



# The Broome-Tioga Voter

Bulletin of the *League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties*

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## “Dissolution of Johnson City”

Presentation & Discussion

led by

**Bill Klish**

Committee Chair of

**J.C. Dissolution Study Team**



**Tuesday, September 22, 2009**

**7:00 pm Coffee**

**7:15 pm Program**

**Vestal Public Library**

**Vestal Parkway E., Vestal, NY**

**Public Welcome**

**(The Library is accessible to people with disabilities.)**

## President's Message

### My Study of the Johnson City Dissolution Study

I admit, when I first heard of the Johnson City Dissolution Study, I thought that it would go the way of the previous attempts started by other villages and then dropped by lack of interest or the incentive of significant savings. However, when I heard that this study is leading up to a very possible vote in November, I became very curious about the plan which was developed by the JC Study Team.

In my brief encounter with the study of consolidation of municipalities, I recall some of the strategic points that must be covered in order for a plan to be accepted by the residents and be successful in the long run.

First of all, the committee must set a goal that offers comparable or better services in the community while ultimately producing significant savings for the residents and businesses. The JC Plan specifically states and shows proof of these goals.

There must be a study of all the areas of governing and service and how the changes will affect them. The study team spent 18 months of intensive study within the village, town and county with the people who had the expertise in each area of study.

The fourteen members divided all the departments which needed to be covered and each member concentrated on the one they chose to examine in detail.

The Study must be open to the residents of the village. The study team provided this crucial aspect by holding 30 public meetings involving countless hours of discussion involving committee members from Johnson City, Union, Broome County, Binghamton and various state agencies. In addition their website offers a Feedback link to give the public an opportunity to send in a question or a concern by email. Also a link was provided for anyone to sign up for email alerts.

Funds for this website and other costs were provided by NY State Department of State under the Shared Municipal Services Incentive Grant Program.

Each village or municipality has its own unique issues and challenges and, that is why, where dissolution is the topic, the "devil is in the details." The 90 plus pages of details in the report can make your head spin, but they are there and easy to understand for the resi-

dents to read. If you have any questions about any department from Police, Fire, Sewer, Village Retirees, garbage pick-up or any other, the answers are there.

There will be 32 village positions lost from a total of 126.5 which means a majority of 95 will still have jobs. Businesses all over the nation have realized this sad truth long before this plan was formed and have had to lay off workers. Since there are no Johnson Brothers, Thomas Watson or Ed Link available to change the present situation, government must do its share to alleviate the tax burden on its residents. The tax levy savings for Johnson City are predicted to be \$765,915; for the Town of Union - \$1,086,805. The plan would save an estimated \$4.6 million annually.

Many residents of Johnson City are concerned about loss of identity, but there is no reason for this. Endwell has been recognized as a place even though it does not have separate government. Johnson City would continue to have a geographic entity within the Greater Binghamton area.

The website - <http://www.cgr.org/johnsoncity/> provides a copy of The Johnson City Dissolution Study. The history of the village, the formation of the study team, the details of the costs saved, and the coverage of all the departments are all there. If you are a resident of Johnson City, you owe it to yourself to study this plan. Those who do not have access to a computer can find copies at Your Home Public Library in Johnson City and the George F. Johnson Memorial Library in Endicott. On September 22, Bill Klish, Chair of the JC Dissolution team, will explain the Study Plan and be available for questions at our program meeting at the Vestal Library at 7:00 pm.

Whether the plan is voted for or not is in the hands of the residents of Johnson City.

I believe the Johnson City Dissolution Study Team should be commended for the time and effort they put into this complicated and challenging task. I am particularly proud of our League members who are on the Study Team: Bill Klish, Chair, and Dick Paden, Member.

~Clare Simeone, President

The board has investigated providing the option to send the Voter via email to some members. They have concluded that the requirements of our bulk mailing permit make it less expensive to continue to send paper copies to all members at this time.

~ Sue Garing, Editor

## Web Resources for Election Information

For the latest information on the election process in NYS visit the NYS Board of Elections website at

<http://www.elections.state.ny.us/Voting.html>

The complete NYS "Political Calendar" may be downloaded from this website as well (it was rather fuzzy when published in the last voter!)

<http://www.elections.state.ny.us/PoliticalCalendar.html>

Additional local information is available for Broome County at

<http://www.gobroomecounty.com/elections>

And Tioga County at

<http://www.tiogacountyny.com/departments/legislature/boe/>

Our own LWV of Broome & Tioga Counties website has a collection of elections information and links:

<http://www.lwv-broometioga.org/>

~Sue Garing, Editor

## Web Resources for Newsletter Archives

Our own Broome and Tioga *Voter*, and many other NYS LWV newsletters, may be found archived at the website

<http://lwvny-bulletins.org/>

The LWVNYS newsletter archive is found at

<http://lwvny.org/bulletins.html>

~Sue Garing, Editor

### Identification Statement

The Broome-Tioga Voter is published 9 times a year (January, February, March, April, May, July/August, September, October, and November/December) by the League of Women Voters of Broome & Tioga Counties, 3 Willow Way, Conklin, NY 13748.

Send Voter newsletter articles and feedback to Sue Garing, Editor, [sgaring@verizon.net](mailto:sgaring@verizon.net).

## September Program

On September 22, 2009 the Broome and Tioga County League of Women Voters will host a presentation by Bill Klish on Dissolution of Johnson City. Mr. Klish, Committee chair of the committee which has studied the proposed plan for Dissolution, will speak at the Vestal Public Library meeting room. After the informational program, which begins at 7:15 pm, questions from the audience will be discussed. The meeting is free, open to the public and will consist chiefly of explaining the plan for dissolving the Village of Johnson City into the Town of Union.

~Raney Colvill, Programs

## Woman of Achievement

I am happy to announce that Alice Brooks has been selected as our League's Woman of Achievement to be honored at the Status of Women Dinner. The dinner will be held at the Owego Treadway on Nov. 4 with a cash bar at 6:00 pm and dinner at 7:00 pm. The menu selections are the same as in previous years: Orange Roughy; Treadway Chicken; a vegetarian dish. Eva Anderson will attend the Presidents' Tea where she will be able to get the tickets. Cost of the dinner will be the same as last year - \$27.00.

~Clare Simeone, President

## Voter Service Report

We have received the 2009 Voter's Guides Part I and have begun to distribute them throughout the Broome and Tioga area. If you would like to suggest a location to supply the Guides, please call me at 785-6703. Part II of the Voter's Guides will be coming later in September and will be distributed when available.

On August 15 we conducted a Registration Drive at Sam's Club on the Town Square Mall. We have also been invited to the Deposit Senior Center/Housing Unit to conduct a Registration Drive on September 23 to begin at 11:00 am. Dessert will be provided by the seniors. This event is open to the community and is being promoted by the Seniors as a public service. We're working to distribute as much material as possible prior to the September 15th Primary.

~Sara Wokan, Voter Service

# The Broome-Tioga Voter

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## Calendar

Tuesday Sept. 8	Board of Directors meeting, Vestal Library, 6:30 pm
Tuesday Sept. 15	Primary Election Election Night Reporting
Tuesday	Program: Johnson City Dissolution Study
Wednesday Nov. 4	Status of Women Dinner, Owego Treadway.

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