



CONSENSUS TOPIC: ARTICLE 5 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT?

The national league (LWVUS) has asked local leagues to conduct a consensus study, due in December, about whether and how to adopt an amendment to the U.S. constitution. There are two methods by which to amend the U.S. Constitution.

In the first method, successfully employed since 1789, Congress proposes an amendment by a two-thirds vote of both houses. Then, if three-fourths

of the states (38 at present) vote to ratify the amendment, it becomes part of the Constitution. To date, 27 of the 33 proposed amendments have been adopted by the states.

In the second method, legislatures of two-thirds of the states (34 at present) apply to Congress, who must, then, call a convention to consider and propose amendments to the Constitution. These

amendments must meet the same 38-state ratification requirement, as above. This method, known as the Article V Convention, has never been implemented, though the closest it came to being used was in 2013-14 with federal balanced budget amendments proposed by the states.

The league hosted a general meeting on this topic on October 27, at the Closter Library, conducted by Lucy Heller. The consensus questions were discussed and decided at its November 10 meeting. The results, indicated in **red**, follow.

The Twenty-seventh Amendment to the United States Constitution is the most recent amendment. It prohibits any law that increases or decreases the salary of members of Congress from taking effect until the start of the next set of terms of office for Representatives. It was submitted by Congress to the states for ratification September 25, 1789. The amendment became part of the United States Constitution on May 7, 1992, following a record-setting ratification period of 202 years, 7 months and 12 days.

CONSENSUS QUESTIONS:

Part I - Considerations for Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals

1. Which of these should or should not be considered as part of an appropriate, well-crafted amendment?

WE BELIEVE ALL of the following Should be considered:

a) Whether the public policy objective addresses matters of such acute and abiding importance that the fundamental charter of our nation must be changed.

b) Whether the amendment would be effective in achieving its policy objective.

c) Whether the amendment would either make our political system more democratic or protect individual rights. **(and by individual rights we mean those rights held by human beings, not corporations)**

d) Whether the policy objective can be achieved by a legislative or political approach that is less difficult than a constitutional amendment.

e) Whether the public policy objective

is more suited to a constitutional and general approach than to a statutory and detailed approach.

Part II - Aspects of an Article V Constitutional Convention

2. Indicate whether you agree or disagree that the following conditions should or should not be in place for an Article V Constitutional Convention initiated by the states?

WE AGREE with ALL of the following:

a) The Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret.

b) Representation at the Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote.

c) State delegates must be elected rather than appointed.

d) Voting at the Convention must be by delegate, not by state.

e) The Convention must be limited to a specific topic.

f) Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Convention must be called.

g) The validity of state "calls" for

an Article V Constitutional Convention must be determined by the

most recent action of the state. If a state has enacted a rescission of its call, that rescission should be respected by Congress.

(We believe a time limit is needed)

3. We believe the league

SHOULD oppose an Article V Constitutional Convention to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution because of unresolved questions about the powers and processes of such a convention?

Part III – Balancing Questions

4. Should the League consider supporting a Constitutional amendment that will advance a League position even if:

There was NO CONSENSUS on either of the following two questions:

a) There are significant problems with the actual amendment as proposed?

b) It is being put forward by a procedural process the League would otherwise oppose?



LWV OF NORTHERN VALLEY
2015-2016

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Quarterly Newsletter Editors
Please submit Articles to:

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LWV ROLE AT THE UNITED NATIONS

"The role of the League of Women Voters in the United Nations" will be a webinar released soon. Future webinars are being planned for international women's issues.

LWVNV member Chris Sedona is a member of the LWVUS-UN Observer Delegation and she administers the Google Group LWVUS-UN.

- To join:
1. Search "Google Groups"
2. Search for "LWVUS-UN"
3. Request to join.



Making Democracy Work

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

It neither supports nor opposes candidates or political parties.

Membership is open to all women and men who subscribe to its purpose.

UPDATE: NJ COALITION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

As a member of the NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking, the LWVNV invites all members to



attend meetings for this Human Rights advocacy group which are held monthly in Whippany.

Update:

On November 19th in Atlantic City, the group attended the meeting for the League of Municipalities to advocate for each

municipality in NJ to declare a Human Trafficking Day in the individual municipalities. Mayors in approx. 100 municipalities have already issued proclamations. The effort was to reach the next 400 Mayors all together at this event.

UPDATE: AFFLUENCE & POVERTY—A TALE OF TWO BERGEN COUNTIES

"It's the best of times. It's the worst of times."

On November 10, 2015, the National Council of Jewish Women and co-sponsor the LWVNV, conducted a panel discussion about the problems of hunger, homelessness and lack of affordable housing. Here in Ber-

gen County, home to some of the wealthiest bedroom communities in the northeast, too many people live in poverty—and to our collective disgrace—children go to be hungry every night. Panelists included: State Senator Loretta Weinberg, Lynn

Bartlett, Exec. Director Bergen County Housing Authority, Kate Duggan, Director Family Promise of Bergen County, Adina Yacoub, Administrative Supervisor Bergen County Social Services, and Adele H. Latourette, Director NJ Anti-Hunger Coalition.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

- Join The LWV! Discuss & inform citizens about:
- Strictly Non-Partisan Candidate Forums
- Public Office Candidates
- Election information
- Voter Registration
- Grassroots Forums
- Current Issues

Membership Information: lwvno.valley@gmail.com 201-947-0756



www.lwvbergen.org

Download Form: lwvbergen.org/membership/

Send With Dues to:

LWV of Northern Valley c/o Vicki Sidrow 1-Horizon Road, Apt 1405 Ft. Lee, NJ 07024

Annual Dues: Single \$55.00, Family \$75.00

REPORT FROM THE PLASTIC BAG STUDY GROUP

The Northern Valley League initiated a local study, this summer, about the benefits and disadvantages of banning the use of plastic bags at the grocery store. The committee is composed of Lorraine Cohen, Naomi Epstein, Betty Frank, Peggy Kabakow and Ann Moscovitz. They have met several times, watched the movie the "Pacific Plastic Island", and absorbed much information from the media and the web. Ann brought a "show and tell" of the various types of hard plastic that largely make up the pacific sea of plastics at our local garbage dumps. They examined potential remedies such as: outright prohibition, repurchase by the markets, a fee for usage, and the substitution of other materials, including paper and biodegradable plastics.

Very soon the committee realized two things:

- ◇ Reducing the use of plastic grocery bags offers very little benefit to the environment be-

cause the bags represent only a minute portion of the plastic waste stream.

- ◇ They learned that plastic bags were more likely to be recycled than other forms of plastic.



They discussed what role the LWV of Northern Valley should take. They could reach consensus about one or more of the remedies cited above, limiting themselves to plastic bag remediation, or they could take a longer term look by encouraging conversion to biodegradable plastics, which are already on the market, but are considerably more expensive.

So far, they are leaning toward studying a bigger solution -- promoting a campaign to encourage conversion to biodegradable plastics, in the expectation that greater use would lower the cost to the point where it would be competitive with the non-degradable plastics and paper. They visualize outreach to environmental organizations, various levels of government, and the media. They felt that such a campaign, though lengthy and not likely to show immediate results, would do more to promote sustainability.

The committee hopes to invite a professional recycler to speak at the Holiday luncheon on December 1 in the interest of continuing theirs, and our, pursuit of knowledge about how best to help the environment. The committee welcomes more members, and guests, to join them. If you wish to get involved, or learn more, please contact Sophie Heyman, heymannsophie@gmail.com



ELIZABETH CADY STANTON HISTORIC SITE

A committee is being formed to fundraise for an Elizabeth Cady Stanton & Susan B Anthony statue and podium to be placed in Tenafly. This statue is to commemorate the historic event that occurred at "The Polling Local" at The Valley Hotel, also called Charlie Brown's, located at 87 County Road, Tenafly, New Jersey. At this site, Elizabeth Cady Stanton was denied the vote, despite paying taxes on her home. (Taxation without representation.) Susan B. Anthony was a witness. For More Information lwno.valley@gmail.com

CALENDAR & NOTES

Regular Board Meetings

2015—2016 Season:

Tuesdays at 10:00 am at the Garden Room at the Davis Johnson Park & Gardens, Corner of Engle St. and Westervelt Ave. in Tenafly

Board Meetings are Open to the Public.

12/8/15, 1/12/16, 2/9/16, 3/8/16, 4/12/16, 5/10/16, 6/14/16, 7/11/16, and 8/9/16. Please join us!

LWVNJ Annual Appeal

Now through the end of 2015, please consider your tax deductible donation to the State LWV.

For Information, go to:

LWVNJ.org



c/o Vicki Sidrow, 1-Horizon Rd, Apt 1405, Ft Lee, NJ 07024



The LWV of Northern Valley is the organization where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Join us today!

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 Web: www.lwvbergen.org

LeagueofWomenVotersNorthernValley/
 @LeagueNVValley

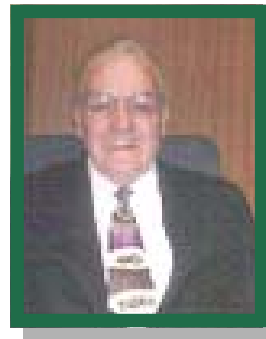
Alpine	Englewood	New Milford
Bergenfield	Englewood Cliffs	Northvale
Cliffside Park	Fort Lee	Norwood
Closter	Hackensack	Old Tappan
Cresskill	Harrington Park	Park Ridge
Demarest	Haworth	River Vale
Dumont	Hillsdale	Tenafly
Edgewater	Leonia	Washington Township
Emerson	Montvale	Woodcliff Lake

TO:

Annual Holiday Pot-Luck Luncheon

Tuesday, December 1st, 2015 at 11:30 A.M.
 At the home of Shirley Shapiro * 252 Highwood Ave., Tenafly, NJ
 Admission: \$10.00 or food * *Main course items preferred*
Guests are welcome.

Please detach this form and send it with your check
 Payable to the "League of Women Voters of Northern Valley"
 Shirley Shapiro, 252 Highwood Ave., Tenafly, NJ 07670
 201-568-0787 - wpab65a@aol.com



OUR FEATURED SPEAKER:

Joseph Miele, who founded Miele Sanitation more than 40 years ago, is

the municipal contractor for waste and/or recycling in many Northern Valley towns. He, along with his daughter Liza, will be our guest speakers and share their vast knowledge about the process of waste management and recycling. Joe, whose headquarters have been in Closter for some fifty years, also built the Clarkstown, NY transfer station in 1989 and owns a fully automated recycling station in Hillburn, NY.



2015 HOLIDAY Pot Luck LUNCHEON SIGN-UP

NAME _____

PHONE _____

I will bring:

Entrée___ Appetizer___ Salad___ Dessert___