



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

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LWVCT LEADERS NEWS

DECEMBER 2018

NOTE: *We are pleased to share that Jean Rabinow is recovering well and hopes to be back in the LWVCT office soon. It will be wonderful to have her back! We have missed her!*

SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM LWVCT!

Thank you for all of your herculean efforts during the 2018 Election season. It was a busy time, resulting in an unprecedented number of new voter registrations throughout the state and increased interest in the kind of non-partisan voter information and education service that the League provides. In fact, Connecticut citizens looked to the League for guidance and expertise in a variety of many subjects, including: how to organize and moderate a debate, the absentee ballot process, Election Day Registration, and information about the two questions on the ballot regarding the state transportation fund and land use. Many local and state League members were requested to participate in community events such as candidate forums, voter registration drives and spoke about the election process at public spaces such as colleges, libraries and senior centers. But there is always more work to be done. As we enter the next two years of 100th anniversary celebrations, let's congratulate ourselves on a job well done...with a commitment to keep moving forward to engage and inform every eligible voter in Connecticut.

MORE GREAT ELECTION IMPACT NEWS:

LWVCT ONLINE:

Almost 14,000 people went to the LWVCT website in the last month before Election Day with a bump up on the night before the election and on Facebook we peaked at 6,000 views during that same time period.

VOTE411.ORG:

With the LWVCT Voter Guide information and the Voter Guides from a number of local Leagues, we had over 15,000 voters look at the candidate information on VOTE411 from Connecticut – this is a 397% increase over the 2014 cycle (the most comparable cycle) and a 78% increase over the 2016 Presidential cycle! I'm so happy these voters were able to find some candidate information on the site and hope they'll continue to turn to the League for future elections!

LWVCT SURVEY ON YOUR LEAGUE'S ELECTION SEASON SUCCESSES

Laura Smits, LWVCT Voter Service VP, would like to acknowledge and record the tremendous election voter service work your League accomplished this Fall. Please use the link below to fill out this short survey to share that information. As you can read above, when we can quantify our impact, we can use it to engage CT citizens, share our influence with other organizations and illustrate to potential donors how we make a difference.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZYX99WQ>

VOTER SERVICE PHOTOS WANTED

Please send in photos of your voter registration events, candidates forums/debates and other activities you held during the election season. We would like to share them on our website and social media to highlight what the League does and encourage people to join us.

ADVOCACY

General Assembly session:

The 2019 Legislative Session will be a “long” session — beginning January 9 and ending the first week of June.

Find out about the Connecticut General Assembly, the legislative leadership, the types of committees and more [on the CGA website](#).

[A Guide to the CGA Website](#) - A great tool to support effective advocacy.

How a Bill Becomes a Law in CT - [How a bill becomes a law.pdf](#)

LWVCT PRIORITIES in 2019:

The Board recommends that our state board efforts focus on three core areas of League of Women Voters concern:

- 1.Election Laws
- 2.Campaign Finance
- 3.Open Government and Ethics, including citizens’ right to know and public access to government information.

We currently have Legislative Specialists in two out of these three areas —
Election Laws — Yvonne Senturia from Westport LWV
Open Government and Ethics - Pua Ford of Amity LWV
Campaign Finance - Open

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY WORKSHOP

Tuesday, January 8 from 9:30 – noon in the LOB (Legislative Office Building) Room to be announced.

All LWV members are welcome to attend this informative event. Our Advocacy Consultant, Judy Blei, and Lobbyist Mary Grace Peak are inviting a variety of speakers to help us understand how we can be most effective in the coming legislative session. Members that have attended over the past few years have been impressed with the speakers’ candor and have gained new insights into the legislative process.

Staff from LWVCT’s Capitol Information and Tours will be available to give interested workshop attendees a tour of the Capitol after the workshop. **Please RSVP LWVCT Public Issues VP, Judy Lhamon, if you would like to attend, Judy.Lhamon@sbcglobal.net. Please share with your members as soon as possible.**

Inclement weather plan: In case of inclement weather, check the LWVCT website to see if the workshop has been canceled. www.lwvct.org

LOCAL LEAGUE GATHERINGS WITH LOCAL LEGISLATORS

Almost every local league hosts a gathering with local legislators in January as the session begins. These are increasingly popular and well-attended. The LWVCT prepares a few questions for legislators that we are working on now. And, similar to debates and forums, local leagues collect written questions from attendees using cards and pencils that they provide.

The LWVCT-prepared questions will be available mid-December.

CALENDAR

December

mid month Legislative Meetings questions and report form sent out

January

Legislative Meetings across CT

8 Legislative Advocacy Workshop, CT Capitol **9:30 am – Noon**

9 General Assembly opens

11 Pension Academy, Capitol, Registration required; More information coming

LWVCT OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT



LWV of Northern Fairfield County shared voting information and LWVCT President, Carol Reimers, spoke at the LGBTQ+ Town Hall at WCSU. It is great to see an increase in our citizen information outreach to more communities this past election season.

