www.lwvofeastnassau.org info@lwvofeastnassau.org

At local, state and national levels the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

October 2020

REMEMBER THE DATES

Thursday, Oct. 1 – 7:00 pm Candidate Forum for NYS Senate District 6. See p. 4.

Wednesday, Oct. 7 - 7:15 pm LWVEN Virtual Business Meeting. All members are welcome. Email Barbara Josepher (bobbiejosepher @gmail.com) for the link if you are not a board member.

Thursday, Oct. 15 – 7:30 pm Candidate Forum for Congressional District 2. See p. 4.

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- p. 4 Candidate Forums, Voter Registration Day & More, League Masks, Question re: talk on Electoral College, Welcome New Member
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- **p. 7** A Brief History of the U.S. Post Office
- p. 8 LWV Mourns the Passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stay Up To Date on Voting Changes – Text "VoteNY" to 474747



Find the races and candidates on your specific ballot at www.vote411.org.

Election 2020 is Almost Here

Presidential Debates

Tuesday, September 29, 9:00 – 10:30 pm Thursday, October 15, 9:00 – 10:30 pm Thursday, October 22, 9:00 – 10:30 pm

Vice-Presidential Debate

Wednesday, October 7, 9:00 – 10:30 pm

General Election deadlines

Last day to register in person at the Board of Elections office: October 9
Last day to postmark your application for an absentee ballot by mail: October 27
Last day to apply in person for an absentee ballot: November 2

Last day to postmark your absentee ballot: November 3

Last day to post your voter registration form: October 9

Last day to deliver an absentee ballot in person to the Board of Elections: November 3

REMINDER 1. If you haven't already done so, please complete the CENSUS FORM at *2020census.Gov*, and remind others to do so as well.

REMINDER 2. Our League year begins on July 1, and DUES are overDUE!

Please send your \$60 (or more, if you are able to) to:

Barbara Josepher, Treasurer,

339 Cold Spring Road, Syosset, N.Y. 11791.

(A membership form is available on page 6.)

LWVNYS Statement Regarding the Passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

"Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a New Yorker and a passionate advocate of justice for all people, regardless of their race, gender, or socioeconomic status. The League of Women Voters of New York State will miss her influence and impact. She was emblematic of what League represents: determination that we must all engage and fight for equality for all. Her strong support for voting rights and women's reproductive freedom provided a voice that continues to galvanize the League."

Election 2020 Early Voting Poll Sites

WHERE

LOCATION	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Elmont	Public Library 700 Hempstead Tpk.
Floral Park	Recreation Center 124 Stewart St.
Freeport	Freeport Recreation Center 130 E. Merrick Rd.
Garden City	Rec. Complex St Paul's Field House 295 Stewart Ave.
Hempstead	Brierley Park 65 Dartmouth St.
Hicksville	Levittown Hall 201 Levittown Pkwy.
Lawrence	Lawrence Country Club 101 Causeway
Massapequa	Town Hall South 977 Hicksville Rd.
North Merrick	Public Library 1691 Meadowbrook Rd.
Plainview	Mid-Island Y JCC 45 Manetto Hill Rd.
Roslyn Heights	Gayle Community Center 53 Orchard St.
Wantagh	American Legion Post 1273 3484 Park Ave.
West Hempstead	West Hempstead Library 500 Hempstead Ave.
Westbury	Yes We Can Center-New Cassel 141 Garden St.
Mineola	Nassau County Board of Elections 240 Old Country Rd.

DATES AND TIMES FOR ALL LOCATIONS

<u>DATE</u>	TIME
Sat, Oct 24	9am to 6pm
Sun, Oct 25	10am to 3pm
Mon, Oct 26	10am to 7pm
Tues, Oct 27	10am to 7pm
Wed, Oct 28	6am to 7pm
Thurs, Oct 29	10am to 7pm
Fri, Oct 30	6am to 7pm
Sat, Oct 31	9am to 6pm
Sun, Nov 1	10am to 3pm

General Election

Tuesday November 3rd 6am to 9pm Your Designated Polling Location

All BOE Hours Same As Above

EXCEPT Monday 10/26 and

Wednesday 10/28 open until 8PM

Any eligible voter in Nassau County may vote at any of the above locations during the times listed EXCEPT on November 3rd.

On General Election Day, November 3rd, go to your designated polling place
www.nassauvotes.org • (518) 571-VOTE (8883). Please note that if you vote during early
voting, you will not be permitted to vote on the General Election Day or on a
subsequent day of Early Voting.

NOTE: The location of the Early Voting Poll for Wantagh is correct above, but is not correct on the cards that were sent out by the Board of Elections. The site was changed after the cards were printed. Check the Board of Elections website for any other changes that might occur.

2

Working Through a Pandemic

On Women's Equality Day in August, Virginia Kase, CEO of the LWVUS, sent an email letter to members. Some liberties have been taken in changing the message so that it is not just about the one day. Your editor assumes that she will forgive the plagiarized version below, since her actual message is intact.

All through the month of August, we commemorated the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, celebrating the women who made it possible.

Women like Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, an African American civil rights advocate and suffragist. "If laws are unjust, they must be continually broken until they are altered," she wrote in *Woman's Era*, the first newspaper published by and for African American women.

Think about the brave women who broke the law, who protested to make their voices heard and risked their safety to cast a ballot.

Think about Lucretia Mott and Lucy Stone, abolitionists and advocates for women's rights who never lived to see the fruits of their labor.

Today, we continue their fight.

One hundred years since the 19th Amendment was certified, women are not equal. We do not have equal pay in the workplace, and we are not equally represented in government – not yet. But in the next century, we can change that with our voices AND our votes.

As women, we know we've achieved a lot in the past century, but we still have a long way to go to achieve true equality.

If you want to honor these women, commit to this fight. Celebrate the women who fought for our right to vote by making sure you exercise it. But don't stop there.

Organize your friends and families. Make sure they have a voting plan this fall.

The suffrage leaders worked through a pandemic to win us this right. A century later, we work through a pandemic to exercise it. Celebrate them in this 100th year and in every election.

In Memorium

Our sincere condolences to Janet Spar on the passing of her husband Charlie





"When I'm sometimes asked 'When will there be enough (women on the Supreme Court)?' and my answer is: 'When there are nine.' People are shocked. But there'd been nine men, and nobody's ever raised a question about that." ~ Ruth Bader Ginsburg

"Dissents speak to a future age. It's not simply to say, 'My colleagues are wrong and I would do it this way.' But the greatest dissents do become court opinions and gradually over time their views become the dominant view. So that's the dissenter's hope: that they are writing not for today, but for tomorrow."

~ Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Candidate Forums

The East Meadow Library is hosting, and the LWVEN and LWVCN are co-sponsoring a virtual Candidate Forum for

NYS Senate District 6 on Thursday, October 1, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

The candidates are: Kevin Thomas (D, WFP), Dennis Dunne Sr.(R, C, I) and Jonathan Gunther (LBT).

To attend the forum, go to the East Meadow Library website: www.eastmeadow.info and click on the link to register. You will receive the Zoom link in time for the forum.

The link is not to be shared on social media.

In addition we ask that you send questions to be asked at the forum to the League website:

http://bit.ly/QuestionsfortheCandidate

Please only ask questions related to NYS. We hope you will be at the zoom meeting. Let anyone you know in District 6 about it.

The Nassau County League is hosting and the LWVEN is sponsoring a virtual Candidate Forum for

Congressional District 2

(the seat currently held by Peter King) on

Thursday, October 15th at 7:30 – 8:30 pm

The candidates are: Jackie Gordon (D, WFP, I), Andrew Garbarino (R, C, LBT, SAM), Harry R. Burger (GRE)

A link will be emailed to members to enable attendance at the meeting.

Please send your questions in advance for this forum to the League website:

<u>http://bit.ly/QuestionsfortheCandidates</u>
If you have any questions about either forum, please contact Barbara at: 516-221-1948 or epsteinb1@gmail.com.

Voter Registration Day And More

Barbara Epstein

Leaguers throughout the country were busy registering voters on Voter Registration Day, September 22nd.

Our local League focused on two areas of Freeport this year. The following members and friends were at the Freeport Recreation Center:

Mary Regan, Michele Greenblatt, Donna Reed, and Grace Felicetti and her friend. At the Freeport Library were Ginny Carew, Dania Smith, Rhoada Tanenbaum, Judith McKnight and Mary Price.

Special thanks to all of them and to the others who are continuing to register voters year-round.

League Masks Available

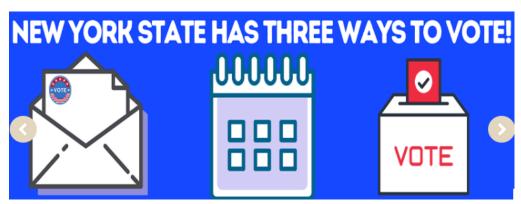
The LWV of Nassau County had masks made with the word "VOTE" as well as "LWV" and "VOTE411" on them. If you would like one (no charge for one) contact me at: 516-221-1948 or *epsteinb1@gmail.com*.

Electoral College Talk

Oops! During the question and answer period, someone asked a question that I was unable to answer. I responded that I would find out the answer and print it in this bulletin. Sadly, in my haste to get my office organized, I misplaced the paper on which I wrote the note, and I cannot remember what the question was.

I would appreciate it if the questioner would contact me at *paulablum@hotmail.com* with the question, so that I can find the answer.





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

We greatly appreciate the understanding of those who are running for office this year that we are unable to include their ads in this issue, due to the proximity of the election and our need to remain non-partisan regarding parties and candidates.



Be sure to see the new Suffrage Statue in Central Park, featuring Sojourner Truth, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony.



(516) 571-2660 Fax: (516) 752-4099

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Membership/Contribution Form

Yes, I want to support the LWV's work in citizen education and advocacy.

Tel: ______

Address: ______
Email Address:

Areas of interest: _____

Enclosed is my (our) check payable to LWV of East Nassau for

membership dues \$60 Individual Membership

\$80 Household Membership (2 or more) \$20 (Full-time) Student Membership \$75 Supporting Membership Please clip & send with your check to:
Barbara Josepher
LWVEN Treasurer
339 Cold Spring Road
Syosset, NY 11791

contribution

Total: _____

A Brief History of the United States Postal Service

To forge a nation, the founders needed an efficient communications network

smithsonianmag.com August 21, 2020

"From 1753 to 1774, as he oversaw Britain's colonial mail service, Benjamin Franklin improved a primitive courier system connecting the 13 fragmented colonies into a more efficient organization that sped deliveries between Philadelphia and New York City to a mere 33 hours. Franklin's travels along the post roads would inspire his revolutionary vision for how a new nation could thrive independent of Britain. But not even he imagined the pivotal role that the post would play in creating the Republic.

By the early 1770s, Franklin's fellow patriots had organized underground networks, the Committees of Correspondence and then the Constitutional Post, that enabled the founders to talk treason under the British radar. In 1775, before the Declaration of Independence was even signed, the Continental Congress turned the Constitutional Post into the Post Office of the United States, whose operations became the first—and for many citizens, the most consequential—function of the new government itself.

James Madison and others saw how the post could support this fledgling democracy by informing the electorate, and in 1792 devised a Robin Hood scheme whereby high-priced postage for letters, then sent mostly by businessmen and lawyers, subsidized the delivery of cheap, uncensored newspapers. This policy helped spark America's lively, disputatious political culture and made it a communications superpower with remarkable speed...

Back when the railroads only went as far west as Missouri, the Pony Express... helped cover the missing ground for about a year and a half. Mounted carriers famously sped mail the 1,800 miles from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California, in just ten days.

By the 1840s, though, the post faced a crisis. Average citizens, fed up with high prices—sending a letter more than 150 miles cost around 20 cents, or roughly \$6 today—were turning to cheaper private carriers, almost putting the Post Office out of business. In response, Congress converted the post into a public service that no longer had to break even, and in 1845 slashed letter postage to 5 to ten cents, depending on distance.

The post continued to subsidize the nation's transportation infrastructure. In the East, railroads replaced mounted couriers and stagecoaches. To connect the coasts, the department first financed steamships to carry the mail through the Isthmus of Panama. Then it invested in stagecoaches, which sped the mail from Missouri and Tennessee, where the railroads stopped, to California, enabling vital communications during the gold rush. In 1869, the great transcontinental railroad was completed. The mail was a lifeline connecting Western settlers with loved ones back home.

When the Civil War split America, Montgomery Blair, President Lincoln's postmaster general, used the savings from suspending service in the Confederacy to upgrade the Union's mail system. He expanded the Railway Mail Service, authorized the first money orders and began deliveries to urban residences, while the post became the first major institution to employ large numbers of women and African Americans.

The innovations that followed included Rural Free Delivery (1896) and Parcel Post (1913), which brought rural residents into the mainstream. At a time when banks largely ignored the needs of average citizens, the Postal Savings System (1911) provided basic financial services. As World War I engulfed Europe, the Post Office recognized the value of air transport and almost alone supported the aviation industry until the late 1920s.

The boom after World War II doubled the volume of mail even as the cash-starved department racked up big deficits and faced a fiscal crisis recalling that of the 1840s. Alarmed, Congress in 1970 remade the department into the United States Postal Service, a government-business hybrid that has received no tax dollars since 1982 but nonetheless remains subject to congressional oversight. By the end of 2006, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act had saddled the service with tens of billions of dollars of debt by requiring that it prefund its retirees' health benefits.

While the post is once again the subject of controversy, it's still the federal service that Americans rate most highly, according to a 2019 Gallup poll. Yet in 2020, with Americans isolated by Covid-19, countless folks depend on a system that supplies every address with critical materials, including stimulus checks, ballots and, perhaps soon, medical tests."

The League of Women Voters Mourns the Passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

9/19/2020

WASHINGTON—League of Women Voters president **Deborah Turner** and CEO **Virginia Kase** issued the following joint statement on the passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg:

"It is with deep and profound sadness that the League of Women Voters mourns the passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. A fierce advocate for women's rights and civil rights, Justice Ginsburg's vision for America transcended race, age, gender, and economic lines. She was a beloved champion of justice for all.

"Early in her career, she was a trailblazer who challenged the status quo and bucked tradition, upending gender norms and societal expectations of women through her strategic litigation approach. When she was denied opportunities, she created her own and ensured that the door was opened for others.

"Over Justice Ginsburg's 27-year service on the United States Supreme Court, she was a champion of the Constitution, famously penning a stirring defense of the Voting Rights Act in her dissent to the Court's *Shelby County v. Holder* decision and the Court's opinion in the *United States v. Virginia*, which struck down Virginia Military Institute's male-only admissions policy.

"Justice Ginsburg's wisdom, determination, and dedication to equal rights embodied the League's belief in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy. She touched each and every one of our lives. May she rest in power."



The League of Women Voters of East Nassau

www.lwvofeastnassau.org, info@lwvofeastnassau.org

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