

NH Voter, the newsletter of the League of Women Voters NH. November 2018

Two important state legislature commissions have issued their reports. Both commissions were created in 2017, charged with coming up with recommendations for further state action. One commission studied the **legalization of marijuana**, without recommending legalization one way or the other, but rather what considerations the state would have give to issues if recreational marijuana were legal. That report can be found at this website: <https://htv-prod-media.s3.amazonaws.com/files/commission-to-study-legalization-of-marijuana-1541110691.pdf>

The other commission studied the **funding of public education and the definition of “adequacy”** in terms of the state’s obligation toward school funding. League attended nearly every meeting, where we were impressed by the thoroughness of the research done by the committee, headed by Rep. Karen Umberger, and the discussion among members with different points of view. That report, along with the minority report written by Rep. Mel Myler, can be found at this website:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/statstudcomm/committees/1365/reports/Final%20Report.pdf>

(NOTE: minority report begins on p. 12. Following that are various charts and then the minutes of the study committee’s meetings.)

Some upcoming events, to which League members and the public are invited:

Sat. Nov. 10, 10 am at Tracy Library in New London: A showing of the PBS documentary “Resilience,” which discusses Adverse Childhood Experiences and a new movement to treat and prevent Toxic Stress. Now understood to be one of the leading causes of everything from heart disease and cancer to substance abuse and depression, extremely stressful experiences in childhood can alter brain development and have lifelong effects on health and behavior. Obviously educational needs are also impacted, which is why the LWVK/S Education Study Committee has chosen to show the film. The one-hour film will be followed by a discussion led by Melony Williams, clinical supervisor at the TLC Family Resource Center.

Saturday, Nov. 17, 10 to 3, at NHTI in Concord: Democracy in Action conference, organized by Open Democracy. Radio host Arnie Arnesen will open the conference. Keynote speaker will be Nick Nyhart, formerly of Every Voice Center, a national non-profit dedicated to restoring balance to our political system.

Click this link https://www.opendemocracynh.org/democracy_in_action for more details, workshop titles, and registration. Public is welcome, but seating is limited and pre-registration and payment (\$15) are required. Includes lunch and morning coffee. League will be represented on one of the panels during the afternoon workshops.

Meetings: aging in NH, sponsored by the NH Commission on Aging. We have heard that NH has the second or third oldest population in the nation, which has many implications. The NH Commission on Aging represents over 30 agencies geared to senior citizens that are gathering information. Responses will be gathered and analyzed by the University of New Hampshire's Institute for Health Policy and Practice, and used to design the 2019-2023 NH State Plan on Aging, which gives direction for changes to better serve this population.

As part of their work, they are holding a series of listening sessions around the state, as reported in the Union Leader on October 16. Here is that list of events, in case you are inclined to go to learn more and to make your views known:

Listening Sessions: Call 603-271-9215 at least five days before if special accommodations are needed, including assistive listening devices or an interpreter. A list of sessions follows.

Nashua: Nov. 14, 2 to 4 p.m., Nashua Senior Center, 70 Temple St., Nashua.

Rochester: Nov. 15, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Frisbie Memorial Hospital, 11 Whitehall Road, Rochester.

Newport: Nov. 16: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Newport Senior Center, 76 S. Main St., Newport

Lebanon: Nov. 19, 1 to 3 p.m., Upper Valley Senior Center, 10 Campbell St., Lebanon.

North Conway: Nov. 25, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., Gibson Center for Seniors, 14 Grove St., North Conway.

Derry: Nov. 28, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Marrion Gerrish Community Center, 39 West Broadway, Derry.

Concord: Nov. 28: 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., Goodlife Programs & Activities, 254 North State St., Concord.

Littleton: Nov. 29, 1 to 3 p.m., Littleton Area Senior Center, 77 Riverglen Lane, Littleton.

Manchester: Nov. 30, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Manchester City Library, Auditorium, 405 Pine St., Manchester.

Brentwood: Dec. 7, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Rockingham County Nursing Home, 117 North Road, Brentwood.

Busy election season for League: The League moderated and organized seven candidate forums around the state, some with the cooperation of local Republican and Democrat party organizations or local libraries: Jaffrey (both pre-primary and in October), New London, Warner, Plainfield, Bow, and

North Conway. In addition our Candidates Forums & Debates webpage listed many other opportunities, including radio and TV broadcasts, for voters to learn first-hand about the candidates.

League will do similar work in spring for town elections with significant contested seats. But we would love to have more people trained as moderators and as organizers of these events, so that we can offer this non-partisan opportunity in more communities. Email us at

LWVNewHampshire@gmail.com if you would like training, either as an organizer or a moderator.

Please!

Nashua voters were able to read position statements from many of their candidates via an online survey conducted by League members in that city. (Link on our Elections page)

The national League undertook gathering candidate positions for all NH House, Senate, Governor, and Congress on VOTE411.org, a mighty undertaking with well over 800 candidates! Not all candidates responded—they tell us they are inundated with surveys leading up to the election. For those who did respond, many thanks!

Congratulations to League members who ran for office in 2018: We'd like to compile a list of members who ran—those who won and those who lost—because we are proud of our politically active members. If you ran, and are (or were recently) a League of Women Voters member, let us know. We have not combed thru county races, and suspect some of you ran for those seats. Here's what we found so far:

In the NH Senate, member Jeanne Dietsch is a new senator. Re-elected incumbents Martha Hennessey and Martha Fuller-Clark are past League members.

In the NH House, League members Anita Burroughs and Sherry Dutzy are first-time winners. Continuing are House members Karen Ebel, Jan Schmidt, Catherine Sofikitis, Linda Harriott-Gathwright, Ivy Vann, Linda Tanner, and also Christy Bartlett (past LWV member). Losing their House seats this time were Sue Gottling and Virginia Irwin.

Please send additions or corrections to LWVNewHampshire@gmail.com

Preliminary election stats: as of Nov. 8, looks like at least 573,400 voters cast ballots in NH, a midterm election record. Final count to come soon. The NH Senate will have 14 Democrats, 10 Republicans. But one of those Democrats seats is likely to have a recount with just 100 votes difference. The NH House appears to have 234 Democrats, 166 Republicans, but several recounts are pending. The Executive Council shifts from a 3-2 Republican majority to a 3-2 Democrat majority. Both ballot questions passed by over 80%, will become part of the NH Constitution.