

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BROOKHAVEN

VOTER FOR APRIL/MAY 2026

THE BROOKHAVEN LANDFILL AND THE PLUME

Most of us don't think of our trash beyond putting it at the curb, but if you live in the Town of Brookhaven your trash goes to this landfill, and there is a lot of it.

**SPEAKER: LYNNE MAHER**

MASTER GARDENER/ COMPOSTER

COMMUNITY ADVOCATE

MEMBER OF BROOKHAVEN LANDFILL ACTION AND REMEDIATION  
GROUP


ON ZOOM ON MONDAY, MAY 11, 3:30- 5:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82829198977?pwd=gt2xEKwqzWd7fuobicAmuMG53MPCYN.1>

Meeting ID: 828 2919 8977

Passcode: 237169



IN 1842, THE "AGE OF SANITATION" BEGAN WHEN A REPORT WAS RELEASED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM LINKING DISEASE TO GRIMY ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS. WHILE SEWAGE AND WATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENTS WERE CENTRAL TO THIS MOVEMENT, ADDRESSING REFUSE AND GARBAGE FELL UNDER THIS BROAD UMBRELLA—ALBEIT, TO A MUCH LESSER EXTENT.

MOST OF AMERICA'S FEDERAL FUNDING IN THE EARLY PART OF THIS AGE WAS DIRECTED TOWARD INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SEWERS AND WATER TREATMENT, LEAVING LITTLE TO ESTABLISH NATIONWIDE WASTE MANAGEMENT PROCESSES. THUS, HANDLING AND TREATING WASTE BECAME A PRIORITY ON THE LOCAL LEVEL WITH URBAN PLANNERS AND CITY OFFICIALS ALIKE.

SANITATION DEPARTMENTS WERE BORN, ENGINEERING THE COLLECTION, TRANSPORTATION, RESOURCE COLLECTION, AND DISPOSAL OF GARBAGE—OFTEN TO UNREGULATED DUMP SITES. WITHOUT REGULATION, MOST EFFORTS CENTERED AROUND REMOVING THE OFFENDING DISPOSABLES AND USED GOODS FROM CITY SIGHT, RESULTING IN A WHOLE SLEW OF OTHER TRIALS AND ERRORS—LIKE FLOATING BARGES THAT ERUPTED IN FLAMES AND OR DEPOSITING GARBAGE INTO PROMINENT WATERWAYS. FOR EXAMPLE, NEW YORK CITY DUMPED ALL OF ITS TRASH INTO THE OCEAN UNTIL THE MID-1900S.

BUT IN THE '60S AND '70S, LANDFILLS WERE INTRODUCED AS A SOLUTION. THESE REGULATED, MONITORED AND MAINTAINED VERSIONS OF YOUR CENTURIES OLD "DUMP" CREATED AN OUTLET THAT STILL SERVES AS THE PRIMARY METHOD OF DISPOSAL IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE EXPONENTIAL GROWTH OF WASTE GENERATION, BOTH ON AMERICAN SOIL AND AROUND THE PLANET, HAS REVEALED THAT OUR FILLING LANDFILLS WON'T BE A SOLUTION FOR MUCH LONGER.

AND ON LONG ISLAND, NEWSDAY WROTE:

IT'S TIME FOR ALBANY AND PERHAPS WASHINGTON TO STEP IN AND MANAGE -- IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LONG ISLAND'S ELECTED LEADERS — A SOLUTION TO THIS REGIONAL CRISIS BEFORE LONG ISLAND ITSELF BECOMES THE ISLIP BARGE.

SAVE THE DATES

Candidate CD2 debate sponsored by LWV of Brookhaven

Jess Murphy and Pat Halpin

Patchogue Library, 54-60 E Main Street

May 23, 10 am

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Book Group – May 21 1 pm

at Betsy Gaidry's, [tbgaidry@optonline.net](mailto:tbgaidry@optonline.net)

Book is THE LION WOMEN OF TEHRAN by Marjñ Kamali

Contact Betsy for directions

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The Town is updating its Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Drop in anytime (6-8 pm) at an Open House in your area

April 22- Selden – Middle Country Library

April 23 – Mt. Sinai – Rose Caracappa Senior Center

April 27 – Center Moriches - Moriches Bay Recreation Facility

April 28 – Farmingville – Town Hall Auditorium

May 12 – Blue Point – Bayport-Blue Point Library

May 13 – Centereach - New Village Recreation Center

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LWV of Brookhaven Annual Meeting    June 18, 2 pm    For all Members

The Annual Meeting will take place at the New Village Recreation Center, 20 Wireless Rd, Centereach, NY. We will report on the accomplishments and work of the year and vote on the Nominating Committee and Treasurer reports.

The speakers will be Riley Butler and Laasya Mada, our students for the *Students Inside Albany* program, who will share their experience while in Albany. We will also have Alexandra Kaloudis, librarian at the Shirley Mastic Community Library, who will tell us about the resources at their facility.

## REPORT ON REGIONAL TRAINING IN MARCH BY LWV-NYS IN MARCH

Four members from our league, and members from Huntington, Islip and the Hamptons, Shelter Island and the North Fork all went into New York City to learn about some of the state initiatives and preparations for the June 23 Primary votes. Our NYS LWV Director, Erica

described the plans being developed by the League, Common Cause, the Brennan Center, Early NY, and NYCLU to provide trained poll observers to work at the polls.

NYS has just passed ERIC, a national database to reflect voters who have moved or died. Erica advised us to submit any mail-in ballots to be sure they arrive at the board of elections by the deadline (they are postmarked when they arrive). She reminded us that the VAN program can help Leagues reach voters and training is available.

There have been many lawsuits brought by leagues, and partners:

Lawsuit with Southern Poverty Law Center against excluding non-citizens from the US Census

Lawsuit about non-profits not being allowed to register voters

On the state budget, Erica doesn't expect it to go beyond June 4 because it is an election year – there will be Advocacy Days in Albany tentatively 5/5 or 5/12

At the DEI committee meeting, there was discussion about what leagues can do to welcome new members who represent a different community or population, may have disabilities, or not be familiar with the League. It was agreed that there are ways we can reach them by going to them – perhaps holding a meeting in their community or building, or talking about an issue that concerns them.

Some ideas about fund-raising were given to the delegates. We should look to local banks, foundations, corporations and businesses for donations of space or food for an event, or for a small grant. It is important to stress that we are a nonpartisan, grassroots organization, and explain what we've done and what we would like to do. (For instance, a \$50.00 donation would buy 25 copies of the US constitution to distribute, or a \$100.00 donation would provide copies of the Directories of Public Officials that we publish. The first key point that was made was to prepare carefully for your presentation to potential donors. Have a prepared letter to give out with our current budget and list of officers. "Think of asking for donations as giving people a way to support something important."

## Making Democracy Work: Preparing to Cast Your Ballot in 2026

by Lisa Scott

We at the League of Women Voters often hear from fellow Suffolk County residents; by phone, via email and in person. With the never-ending media cycle reporting news, but also spreading misinformation and partial information, it's difficult for responsible voters to sort through it all and prepare to vote. The issues range: What branch and level of government has election authority? Who maintains and updates voter files/data bases? Who controls the voter registration process and verification? Who determines how voting occurs (such as types of voting machines, early voting, absentee voting, mail-in voting)? Who protects voters at the polling places? Who counts the ballots? What are the rules for poll-watchers? We will devote this column, and subsequent ones, to explaining and clarifying these issues and concerns, and help navigate the deluge of confusing, misleading and incomplete information that we're all experiencing daily.

Please remember that the president has no explicit constitutional authority over elections, and if a president signs executive orders to exert such authority, as has happened this year, lawsuits are immediately filed. These argue that the Constitution: grants no explicit authority to the executive branch regarding elections; grants the states broad authority to conduct elections, including the "time, place and manner"; and dictates that Congress may pass laws over seeing elections.

Voting by mail, in particular, has become a flashpoint from the executive branch. However, voting by mail was used by about one in three American voters in the 2024 election. Many of us can recall family members who were frustrated by work or family issues which made them unable to go to the polls on Elections Day, and thus were deprived of casting a ballot. Now (in New York State) we have 9 days of early voting in person, as well as the ability to request an early mail ballot if needed. Those additional means of making your voice heard via your vote are part of what makes us feel vested in the democratic promise and process in the United States. Any restrictions or roll-backs on these expansions of citizen voting would deprive those with disabilities, illnesses, family responsibilities, work demands, or other burdens from exercising their Constitutional right to vote.

The League of Women Voters is getting even more questions relating to proof of citizenship in registering and casting your vote. As we write this column, the SAVE Act has been introduced in Congress, and would require voters to present documentary proof of citizenship (DPOC) - chiefly a passport or original birth certificate - in person when registering and/or voting in a federal election, and anytime they update their voter registration. The League strongly opposes the SAVE Act, since it is already illegal for noncitizens to register and vote in federal or state elections. For example, ten years ago

Kansas passed a law requiring a passport, birth certificate or other proof of citizenship to register, but it was struck down after a court found around 31,000 eligible voters had been blocked. As examples: 8 in 10 married women have changed their surnames, thus don't possess a birth certificate that matches their current legal name and therefore could not present it as valid proof of citizenship (an estimated 69 million American women would be affected). Rural voters, working-class voters, voters of color and older Americans are less likely to hold a passport or readily accessible birth certificate. Families who have been impacted by natural disasters may have lost original documentation. To express your concerns with the SAVE Act, contact your member of Congress (In CD1, Nick LaLota 631 289-1097 [lalota.house.gov](mailto:lalota.house.gov))

Educate yourself by expanding your sources of information. In particular, regularly visit the New York State Board of Elections website - [elections.ny.gov](https://elections.ny.gov) - as well as the Suffolk County Board of Elections site [suffolkvotes.com](https://suffolkvotes.com). The boards of election are bipartisan; they have equal representation from Democratic and Republican party members, and work together to ensure fair elections.

New York State's Primary Election day is June 23, 2026, with Early Voting from June 13 through June 21. You must have been registered in a party on or before February 14, 2026 in order to vote in that party's primary elections in your district. It's always a good idea to check your voter registration status on the NYS Board of Election website at <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/> well in advance of election day to check on your election district and polling place. Closer to the election, visit [VOTE411.org](https://VOTE411.org) for nonpartisan customized voter and candidate information.

*Lisa Scott is president of the League of Women Voters of Suffolk County a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For more information, visit <https://my.lwv.org/new-york/suffolk-county>.*

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