

NH Voter, the newsletter of the League of Women Voters NH

August 2018

This month's newsletter is informal because we are busily preparing for our League "day in court" next week. For those who have lost track of the issue, the League filed suit against the NH Secretary of State and the NH Attorney General's office at this time last year. We are seeking to stop implementation of the 2017 Senate Bill 3, which makes voter registration much more difficult for some potential voters and confusing for almost all of us. Last September the court heard our case in a one-day session and ruled that the procedures could be implemented but the penalties (large fines with the charge of voter fraud) for a voter's failure to return with certain documents be suspended. The full trial was delayed for reasons too complicated to explain here. On August 27 we will begin a preliminary injunction hearing in Manchester Superior Court. We seek to "enjoin"--that is, to stop the implementation--immediately, pending a complete trial that would be held later, possibly not until 2019.

To all our League members: keep us in your thoughts next week. Check newspapers for updates.

Other League news:

A **candidates forum** for NH Senate districts 8 and 9 will be held in Jaffrey, at the Civic Center, on Thurs., Aug. 23, 7 pm. Public welcome. Organized by LWVNH PeterboroughPlus unit. Bring your questions!

After the **primary election on Sept. 11**, plans for other candidate forums around the state will be firmed up. Check our Candidates Forums webpage for details. <http://lwvnh.org/Forums-debates.html> If you know of forums in your area--even those not sponsored by League--email us and we'll post them. WMUR channel 9 will host a series of televised congressional and gubernatorial debates Sept. 4-7.

See our Calendar page for **upcoming unit meetings** in the Peterborough area (Sept. 26), in the Mt Washington Valley (Oct. 23, topic will be housing issues in the area with some excellent guest speakers), in Nashua (Aug. 21 and Sept. 18). The Kearsarge/Sunapee area League will hold its annual potluck supper on Sept. 12, with Prof. Eric Boyer discussing the mid-term elections. Details on the Calendar page: <http://lwvnh.org/calendar.html>

Membership renewal notices have just been mailed. If you're thinking they're early this year, you're right. To avoid the end of the year scramble amidst a busy election season, we hope you will fill out your renewal form and mail your dues when you get your notice. It will save us the expense of sending a second notice, and save you the nuisance of a reminder. We value our members; you make our work possible. Special news from LWV - US: They are suspending the per member payments for students (the payments we make from your dues to support the League's national work). That means if you know a young person--high school or college student--who is politically aware or wants to learn more, encourage her/him to join the League. No dues are needed for the next 3 years! Membership forms are on our website under "JOIN". http://lwvnh.org/join_form.html

Finally, **Get Out The Vote** efforts have begun. On our "Elections" page <http://lwvnh.org/elections.html> we have fliers and brochures explaining voter registration. They reflect the complicated current Senate Bill 3 procedures in place now, so they are not easy to understand. If we're successful in court, we'll

revert to our older simple explanations. For now, if you know people who want to register in time for the September primary, send them to their town clerk's office with the best paperwork they can pull together to prove identity, age, citizenship, and where they live. By this time next month, we'll have fliers and brochures printed in bulk for you to use to Get Out The Vote. We will also have impartial information about the two constitutional amendment issues that will appear on the November ballot.

We are pleased to announce three new members of the LWVNH state board: Hope Driscoll represents Peterborough Plus, Julia King represents Mt. Washington Valley, and Janet Ward is an active member of the Education Study steering committee. Happy news!

Yours in League,

Liz Tentarelli, president, LWVNH