



**League of Women Voters
New Hampshire**

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NH Voter

September 2016

website: LWVNH.org

President's message

State primary is Tuesday, September 13. Polling places will be open at least from 11 am to 7 pm. Large cities may open earlier and some may close later, but call your town clerk or check your town's website to be sure.

Why vote in a primary? This year for some offices and in some communities, the primary will be very important. Two open seats for Executive Council, eight open seats for state Senate, five candidates from each party running for the open Governor's position...these are crucial decisions to be made by informed voters. In addition, your county government has a number of contests. If you know little about your county government, you should at the very least know that a large part of your property taxes are spent by the county government. Who you elect as county commissioner matters.

Not sure who is running in each party? You can get a sample ballot for your town by going to the Secretary of State's website: <http://sos.nh.gov/>. Click on your preferred party, then click on your town's name. Then scroll to the bottom of the list and your town's sample ballot will be there. You can print it out by clicking the printer icon at the upper right of the sample ballot.

If you are not registered with a party, remember that you can request a ballot of either party on election day. However, unless you then change back to "undeclared" with the supervisors of the checklist before you leave the polls, you will be considered registered with that party for the next election.

Check our LWVNH.org page <http://lwvnh.org/Forums-debates.html> with its calendar of forums, debates, and candidate visits to learn about forums in your area and also televised forums. Presidential forums are already scheduled, as are some local events. If you hear of others, please email the League president so they can be posted.

Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 13: VOTE!

Liz Tentarelli, Co-President

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**ANNUAL POTLUCK SUPPER and SPEAKER
Wed., September 28th from 5:00 pm ~ 8:00 pm
New London Historical Society, New London**

LWV Kearsarge Sunapee invites League members and friends to join their celebration of the political season with their traditional potluck supper and program. This year's guest speaker is Mr. Maynard Goldman, who will be speaking on "The Electoral College: Love it or Scrap it?" Goldman is a Leadership Council member at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Dartmouth, where he has taught courses on political topics including a series of three about the 2016 Presidential election.

Mr. Goldman earned a BA from the University of Michigan with a dual major in political science and economics and a JD from Harvard Law School. During his career, he led several statewide political campaigns in Massachusetts that resulted in making friends on both sides of the aisle. Goldman went on to serve as Chair of the Massachusetts Environment Trust for 19 years under five Governors.

The public is welcome to attend this fun and interesting evening! Drinks & appetizers at 5:00, followed by potluck at 6 and program at 7pm.

Suggested donation is \$5.00 per person and a potluck dish of your choice to share

NEWS from the national League:

With a new national president (Chris Carson) and a number of new national board members, the time for change is ripe. The board has reorganized its committees and is looking at ways to work more efficiently. One of them is to include off-board League members on national committees. An announcement of this and a link to send in an application were in the August 18 League Update, an emailed bi-weekly publication.

If you would like to sign up for the League Update, you may do so via the LWV.org website. To read the Update online (and also to read past issues), go to this site:

http://hq-salsa.wiredforchange.com/o/5950/t/0/blastContent.jsp?email_blast_KEY

By the time this issue of the NHVoter reaches our members, Women's Equality Day will have passed. August 26 is the anniversary of ratification of the 19th amendment, and in just four years, it will be exactly 100 years since women's right to vote became the law of the land. If you missed the anniversary this year, you won't miss it in 2019. We'll definitely celebrate then!

Coming up on September 27 is National Voter Registration Day. State law in NH prevents League members from holding public voter registration drives that many Leagues in other states hold. However, we can still use the occasion to remind people to register. If you have a grandchild who has just turned 18 or perhaps some new neighbors, share your passion for voting with them and tell them that they can go to their town clerk's office to register.

Member news:

We are so proud of League members who are running for office this fall. Because the League never supports or opposes any candidate or any party, we won't list the members here. We think, however, the count is 12 current members and three more quite recent League members who are running for state or county offices! Our best wishes to them all.

LWVNH president Liz Tentarelli and secretary Mary Davies represented League in meetings with two groups of foreign visitors through the auspices of the World Affairs Council of NH. Of particular interest was our meeting with three women from Afghanistan, two of whom hold elected government positions. We told them of the League's work in the early days of women's suffrage to involved more women in elective office. While that was a slow process in the US, we realize from their questions and comments that the effort is doubly hard in a country with a tradition of limiting women's public life. One woman, who is an elected representative in her provincial government, commented that now as an elected official her constituents expect her to take care of them personally. "If their child is sick, they call me to take the child to the hospital," she told us. Another woman said they would be able to make more progress if only their country would not be at war: "We've been fighting a war of one kind or another for the past 40 years," she said. Our hearts go out to them. As-salāmu 'alaykum.

We note with sadness the passing of member Nina McCall on July 30, 2016. Nina had been, most recently, a member of the LWV Upper Valley. Her nearly lifelong association with the League began in Michigan, continued in New Jersey and New York, and also continued when she and her husband, John, moved to New Hampshire. Nina was state League president in New Jersey. During her years there she also ran a "spirited but unsuccessful campaign for US Representative" (1974) and worked at ABC News in New York City, eventually becoming manager of the political unit. She retired in 1986.

Nina's family has asked that gifts in her memory can be made to the League of Women Voters NH (4 Park St Room 200, Concord NH 03301) or to the Kendal Cadbury Fund, Hanover. A celebration of Nina's life will be held at Kendal in Hanover on September 26.

Town Websites: the Good, the Bad, the Ugly

What would make a town website ugly? All of NH's towns are lovely places. But some of the town websites leave much to be desired... in terms of information for potential voters. In early 2013 our League members surveyed all 234 town and city websites. We discovered it was easier to find out how to license your dog than it was to find out how to register to vote!

The League board worked to change that. We developed a template that any town's webmaster could use to give voters accurate and clear information. We offered a webinar through the NH Municipal Association and we presented at their conference to explain the need for information and the ease of implementing the template. Members spoke to their own town webmasters. We'd like to think we succeeded, but you can be the judge.

It's time for a follow-up survey. We have a 2-page questionnaire that League volunteers will use to do a virtual tour of eight town websites. Answer the questions by going online (we'll provide a list of websites), fill in the blanks (mostly yes/no), mail back to us. Then the state League board will contact towns that don't yet have good accurate information. We'll explain how important it is to let new potential voters know how they can register and vote and send them our template.

If you can give us an hour or two of your time, please email Liz Tentarelli before Sept 16. She will send you the names and websites of eight towns and the questionnaire for you to print out. Then go on a virtual roadtrip through beautiful New Hampshire (it's actually fun to learn about towns on the good websites). Let's hope we now find more good than bad or ugly town websites.

Email Liz to take part in this League voter education project: lww@kenliz.net

Dues are due

Dues notices will be mailed shortly to all League members who are not part of a local League. League funding comes from its members, with some additional grant money coming from the LWVNH Education Fund. We hope our members will send a check for the annual dues as soon as possible. As you may know, \$32 of dues money goes to the national League to support their work at the national level. The remainder stays in NH to do the work of the state and local Leagues.

Lifetime members (those who have been members for 50 years or more, you wonderful loyal Leaguers) will receive a notice asking them to update their email and US mail addresses so that we can continue to send them newsletters. They are also being asked to send donations in any amount in lieu of dues to LWVNH Education Fund, if they wish.

League membership keeps us going! Thank you for your support in many ways, including your financial support represented by you annual dues.

Another Nail in the Coffin for Private Prisons

A report issued by the US Department of Justice confirms what League members in NH found out in 2013: privatizing prisons is a bad idea. At that time League was fighting the building of a new women's prison as a private prison. We won (the new women's prison under construction right now is entirely a state-funded and state-operated facility). But many private prisons remain across the country.

According to an article in “*The Nation*” (August 18, 2016 issue), “...The Department of Justice inspector general report, released in mid August, found private prisons are dramatically less safe, less secure, and more costly than the BOP’s own prisons. The private facilities, Yates wrote, “simply do not provide the same level of correctional services, programs, and resources” and “do not save substantially on costs,...” As a result of the study, the use of private prisons for federal prisons will be phased out as each contract comes up for renewal. The sooner the better, League says!

You can read the article on the Incarceration Study page of our LWVNH.org website. You can also click on a link on that page to see the progress of construction of the new New Hampshire Correctional Facility for Women (which is in Concord, scheduled to open in a year).

Voter Information Now in French

LWVNH is the only organization providing information about how to register and vote in NH in languages other than English. Now we add French to the existing fliers in Spanish, Portuguese, and Nepali. For our newest citizens, having this information in their native languages makes the subtle details of voting clearer. Our thanks to former League member Julianne Gachelin of New London for supplying the French translation.

These fliers, along with the English information, are available on the Elections page of LWVNH.org and are offered freely to any individuals or organizations wishing to distribute voting information.