

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BROOKHAVEN VOTER

September 2019

CLIMATE CHANGE ON LONG ISLAND AND A CASE FOR OPTIMISM

presented by

Melissa Parrot

Education and Outreach Coordinator
for the Central Pine Barrens Commission

Monday, September 16, 7 pm

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

We are excited to start our year off with a positive outlook. Melissa Parrot, from the Central Pine Barrens Planning and Policy Commission will speak on Climate Change on Long Island. She has a reason she is optimistic. It is scheduled for Monday, September 16, at 7 pm in the evening at the Longwood Library. In an effort to include evening meetings for members who may be working or are otherwise unable to attend afternoon meetings, we schedule meetings during the summer months in the evenings. For members who do not drive at night, we try to arrange carpools.

We are planning the programs for this year's calendar. We had hoped to visit Plum Island, but it is now off limits for visits. If you know of other places to visit, or speakers or films of interest, please let me know. We would appreciate your help.

As we get ready for the November election, Judi Bird and Marilyn Beard have arranged for many sites where members will make it easy for citizens to register to vote. (If you would like to be included, please contact Judi or Marilyn, whose phone numbers are included on this page.) We will be publicizing the early voting that will begin on October 26 at Brookhaven Town Hall for those who will not be available on Election Day. We are working on Vote411, which will help voters find their voting place, the candidates they will be voting for, and answers from the candidates to questions about issues. Many candidates forums are planned. We will publicize them as we learn about them.

Each year, our supporters contribute to the League for ads in our VOTER. Please support them. This year, one of our longtime advertisers, Ann Marie's Farmstand, has moved back to Setauket from Old Town Road in Port Jefferson Station to 72 North Country Road, next to Gallery North. Call 631 371-6197 to find out when the stand is open. If you have a favorite vendor who would be interested in having an ad in each of our Voters, for \$65 for the year, let me know, or get a business card from him for the VOTER.



SUMMARY OF NEW YORK STATE VOTING REFORMS

IN EFFECT 2019

EARLY VOTING & ELECTRONIC POLL BOOKS will take place for the first time in New York. (Thirty-seven states and District of Columbia have already instituted in person early voting.) Voters will be able to vote at designated poll sites 9 days prior to election day. Each County Board of Elections will follow the law designating the number of and placement of the early voting poll sites. The boards will notify their voters of the days, hours, and locations of the early polling sites. This act will take effect immediately and first apply to the 2019 general election: i.e., early voting will begin Oct. 26 2019 and go through Nov. 3, 2019. All polls will be open Election Day Nov. 5, 2019.

Counties will be able to use electronic poll books instead of paper voter rolls if they choose to. The state has allocated \$15.7million for these two reforms.

PRIMARY CONSOLIDATION amends certain deadlines to combine federal and state primaries into one primary on the fourth Tuesday in June and maintain compliance with the federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act. This ends New Yorkers having to go to two primaries in nonpresidential years and three primaries in presidential years, saving our state about \$25,000,000. In addition to cost savings, it should increase voter turnout. This act will take effect immediately beginning in 2019 one primary day in June.

REGISTRATION PORTABILITY The Board of Elections automatically will update the registration of voters who move within New York State and fill out a change of address with USPS. Allows New Yorkers who move to vote at their new address without having to re-register.

TAKING EFFECT JANUARY 2020

PREREGISTRATION FOR 16 AND 17 YEAR OLDS Currently the only time 17 year olds can register to vote is if they are turning 18 in that calendar year even if their birthday is after Election Day. This new bill allows 16 and 17 year olds to preregister. The voter registration form would be modified to include a space where there is an explanation of preregistration and allow for the registration to be pending. This act would not take effect until January 2020.

TAKING EFFECT JANUARY 2021

ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION New Yorkers will be able to register to vote online through the State Board of Elections website. Online voter registration will allow all New Yorkers the option to register online, not just those who have a DMV issued ID. It will also streamline the registration process for the Board of Elections and set the stage for proper implementation of Automatic Voter Registration.

WILL TAKE EFFECT IN 2022 AFTER CHANGES TO NEW YORK STATE CONSTITUTION

SAME DAY VOTER REGISTRATION would allow voters to register and vote on Election Day. In order for this to become law, the NYS Constitution which requires registration to vote to be completed at least 10 days before Election Day, needs to be amended. Changing the constitution would require the same bill that passed this year being passed in both Assembly and Senate following the 2020 general election and then being passed by voters in a referendum in 2021. Therefore, first time this could go into effect would be in 2022. Currently, New Yorkers need to be registered 25 days before Election Day (constitutional and legislative requirements).

NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING would remove the need for a cause to vote on an absentee ballot. Currently in NY, you can request absentee ballot for five reasons; i.e., absence from county on election day, temporary illness or physical disability, permanent illness or physical disability, duties related to primary care of individual(s) who are ill or disabled, patient or inmate in VA, or detention in jail/prison awaiting trial, action by grand jury or convicted of crime which is not a felony. Currently 28 states and District of Columbia allow voters to vote absentee without a cause. No-excuse absentee voting would also require a constitutional amendment and could not take place until passing both houses again in 2020 and then passing a referendum in 2021.

Article in Times Beacon Record for September

Making Democracy Work:

Before You Cast Your Ballot in November

By Nancy Marr

Each election day we have the opportunity to vote for the candidates we think are best for our communities.

This November 5, candidates will be on the ballot for positions as Suffolk County Executive and Legislators in each of the eighteen county legislative districts. The County Executive manages and supervises the county's departments and agencies, establishing the efficiency and effectiveness of county government – setting policy, standards, goals and objectives and hiring and evaluating the performance of county management personnel. As manager of the county finances, the County Executive creates and presents an annual budget to the Legislature. He represents the county at meetings, forums, and intergovernmental relations with other levels of government. To learn more about the County Executive, call to make an appointment with one of his staff members to discuss an issue of concern to you and ask what the executive can do about it.

The Suffolk County Legislature consists of 18 legislative districts, each of which elects a representative every two years. (Every ten years, after each census is tallied, the districts are redrawn according to the redistribution of the population.) The Legislature is the elected body responsible for public health and public safety. Its Presiding Officer appoints the members and chairs of committees. There are currently twelve, each one dealing with a different subject – health, economic development, transportation, etc. The members, schedule and agendas for meetings of the Legislature are on the county website <https://www.scnylegislature.us/>. Committee meetings are held the week before the general meetings, and the public may attend and address the committee. A call to the chairperson of the committee you wish to visit may open up a line of communication.

When a bill is proposed, it is assigned to a committee which brings in experts to inform committee members, listens to testimony from concerned citizens and votes on it. If a bill is passed through the committee, it will move to the agenda of the next General Meeting for consideration by the full legislature.

Both the Suffolk County Executive and the 18 Suffolk County Legislator positions are term-limited. Each can serve up to twelve years (three 4-year terms for the County Executive, and six 2-year terms for the Legislators). Consult the League of Women Voter's Directory of Public Officials http://www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org/files/2019DPO_web_6-23-19.pdf for information on the 2019 office-holders and their contact details.

How can you know whether the incumbent represents your point of view about a particular issue? Attend any meetings where it will be discussed or listen to the streaming of the meetings on your phone or computer. Each meeting, held in either Hauppauge or Riverhead, includes a "public portion," when members of the public may make statements to the legislators about any of their concerns. (They may not answer questions asked by constituents at the meeting, but can be reached at their office if you wish to speak with them.) What can we find out about the opposing candidates? Information from news articles, debates held by civic organizations, events where the candidates will be meeting voters and websites such as <https://www.vote411.org/> are ways to learn more about all candidates.

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4 - Before You Cast Your Ballot in November)

The New York Civil Liberties Union, recognizing how hard it is to hold public officials accountable, has scheduled trainings open to the public from 6pm to 8pm on October 1 at the Deer Park Library, October 3 at Patchogue-Medford Library, October 8 at the Emma Clark Library, and on October 9 at Middle Country Library. Call 631-650-2301 or email suffolk@nyclu.org for more information or to register.

The election is but one step in the process. Our job continues with the candidate who has won. We can continue to speak at the legislature and committee meetings, and at meetings with the legislator and/or staff to work toward action. Gathering others who share and support your concerns will strengthen your efforts to create positive change.

Nancy Marr is first vice president of the League of Women Voters of Suffolk County, a nonprofit, non-partisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For more information, visit www.lwv-suffolkcounty.org or call 631-862-6860.

The Three Village Historical Society (TVHS) has a full lineup of walking tours and Culper Spy tours (also on bike or kayak), including a self-guided Culper Spy Day Tour on Saturday, September 14 from 9 am to 4 pm when you can see the Vance Locke murals at the Setauket Elementary School, visit the historic Brewster and Thompson houses in Setauket, taste colonial food from live hearth cooking demonstrations, listen to live colonial music at the TVHS, see original Culper Spy Ring letters at Stony Brook University's Library, view a Revolutionary War Encampment, and much more. Tickets are \$25. See the TVHS website or call (631) 751-3730.

Come to the candidates' meeting for the position of County Executive with incumbent Steve Bellone, Democrat, John Kennedy, Republican, and Gregory John Fisher, Libertarian. Sponsored by the ISLIP N.A.A.C.P., it will be held on Saturday, September 21, at 10 am at the Bay Shore Library. Reservations are required for attendance, so contact Lisa Scott (lisawscott@gmail.com), who will be moderating the debate if you wish to attend.


For residents of Suffolk County District 6, the Sound Beach Civic Association and our League are co-sponsoring a forum with the candidates for County Executive and the County Legislator on Monday, October 14 at 7:30. The Civic Association will also be holding a forum the previous week, on October 8, for the candidates for the positions of Town Supervisor, the Town Council, and the Receiver of Taxes and Highway Superintendent. The doors open at 6:30 for people to submit questions for the candidates. Both forums will be held at the Sound Beach Firehouse, 152 South Beach Boulevard.

OUR BOOK GROUP will be meeting will be Thursday, September 19, at 1 pm. We will be discussing *The Fifth Risk*, by Michael Lewis. This is a fascinating book revealing how little the public officials who now have control of our government know about how it works. Call Betsy Gaidry, 631 846-1778 for directions.

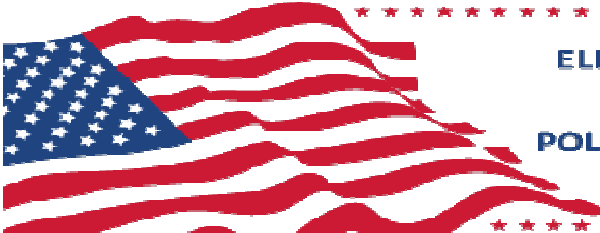
LWVSC Prints Important Information for New Voters Cards in English and Spanish

The LWV of Suffolk County was awarded a \$2,000 grant this year from the National LWV for our voter registration of newly naturalized voters. It made it possible to create a professionally designed, informative palm card to inform newly registered voters and others. It has been printed in English and Spanish for distribution throughout the county. The voter can ask for a reminder to vote by going to the county website at the bottom of page 2, and looking for the QR /Code.

We will be holding a Naturalization Voter Registration training on Wednesday, Sept. 18, at 11 am at the Riverhead Library, immediately following the monthly LWVSC board meeting. To register, contact Lisa at lisawscott@gmail.com. A light lunch will be provided. RSVPs are required.



Important Information for New Voters in 2019



**ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 5th, 2019**
**POLLS ARE OPEN 6am TO 9pm
IN NEW YORK STATE**

CONGRATULATIONS ON REGISTERING TO VOTE!
As a citizen (age 18 or older) you have the right and responsibility to vote in elections.
Educate yourself on the candidates and issues in each election.

CONFIRM YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS
Once your registration has been processed by your county Board of Elections you will be mailed a card with your polling place details. If you do not receive the card in 4-6 weeks or have questions you may call them:
New York City (all five boroughs): 212 487-5300
Nassau County: 516 571-2411
Suffolk County: 631 852-4500

The New York State (NYS) Board of Elections maintains a database of registered voters throughout NYS. To find out if you are registered, visit <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/>

Registered voters may vote for any candidate of any party on Election Day, but only enrolled members of a party can vote in that party's primary election.

For information about Voter IDs, Early Voting, and Absentee Ballots, please see other side.

See the next page for page 2 of the palm card.

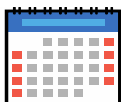


Important Information for New Voters in 2019



ID NEEDED FOR VOTING IN NEW YORK STATE

Federal law requires persons who register by mail and are voting for the first time to provide identification, either on the Voter Registration Form or in person at the polling place. Identification usually means a current NYS driver's license or the last four digits of your Social Security number. If you do not have either of these, you may provide a copy of a valid photo ID, or a current utility bill, bank statement, government check or some other government documentation that shows your name and address. Bring your ID to the polls, especially if you registered by mail and are voting for the first time.



EARLY VOTING

New Yorkers will now have an additional option to cast their vote in the 2019 General Election on November 5th. Special polling sites will be open From Saturday October 26th through Sunday, November 3rd. For sites and hours, check with your county's Board of Elections. Voters will continue to have the option to cast an absentee ballot if they choose to do so.



ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Registered voters who cannot make it to the polls on Election Day because of occupation, business, studies, travel, imprisonment (other than a convicted felon), illness, disability and hospitalization or residence in a long term care facility, may vote by absentee ballot. To be sure your request is processed, ask for this form at least 4 weeks before Election Day.

NEVER LEAVE THE POLLING PLACE WITHOUT VOTING!

If your name is not on the list, ask for an affidavit ballot!

Ask for a voting reminder:

Use QR Code

Email: lwvsuffolk@gmail.com

Call: 631-862-6860



<http://lwv-suffolkcounty.org/VoterReminders.html>

Useful Websites:

www.lwvny.org

www.elections.ny.gov

www.vote411.org

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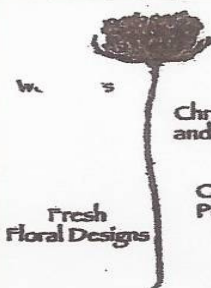
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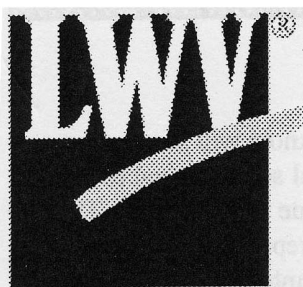
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MON SEPT 16 **CLIMATE CHANGE ON L. I. AND A CASE FOR OPTIMISM, Longwood Library, 1 pm**

Speaker: Melissa Parrot, from Central Pine Barrens Planning Commission

THURS SEPT 19 Book Group, 1 pm, at Betsy Gaidry's

TUES SEPT 24 NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY, Various sites

OCTOBER

MON OCT 7 LWV OF BROOKHAVEN BOARD MEETING, 10 AM, at Sue Kinsey's

TUES OCT 8 Candidates meetings for county andidates for District 6, Sound Beach Civic Assn

MON OCT 14 Candidates meetings for other candidates in District 6—co=sponsore dby LWV and Sound Beach Civic Association, at Sound Beach Fire house, 7:30 (152 Sound Beach Blvd) (see page 6 for more)

Directions to Longwood Estate—Longwood Road runs between William Floyd Parkway and Yaphank-Middle Island Road.
 The Estate is on Smith Road, just east of the Longwood Middle School (on Longwood Road)

Directions to Longwood Library—On the southwest corner of Middle Country Road (Route 25) & Yaphank-Middle Island Rd

