



# Suffolk County Voter

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September 2009

Wed. Sept. 16: LWVSC Board Meeting, 10:00am-12 noon, Riverhead Library

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## LWVSC Stands Up for the Homeless

Katherine Hoak, Nancy Marr, Renee Stahlman, and Judie Gorenstein hosted the LWVSC table at the second annual *Stand Up For The Homeless* at St. Joseph's College in Patchogue on August 5. The goal was for the 554 homeless to gain access to services from 71 federal, state, county, and private agencies. LWVSC distributed voter registration forms and helped 12 people complete the forms that day, and provided "Your Right to Vote in New York State: Homeless Individuals" booklets to the homeless, the volunteers who escorted them, and other agencies.

At last year's event, most of the people were surprised to find out that the homeless could indeed vote. This year I was gratified to see that more people were aware of this right and knowledgeable as to voting regulations. Many of the people did know they had to re-register if they changed addresses. Some who said they were not registered at their current shelter but knew they would be moving in in a few weeks, asked to take the forms and fill them out once they got to their new address. They had voted in the past and planned on voting this year too. They recognized that although they might not have a home, they do have a vote; and their vote can make a difference.

The Ballot Marking Devices located in each polling site also can make a difference. I spoke with a blind man who had voted in 2008 with the ballot marking device. It was the very first time he has voted independently and he is encouraging others with disabilities to use them. I knew it was important for people with disabilities to vote independently, but this blind man reaffirmed how much it meant to him.

Our league's presence at this event also meant a lot to a convicted felon who had served his parole 10 years ago. He had voted before he was convicted, but was unaware he could vote again. No one had ever told him, his volunteer (or many other people there that day), that felons after serving parole were entitled to vote but needed to register. He regretted not having known and voted in the past ten years, did complete the registration form right there, and seemed certain to vote this year and in the future.

LWVSC will certainly continue to volunteer at this event and others like it where we can help register voters and inform them of their rights. For those who have not seen the "Your Right to Vote in New York State: Homeless Individuals" "...Convicted Felons," etc., go to <http://lwvny.org/voteServices.html#right>

Judie Gorenstein

## Grant Writing Seminar

The CJCC (Criminal Justice Coordinating Council) will hold a 3-hour introduction to grant writing for anyone interested in learning about the grant writing process. The seminar will be held on Thursday, September 17, from 9am-12noon in the Media Room of the H. Lee Dennison Building in Hauppauge.

The purpose of this grant writing seminar is to introduce participants to the process of submitting a grant proposal or responding to an RFP (request for proposals). This seminar will review the components of a successful grant proposal and help participants to understand the specific components of a proposal. This seminar will review the problem statement, goals and objectives, activities, evaluation, budget, and capability statements of a proposal.

This is best attended by those who are not experienced in grant writing and want to learn more about the process. More advanced grant writing sessions can be scheduled if needed.

Please advise Katherine Hoak if you plan on attending.

## Political Calendar

Aug 21	Last day to postmark voter registration form to be able to vote in primary
Aug 26	Change of address must be received by BOE for primary
Sept 8	Last day to postmark application for absentee ballot for primary
Sept 14	Last day to apply in person for absentee ballot for primary
Sept 14	Last day to postmark absentee ballot
Sept 15	Last day to deliver absentee ballot in person to the county BOE
<b>Sept 15</b>	<b>Primary Election</b>