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www.LWVNH.org

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

August 2022

Save the dates and make a plan to vote – the state/federal primary is **Tuesday, Sept. 13** and the general election is **Tuesday, Nov. 8**. Of course we know our members and League supporters will vote, but we are asking everyone to help us in our **non-partisan voter outreach work**. Remind your family, friends, and neighbors of the election days, and stress how important the primary is in many communities because of the partisan gerrymandering we suffered this year. We have “How to Register and Vote in NH” fliers that we can send anyone who has a way of distributing them, such as in your condo community or church group or a social service agency you work with. If you want some, just ask! Our email is **LWVnewhampshire@gmail.com** The flier is also on our website’s Publications page for you to copy and include in a church bulletin or condo newsletter.

Our voter outreach work, which also includes candidate forums and Facebook publicity about elections, is funded in large part by our 501(c)3 arm, the League of Women Voters NH Education Fund. All donations to that organization are tax deductible. Thank you to League supporters who donated to the LWVNH Education Fund as part of **NH GIVES**, June 7 and 8th.

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Absentee voting: During the Covid elections of 2020, nearly two-thirds of NH voters cast absentee ballots. We don’t expect that to be repeated this year, but we do remind you that if you will be out of town, unable to get to the polls because of work hours or disability or you have a medical condition that medical authorities suggest limiting your exposure to the general public, you are entitled to an absentee ballot. Contact your town clerk for an application form, fill it out and return it quickly. Allow plenty of time for your ballot to get to you and to be sent back in the US mail.

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In New Hampshire, public education is a major issue. The state funds only a fraction of the cost of public schools. Town taxes to fund the rest put a heavier burden on towns with a smaller tax base. State funds are now going to private schools and home schoolers. NH's state colleges and universities have some of the highest tuitions (and student debt) in the country. The League of Women Voters NH Education Action Committee will highlight the issues in an ad campaign in late August. Voters are encouraged to find out where your candidates stand on public education issues. This voter education project was funded by a grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.

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Women's Inequality Day: August 26 is the 102nd anniversary of the 19th amendment securing women's right to vote. Normally we recognize it as Women's Equality Day. But this year the national LWV is calling it as they see it:

We don't yet have equality. In 2022, women have fewer rights than they've had in decades. This year, we're acknowledging Women's *Inequality* Day, uniting to demand that lawmakers restore and protect our rights by:

1. Passing voting rights legislation;
2. Adding the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution; and
3. Restoring reproductive rights to those who can become pregnant.

If you wish to highlight these issues in your own social media, check out the LWV page for graphics and talking points: https://www.lwv.org/equal-rights/womens-inequality-day?utm_source=Invite&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=8.11.22

The NH Women's Foundation has just released a new report on reproductive rights: "New Hampshire remains the only state in New England that does not protect the right to abortion in state law."

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In federal news: the US Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case in October testing the "independent state legislature" doctrine. Having spent the past 3 years working on fair maps in NH's redistricting process, we are worried about the consequences of this court case. If you'd like to learn more about this, the New Hampshire Bulletin has an excellent article.

<https://newhampshirebulletin.com/2022/08/02/the-independent-state-legislature-doctrine-could-reverse-200-years-of-progress/>

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LWVNH reports the passing of a dedicated League member from the Concord area, **Mary Lou Kelly**. Thank you to members who made donations in Mary Lou's memory.

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National League convention: Virtually and in person, members met in Denver in late June to plan for the next two years of League work and to elect board members and a president. Thank you to Sue Nastaski for being our NH delegate. Highlights of the convention's work are on the LWVUS website: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/items-passed-2022-convention>

At the convention, a **Climate Interest Group** (CIG) was formed, and delegates passed a second climate emergency resolution. To move forward with effective advocacy and distribution of information and work products, the LWVUS Climate Interest Group is building a list of climate issue contacts in each state. The objective is to pass information through these state contacts to allow them to decide what to share or use within their state Leagues. The information could include access to webinars, white papers, testimony from other state Leagues and other items potentially useful to both state and local Leagues while the LWVUS would continue to be the source for information and direction related to federal policies and legislation.

Here in New Hampshire we are looking for a member who is willing to be the contact person with the CIG. If you are interested, please email us LWVnewhampshire@gmail.com and we can discuss the next steps.

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Membership dues, donations—sorry, but let's talk funding: We (League of Women Voters New Hampshire) are all volunteers. We have no staff and don't hold out our hands for donations constantly. However our parent organization, LWVUS, uses the emails in our membership database to ask for donations frequently. It is, of course, your choice if you wish to donate to the national League. But actual League membership is renewed annually at the state level (or at the local level if you live in the Kearsarge/Sunapee area) and any donation you make to the national League or to our Education Fund is just that, a donation and not a membership renewal.

Therefore, if you'd like to beat us to the punch and you haven't already paid dues in 2022, you may do so online with a credit card. *(If you are a new member since January, you are all paid up for this year--no dues notice will be sent to you. And if you renewed online already without being asked, thank you.)* We plan to send out dues notices by paper mail in early September. But you can save us time, a stamp and envelopes by paying your dues now online. No pressure: it's your choice.

Dues are \$45 for the year, and \$55 for 2 people residing in the same household. Any extra above those amounts are much appreciated as donations! Students need not pay dues, nor do our "lifetime" members who have been part of the League for 50 years or more. We have 12 of those dedicated members right now here in New Hampshire!

Here's the link to our Membership/Donations webpage. It will help us if you make a note of "membership renewal" or "renewal plus donation" in the memo line if you choose to renew this way. <http://lwvnh.org/membership-donations/>