



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF EAST NASSAU

# voter

*At local, state and national levels  
the League works to influence public policy  
through education and advocacy.*

*October, 2009*

## Save the Dates

**Tuesday, Oct. 6 – 7:15 PM**

**Candidates Forum**

Plainview-Old Bethpage Library  
999 Old Country Road, Plainview  
Legislative Candidates from  
Districts 14, 16, 17

**Wednesday, Oct. 7 – 7:30 PM**

**LWVEN Board Meeting**

1 Levittown Library, Bluegrass La.  
Bluegrass Lane, Levittown

**Thursday, Oct. 8 – 10:15 AM**

**LWV Nassau County Board Meeting**

Hempstead Library Board Room  
115 Nichols Court, Hempstead

**Wednesday, Oct. 21 – 7:15 PM**

**Candidates Forum**

Levittown Library  
Legislative Candidates from  
Districts 12, 13, 15, 19

**Tuesday, October 27 – 7:00 PM**

**Candidates Forum**

Candidates for County Executive  
Hofstra University Student Center

**Wednesday, Nov. 4 - 7:30 PM**

**LWVEN Board Meeting**

Levittown Library  
1 Bluegrass Lane, Levittown

**Wednesday, Nov. 18 – 7:30 PM**

**LWVEN General Meeting**

Topic: Climate Change/Climate Crisis,  
The Facts, The Politics, The Action  
Speaker: Andrea Chasin  
Levittown Library

## Meet Your Candidates

The League of Women Voters of East Nassau has scheduled two Candidate Forums for our local areas. We have invited candidates for the County Legislature from the legislative districts listed below.

Please come to the forum which includes the candidate from your legislative district, and encourage your neighbors to join you. Ask questions about issues of concern to you. Hear what the candidates have to say.

The following candidates have been invited.

**Tuesday, October 6, 7:15 PM**

**Plainview/Old Bethpage Library**

14 LD David Mejias [D, I, WF] Joseph Belesi [R, C]

Areas covered: Farmingdale, S. Farmingdale, Old Bethpage, N. Wantagh, E. Massapequa

16 LD Judith A. Jacobs [D, I, WF] Rebecca Alesia [R, C]

Areas covered: Bethpage, Cove Neck, E. Norwich, Jericho, Laurel Hollow, Muttontown, Oyster Bay, Oyster Bay Cove, Plainview, Syosset, Woodbury

17 LD Arshad Majid [D, WF] Rose Marie Walker [R, I, C]

Areas covered: Bethpage, Hicksville, Island Trees, Levittown, N. Massapequa, Plainedge, S. Farmingdale, Syosset

**Wednesday, October 21, 7:15 PM**

**Levittown Library, Oct. 21**

12 LD John Renhack [D, WF] Peter Schmitt [R, I, C]

Areas covered: Massapequa, N. Massapequa, Massapequa Park, Seaford

13 LD Patricia Maher [D] Norma Gonsalves [R, I, C] Stephanie Ovadia [WF]

Areas covered: East Meadow/Salisbury, N. Bellmore, N. Merrick, Levittown

15 LD Glenn Stephenson [D, WF] Dennis Dunne, Sr. [R, I, C]

Areas covered: Island Trees, Levittown, Wantagh

19 LD David W. Denenberg [D, I, WF] Fred J. Jones [R, C]

Areas covered: Bellmore, Freeport, Merrick, Pt. Lookout, Seaford, Wantagh



Be sure to attend the LWV of Nassau County's  
**County Executive Candidates Forum**  
**Tuesday, October 27, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**  
**Hofstra University Student Center Auditorium**

## League of Women Voters® of East Nassau

**Barbara Epstein, President**  
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**Mary Price, Circulation**  
**Lesley Pollak, Advertising**

### County Legislature Meeting Schedule

Monday, Oct. 5	10:00 AM
Monday, Oct. 19	10:00 AM
Monday, Nov. 16	10:00 AM

The Nassau County Legislature meets in the Legislative Chamber, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, 1550 Franklin Ave, Mineola, 571-4252. An admittance pass must be obtained.

### Town of Hempstead Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, Oct. 20	2:30 PM, 7 PM
Tuesday, Nov. 10	10:30 AM
Tuesday, Nov. 24	7:00 PM

The Hempstead Town Board meets at Town Hall, in the Nathan H. Bennett Pavilion, 489-5000.

### Town of Oyster Bay Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, Oct. 6	10:00 AM
Tuesday, Oct. 20	10 AM, 7 PM
Tuesday, Nov. 10	10:00 AM
Tuesday, Nov. 24	7:00 PM

The Oyster Bay Town Board meets at 54 Audrey Ave., Oyster Bay, 624-6390.

**Call before  
attending.  
Schedules  
are subject  
to change.**



## LWVEN Board of Directors – 2008-2009

### OFFICERS

<b>President/Affordable Housing:</b>	Barbara Epstein	221-1948
<b>Vice Presidents:</b>		
<b>Executive VP/ Judicial</b>	Lorraine Newman	735-4876
<b>Liaison/Environment:</b>		
<b>Voter Service/HAVA:</b>	Norma Schaeffer	489-3133
<b>Bulletin Circulation/</b>	Mary Price	731-0812
<b>Special Events:</b>		
<b>Secretary:</b>	Shirlee Bergman	249-5276
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Barbara Josepher	921-8749

### DIRECTORS:

<b>Administrative Assistant:</b>	Judy Schmertz	221-1576
<b>Bulletin:</b>	Paula Blum	785-3213
<b>Budget/Bulletin Advertising:</b>	Lesley Pollak	731-1066
<b>Education:</b>	Maxine Stolzer	938-1172
<b>Health Care, Advocacy:</b>	Polly Nager	796-6211
<b>Immigration:</b>	Carole Goldfarb	626-3338
<b>Membership:</b>	Bobby Stim	731-1067
<b>Nat. Res./ Health Care:</b>	Anne Ostling	681-8996
<b>Public Relations:</b>	Shirley Bard	781-9570
	Dell Smith	520-9366
<b>Social Policy:</b>	Gladys Paige	589-0589
<b>Voter Service:</b>	Claire Gavrin	781-7274
<b>Programs:</b>	Janet Spar	735-8673
<b>Special Districts:</b>	Mimi Hirsch	822-5086
<b>Students Inside Albany:</b>	Judy Schecter	221-5448
<b>Students Inside Albany/</b>	Lillian Broad	781-8685
<b>Special Districts:</b>		

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## Keeping Connected

### LWVUS & LWVUS Education Fund

1730 M Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036-4508  
 202-429-1965, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), [lwv@lwv.org](mailto:lwv@lwv.org)

### LWVNYS & LWVNYS Education Foundation

62 Grand Street, Albany, NY 12207  
 518-465-4162, [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org), [lwvny@lwvny.org](mailto:lwvny@lwvny.org), [www.lwvny-bulletins.org](http://www.lwvny-bulletins.org)

### LWV of Nassau County:

Post Office Box 539, Point Lookout, NY 11569, 516-431-1628  
[www.lwvofnassaucounty.org](http://www.lwvofnassaucounty.org), [vote@lwvofnassaucounty.org](mailto:vote@lwvofnassaucounty.org)

## Barbara's Corner



I want to begin by thanking **Polly Nager** and **Anne Ostling** and their health care committee (**Lesley Pollak** and **Lorraine Newman**) for putting together a fantastic health care program. Also thanks to **Paula Blum** for being our moderator and to everyone who helped in any way. It took a great deal of time, preparation and energy and it is greatly appreciated.

I want to remind you how important it is for you to be a member of League. We need all of you, whether you are involved in any of our activities or just show your support by paying dues. National League will be in existence 90 years next year. We need to continue to remind the public of our presence and our positions on different issues. If you have not yet sent in your dues for this year, there is a membership form on page 5. Please remit ASAP.

Please attend our Candidates Meetings – See page 1 for dates and locations. Your support, through your attendance is greatly appreciated.

Marion Schurade and I attended a Town of Hempstead zoning hearing at Hofstra University on Sept. 22, at which I submitted a statement in support of the affordable housing component of the housing proposed for the Lighthouse project. I also requested that there be more rental units and that at least part of this housing be in the first phase of development. It is important to remember that we on Long Island should be very concerned about the loss of young people. We call this the brain drain. Let your town and/ or county legislator know how important this is.

We are pleased to see the Town of North Hempstead, as part of their STOP program, and the Nassau County police make it possible for people to dispose of unused prescription drugs. We hope that the Town of Hempstead and Town of Oyster Bay will begin to include this in their STOP programs.

### FYI:

The National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University and Hofstra Cultural Center will present a conference on: **The Diverse Suburb: History, Politics and Prospects** on October 22-24th. For further information contact Hofstra Cultural Center - 516-463-5669 or website: [hofstra.edu/culture](http://hofstra.edu/culture).

NYS Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli has announced that the public can now do an in-depth comparisons of how their community is managing its money in comparison to other local governments on **Open Book New York** ([www.openbooknewyork.com](http://www.openbooknewyork.com)). The web site includes detailed revenue and spending information from 1996 thru 2008, for New York's 3,100 counties, cities, towns, villages, schools and fire districts.

## Search the Web and Raise Funds for the League!

Earn money to support the LWV Education Fund (LWVEF) every time you search the web! Simply log onto [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com); designate the League of Women Voters Education Fund - LWV (Washington, DC) as your charity of choice; and start using GoodSearch as your primary search engine. Each time you search, 50 percent of the advertising revenue (about a penny per search), will automatically go to the LWVEF. GoodSearch is powered by Yahoo!, so you'll get the same high quality search results you're used to.

## FDA Issues New Regulation on Dental Amalgam

The FDA has recently issued its updated final regulation on dental amalgam and its components - elemental mercury and a powder alloy - used in dental fillings.



According to the FDA the levels of mercury released by dental amalgam fillings are not high enough to cause harm in patients, despite the known health effects of high level exposure to elemental mercury.

The new regulation has moved the dental amalgam from a Class I (low risk) to a Class II (moderate risk) classification. This means that the FDA can impose special controls as a way to ensure the safety and efficacy of the product. They have released a guidance document on dental amalgam regarding the special controls. The guidelines include: a warning against the use of dental amalgam in patients with mercury allergies, a warning that dental professionals use adequate ventilation when handling dental amalgam, and a statement discussing the scientific evidence on the benefits and risks of dental amalgam, as well as the risks of mercury vapor inhalation.

The ruling has been six years in the making. The FDA has held many meetings and had many studies done, as well as reviewed around 200 scientific studies and relevant peer-reviewed literature, and they have reached their ruling of reclassification of elemental mercury in dental amalgam to Class II.

Source: Health Freedom Alliance

## Aqua-New York Water Will There Be a Rate Increase?



Aqua-New York Water, the company that supplies water to the homes of many members of the East Nassau League (including those living in the Merricks, the Bellmores, Wantagh and Massapequa) has applied to the Public Service Commission (PSC) for significant rate hikes. They are asking for a 12% increase for homes, and a 27% increase for the rental payment made by the Fire Departments in these areas for each fire hydrant.

Hearings were held by the PSC to allow residents to testify regarding these rate hikes, before their decision is made. Among those testifying were a number of our state and local legislators, including: Charles Fuschillo, David McDonough, David Denenberg and David Mejias.

Even before this increase was proposed, many Aqua-NY customers were upset that they were paying significantly more than neighbors in surrounding municipal water districts. Aqua-New York essentially has a monopoly, because its customers have no choice.

According to the fire departments, this proposed increase is the equivalent of 20 years of increases. It would, in effect, result in higher fire district taxes for residents.

After hearing Mr. Fuschillo's testimony, I asked him to share his information with us, and his office did so.

### **Here are some of the facts:**

“\* Aqua USA purchased New York Water in 2007 for approximately \$51 million. \$28 million was out of pocket and \$23 million was assumed debt. Aqua USA, Aqua-New York Water's parent company, an extremely profitable company, spends millions of dollars paying its top executives, and pays its shareholders dividends each and every year.

\* In 2008, a year when so many companies posted record losses, Aqua-America posted nearly \$98 million in profits, a \$3 million increase from 2007.

\* The CEO of Aqua-America made \$2.4 million in total compensation in 2008, an increase of nearly \$400,000 from 2007.

\* Aqua-America's CEO, CFO, Chief Administrative Officer, and 2 Regional Presidents made over \$5 million in combined total compensation last year, \$1.2 million higher than what they received in 2007.

\* Aqua-America achieved 18 cash dividend increases in the last 17 years.

\* Over the last 5 years, Aqua-America's annualized dividends have gone from \$0.39 to \$0.54 per share.”

Should Aqua-NY get a rate hike? Share your views with the PSC: 518- 474-6530, [www.dps.state.ny.us/](http://www.dps.state.ny.us/), [secretary@dps.state.ny.us](mailto:secretary@dps.state.ny.us)

## Public Option is Essential to Health Reform

### *League Urges Congress and President to Continue Support for Public Option*

**Washington, DC** – "The public option in health care reform ... is essential to the almost 47 million uninsured Americans who live day to day without health care coverage," said League of Women Voters National President Mary G. Wilson. Calling on Congress and the President not to succumb to the bullying tactics being used by special interest groups, Wilson urged Congress and the President not to waver in their support of the public option included in H.R. 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009.

America is facing a health care crisis caused by... skyrocketing costs and an insurance system that leaves millions of Americans without any coverage. "The current health care system is endangering our economy, our health, and our national security," Wilson said. "Last fall, voters elected a Congress and President that promised to reform our health care system. Voters made it clear that they want a change in our health care system, a change that puts the brakes on the excesses created by a system dominated by large insurance companies," she continued.

"It is universal coverage that will determine the humanity of our system and a public option will make that possible for Americans who cannot obtain coverage through the traditional employer-sponsored plans," noted Wilson.

"We believe that health care reform legislation must guarantee access to comprehensive and essential benefits to all U.S. residents."

"But the possibility of universal coverage is not the only advantage of the public option, We must control costs; and the public option is the best chance to bring costs into line with reality. As a nation, we are spending \$1 out of every \$6 we earn on health care. Over the last three decades, increases in the amount we spend on health care have consistently risen faster than wages and inflation. Health care reform must provide effective cost controls, equitable distribution of services and allow for efficient and economical delivery of care. Offering everyone the choice of a government administered health insurance plan like Medicare that would compete with private health insurance plans is key to lowering costs."

"The public option is critical to health care reform," Wilson concluded. "Now is not the time for politicians to get cold feet just because a handful of special-interest-backed protesters spread lies and make noise at public forums. Congress and the President need to demonstrate real leadership and move forward with true health care reform."



