

**League of Women Voters of CT ADVOCACY 101 Report:  
“Educate + Advocate + Impact”**

Hartford, CT Legislative Office Building  
Tuesday, January 8, 2019

32 registered attendees; 7 did not attend; 3 “walk-ins” for total of 28 attendees  
Judy Blei and Mary Grace Peak of Judith Blei Government Relations = hosts  
with LWVCT President Carol Reimers and VP for Public Issues Judy Lhamon  
Feedback: very informative but timekeepers helpful in future; no time for CGA  
and Blei websites and need to build that in.

7 speakers, in alpha order.

- **Pua Ford, *LWVCT Specialist, Open Government, Media Issues***
- **Jeff Greenfield, *Redistricting Specialist, Office of Legis. Management***
- **Susan Keane, *Administrator, Appropriations Committee***
- **Shannon Kief, *Legal Program Director, State Election Enforcement Commission (SEEC)***
- **Kimberly King, *Legislative Aide to Senator Paul Formica***
- **Denise Merrill, *Secretary of State***
- **Cheri Quickmire, *Director, CT Common Cause***

**Why do this —LWVCT. From the beginning, the League—while non-partisan— has been wholeheartedly political as it has worked to influence public policy through education and advocacy.**

**SUSAN KEANE** is beginning her 41st session as staff on Appropriations Committee.

- One of few states with joint committees.
- Budget calendar: Gov’s proposed budget arrives 2/20; approx 3/6 budget public hearings and presentations when “we [Approp Ctte] stay as long as people want to be heard”; then subcttes go to work and public can sit in to listen to dialogue; then Approp Subctte chairs go to work with Office of Policy Analysis before present budget in 3rd week of April.
- Audiofiles and CT-N for every public hearing [and there should be transcripts too-jl]
- Live testimony at hearings — do *not read* from your testimony; find a data-based story to tell and share your unique perspective that will “stick” with legislators.

**DENISE MERRILL** is beginning her third term as Secretary of the State.

- reported that there were 300,000 new voter registrations in 2018, many of them through the DMV [and she noted that 60-70% of CT’s population have license or i.d. through DMV]
- high turnout in November 2018 election, but major bottleneck in New Haven with Election Day Registration—need more EDR-trained staff.
- Early Voting — minimum of three days for early voting is at top of her legislative agenda; take pressure off of 1 election day; reduce unfair wait times

- Other SOTS agenda re: voting:  
     Ballots complicated; Pre-register 16-year-olds; 3rd parties;  
     Cyber security; Streamline petition process; Spend more on elections  
 in each town; Consistency of staffing at polling places

**SHANNON KIEF, Esq.** has worked for the State Election Enforcement Commission for at least 10 years.

- Reported “a very good year for clean elections and women candidates” in CT.
- Reported that (as of 1/1/2019) 86% of current House members and 83% of current Senators were elected using Citizen Election Program funds.
- Presented a list of 8 proposed 2019 bills that aim to “strengthen the vitality of the Citizens Election Program and improve campaign finance disclosure.”

**JEFF GREENFIELD**, a “go to” legislative staffer knowledgeable about redistricting in CT

- Passed around historic maps regarding population distribution in CT
- Outlined three biggest considerations of legislative districts  
     Compactness  
     Communities of interest  
     Contiguity
- Related task of redistricting to importance of 2020 Census; said that CT will receive “block by block” results of 2020 Census in March 2021; the legislature will have from March to September 2021 to pass a redistricting plan.

**CHERI QUICKMIRE** has been Director of Common Cause in CT since 2009.

- Working to reduce the influence of money in campaigns, especially “dark” money and works closely with SEEC.
- Part of coalition supporting Citizens Election Program, Early Voting, Automatic Voter Registration beyond DMV.

**KIMBERLY KING** has been Legislative Aide to Senator Formica for number of years.

- Responds to emails, schedules meetings with Senator Formica.
- BEST way to reach Senator is through aide; she responds to phone calls first, then emails.
- Senator likes to see one-page summary of what you want.

**PUA FORD** has worked on media, internet, and community access via Public, Educational, Governmental TV issues for LWVCT and professionally for many years.

- “Specialist” position offers opportunity for continuing education.
- Very committed to community access to information across platforms; net neutrality.
- Keeps close eye on budget bills re: media and open government issues.
- Browses db of statutes via [cga.ct.gov](http://cga.ct.gov) website and looks at history of important bills by clicking on purple letters under statute.

