

NH Voter, the newsletter of LWVNH

January 2020

The time for the League of Women Voters members and supporters to do their Get Out The Vote work is fast approaching! The presidential primary will be Feb. 11.



You can do this one-on-one. Ask yourself who in your community or circle of acquaintances might need help learning how to register. Initiate the conversation.

Here are some facts to remember when talking with people new to your community, new to the state, potential first-time voters, etc.

- You don't need to have lived here any specific length of time in order to register. If this is the place you consider home for voting purposes, even if you just moved here, you can register.
- When you register try to bring proof of identity, age, citizenship, and where you live. If you lack proof for one or more of these things, you can still register by signing a form stating you are giving true information.
- So what kind of proof is useful? A driver's license, a passport, a utility bill or lease with your address on it, a birth certificate or naturalization papers...No, you don't need all of these, but this will help people think about what they can supply. A driver's license with their current address proves identity, age, and where they live, but not citizenship for example. A passport proves identity and citizenship and age, but not where you live. And so on.
- People new to New Hampshire won't know when or where they can register. You can tell them they can register in advance of the election at the town clerk's office (up to about 13 days before) or they can register at the polls on the day of the election. In either case, they'll need the same kind of paperwork.
- For everyone already registered, you might remind them to bring a photo ID if possible when they go to vote. It will speed up getting a ballot.
- What about absentee ballots? Yes, people can get an application form from their town clerk, fill it out, receive a ballot in the mail and return it by mail by 5 pm on election day.

What if you want to do more to get people out to vote? You might consider setting up a table with voter information at a store or church or senior center or other such place where you're comfortable.

Here's some advice on tabling at a store, etc. from a member of LWVNH PeterboroPlus unit, who have held several very productive "are you registered yet?" events in that area.

- Talk to people on their way out of the store, not on the way in. They are more relaxed and willing to engage on the way out. Don't try to cover both in and out - too confusing - and inevitably people get approached twice, which can be irritating to them.
- A surprising number of people are not registered! So this is a good thing to do.
- The LWV info flier on voting in NH is excellent. *(thank you, we work hard making them as clear and simple as possible—it's on our website.)*
- It's very good to have the LWVNH and VOTING INFO signs on the table.
- Felons, once released from jail, can vote in NH. I met one yesterday who didn't think he could and was thrilled to discover that yes, he can vote! (I looked it up then and there.) Very moving conversation. *(As the felon's current residence is probably different from pre-prison time, he/she will probably need to register again.)*
- Ask if the store will let you stand inside, in their vestibule, if the weather is bad or too cold. If it's too cold and they say no, try it another day.

If you plan to do this, get permission from the store. You can also ask LWVNH to supply the handouts! We can get them made for 10 cents each on colored paper.

One important reminder: if you are giving out non-partisan voting information about how to register and vote, it is not appropriate also to be wearing a button or advocating for a specific candidate! Leave the "Vote For So&So" buttons at home and leave the fliers for your candidate in your purse.

Do you have a personal contact at your local high school among the faculty, especially a social studies teacher, who might be willing to hand out voter registration fliers designed especially for students?

If so, contact us and we can supply the fliers. (We have found it is not effective just to drop off a pile of fliers at the school office—they never get to the students. A personal contact is needed.)

And if you live in a town with students from just one town or city, you might be able to get the city clerk to have an actual registration event at the high school! Wouldn't that be great? You'd need to organize this in advance with the school so that students would bring their various paperwork on the registration day.

Email us at LWVNewHampshire@gmail.com if you want more advice on this or want some voting info brochures or fliers.

Upcoming Presidential Debates:

Jan. 14, in the evening, on CNN

Feb. 7, time to be announced, at St. Anselm College in Goffstown NH. No info on getting tickets yet. This will be broadcast on ABC and on WMUR (channel 9 in most of NH).

We have a “redistricting road show” that can be presented in your community to explain redistricting in NH, specifically the proposed **Independent Redistricting Commission** that is part of our **People Powered Maps initiative**. League board members and others are ready with a short powerpoint (or paper maps if no projector is available). What do we need from you? Help us find an audience and a venue!

If you belong to a community group or other organization that would like to learn more about this non-partisan effort, just contact the League at LWVNewHampshire@gmail.com and we’ll talk!

Upcoming events are all open to the public.

LWV Kearsarge/Sunapee will be presenting this at **Tracy Library in New London on Tuesday, Jan. 7, noon to 1 pm**. Come join us; bring a bag lunch if you wish.

PeterboroPlus will have a presentation at **Peterborough Library on Wednesday, Jan. 22 at 7 pm**. All welcome.

Mt Washington Valley unit will have a presentation combined with their talk on the 2020 census on **Feb. 18, North Conway Community Center, at 7 pm**.

We’ll also be presenting in **Plymouth**, date and time still to be decided.

Check our LWVNH.org Calendar page for info on future presentations.

Other local League events:

LWVNH in Southern Rockingham has a follow-up program to their very successful November event about arsenic in the water supply. On Jan. 29, 6:30 pm at Kimball Library in Atkinson, they will host a public meeting with Paul Susca and Cynthia Klevens of NH Dept. of Environmental Services who will give their report based on the extensive samples sent in from the area: Arsenic in Well Water--Test Results Summary.

Greater Nashua unit meeting on Thursday, Jan. 16, 7 pm at Nashua Library (downstairs).

MWV and PeterboroPlus—see box above.

Check our [Forums & Debates webpage](#) for local town elections forums in February and early March (town meeting for many of us is March 10). Some will be organized by League, but we are happy to post any forums we are told about, as long as they include multiple candidates. (We don’t post single-candidate town hall-type events.)

Save the date: Feb. 14, 2020, is the centennial of the founding of League of Women Voters, when the National American Woman Suffrage Assn met in convention and voted to change their name to League of Women Voters. With the ratification of the 19th amendment well underway, the suffragists under Carrie Chapman Catt saw their role changing from getting the vote for women to learning and teaching others how to register and vote, how to understand the workings of government and the important issues facing the country.

Sounds like what we are still doing in League!

Feb. 14 is a Friday (and also Valentine's Day, and we don't want to get in the way of romance.) So the state League board is starting to plan an **event in Concord on Thursday, Feb. 13**, to celebrate our 100th anniversary with our state legislators. All League members will be invited! No details yet, but Save the Date please!

Personal message from Liz Tentarelli, president LWVNH:

Also in the way of celebration, I hope you'll be able to attend any of the various **women's suffrage events** happening around the state in this centennial year. My talk and powerpoint "Votes for Women: the history of the suffrage movement" is on the NH Humanities To Go program list. Lots of other fascinating programs offered too: check it out. NHHumanities.org

I'll be presenting "Votes for Women" at Henniker Library on Jan. 5 (2 pm), at Lincoln Library on Jan. 9 (6 pm), at New Ipswich Library on Jan. 28 (6:30 pm) and at the Vets Hall in Newbury on Jan. 29 (6 pm). If you live in the area and can make one of these, be sure to introduce yourself if we haven't met yet. I'd love to have League members in the audience.

If you are near St. Anselm's College, check out their exhibit at the Institute Of Politics, "The Suffragists of New Hampshire." Details here: <https://www.nhwomenvote100.org/events/new-exhibit-the-suffragists-of-new-hampshire>

Coming up in 2020: Starting after the new year—our weekly Legislative Alerts will be sent by email on Friday afternoons or maybe Saturday, depending on how many bills and hearings are on the NH Legislature's Calendars. We send these to members and to others who request them. League will highlight bills that reflect our priorities of election law and public education, but we will also try to list important bills of broad public interest. If we miss some, we apologize.

If the news of a Tuesday hearing on a bill you care about doesn't get to you until Saturday, we apologize but explain that all we can do is find the scheduled hearings in the weekly Calendars on Friday morning, and they rarely list bill hearings further out than the coming week.

League would love to have designated members following some other important bills on which we have positions: environmental policy, energy, healthcare, housing, judiciary, public safety.... Please let a board member know if you want to take on the challenge of following a particular topic and reporting back to the board, and maybe even participating in hearings in the name of the League!

Just a reminder that in NH all League members and League board members are doing this as volunteers—we have no paid lobbyists or staff! So your help is greatly appreciated.

Again, thank you to those members who pay their League annual dues through the state and have already done so in 2019. But if you still have a dues notice lying around (we sent them thru the mail in November) maybe you can write a check and send it back... OR use our new online dues payment method on our website.

We value your continued support, financial and otherwise!

To pay online: <http://lwvnh.org/Duespayment.html>