

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BROOKHAVEN  
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2020

WILL PRESENT

**TRICIA FOLEY**

speaking about her book

***MARY LOUISE BOOTH***  
***The Story of an Extraordinary***  
***19th-Century Woman***

Monday  
October 19, 2020

7 pm  
By zoom

The zoom link will be sent out by email the day before.

**LWV of BROOKHAVEN**

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**PRESIDENT'S PAGE**

The wait for the election is almost over. Everyone seems to have questions and we are trying to answer them all. We held three outdoor voter registration “drives” - Sept 19 at the Davis House in Coram, Sept 22 at Longwood Library, and Sept 26 at the Mastic Moriches Shirley Library. We were able to distribute voter registration forms, absentee ballot applications, census information, early voting schedules, and answers to questions—all with masks and distancing. We are scheduled to be at the Sayville Library on Sept. 30 from 4:30 to 6:30, and may have a table in Patchogue when they close the Main Street on Thursday evenings.

But we do not have the answers we need. Because of two court cases regarding local elections, the Board of Elections cannot certify the ballot. That means that, although we thought the ballots would be sent to absentee voters after September 18, there is not yet an exact date.

In New York State voters can vote in person even though they may have also sent in an absentee ballot,. After the election, each absentee ballot is checked against the poll book before it is processed. If the voter has voted in person, the absentee ballot is discarded. The final date for the mailed-in ballot to reach the Board of Elections is November 10, seven days after the election, so there can be no final count until after they have been checked. Again, no exact date.

Voting today is very different from what it was two years ago. See pp 6 and 7 for our article in the *Times Beacon Record*. It describes the many ways in which New York State has made voting easier, partly to meet the demand for more days of voting and partly because of the danger of covid when standing in line to vote. The changes have made many voters uncertain about whether their vote, if mailed in, will count. Our recommendation is to be sure your ballot gets to the Board of Elections as early as possible—by following the directions and mailing it quickly once you have received it or by bringing it to a polling site or to the Board of Elections. Or take advantage of the Early Voting sites, by voting in person, wearing a mask. Ballots can be delivered by persons other than yourself if they are sealed.

**We are pleased to welcome three new members to our League**

Nancy Hall

Port Jefferson

Reverend Richard and Margaret Larom

Mt. Sinai

David Gross

Coram

**Thanks to**

Dee Hensen, Carol Manel, Joan Nickeson, Nanette Feder Williams, Cathy Penna, Anne Marie Coleman, Pat Bollerman, Helen Turner, Judi Bird, Rita Edwards, Carole Huston, Loretta Privett, Nancy Arthur and Linda Devin-Sheehan for helping register and inform voters. Shoreham Library also contacted us to request a supply of registration materials for their patrons, especially elderly ones. Please volunteer to visit your own library with a packet of registration forms, absentee ballot applications, and Directory of Public Officials. Speak to them about keeping them on display. (Call me at 631 730-6556 to get a packet to bring to your library.)

## MARY LOUISE BOOTH—AN EXTRAORDINARY WOMAN

On Monday, October 19, Tricia Foley will speak to us about her book about *Mary Louise Booth, An Extraordinary Woman*. Booth, who was born in Yaphank in 1831, was a leading Suffragist. She was also a translator from French and the first editor of *Harpers Bazaar* from 1867 to 1889, when she died.

Tricia Foley will bring to her discussion of Mary Louise Booth her own interest and experience with all aspects of home design that has taken her all over the world, doing books on British colonial design in India and Africa, tea rituals in Japan, nautical style in Nantucket and Maine and 18th century design at Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. She is now enjoying restoring historic houses in the Yaphank and Brookhaven areas and researching the stories of the amazing people who lived here in the past, such as Mary Louise Booth.

We thank Tricia for offering to “zoom” her presentation. It will be our first general meeting on zoom, and we hope our members will be able to join us. The zoom link will be sent out before the meeting.

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### THE CENSUS NEEDS OUR HELP IS THE DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 30??

The deadline for responding to the census was originally October 31. As the coronavirus swept the nation this spring, the bureau had to postpone key parts of its population count until August. The Trump administration said at the time that it would extend the deadline for completing the count to Oct. 31 to make up for that delay, and move the date for delivering population totals to the White House to April 2021, from its current Dec. 31 deadline. But the White House changed the deadline to September 30. The tortuous course of the 2020 census, first slowed by the coronavirus pandemic and then placed on a fast track by the Trump administration, took yet another twist on September 11 when a federal judge temporarily blocked the administration’s order to wrap up the count a month ahead of schedule. The judge, Lucy H. Koh of the United States District Court in Northern California, halted plans for an early finish to the head-counting portion of the census at least until a mid-September hearing in a lawsuit that seeks to scrap the expedited schedule altogether. Noting that the Census Bureau had already begun to dismantle counting operations in some places where it considers the count complete, the judge effectively said the plaintiffs’ suit could be overtaken by events if the wind-down of the count was not suspended.

“Because the decennial census is at issue here, an inaccurate count would not be remedied for another decade,” Judge Koh wrote. The National Urban League, the League of Women Voters and a host of advocacy groups and local governments filed the suit last month. They argue that the order to end the head-counting portion of the census early will lead to an inaccurate tally that will cost some communities both political representation and millions of federal dollars that are allotted based on population totals.

The lawsuit opposing the shortened deadline said the schedule suggested it was devised “to facilitate another illegal act: suppressing the political power of communities of color by excluding undocumented people from the final apportionment count.”

If you have not completed your questionnaire, or you know someone  
who has not completed it::

VISIT [MY2020CENSUS.GOV](https://my2020census.gov) OR CALL 1-844-468-2020

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BROOKHAVEN**

**Mark Your Calendar for General Election 2020**

**• October 9 is the last day to  
postmark your voter registration form  
(October 14 is the last day to change your address)**

**• October 10 is the last day to  
register to vote in person at your  
county Board of Elections office**

**• October 24 - November 1 Early Voting**

**• October 27 is the last day to  
postmark application for  
absentee ballot by mail.**

**• November 2 is the last day to  
apply in person for absentee  
ballot**

**• November 2 is last day to  
postmark absentee ballot.  
(it must be received by November 10)**

**• November 3 is the last day to  
deliver absentee ballot in person  
at board of elections**

**• November 3 General Election**

## DATES OF PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES

Tuesday	9/29	9 to 10:30	Moderated by Chris Wallace, Fox News, in Cleveland There will be 6 segments with 15 minutes for each segment Topics will be the Trump/Biden records The Supreme Court COVID 19 The Economy Race and Violence in the our citizens The Integrity of our election
Thursday	10/15	9 to 10:30	Moderated by Steve Scully, C-Span, in Miami Town Hall Format (questions from uncommitted voters from S Florida citizens)
Thursday	10/22	9 to 10:30	Moderated by Kristen Welker, NBC News , in Tennessee There will be 6 segments with 15 minutes for each segment Topics to be announced

## VICE-PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Wednesday	10/7	9 to 10:30	Moderated by Susan Page, USA Today Held in Salt Lake City
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In each debate candidates will each have two minutes to answer each question. The moderator will use the balance of the time in the segments “for a deeper discussion of the topic.”

## WHO WILL WE BE VOTING FOR NOVEMBER 3 IN SUFFOLK COUNTY?

President and Vice-President

U. S. Representatives

New York State Senators

New York State Assemblymembers

Justice of the Supreme Court, 10th Judicial District

County Court Judge

Family Court Judge

Propositions—extending the terms of Suffolk Cty legislators and the Riverhead Supervisor

Moving funds from the Southwest Sewer District

(Until the Board of Elections can certify the ballot, we will not have the final names of candidates.)

# FACTS FOR VOTING IN THE NOVEMBER 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

## YOUR VOTE WILL COUNT

(Article printed in Times Beacon Record, 9/17)

Every state has its own election laws. New York State's laws have been more restrictive than many others, although progress has been made in the past few years. In-person early voting commenced in 2019 and absentee ballot eligibility expanded in 2020 to anyone who has concerns due to COVID-19. We now have electronic (iPad-style) poll books and during early voting customized ballots for each voter are printed.

Your vote will count in November if you educate yourself, develop a voting plan with others if possible, and plan ahead. Waiting until the last minute, particularly with an absentee ballot, increases the odds of your missing deadlines or making a paperwork mistake with no time for correction.

Fortunately, in New York State you have several options for casting your ballot: Absentee Ballots, Early Voting, and Election Day Voting. Follow the steps below, and call the Suffolk County Board of Elections (SCBOE) at 631-852-4500 or, if you have a simple question, call the League of Women Voters (LWV) at 631-862-6860. The LWV is non-partisan, not affiliated with the Board of Elections and cannot give you election advice.

Governor Andrew Cuomo has ordered all Boards of Elections in NYS to mail a letter to all households with registered voters in early September. The letter will give polling place information, details for early voting, and an explanation of the absentee ballot process for the November elections.

### **Voter Registration**

You must be registered in order to vote. You may register if you will be 18 years of age by Election Day, a resident of the county for at least 30 days prior to the election, and a citizen of the United States. 16 and 17 year-olds can now pre-register to vote, but will not be able to vote until they are 18. You may only vote in one state. If you have moved within the state since the last time you voted, you will be able to vote via affidavit ballot in your new election district, but re-registering with your new address before Oct. 9 is advisable.

Registration forms are available at the Board of Elections, post offices and libraries. Online voter registration is possible via the DMV website if you are already in their website. You can call 1-800-FOR-VOTE hotline to request a voter application. You can download and print a form from the New York State Board of Elections (NYSBOE) homepage link [Need a Voter Registration Form](#). The deadline to register is Oct. 9. (If mailed your registration form must be postmarked by that date.) The registration form includes a place where you can also immediately request an absentee ballot.

### **Absentee Ballot Voting**

Unlike June primary voting: Absentee ballot applications will not automatically be sent to everyone – you must apply for one! The deadline to apply is October 27 – DO NOT WAIT – You may apply NOW.

The fastest, simplest, method is online! NYSBOE has introduced an online form at [absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov](https://absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov). You only need to enter your county, name, date of birth and zip code. Within seconds you will receive a printable absentee ballot confirmation and number.

(Continued on page 7)

# FACTS FOR VOTING IN THE NOVEMBER 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

(Continued from page 6)

You may also email, fax or telephone your request for an absentee ballot to the SCBOR. Details are at <https://suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/BOE/Absentee-Voting-FAQ>. When you receive your ballot follow all instructions.

Fill out, sign and enclose the oath envelope, apply postage and mail as soon as you can. You may also (in person, or is a friend or relative) bring the SEALED ballot to the SCBOE in Yaphank or to any Suffolk early voting site during open hours or to your polling place on November 3.

The BOE must now send a letter to any voter within 24 hours of receipt of an absentee ballot with a problem (e.g. no signature). You should send your ballot in early so that, the BOE will have time to alert you of any problem and you will be able to correct the issue before deadlines.

The Board of Elections will start mailing out absentee ballots Sept. 18. This cannot be done until the candidate list is certified. After you've submitted your absentee ballot, you can call the SCBOE to confirm your ballot was received. If you had requested an absentee ballot due to COVID-19 in June, you still MUST reapply for November 2020. NYS absentee ballot application rules for 2021 have not yet been determined.

In New York State, unlike most other states, you can still vote in person even if you voted on an absentee ballot. The absentee ballot will be discarded by the BOE if you've already voted in person. Absentee ballots will be counted beginning 48 hours after Election Day. Absentee ballot voter names will be checked against the electronic poll book before being processed.

## **Early Voting**

There are 12 Early Voting sites in Suffolk County. Registered Suffolk County voters may vote at ANY of the 12 sites during the Early Voting period. This is possible because of the new electronic poll books, and ballots that are printed on demand for each voter. All NYS counties have the same nine early voting dates (Sat. Oct. 24 to Sun. Nov. 1), but times each day vary. No one can vote in person on Nov. 2.

## **To vote on Election Day in person**

Polls are open on Nov. 3 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. in Suffolk County. Look up your voter registration and polling place online to reconfirm all is in order. You can do that via the NYSBOE homepage link Find Out if you are Registered and Where to Vote.

The best on-line sources of information are VOTE411.org (select your state and you can register to vote, find your polling place, see what's on your ballot and learn about the candidates) and the New York State Board of Elections at [elections.ny.gov](https://elections.ny.gov).

## STATEMENT FROM LWV-US PRESIDENT DEBORAH TURNER

### REMEMBERING JUDGE RUTH BADER GINSBURG

Last week the world lost a national icon and an unwavering defender of democracy and equity for women. As we mourn the death of a great leader, Americans are feeling uncertain about the future of our democratic values including the status of the nation's highest Court.

Many have been asking if the League will take a position on the nominee to fill this vacancy. After careful and deliberate discussion, the Board has decided to oppose the timeline by which the U.S. Senate is expected to move this nomination. To be clear: At this moment, there is no nominee, and we have no plans to take a position on the nominee.

The appointment of a Supreme Court Justice is a serious undertaking that requires extensive and transparent vetting. This is a lifetime appointment and is too important to rush. We support waiting until after the election thereby upholding the rules the Senate adopted in 2016. It is imperative for our Senate to respect the desires of their constituency, and not dishonor the rules they adopted emphatically four years ago. For democracy to survive we must demand transparency and truth from our elected officials. We must shore up trust in our system by honoring the principles of transparency, truth, and consistency.

We will be sending an email on Tuesday to all members so that they can hear from leadership our decisions on the Supreme Court process. Our [official statement opposing a rushed process](#) is on our website. We have also prepared [talking points for Leagues to use when discussing the Supreme Court confirmation process](#) that are available on the League Management Site.

Even as we respond to the Supreme Court developments, we continue supporting voters and fighting for their rights. Early voting has started in several states and millions will receive ballots in the mail during the coming weeks. This week we had record participation in National Voter Registration Day with 450 Leagues participating in more than 850 events and digital activations! Thank you for your hard work and creative ways to reach voters this past Tuesday in the middle of a pandemic.

I close by acknowledging those mourning the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and those who are feeling the heaviness of the continued mistreatment of communities of color in our country. 2020 has been a trying year and we still have months to go so please take care of yourselves. A little self-care can go a long way to helping you and yours weather the storm. And, of course, wear a mask.

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Our Book Group—November 19, 1 pm – by zoom

Joseph Ellis: *American Dialogue*

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The award-winning author examines the relevance of the views of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and John Adams to some of the most divisive issues in America today. The story of history is a ceaseless conversation between past and present, and in *American Dialogue* Joseph J. Ellis focuses the conversation on the often-asked question "What would the Founding Fathers think?" He examines four historical figures through the prism of particular topics, and makes clear how their now centuries-old ideas illuminate the disturbing impasse of today's political conflicts. He discusses Jefferson and the issue of racism, Adams and the specter of economic inequality, Washington and American imperialism, and Madison and the doctrine of original intent. (Call Betsy Gaidry at 631 846-1778 to sign up. We will send a zoom link.)



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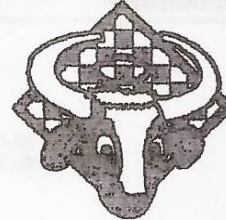
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## **OCTOBER**

Monday      Oct 19      7 pm—MARY LOUISE BOOTH  
By author Tricia Foley  
ZOOM (link to come)

## **NOVEMBER**

Thursday      Nov 19      Book Group at Betsy Gaidry's, 1 pm