

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BROOKHAVEN

NOVEMBER 2024

VOTER

COME MEET OUR SPEAKER

**HON. VALERIE CARTRIGHT**

Now a Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Valerie Cartright served as Brookhaven Town Councilperson for six and a half years in District 1 until 2020 when she was elected to the Supreme Court. One of the areas that she has worked in is the area of Voter Protection, where, through her office, she commenced litigation to uphold the Voting Rights Act and worked diligently to prevent unconstitutional and discriminatory denial of voters on Long Island.

She often serves as judge on election day at polling sites for voters with questions or challenges; it would be interesting to hear about some of the issues that voters have presented. She has a concern, that we share, about voter registration and voting rights for incarcerated persons; we could talk with her about what more can be done.

**ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25**

**7 PM**

**ON ZOOM**

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Now that the 2024 Election has passed, as with most elections, we are reading the views of many people—both experts and lay people (like us). Whatever their opinion of the results, it is clear that the results were surprising, and unlike some of the results of the past. Many point out that the Democrats need to learn more about the voters who did not vote for them, and suggest that they will have to find out why that happened. Did they represent a different generation, more young people with different interests, sources of information, and hopes? Did the fact of the wars in Ukraine and Middle East change the expectations and attitudes of the voters from different backgrounds and countries and was there a concern about our safety at home? Was there a difference between those who felt they were helped by government actions, and those who felt they were not helped by the government that they came to mistrust? And if there are these differences, what could or should any of us do about it?

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### THANKS TO ALL

Many of our members participated in our efforts to get out the vote. Carole Huston extended our reach by finding new venues, and then locating members to visit them with go-bags full of informational materials. New citizens were helped to become voters through the efforts of Judi Bird, who enlisted members to visit the courthouse in Islip when they issued citizenship credentials. Janet Sklar's flow of membership lists made it possible to locate new members as soon as they joined the League. Linda Devin-Sheehan kept track of the procedures at the courthouse and made sure they were in keeping with our goals of encouraging voting. We appreciated the opportunities to help with candidate meetings at Jefferson Ferry and Sound Beach Civic Association, as well as invitations to Sayville, Mastic and South Country libraries to bring materials to their community programs.

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## **NEW YORKERS VOTED TO ADOPT THE NYS CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM. 61.86%**

To all our marvelous LWVNYS ERA Task force members:

Thanks to all of you for everything you did to pass Prop 1. In so many parts of NYS the League was the only organization with actual boots on the ground, planning events, getting media attention and combatting lies. And everywhere, we made a difference in the numbers who voted YES for Prop 1. It has been great to work with all of you. You are so smart, imaginative, and persistent.

From Barbara Thomas, LWVNYS Issue Specialist.

And thanks from our Brookhaven League to Karen Anderson, a member of the LWSNY Task Force from the Smithtown League, who kept our Suffolk County Leagues informed and involved to help us win.

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## **NEWS ABOUT THE TRANSFORMATION PROCESS OF LWV-US**

Recognizing the changing external environment--both in the nature of volunteerism and the growing number of competing organizations in the democracy space— the League of Women Voters of the United States, with input from state and local Leagues around the country, has been working over the past several years to ensure that the League enters its second century strong, visible, and relevant. We've been referring to this as our "transformation journey." As the next step in that journey, LWVUS has published a "Transformation Roadmap" that includes specific action steps to be implemented. The action steps will help us achieve the vision of a network of vibrant Leagues that are engaging and welcoming new members, supporters, and volunteers; embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion; and has the resources necessary to support our core work with help from strong state Leagues.

Steps our League will be taking will change our dues structure in order to make it easier for anyone to join the League and find a place for volunteers who may want to work with the league but remain a volunteer rather than a member. Our Board members will have an opportunity to attend trainings to learn more about the changes that we will be making in the next few months. Go to the LWV-US—TRANSFORMATION for much more information.

## THE WATER PROPOSITION WAS APPROVED BY SUFFOLK VOTERS-71.58%

Down the ballot, new environmental champions with histories of taking action to address the climate crisis were elected to the House and Senate. There's a high school science teacher, state lawmakers who have consistently fought for climate action in their states and a former United Nations policy adviser on climate issues. Others, like an environmental attorney and professor, are still locked in [tight races](#) to enter Congress.

That work to raise awareness will continue in the coming years, even if significant legislation to address climate change is lacking.

The Inflation Reduction Act, Biden's signature climate law and the nation's largest single investment in reducing climate-warming pollution, remains popular, and so far has resulted in thousands of new jobs and billions of dollars of investment. Climate advocates say defending that law—and making it clear that attacking it will not only hurt efforts to address climate change but also kill good-paying jobs—will be crucial.

“What these moments call out for is real leadership,” David Kieve, the president of EDF Action, the Environmental Defense Fund's advocacy partner, told Inside Climate News in an interview. “What we're going to see is there won't be a vulnerability or a penalty for leaning in on and defending the good-paying clean energy jobs that are coming, and I think there will be a penalty to those that want to try to rip them away.”

If Democrats wrest control of the House it will be thanks in part to the work of climate advocacy groups like EDF Action, the League of Conservation Voters and 314 Action Fund, a political action committee that seeks to elect Democrats with a background in science to public office.

The latter group, named after the first three digits of the mathematical constant pi, was started by Shaughnessy Naughton, a chemist who waged an unsuccessful bid for a House seat in 2014. Naughton said she developed the organization in part as a response to President Donald Trump's anti-science agenda after he was first elected in 2016.

“Traditionally, scientists have taken the approach that science is above politics, and therefore scientists shouldn't be involved in politics,” Naughton said. “But what politicians have shown us is that they are unashamed to meddle in science, and the way to push back on that is to take a seat at the table and get elected.”

Since 2016, the group has supported more than 500 candidates for public offices ranging from school boards and county commissions to the U.S. Senate.

(from article by INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS)