



your
★ **VOTER** ★

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LWVBN website

www.lwvbn.org

LWVNYS website

www.lwvny.org

LWVUS website

www.lwv.org

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So We Voted . . . Now What?

Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Via Zoom

Panelists:

Lee Coppola, Dean (retired), St. Bonaventure University School of Journalism

Peter Yacobucci, Associate Professor of Political Science, SUNY Buffalo State

Robert J. McCarthy, Political Reporter, *The Buffalo News*

Who will be inaugurated on January 20, 2021? Will there be a peaceful and orderly transition of power? Which party will hold the majority in the House and the Senate? Is our nation in the throes of a constitutional crisis? Or has our noble experiment in democracy managed to withstand the challenges of recent months? Whatever happens in the November election, you won't want to miss this lively discussion!

RSVP by Monday, November 16, via email to lwvbn@lwvbn.org.

IMPORTANT: The program is free, but you MUST provide your email address in order to receive Zoom participation instructions.



League of Women Voters Mission

The League of Women Voters is a good government organization that encourages informed and active participation in the political process, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League never supports political parties or candidates.

President's Report and Board Actions

The sad news of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg's death has cast a long shadow over the progress toward equality for all that she championed for more than 50 years. In her quiet, measured manner, she effected changes that have impacted the lives of all of us. Everyone, men and women alike, has benefitted from the cases she litigated at the Supreme Court beginning in the 1970s and those she was involved in as a justice for the past 27 years. About her efforts she said, "I don't say women's rights – I say the constitutional principle of the equal citizenship stature of men and women."

To me, her words are a fitting tribute to her life and a message to us as we continue the League's work. I think these words relate well to the work of the League: "To make life a little better for people less fortunate than you, that's what I think a meaningful life is. One lives not just for oneself but for one's community."

"Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time." We must continue our work and be sure we "Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you." May we continue in our work and benefit from the words and deeds of the "Notorious RGB"!

Of course, election season is a time of great activity for the League. This year, many of our efforts have been virtual. Our outreach to voters includes the electronic Voters Guide at www.Vote411.org. All candidates may post responses on Vote411.org at any time until Election Day, November 3, 2020. Please go online and check to see that the candidates on your ballot have all responded. If not, we urge you to contact them and urge them to respond. Voters deserve to know about all the people who seek to represent them. Vote411.org includes all candidates for national, state and local offices. The Erie County district attorney, Niagara County district attorney and Niagara County sheriff are the only local offices covered. This League no longer approaches judicial candidates, because they have declined to participate for several years.

The BMHA tenant commissioner's election was postponed from June until September. Nora Mikes and Mary Ann Turkla did an outstanding job preparing the mailings to all BMHA residents and overseeing their production. Nora was careful to provide the candidates with the greatest possible opportunity for their voices to be heard by the voters. Thank you, also, Ramona Gallagher, Alan Dozoretz and Janet Goodsell for your efforts at the two candidate forums. The votes were totaled at the Erie County Board of Elections with the use of a high-speed ballot counting machine. When we needed to perform a recount, it took less than an hour for more than 500 ballots.

Terri Parks

October 7 Program Reminder

Election 2020 and Your Health Care: What to Know Before You Vote

Don't miss this important FREE virtual panel event, from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, October 7! Experts from across New York State will help us understand what's at stake for health care policy at both federal and state levels. The program is a collaboration of the Health Foundation for Western and Central New York, the League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara, and Buffalo Toronto Public Media.

[Register here](#) if you haven't already.

We also encourage you to submit questions for the Q&A in advance to info@hfwcnyc.org.

Important Election Information!

Election Day: Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Early voting: Saturday, October 24, through Sunday, November 1

The last day to register to vote in 2020 is Friday, October 9

To request a mail-in/absentee ballot or register to vote:

Erie County Board of Elections, 716-858-8891, elections.erie.gov

Niagara County Board of Elections, elections.niagara.ny.us

Republican: 716-438-4041 | Democratic: 716-438-4040

To check your voter registration status: voterlookup.elections.ny.gov

For candidate statements, voting information, and links to voter registration and absentee ballot requests: Vote411.org

For a list of early voting sites, please see pages 5 and 6 in this Voter.

Lovejoy GOTV Campaign Update: 3,000 Postcards Mailed!

As soon we found out how the Syracuse League had worked with residents in a low-voting community to improve turnout in 2018, we were inspired to do something similar in Buffalo. The GOTV Steering Committee (Liz Zausmer, Terri Parks, Barbara Gunderson, Linda Koenigsberg, Susan Dombrowski, and Mary Ann Turkla) chose to concentrate on the Lovejoy District of Buffalo, which has historically had low voter turnout. With pandemic precautions in mind, we decided to send “get out the vote” postcards to low-propensity voters in the district. We obtained a \$600 grant from the League of Women Voters of New York State to support our effort. Krysta Doerfler created the graphic design, 25 League members and friends wrote personal messages on all 3,000 postcards, a core group of six labeled and stamped them, and we mailed them on September 21. We did a statistical analysis to choose the Lovejoy District, and plan to do a follow-up analysis after the election to see whether the campaign changed voter engagement. Thank you to the following volunteers who made this campaign possible: Krysta Doerfler, Nancy DeTine, Barbara Gunderson, Linda Koenigsberg, Mary Ann Turkla, Terri Parks, Liz Zausmer, Susan Dombrowski, Sally Metzger, Janet Goodsell, Sandra O’Hara, Ramona Gallagher, Margaret Meyer, Julie Meyer, Patti Meyer-Lee, Amy Moritz, Marjorie Tritto, Barbara Brooks, Barbara Bunker, Margaret Sontag, Melissa Weiksnar, Judy Casassa, Mike Egan, Gail Radford, Judy Huber, Mary Scheeder, Peg Mergenhausen, Andrea Baldi, Nina Lukin, and Lillis McLean. We couldn’t have done it without you!

Barbara Gunderson

State League Settles Lawsuit to Benefit Absentee Voters

For those of you who plan to vote by absentee ballot, there’s good news. The League of Women Voters of New York State instituted a lawsuit to allow voters to address and correct issues with their absentee ballots. Under the settlement, voters will no longer have their ballot invalidated if they complete their ballot in non-black or blue ink, mark outside the designated areas, or seal the inner ballot envelope – also called an affirmation envelope – with tape or other sealing agent. Voters will now also have the opportunity to correct issues with their affirmation signature and witness declaration. For this election, voters will be given up to seven days to fix any problems after being notified by the Board of Elections. They can resolve issues by returning a cure affirmation form and providing their name, date of birth, and voter registration address to confirm their identity.

In addition, absentee ballots in Erie County may be turned in at any of the 37 early voting sites from October 24 through November 1. Whether you mail your ballot or take it to a polling place, voting early is good advice.

Great Decisions

Great Decisions will meet by Zoom teleconference on Thursday, October 1, at 10 a.m. The topic will be Red Sea Security and the discussion will be led by Lillis McLean. The Foreign Policy Association states this about the topic: The Red Sea has remained vital for global trade since the time of ancient Egypt. Once home to the spice trade, the Red Sea now sees millions of barrels of oil a day transported across its waters. With major nations like China, France, Italy, and the U.S. building large ports and bases in the region, what does the future of the region look like? How important is Red Sea security for global security? Can the region be a place of global cooperation? This promises to be an interesting and relevant topic. Contact Fran Holmes at lwvbn@lwvbn.org if you have any questions. An email link will be sent out to Great Decisions members a day or two in advance of the October 1 date.

Join Our New Article/Book Discussion Group!

With nine participants, our new discussion group got off to a great start on Thursday, September 10, with Jane Mayer's article "Back to the Jungle" from *The New Yorker* magazine dated July 20, 2020. Although the issues surrounding the poultry and meat packing industry are not new, the pandemic makes them especially compelling. We learned that 1.3 million people are employed in this hazardous industry where immigrants and refugees have replaced many unionized workers. By hiring some of their undocumented employees through temp agencies, corporations can avoid documentation problems.

Mayer wrote about the owner of Mountaire, who has \$2.3 billion in revenue from operations in five states. He is a major election campaign donor (\$3 million to the Trump campaign) who pays his workers less than \$14 an hour. As his wealth has increased, their wages decreased by 24% and 44% and the required production pace accelerated from 140 to 175 birds per minute. With significant decline of union support, 6,000 complaints to OSHA resulted in only one citation. A presidential executive order that commanded meat plants to continue operations during the pandemic all but indemnified companies that are exposing their workers to the virus. Mountaire's decision to resume production under hazardous conditions was based on a fraudulent claim of a "food shortage" while the company was exporting food to China. The owner places his increased revenues into private foundations that often have a religious name and focus because "God favors the powerful." Without providing any more detail, we encourage you to read the article.

The number of issues that merit attention is almost overwhelming, and we welcome your suggestions. Some of the problems we discover might become opportunities for action as we educate ourselves and determine what we can do as individuals, as an organization or in collaboration with other groups.

Join our next session on Thursday, October 8, at 7 p.m. when, at the suggestion of new member Susan Czynny, we will discuss the *New York Times* article

["A Free Market Manifesto That Changed the World, Reconsidered"](#). The paper invited 22 contemporary economists and business leaders to ponder Milton Friedman's 50-year-old essay on libertarian economics and the social responsibility of business. The article ["50 Years of Blaming Milton Friedman. Here's Another Idea"](#), offers an additional viewpoint. To participate, please call Marian Deutschman or Janet Massaro for information on the reading and access to the session.

Marian Deutschman and Janet Massaro



GOTV bus signs are on the road!

Watch for our signs on the sides and backs of buses now through Election Day. Led by our Get Out the Vote Steering Committee, the campaign is supported by PUSH Buffalo, the NAACP, the League of Women Voters of New York State and individual donors.

Liz Zausmer, Chair

EARLY VOTING SITES IN ERIE AND NIAGARA COUNTIES

You can give your completed absentee ballot to a poll worker at any early voting site October 24 – November 1, or at your polling place on November 3, 2020.

ERIE COUNTY: 716 858-8891 elections.erie.gov

DATES: Saturday, October 24, 2020 – Sunday, November 1, 2020

HOURS (all locations): Monday - Friday: 12 noon - 9:00 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 12 noon - 6:00 p.m.

Erie County Board Of Elections	134 W Eagle St	Buffalo	NY	14202
Buffalo Community Development Ctr	203 Sanders Rd	Buffalo	NY	14216
St Columba-Brigid, RC	75 Hickory St	Buffalo	NY	14204
Lincoln Field House	10 Quincy St	Buffalo	NY	14212
Hennepin Center	24 Ludington St	Buffalo	NY	14206
Delavan Grider Community Center	877 E Delavan Ave	Buffalo	NY	14215
Salvation Army West Side Comm Ctr	187 Grant St	Buffalo	NY	14213
Northwest Buffalo Community Center	155 Lawn Ave	Buffalo	NY	14207
Tosh Collins Community Center	35 Cazenovia St	Buffalo	NY	14220
Gloria J Parks Community Center	3242 Main St	Buffalo	NY	14214
Senior Citizens Center	230 Martin Rd	Lackawanna	NY	14218
Tonawanda City Hall	200 Niagara St	Tonawanda	NY	14150
Alden Municipal Building	13336 Broadway	Alden	NY	14004
Amherst Senior Center	370 John James Audubon Pkwy	Amherst	NY	14228
Aurora Senior Citizen Center	101 King St	East Aurora	NY	14052
Boston Town Hall	8500 Boston State Rd	Boston	NY	14025
Brant Town Hall	1272 Brant North Collins Rd	Brant	NY	14027
Cheektowaga Senior Center	3349 Broadway	Cheektowaga	NY	14227
Clarence Town Hall	1 Town Hall Place	Clarence	NY	14031
Colden Town Hall	8812 State Rd	Colden	NY	14033
Collins Town Hall	14093 Mill St	Collins	NY	14034
Concord Senior Center	40 Commerce Drive	Springville	NY	14141
American Legion Post 800	2912 Legion Dr	Eden	NY	14057
Elma Senior Center	3007 Bowen Rd	Elma	NY	14059

Evans Center Fire Hall	8298 Erie Rd	Angola	NY	14006
Grand Island Welcome Center	1999 Alvin Rd	Grand Island	NY	14072
Hamburg Town Hall	6100 South Park Ave	Hamburg	NY	14075
Holland Community Center	3 Legion Dr	Holland	NY	14080
Lancaster Municipal Building	5423 Broadway	Lancaster	NY	14086
Marilla Community Center	1810 Two Rod Rd	Marilla	NY	14102
Akron Village Hall	21 Main St	Akron	NY	14001
North Collins Senior Center	11065 Gowanda State Rd	North Collins	NY	14111
Orchard Park Community Activity	4520 California Rd	Orchard Park	NY	14127
Sardinia Community Center	12320 Savage Rd	Sardinia	NY	14134
Kenmore Municipal Building	2919 Delaware Ave	Kenmore	NY	14217
Wales Community Center	12345 Big Tree Rd	Wales Center	NY	14169
West Seneca Community Center	1300 Union Rd	West Seneca	NY	14224

NIAGARA COUNTY: elections.niagara.ny.us
Democratic: 716 438-4040 Republican: 716 438-4041

LOCATIONS: The sites for early voting are open to all registered voters in Niagara County

- **St. John De LaSalle Center**, 8469 Buffalo Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14304
- **Cornell Cooperative Extension (Niagara County Fair Grounds)** 4487 Lake Ave. Lockport, NY 14094
 *Both sites are accessible to voters with physical disabilities.

DATES AND TIMES:

Saturdays, October 24 and October 31, 2020:	10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sundays, October 25 and November 1, 2020:	10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Monday, October 26, and Tuesday, October 27, 2020:	12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 28, 2020:	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 29, and Friday, October 30, 2020:	7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

FOR VOTING INFORMATION, TO CHECK YOUR VOTER STATUS, TO REGISTER TO VOTE, AND TO COMPARE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS:

VOTE411.org

LWVBN Opposes Storage of Nuclear Wastes in New Mexico

Special thanks go to League member Pat Townsend, who researched and prepared the following comments to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.



September 21, 2020

Transmitted electronically

Re: Docket ID NRC-2018-0052
Draft Environmental Impact Statement Public Comments

Dear NRC Commissioner and Staff,

We object to the Holtec proposal to establish the consolidated interim storage of nuclear wastes in New Mexico for a variety of reasons.

It is not safe to transport nuclear wastes on our aging railways, highways, and bridges across the country. Major investment in upgrading infrastructure is needed.

It is also unwise to ship these wastes to interim storage in New Mexico before permanent underground geological storage is approved and under construction. Under current uncertainties, it is impossible to know whether the wastes would need to be moved back east or north, introducing more risk.

Our city of Buffalo is one of the rail hubs through which dangerous wastes would be shipped, and no public meeting has been held here or in other cities on the shipping route(s) to discuss whether this is safe and necessary to do so. First responders along the route are generally unprepared to deal with accidents involving radioactive materials.

Joan T. Parks, President
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EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF BUFFALO/NIAGARA

1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

October 2020

Note: Due to social distancing and stay-at-home practices, meetings are subject to change and may take place via phone or computer. Please contact the committee chair for the latest information.

Tuesday, October 6, 4:00 p.m.
Program, Issues & Events Committee
TBA

Thursday, October 8, 7:00 p.m.
Book Discussion Group
via Zoom

Monday, October 12, 4:00 p.m.
Board of Directors
via Zoom

Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 p.m.
DEI Committee
via Zoom

Wednesday, October 14, 2:00 p.m.
Local Government
TBA

Wednesday, October 14, 2:00 p.m.
Waterfront Committee
TBA

Friday, October 16, 1:00 p.m.
Money in Politics
via teleconference

Monday, October 19, 7:00 p.m.
GOTV Steering Committee
TBA

Thursday, October 22, 1:30 p.m.
Education Committee
TBA

**Check the calendar on our website for updates.
Please remember to wear your League badge to all League events.**