milestones, November 6, 2017 marks the centennial of women achieving the right to vote in New York State elections. LWVWP is working with ArtsWestchester, the county arts organization, on an exhibition titled, *Give Us the Vote* that highlights this important anniversary and the ongoing struggle to protect voter's rights. Join us on November 6th as we host a celebration at the ArtsW gallery in downtown White Plains.

So as you can see, the League of Women Voters of White Plains (*your* League) continues to be a vital force in our community. I hope you will plan to participate in our activities and lend your voice and support to the League's vital mission.

**In League,
Stephen Cohen, President**

SAVE THE DATE:

FORUM FOR CANDIDATES RUNNING IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY FOR MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL

In support of our mission to provide information about issues and candidates to the public, the League of Women Voters of White Plains will be holding a forum for candidates running for Mayor and Common Council in the Democratic party. It will be held on Thursday, **September 7th from 7 pm – 10 pm** at Rochambeau School Auditorium, 228 Fisher Avenue, White Plains.



There are two candidates running for the Democratic nomination for Mayor – Milagros Lecuona and Tom Roach. There are six candidates running for the Democratic nomination for three Council seats -Justin Brasch, Alan Goldman, John Kirkpatrick, Michael Kraver, John Martin and Saad Siddiqui.

(The final ballot for the primary election will be determined by review of petitions by the Board of Elections.)

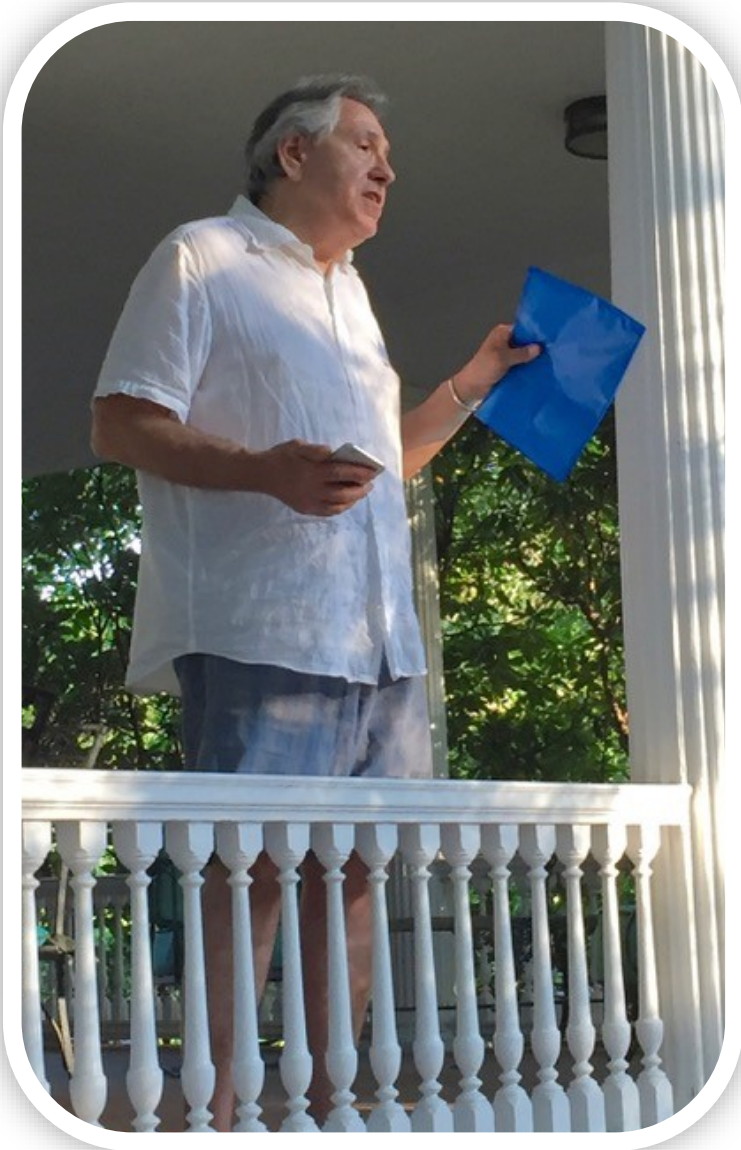
The forum will begin promptly at 7:00 pm. We anticipate that after introductions and sharing of the ground rules of the event, the candidates for Mayor will begin the forum, from approximately 7:15 pm to 8:15 pm, followed by the candidates for Common Council, from approximately 8:20 pm to 9:45 pm.

Although only registered Democrats can vote in the primary election (to be held on September 12th), all community members are welcome to attend the forum.

In accordance with League policy and in order to insure that a wide range of issues are addressed by the candidates, questions will be submitted in writing in one of two ways: by email in advance of the meeting to bethkava@gmail.com or at the forum itself. Doors will open at 6:30 pm and cards will be available for audience members to submit questions. Please include your name and address on submissions. Questions will not be taken from the floor.

For questions about the event or additional information please email Beth Kava, using the subject line “Democratic forum” at bethkava@gmail.com

LWVWP ANNUAL PICNIC



On a beautiful summer night, June 21st, the League of Women Voters of White Plains gathered at the beautiful home of Dorothy and Jonathan Schere to celebrate a year of good civic work and accomplishments. The mood was celebratory and positive. The turnout was great and many elected officials also showed up to show their support for the work we do.

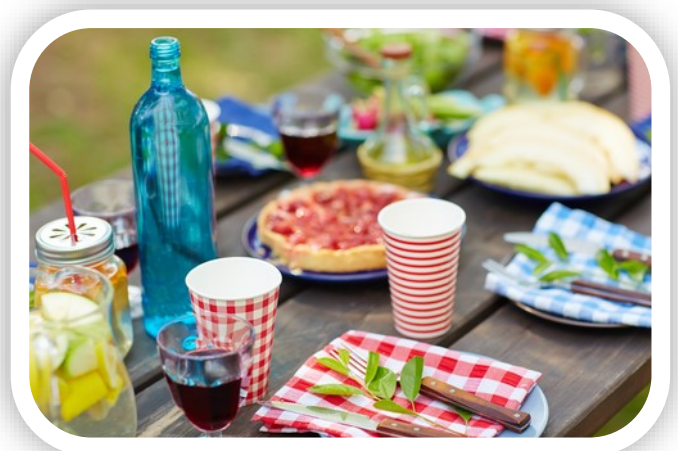


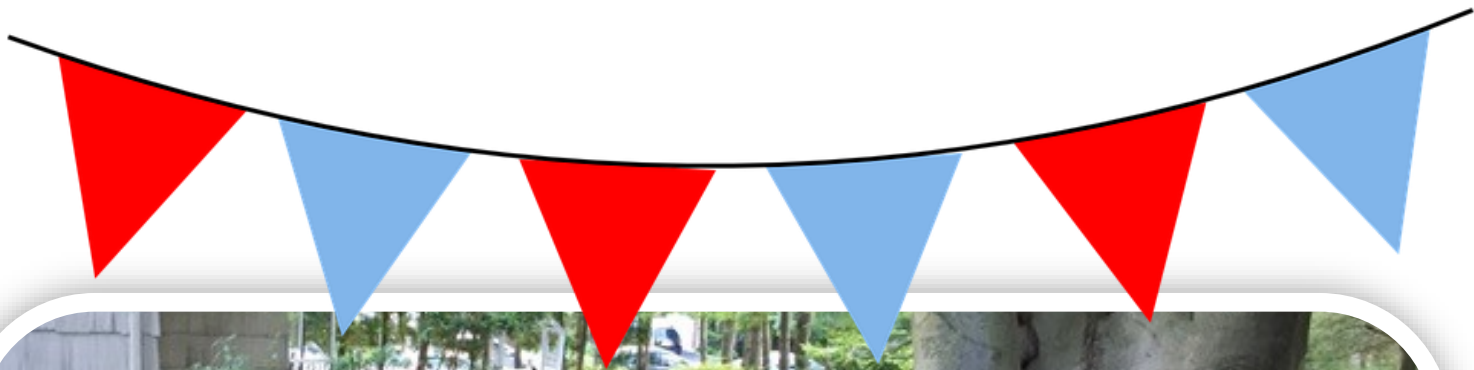
Nina Blumenfeld was a one-woman wonder in organizing the entire picnic and ensuring the food selection was delicious and varied. We owe her a big thank-you for undertaking this huge task. Dorothy and Jonathan could not be more gracious as host/hostess. They are quite the team!

Our President, Stephen Cohen, inspired us with his comments and hopes for the future. The Marjorie Davies Memorial Award was given to Elana Hausknecht from WPHS. While she was not able to attend the picnic, Stephen Cohen read a very inspirational statement from Elana and concluded with the statement “there is still hope!” We also heard from the two WPHS students we sent to Students Inside Albany. They talked of their experience in Albany and how that experience has impacted their lives and possibly their futures. In addition, Anna Tender, the President of the Wonder Woman Club at WPHS, described the club’s mission and asked to partner with the LWVWP in the fall in areas that make sense for both of us.

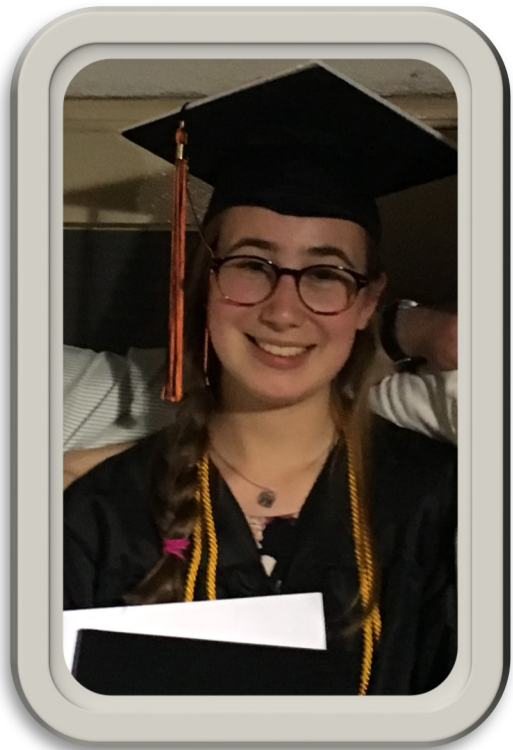
This picnic showcased all that is good about the League: friendship, fun, a sense of accomplishment, hope for the future, a desire to work hard and a commitment to “Making Democracy Work.”

Submitted by Janice Abbott, VP





June 13, 2017



To the members of the LWV of White Plains:

My name is Elana Hausknecht and I am a 2017 graduate of WPHS. Next year, I will be attending Brown University.

First of all, I want to thank you very much for awarding me the Marjorie Davies Memorial Scholarship. I am excited to receive this scholarship because I really believe in your organization's mission to promote democracy by empowering citizens. I attended your evening panel about voter registration and found it incredibly informative. I hope to participate in more LWV events in the future.

Here is a little bit about me. Two of my main interests are music and social justice, and during high school, I have had the opportunity to pursue both of these passions extensively. I play the trombone and the euphonium, which are both low brass instruments. I am a member of the White Plains High School marching band, orchestra, and jazz band. I have also participated in the All-State, All-Eastern, and All-National music conferences. As a devotee to social justice causes, I am an officer for the high school's S.E.E.D. Club. S.E.E.D. stands for "Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity" and in this club we discuss local, national, and global issues including racism, sexism, anti-LGBT discrimination, and other issues.

On the broadest level, I know that I want to devote my education and career to solving global problems and advocating for those whose voices are not heard. To this end, I am planning to pursue a major in Urban Studies in college. I believe that cities are the future of our society. As the population grows, so too does pressure to develop solutions which better-utilize our resources and promote equity among people. Cities are the perfect places to find these solutions, since they are microcosms of the larger society. I hope to be involved in city government and participate in the creation of policy. In doing this, I will be able to interact on a local level with issues—from clean energy to public health to educational systems, and so many more—whose solutions will have a worldwide impact.

Once again, thank you for this scholarship.

Best wishes,

Elana Hausknecht

***The League of Women Voters
Of White Plains
Marjorie Davies Memorial
Award 2017***

Each year, the League of Women Voters of White Plains presents an award to a White Plains High School senior who has, by example or action, furthered the League's goal of participation in government.

This year, we named this award in memory of Marge Davies, who passed away earlier this year. As an active member of the White Plains community, a dedicated member and twice president of the League of Women Voters of White Plains, Marge Davies represented the best in civic engagement.

At the Senior Awards Ceremony at White Plains High School on June 6, LWVWP President Stephen Cohen presented the Marjorie Davies Memorial Award to Elana Hausknecht.

Elana was unable to attend our picnic, but wrote us an inspiring letter (at right), which Stephen read at the picnic.



STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY

Senior student, Melissa Rodriguez and sophomore, Nathaniel Garcia were the two students that our League sponsored to attend the Students In Albany Conference. They and their families were our guests at our Annual League Picnic. We asked the students to address us, and tell us what was most important to them, that they learned and brought home from the conference. While neither Melissa nor Nathaniel wish to enter politics at this point in their lives, they both feel that they have gained an increased awareness in their responsibilities to become active participants in forming their future.



Both felt that the time they spent with Assembly Member David Buchwald made the greatest impression on them. They have gained an increased awareness of the roles of all voters on impacting New York State legislation and policy development. We are proud of the insightful manner in which they addressed us, and feel that here we have assisted two bright minds to entertain the mission to become leaders in the future.

—submitted by Ruth Goldberg

LWWP ADVOCATES FOR SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE IN NEW YORK STATE

Health care has been at the forefront of our minds recently. This month we were all appalled when the House voted to gut the Affordable Care Act and replace it with a health care policy that would put millions at risk of losing their health insurance. Health care is a basic human right and we want to make sure that all New Yorkers have equal access to affordable health insurance.

The League has long been a supporter of single payer health care in New York State. A single payer health system would take health insurance out of the private sector and allow the state to use its own resources to provide health insurance. This system would significantly reduce administrative costs and would ensure that all citizens have equal access to quality health care.

This month, the State Assembly passed the New York Health Act by a vote of 94-46 which would implement a single payer health care system in New York. This is not the first time the bill has passed in the Assembly but each year the bill stalls in the Senate. Currently the Senate version of this legislation has 31 sponsors including members of the Independent Democratic Conference.

We have created an advocacy toolkit that is available [here](#) which highlights which members we should be targeting in the Health Committee where the bill has stalled. The toolkit includes a contacts for Senators, a phone script, key talking points, and sample tweets. In April we lobbied in Albany for the bill's passage.



Advocacy in Action: Health Care



Top, Madeline Zevon with Assemblyman Richard Gottfried, the bill's sponsor.
Below, Madeline & Ruth Goldberg with two physicians



WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

Get ready to celebrate 100 year anniversaries of some important dates!

November 6, 2017 is the 100th Anniversary of Woman Suffrage in New York State

LWVNYS was founded on November 19, 1919

LWVUS was founded on February 14, 1920

The 19th Amendment to the US Constitution (giving American women the right to vote) was officially certified on August 26, 1920

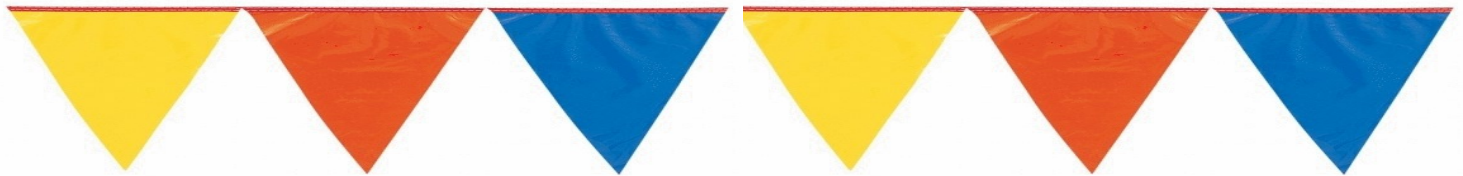
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thanks to the many members who quickly responded to the Membership Renewal Drive. To members and non members who generously donated, thank you. Thanks to membership outreach, your friends have joined! At the end of June, eight people are new LWV members.....Many are eager to participate; to make a difference by indicating their interests in voter service, education, environment, health care or election reform.

WELCOME: Susan Auerbach, Anne Marie Encarnacao, Debra & Robert Gaffey, Patricia Haskel, Jose Maccera, Frances Pantaleo, Diana Rosswick, and Judith Tanen.

REMINDER: Please renew your 2017-18 LWVWP membership. How can you help? Check the envelope. Do you need additional envelopes; or have an interested friend or neighbor, contact me at DLDingott@gmail.com or 914-289-0869.

Doris Dingott, Membership Chair



LWVWP Local Program 2017-2018

Voter Service

- Voter registration
- Election information
- Voter's Guides
- Get out the vote

Candidate Forums

- Candidates for local offices
- Candidates for WP school board

Membership Development

- Raise awareness of LWVWP in the community
- Build interest and attract new members

Information Programs

- Forums on topics of interest to the White Plains Community

Issues/Advocacy Study and Consensus

- Research and report on issues for study at the local, county, state and national levels

Youth Programs

- Work with local youth organizations to raise awareness of local issues, understanding of government and the importance of elections

Women's Suffrage Centennial Celebrations

- NYS women secure the right to vote, November 6, 1917
- LWVNYS founded, November 19, 1919
- LWVUS founded, February 14, 1920
- 19th Amendment to the US Constitution (giving American women the right to vote) officially certified, August 26, 1920

Adopted at the May 2017 Annual Meeting

League of Women Voters of White Plains

Events Calendar 2017 – 2018

Mark your calendars! Watch your email for details about these and other events

LWVWP Gallery Tour of ArtsW Exhibition From The Streets

A special showing open to members and friends

July 12, 12 noon - 1:00 PM

Followed by lunch at a local restaurant

ArtsW Gallery; 31 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains

RSVP: Stephen Cohen; stephen435@optonline.net



WP Mayoral and Common Council Candidates Forum for Primary

September 7, 7:00 – 10:00 PM, Rochambeau School (See article on page 3 for more info.)

White Plains Primary Elections – September 12

National Voter Registration Day – September 26

WP Mayoral & Common Council Candidates Forum—October 25, 7:00 PM

Location to be announced

LWVWP celebration of NYS suffrage centennial

ArtsW Exhibition Give Us the Vote

LWVWP tour of exhibition and other events

November 6, 6:00 PM

ArtsW Gallery; 31 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains

Election Day – November 7

2018

Annual Party – March 4

Spring Program – April 11

School Board Candidates Forum – May 2

Annual Membership Meeting & Dinner – May 17

Annual Picnic – June 21





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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 Permit #235



MEMBERSHIP

JOIN THE LEAGUE & MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Yes! I/We would like to join the League of Women Voters of White Plains

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

We do not share personal contact information. Since we lobby on issues, dues are not tax deductible.

- Individual \$55 Household \$80 (payable to LWV White Plains)
- I do not wish to join the League, but please accept my contribution in the amount of \$ _____

Please send checks to: LWWWP, PO Box 2032, White Plains, NY 10602

\$32 of dues goes directly to LWVUS, \$18 goes to LWVNYS, \$2 goes to Westchester County LWV.

Only the remaining \$3 goes to fund local White Plains efforts.

- I prefer to receive the Headlines newsletter electronically.

My interests are: Voter service Education Environment Help with Headlines
 Health care Election Reform Youth Other _____

For questions or to suggest someone who might be interested in League membership, please contact Membership Chair Doris Dingott, phone:914-289-0869, email: dldingott@gmail.com

Mission Statement: The League of Women Voters of White Plains is a non-partisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.