



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

[www.LWVNH.org](http://www.LWVNH.org)

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Concord, NH 03301

## N H Voter – June 2018 newsletter of LWVNH

### News from the state League board:

With the 2018 NH legislative session done, our weekly Legislative Alerts have stopped. But not all bills that were passed have yet made it to the Governor's desk. One bill concerning election law—that would change the requirement for proving where you live from “domicile” to “residence”—is in the NH Supreme Court for an advisory opinion. League opposes HB1264 because it would make registering to vote more difficult and possibly require paying for a new driver's license. This would affect some college students, military, and others on temporary assignments in NH such as hospital interns.

Governor Sununu just vetoed the repeal of the death penalty bill. The legislature may take a veto override vote in early fall.

Update on the League's lawsuit opposing the 2017 voter registration bill, SB3: The judge originally assigned to the case recused himself a few weeks ago, so the case has been reassigned to Judge Kenneth Brown in Hillsborough Superior Court in Manchester. Date for trial not yet set. When we know more, we'll post dates and court location on our Action webpage.

On a different note, two of our state board members have stepped down. June Frazer will continue on our education study steering committee but asked to be excused from the board. Sherry Dutzy has also resigned, as she filed for a House seat from Nashua. We thank them for their work on the board. Our treasurer, Mary Perry, is still on the board but has asked us to find a replacement; she will move out of state in the next year or two.

Which leads us to a suggestion: if you would like to learn more about League, to be actively involved in decisions at the state level, and can get to Concord for meetings about every 6 weeks, we'd love to discuss the opportunities with you. Ideally we'd like to have a couple of board members from every local unit/League and from other areas of the state too. Send an email and we'll set up a phone chat.

Liz Tentarelli, president, LWVNH [LWVNewHampshire@gmail.com](mailto:LWVNewHampshire@gmail.com)

#### *On the following pages:*

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Education study article—Bartlett NH's new pre-school pp. 3 & 4.

News from local Leagues/units pp. 4, 5, 6.

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Running for Office? p. 8

**Are you a League member who is running for office in NH?** If so, please see page 8 for guidelines for how League members and the League can maintain a “respectful distance” during the campaign season. Our non-partisan status is important, as is our pride in members who run for office.

## State League study of Education – should we expand the scope of the study?

In June 2017 the membership voted at convention on the scope of our study (*copied on next page\**). League protocol is that the state board can reduce the scope if necessary, but we can't expand it without member approval. Hence this request for your vote via email or phone message:

**Do you want to expand the scope of the study to include early childhood/ pre-kindergarten education?**                      **Yes**                      **No**

After our May 19 conference that focused on pre-K education and charter schools, Liz T. got the following email from a League member who was not part of the group organizing the pre-K speakers: *“I was not all that enthused about hearing about early childhood education but the presentations were all so well put together and persuasive as to the need to start early to meet the needs of children, that I am now thinking that’s what we need to advocate for.”*

This sums up what many of us felt after the successful conference. Members may be wondering why the conference spent the morning on pre-K, considering that was not part of the original study scope. Here’s the background: A group of League members, some of whom have professional experience with early childhood development, wanted to study the topic. They did, and then organized the conference to share their findings and the experts they had met with. League can, of course, have an informational conference on any topic of non-partisan interest, whether it fits a current study or not.

At this point, the NH Legislature is not likely to support public funding of pre-K education. We still don’t have full state funding of all-day kindergarten! It is not the state board’s intent to advocate for state-funded pre-K programs in the near future, just to tilt at windmills. However, with the information we have gathered and further research that the local study committee wishes to pursue, we could easily update the work if, for example, a local community proposed a public pre-K program. (Read the article that follows on Bartlett’s recent vote in support of a full-day pre-K program in their public school.)

Any position on pre-K education in NH would, of course, have to go through the consensus process with our members. Please note that the national League’s position on education, developed after the 2011 national study, supports “...an equitable, quality public education for all children, pre-K through grade 12...” *The full national position can be found here:*  
[http://lwvnh.org/files/education\\_position\\_lwv\\_2012.pdf](http://lwvnh.org/files/education_position_lwv_2012.pdf)

When we did our last extensive state study in 2009-2012, of women incarcerated in NH, we voted after the first two years to expand the scope because we discovered some aspects we had not considered originally. Members supported that expansion of scope, we did another year’s work, and came up with a strong diverse position.

The same could happen with pre-K education. It is up to the membership. If you did not attend the May 19 conference, you may want to look at some of the materials posted on our Education Study webpage before you vote yes or no on this question to expand the scope. <http://lwvnh.org/Education.html>

To express your wishes YES or NO to expanding the scope, please email [LWVNewHampshire@gmail.com](mailto:LWVNewHampshire@gmail.com) Include your name and town so that we know only League members are voting. For those few members who don’t use email, you may leave a phone message of YES or NO with your name at our office phone: 603-225-5344.

*\*Adopted by convention June 3, 2017: **Scope of study:** The League of Women Voters NH will study the issues of education in New Hampshire. The study will begin with an historical account of the role of public education in New Hampshire. The study will then focus on the following: equity in access to educational opportunities, financing, governance, accountability and outcomes, standards and guidelines, and school choice.*

*The school choice phase of the study will include an examination of alternatives to traditional public education such as charter schools, vocational schooling, magnet schools, home-schooling, private schools, vouchers and tuition tax credits, as well as the accountability, transparency, and quality of outcomes involved in these choices.*

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## **Bartlett Voters Approve Public Preschool**

(March 7, 2018—The Conway Daily Sun) *“Josiah Bartlett Elementary School was the first school in the state to offer full-day kindergarten more than 25 years ago. Now it will be the first school in Mount Washington Valley to offer an integrated preschool after townspeople voted 191-68 by secret ballot to support a \$149,346 warrant article to get the program off the ground....when the preschool opens this fall [it] is projected to have 18-29 students. The preschool will be for children ages 3-5 developing within age expectations as well as those in need of specialized services such as speech/language therapy, occupational therapy or physical therapy.”*

The principal of 23 years initiated the plan for the town of Bartlett to establish a public preschool within the Josiah Bartlett Elementary School (JBES). His support enabled a private non-profit preschool started by town residents in 1992 to rent an elementary school classroom and to access limited school resources. Transitioning to a publicly funded preschool was part of his vision for revitalizing JBES and the town, which has been experiencing a decline in school population.

The initiative took two and a half years to reach public approval, starting with a proposal prepared in 2015 by a community committee. The proposal was rejected by the Bartlett School Board stating “a need for more information and research.”

This was followed by an extensive planning and public engagement process led by SAU 9 (School Administrative Unit) to determine the feasibility and gain community support for public preschool programming. Bartlett was one of three school districts included in this process. Jackson and Conway were the others. This was made possible by a State Systemic Improvement Plan grant through the NH Department of Education as well as a grant for community engagement services delivered by the UNH Carsey School of Public Policy and funded by the Endowment for Health and the NH Charitable Foundation. A leadership team and sub committees were formed with cross district representation.

This resulted in several related recommendations, but the primary community consensus reinforced the need to invest in and ensure access to quality early childhood education for all Mt. Washington Valley children.

Armed with this community endorsement, a new proposal for public preschool funding was presented to the Bartlett School Board by the SAU 9 Special Education Director and the Assistant Chairperson of the School Board. After careful review and discussion, a warrant article request was approved 3 to 2 and was presented at the Annual School District Meeting in March 2018. An overwhelming 75% majority of a record number of voters attending the meeting voted in favor of funding the preschool.

Providing access to preschool education for all Bartlett children was a primary rationale for going public.

Supported by tuition and fundraising, the existing private preschool struggled financially to meet this goal. An average of 25% of each new kindergarten class had historically been unable to attend preschool and many families could only afford a limited number of days.

It was also determined that the public school could provide better coordination of special education services, teaching resources and family services.

Newspaper coverage and a mass media campaign facilitated by young parents and the non-profit preschool board kept the community well informed. The private non-profit is dissolving and donating its playground and classroom equipment to JBES. The public preschool will ensure the long term stability of quality early childhood education for all Bartlett children.

For more information contact Nancy Keleman, Bartlett School Board Assistant Chairperson ([ncolony@roadrunner.com](mailto:ncolony@roadrunner.com)) or Pam Stimpson, SAU9 Special Education Director ([p\\_stimpson@sau9.org](mailto:p_stimpson@sau9.org)).

*Submitted by Birdy Ellsmore (League member, Mt. Washington Valley unit)*

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## **News from the local League units:**

### LWV Greater Capital Area

It is with much regret that the officers of this local League and the state board are submitting papers to disband this local League. An aging membership unable to attend meetings has led to a situation where only the leadership is active. All local members will receive League membership renewal notices from the state board instead of the local, and we hope they will maintain their support for the work of the League by continuing their membership as state-wide members.

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### Mount Washington Valley LWVNH

The League of Women Voters New Hampshire newest unit is in the Mount Washington Valley. The valley area includes the towns of Albany, Bartlett, Chatham, Conway, Eaton, Freedom, Jackson, Madison, Tamworth, and Hart`s Location. The impetus to join with the LWVNH came from a few women who had been involved in the “March for our Lives” held in Jackson in January, a response to escalating gun violence in the country.

Gerrie Beck and Julia King got together and invited men and women they thought might be interested in learning what the LWVNH had to offer in terms of citizen action and advocacy. The first meeting on February 6, 2018, brought out about 20 men and women who expressed interest. Based on the interest, a second successful informational meeting was held. A steering committee was formed with Gerrie Beck and Betsey Harding as co-chairs, Annie Ficke as Secretary, and Julia King as Liaison to State LWVNH.

To date we have 26 paid members from several of the towns in the MWV: Intervale, Jackson, Bartlett, Conway, Tamworth, and Madison. Our activities to date include:

1. hosted a Candidate Forum in Bartlett for the annual town election
2. hosted a talk open to the public by former State Representative Susan Ticehurst about how an idea moves through the Legislature to become law



The Nashua unit's regularly scheduled meetings are held at Nashua Public Library on the third Tuesday of the month (except Nov, 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday). Potential members welcome!

Planning is underway for fall candidate forums. +++

**League of Women Voters Kearsarge/Sunapee Area:**

**A successful annual meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup> included a talk by political guru Dean Spiliotes on the outlook for the 2018 elections. A summary of Prof. Spiliotes's comments will be in the July NHVoter.**

**Members should save the evening of September 12 for the annual potluck supper, with guest speaker Prof. Eric Boyer of Colby-Sawyer College. New London Historical Society is the venue.**

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**Undoing Racism™ Workshop – April 26 - 28, 2018**

Presented by **The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond**

Hosted by **the UJIMA Collective, Manchester, NH**

Sponsored by **YWCA and Endowment for Health**

*League was represented by Kim Kleiner, co-chair of the LWVNH-Greater Nashua unit*

The Undoing Racism Workshop was designed to challenge participants to analyze the structures of power and privilege that hinder social equity and included understanding the different forms: individual, institutional, linguistic, and cultural.

The workshop concentrated on addressing surface assumptions about how the work of our organizations are (or are not) affected by racism and gaining knowledge about how to be more effective in the work you do with your constituencies, your organizations, your communities, and your families.

The workshop included historical details, concluding that there are currently fewer voting rights in 2018 than there were 50 years ago when the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights act were passed. Since 2010, 23 states have passed voter suppression laws including racist gerrymandering and redistricting, laws which make it harder to register, reduced early voting days and hours, purging of voter rolls, and more restrictive voter ID laws. One example stated was the Shelby County v. Holder Supreme Court case, which gutted key provisions of the Voting Rights Act. By 2016, 14 states had new voting restrictions in place before the presidential election, and there were 868 fewer polling places nationwide. There are also approximately 6.1 million people who have been disenfranchised due to felony convictions, including 1 in 13 African-American adults.

Voter suppression laws are particularly alarming, but the workshop also focused on how we may inadvertently be hurting our immigrants, low income residents and people of color during voter outreach initiatives. We identified questions that many organizations providing outreach services need to address:

- Does your organization represent a diverse membership including immigrants, those of low income and people of color?
- Do your marketing materials use pictures including people of color, and are they available in multiple languages?
- Does your organization provide locations and meeting times easily accessible to all, including low income populations?

- Do you provide cultural competence training within your organization; do you understand how different cultures view your organization or its mission? Do outreach workers understand the definition of cultural competence? Cultural competence promotes relationships based upon understanding and knowledge of how one's own cultural beliefs and values influence the organization of information, perceptions, feelings, experiences, and coping strategies. It involves being able to identify, learn from, and incorporate these into the helping process. When cultural competence is an integral part of personal competence, there is the maximum opportunity to increase the amount and quality of information and the speed with which that information can be shared.
- Have you identified the barriers shared by people of color, minorities and low income populations and engaged them in meaningful conversations regarding possible solutions?

Studies show race and age are major factors influencing those who make it to the polls. Black and Hispanic citizens, for whom the poverty rate is close to three times that of whites, were three times as likely as whites to lack the requisite I.D. and to have difficulty finding the correct polling place. As we look at ways to improve voter outreach, we must as an organization look at ourselves from within. Do we truly understand the barriers others face and how their cultural beliefs may be affecting their participation? Do we understand their history and the experiences that may be influencing their participation? If we, as an organization, are truly focused on providing equal access to voting and representation, we must address these barriers and ensure that we are reflective and welcoming to the populations we wish to represent.

*Submitted by Kimberly Kleiner, LWVNH Greater Nashua*

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### **Voter Registration factoids:**

Nationwide, 4 in 10 eligible voters did not vote in 2016. NH had 72.5% turnout (3<sup>rd</sup> highest in country).

NH is one of 15 states (plus DC) that allow voters to register on election day. Of the states with the highest voter turnout in 2016, the top six all allow same-day registration. The five lowest turnout states, well below the national average of 60.2%, were in the bottom for the third consecutive presidential election (none were considered battleground states).

Source: <https://www.nonprofitvote.org/america-goes-to-the-polls-2016/>

### **Get Out The Vote:**

*For anyone who knows a high school or college student who will be old enough to vote for the first time, please do your part to encourage voter registration. On our Elections page is a flier that can be given to students to help them understand the registration and voting process. Print it out, hand it to a young friend, tell them why you vote, and make a difference.*

To find out who is running in the September primaries, see the Secretary of State's website:

<http://sos.nh.gov/2018FilingPeriod.aspx>

### **Supreme Court Disappoints on Gerrymander Cases Rulings: June 18, 2018**

Read the Brennan Center for Justice report on gerrymandering and the recent court cases.

<https://www.brennancenter.org/gerrymandering-scotus>

***Running for office in NH?*** *Whether you are running for a state office, county office, or a municipal seat, the League of Women Voters New Hampshire is proud of our members who take the next step to serve their communities as an elected official.*

The League encourages our members to participate fully in the governance of our country. It is an advantage to the League to have politically active members who can help all our members understand governmental process from first-hand experience. Of course we would be honored if you list the League in your bio as an organization of which you are a member.

It is critical, however, that all politically active members understand and support the non-partisan policy of the League, based on the following key principles:

--The League does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

--When the League takes action on selected governmental issues in conformity with LWV principles, after a careful study and consensus/concurrence process, the League does not link that position with any party or candidate.

The League must do all it can to ensure that, as an organization, we do not give any candidate special access to our members or to the public that would give the perception of support, opposition or partisanship.

What does that mean to you as a member and a candidate? The State League and all local League units have non-partisan policies that will guide members in determining the relationship between your campaign activities and League work. The non-partisan policy refers specifically to board members and visible League leaders. The League appreciates the use of all members' good judgment in the busy days ahead. Members other than board members are encouraged to work individually for any candidate of their choice, but any members helping a campaign are requested to keep the same "respectful distance" between League and campaign activities.

**Some advice to members who are candidates:**

- Candidates should not wear their campaign buttons and League buttons at the same time; nor should their supporters.
- Candidates should not sit at League "get out the vote" tables nor at membership recruitment tables.
- Candidates should not post their campaign events or activities on League social media pages.
- Candidates may not use any League email lists to announce their campaign activities.

**Local and state Leagues will also keep a "respectful distance" between themselves and the candidates:**

- Leagues will not have any candidate (League member or not) as the single guest speaker or panelist at a League or public event. All candidates for the same office must be invited, and at least more than one candidate must participate.
- League will not allow members' campaign literature to be distributed at League events unless all candidates for the same office are invited to do so.
- League members working in publicly visible roles for candidates should not be staffing League info or get out the vote tables.

The decision made in 1920 by the League's founders to neither support nor oppose any political party or any candidate has ensured that the League's voice is heard and has added strength to the League's positions on issues. We must continue to be seen as a trusted provider of non-partisan voter service.