

## ***NH Voter, the newsletter of LWVNH***

**November 2020**

**It's all over but the counting.** *A message from your state League president...*

I'm spending Election Day at the League office, in case we get any last minute calls from voters with questions. We've been fielding phone calls and emails since last spring from people eager to vote but asking how registration and voting will be different this year, how can they do it safely, and how primaries work. From those calls I've figured out that we had a large number of first-time primary voters in September, eager to make their civic voices heard by voting.

But happily the questions have tapered off in the last month, telling me that the efforts of League and other groups and individuals to spread information about voting has worked. As I write this on Oct. 29, the number of absentee ballots sent in plus early voters in other states has more than surpassed the halfway mark of total ballots cast in 2016. Wow! So look for record turnout, in NH and in the country.

And please be patient with the counting. Don't trust any report on election night. Accurate, not fast, is the goal.

*Liz Tentarelli, president, LWVNH*

- So what did League do to prepare for this election? Nearly all of these were via zoom.
- Participated in all the zoom meetings of the Special Committee on 2020 Elections, appointed by the Governor to recommend safe voting practices for 2020.
- Continued our weekly conference calls with the NH Campaign for Voting Rights, sharing information and resources
- Posted voter information on our new website in an easy-to-read Q & A format as soon as the 2020 procedures were defined. Then updated them as needed.
- Several radio & cable TV PSAs re voting
- 4 talks to Rotary groups that included voting information
- 2 talks to OLLI groups, in partnership with Open Democracy
- A talk for the Jonathan Daniels Center for Social Responsibility in Keene
- 3 youth-oriented presentations
- Ads in *The Dartmouth* & local papers
- Organized 5 forums for NH House candidates plus 2 more that had to be converted to candidate statements in the local newspaper (all organized by local League units)
- Posted and publicized other forums on our website
- Encouraged candidates to post answers to key issue questions on Vote411.org (special thanks to Nashua League for making individual contact with their candidates to do this)
- Distributed paper voter info as widely as possible given Covid—to assisted living groups, to several high schools, to condo communities, to 2 low-income housing units (huge thank you to the League members and supporters who did this work), to parole/probation offices about voting rights for those released from prison
- Distributed voter info electronically to Welcoming Manchester and other groups too many to mention

- Several times weekly, posted clear non-partisan info on our Facebook pages, with encouragement to share the posts
- Answered individual questions by phone and email...wish we'd kept better count.
- And you, our members, have done your part in ways we can't possibly list to encourage family and friends and neighbors to vote. Thank you! Some of you have also stepped up to work at the polls, thus protecting our elderly poll workers from Covid exposure. Thank you! And of course you voted!

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**Thus the time has come to ask you to renew your membership in League of Women Voters.**

We know you have been getting frequent emails from the national League asking for donations to keep up their work. If you responded, wonderful. LWV New Hampshire is not part of those requests. But as you are also automatically national League members, you're on the LWV US mailing list.

This is different. This is a request to **renew your membership** by sending dues. We make this ask each autumn. Of the basic \$45 membership dues, \$32 is forwarded to LWV to support League's work on the national level. The rest stays in NH for our voter outreach and advocacy work as well as office, phone, and website costs. None of us in NH are paid. Like you, we are all members, volunteers in service to the League.

**If you believe in the League's mission of empowering voters and defending democracy, and if you think our work in New Hampshire matters, please send your dues now or go online to pay your dues.**

We are feeling the Covid isolation as much as anyone. None of us expected last February that no local League meetings, no state League workshops, no in-person gatherings would be possible. And your state board agrees that a lot

of the fun of League is in the personal contact with members.

But we've tried to adapt. Last April we held our traditional New England League Leadership Conference as a virtual event spread over 4 Monday afternoons. We sent 6 delegates to the national League bi-annual conference via a week-long series of zoom events. Board members participated in national League webinars. Some local unit boards have held zoom or a few in-person board meetings to plan voter service work.

We've continued our work on People Powered Fair Maps, the national League effort to end gerrymandering and to create independent redistricting commissions in every state (which will take a different turn in NH in 2021; stayed tuned).

We miss you, our members, being able to join us for all this. But we know you are there, supporting us, which makes it easier.

**Please renew your membership. You can do that by sending a check with the enclosed form to the League office.**

**Or you can renew online.**

On our **LWVNH.org** website we have a **Membership and Donations page**, where you can pay dues with a credit card or bank account number. There is a slight fee to do this, so thank you for paying that fee as well. Any amount above your dues will be gratefully accepted as a donation toward our advocacy work.

If you're a **new member** since last January you won't be asked to pay dues again until next fall. If you have already renewed online, you're paid up. No dues form is enclosed.

Except for this snail-mailed annual dues request, we use email via Mailchimp to communicate regularly with members. Please make sure we have your current email.

Send any email changes to  
LWVNewHampshire@gmail.com