

LWV IN ACTION!



Guest speaker **Assemblywoman Holly Schepisi** (R), District 39, speaking at the LWVNV Annual Dinner Meeting 6/19/2018

Support from the League of Women Voters of New Jersey and its partners at the Good Government Coalition of New Jersey was critical to the passage of legislation signed by Governor Murphy on July 20th (A3461/S1974). This law requires candidates to provide an email address when filing to run for office. This was an important but missing piece of information for those who want to hear from candidates running for office.

The national League wrapped up its

53rd biennial national convention in June with more than 1,000 League leaders attending. Continuing its **Making Democracy Work®** campaign, the League hopes to engage millions of voters in the election process and strengthen the laws that govern money in politics, redistricting, and voting rights. Advocacy for the National Popular Vote was added as a campaign priority

Currently organizing voter registration drives in local apartment complexes, senior living facilities, schools, and Bergen Town Center is the National Council of Jewish Women, Bergen County Section. If you would like to assist them, please contact Nike Bach.

To be informed or to get involved:

- JOIN the Northern Valley League or RENEW your membership (see box below)
- Visit LWVNV Twitter and Facebook web sites (addresses on pg 4)
- Sign up for the state league's [email list](#)
- Receive the Network for Responsible Public Policy's [weekly newsletter](#) to be notified of upcoming programs and to receive updates on current policy issues

**LWV OF NORTHERN VALLEY
2018-2019**

Officers

- Nike Bach, 1st VP
Lucy Heller, 2nd VP
Fran Molnar, Secretary
Vicki Sidrow Treasurer
Vi Ruschman, Membership*

Elected Directors

- Lorraine Cohen
Naomi Epstein
Bobbie Hass
Betty Frank
Anne Lander
Cathy Mick
Shirley Shapiro
Ann Moscovitz*

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LWVNV MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all women and men and includes membership in the national, state, and local organization. Membership runs from July 2018 - June 2019 and is \$55.00 for individuals, \$75.00 for family and \$10.00 for students.

**Please join us!
Renew your
LWVNV
Membership
Today!**

Please print out this form and return it, along with your check, to LWV Treasurer, Vicki Sidrow, One Horizon Road, Apt 1405, Fort Lee, NJ 07024. Please make your check payable to the League of Women Voters of Northern Valley ("LWVNV").

Questions? lwno.valley@gmail.com or call 201-947-0756
Download Form: lwvbergen.org/membership/

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____, NJ _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

PHOTOS WANTED!

**NEXT SUBMISSIONS
DEADLINE: 11/8/18**
Please submit articles to:

Nike Bach, 1st VP
Nike.Bach@gmail.com

Sally Tayeb, Member
TayebFamily@gmail.com

Quarterly Newsletter Editors



NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE?



JOIN IN OUR MEMBER ACTIVITIES

If you would like to get involved in Voter Service Activities, Please contact: Nike.Bach@gmail.com

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

It operates through more than 800 state and local leagues in all 50 states, Washington, DC, Hong Kong, and the Virgin Islands.

The organization develops grass-roots leadership and enjoys widespread credibility because it is strictly non-partisan.

www.lwvnj.org

In 1970, a League study of the presidential electoral process culminated in a position supporting direct election of the President by popular vote. The League testified and lobbied for legislation to amend the Constitution to replace the Electoral College with direct election of the President, including provisions for a national runoff election in the event no candidates (President or Vice-President) received 40% percent of the vote. The measure, which passed the House and nearly passed the Senate in 1971, has been revived in each Congress without success.

In 2008, the League voted to conduct a study of a proposal for a National Popular Vote. Via compact -- the states would govern how they cast their votes in the Electoral College, thereby making the election of the President a popular vote. In 2010, it adopted a concurrence to support the National Popular Vote Compact as a method of selecting the President until the Electoral College was abolished.

The Compact, (National Popular Vote Interstate Compact or NPVIC) preserves the constitutionally mandated electoral system, protects states' rights by maintaining state control of elections and uses the built-in method that the

Constitution provides for states to make changes concerning how they select and direct their electors.

NPVIC moves the U.S. closer to one person/one vote and ensures that every voter in every state is relevant in every presidential election. President Obama, for example, won the popular vote in Florida by a mere 74,000 votes and President Trump by only 114,000, a tiny majority in a state of 20 million people. NPVIC would eliminate winner-take-all, which invalidates up to half of all votes cast for president. Winner-take-all, used by 48 states, awards all electoral votes in a state to the candidate winning the popular vote in



that state, making votes for anyone else meaningless. Winner-take-all is not part of the Constitution nor was it never debated by the Founders.

More than 60 percent (172) of the 270 electoral votes needed to activate NPVIC have been secured. There is 98 more to go with legislation being considered in at least 20 states.

To learn more about this issue, visit the Florida League's web site, lwvfl.org/issue/



Legalizing Marijuana: Good Policy or Bad?

Get informed as this issue makes it's way through our state legislature.

Wednesday October 10, 2018

7:30PM. Location: McCandless Room, Tenafly Municipal Complex
100 Riveredge Road, in Tenafly.

Speakers from RAMP (Responsible Approaches to Marijuana Policy) will discuss the negative consequences of legalization and the NJUMR (New Jersey United for Marijuana Reform) will present the benefits of legalizing marijuana.

ELECTIONS

by Lucy Heller

The fact the election of the President (and Vice President elected together) is the *only* one in which ALL citizens of the United States are allowed to cast votes, is a major argument for the popular vote to decide the winner. In every other race, the candidate who receives the most votes wins.

This argument fails to consider the history of the United States. A major issue that faced the delegates of the first Constitutional Convention in 1787, was to reconcile the interests of the larger states (by population) with those of the smaller ones. Delegates from New Jersey led the effort to preserve the sovereignty of the individual states. The "Great Compromise" created a bicameral Congress: representation in the House is based on population and representation in the Senate is equal. The Electoral College for choosing the President is an integral part of the Compromise.

To abolish the Electoral College would require three-quarters of the states to ratify an amendment to the Constitution, but more than one quarter of the 50 states have a population so small that their influence in the election would be even less than now, so they would never approve. There is NO constitutional requirement that All the electors in a state must go to the candidate who wins therein; in fact a few small states allocate their electoral votes based on the popular vote. Would an Act of Congress, requiring all states to do so, guarantee victory for the candidate who wins the popular vote?? The most populous

states would see this as diminishing their influence and could block its passage. No doubt such a scheme would be challenged in the courts, since the conduct of elections is a state prerogative. No effort to bypass the Electoral College system, including that currently supported by League at its recent national convention, has received Court approval. US Courts refuse to rule on proposals or "what if".

Since all states have actually recorded the popular vote, after 1824, only *four* times has the candidate who won the popular vote **not** won election. Trump, George W. Bush, Benjamin Harrison in 1888, and Rutherford B. Hayes in 1876 failed to win the popular vote. (The British parliamentary system, in which all voting is at the district level, avoids this problem. The leader of the winning party, nationally, becomes Prime Minister.)

Can we not trace the current political division in our country, in part, to the ongoing tension between the large populous (coastal) states and the less densely populated, rural interior ones?

An interesting election innovation was recently adopted in Maine, known as "Ranked Choice Voting". In races in which there are more than two candidates, the ballot instructs the voter to indicate their first, second, third choices ...thus ranking the entire list of candidates. In most cases this allows one candidate to obtain a majority, without requiring a run off. (New Jersey doesn't allow run offs, the top vote-getter wins, regardless of how close the count.) Ranked voting is most useful when there are numerous candidates, usually in Primaries. It would be a very helpful tool in Presidential Primaries to compare the support for each of the candidates.

CANDIDATES

In the General Election, to be held Tuesday, 11/6/18, NJ voters will elect one member to serve in the U.S. Senate.

Incumbent Bob Menendez, Democrat, was first appointed to the Senate in 2006. The following candidates will be running against him: Bob Hugins, Republican; Murray Sabrin, Libertarian; Madelyn Hoffman, Green; and candidates from four different parties: Hank Schroeder, Natalie Lynne Rivera, Kevin Kimple and Tricia Flanagan

NJ voters will elect 12 candidates to serve in the House of Representatives, one from each of the state's 12 congressional districts. Northern Valley residents are served by two Congressional districts: Josh Gottheimer, in District 9, and Bill Pascrell Jr., in District 5. Josh Gottheimer (D) was first elected to the House in 2016. Bill Pascrell (D) was first elected to the House in 1996 from New Jersey's 8th Congressional District. Due to redistricting, Pascrell ran in the newly redrawn 9th Congressional District in

2012, and won. He won re-election in 2016. Running against Josh Gottheimer is: John McCann Jr., Republican, James Toscone, Libertarian, and Wendy Goetz, Independent. Running against Bill Pascrell is: Eric Fisher, Republican, and Claudio Belusic, Libertarian.

In County-wide races, there will be two candidates running for County Executive: Jim Tedesco, Democrat and incumbent, and Norman Schmelz, Republican. For freeholder, Tracy Zur and Steve Tanelli, both Democrats and both incumbents will be running against Hector Olmo and Eric Kulmala, both Republicans as well as Thomas VonLinden, Independent.

The Bergen County League (ILO) plans to conduct Candidate Forums for ALL of the above races, except for U.S. Senate. That forum may be conducted by the state League. For information about the county forums, please visit www.lwvbergen.org. To learn what Congressional District your town is in, please use the [Citizen's Guide](http://lwvnj.org/images/CG/2018_CG.pdf) at http://lwvnj.org/images/CG/2018_CG.pdf



EVENTS OF INTEREST

SEPTEMBER 2018

9/17/18

Constitution Day

A federal observance that recognizes the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens.

9/25/18

National Voter Registration Day

A nationwide, nonpartisan effort to host, publicize, or register hundreds of thousands of voters on this single day

9/18/18 at 10:00 AM

LWV-NV Board Meeting*

9/27/18 at 7:30 PM

Network for Responsible Public Policy presents



SCOTUS, Polarization and the Rule of Law with Professors Perry Dane and Bernard Bell, distinguished constitutional attorneys at Rutgers Law School. Location: Fairleigh Dickinson University, Dickinson Hall, 140 University Plaza Drive, in Hackensack. Free and open to the public. Suggested donation: \$10. www.nfrpp.org

9/28/18 - at 10:30AM

Network for Responsible Public Policy presents



Immigration Update with Hanna Siegel of New American Economy. Location: Teaneck

Public Library, 840 Teaneck Rd, Teaneck. Free and open to public. www.nfrpp.org

OCTOBER 2018

10/9/18 at 10:00 AM

LWV-NV Board Meeting*

10/10/18- at 7:30PM.

Legalizing Marijuana: Good Policy or Bad?



Speakers will present opposing views on a topic that is that is under consideration by state officials: RAMP (Responsible Approaches to Marijuana Policy) and NJUMR (New Jersey United for Marijuana Reform). Location: McCandless Room, Tenafly Municipal complex, 100 Riveredge Rd, in Tenafly.

10/16/18 - LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE or Change Voting Address for General Election

Information: https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/voting-information-local-officials.html

10/18/18 - HOLD for



Network for Responsible Public Policy program at 7:30PM at Fairleigh Dickinson University, Dickinson Hall, 140 University Plaza Drive, in Hackensack. www.nfrpp.org

10/30/2018: Deadline to Mail the VOTE-BY-MAIL application to County Clerk. Information: https://www.state.nj.us/state/elections/voting-information-vote-by-mail.html

NOVEMBER 2018

11/5/18 at 3PM: Deadline to Apply In-Person for a VOTE-BY-MAIL application to County Clerk

NOVEMBER 6TH
GENERAL ELECTION
POLLS OPEN
6AM TO 8PM



11/8/18 -- HOLD for Network for Responsible



Public Policy program at 7:30PM at Fairleigh Dickinson University, Dickinson Hall, 140 University Plaza Drive, in Hackensack

11/8/18 - Newsletter Submissions due

11/13/18 at 10:00 AM

LWV-NV Board Meeting*

12/11/18 at 10:00 AM

CANDIDATE FORUMS
Please check for updates at:
www.lwvbergen.org.

VOTE411.ORG®
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

WWW.LWVNJ.ORG & WWW.LWVBERGEN.ORG

Please visit for updates on State Wide And Bergen County events *LWV OF NORTHERN VALLEY

Please Join Us! BOARD MEETINGS

LOCATION at Vantage Health System, Inc., 2 Park Avenue, Dumont - (South of Madison Ave and West of Washington Ave.) Along the Railroad Track between Ivy Lane and Quackenbush Avenue. DIRECTIONS: Take Washington Ave. into Dumont, then turn WEST onto Quackenbush Ave. Plenty of Parking.

Board Meetings are open to all members at 10AM, 2nd Tuesday each month.

LWVNV WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Paige Botjer, Hillside
Ava Landsman, Demarest



Facebook: LeagueofWomenVotersNorthernValley/
Twitter: @LeagueNValley

PHOTOS WANTED!
Share your activities with Fellow members in this Newsletter. Email to Nike.Bach@gmail.com (With spelling for names.) Thanks.

MAILING ADDRESS & CONTACT INFORMATION:

c/o Vicki Sidrow, Treasurer
1-Horizon Rd, Apt 1405,
Ft Lee, NJ 07024
Phone: 201-947-0756
E-mail: lwwno.valley@gmail.com

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