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 knowledgable about redistricting in CT
• Passed around historic maps regarding population distribution in CT
• Outlined three biggest consideration 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 website and looks at history of important bills
  by clicking on purple letters under statute.