

**NH Voter, the newsletter of the League of Women Voters of  
New Hampshire** **October 2022**

***Our special “Get Ready for the November Election” issue.***

**Learning about the candidates.**

**From campaign ads:**

You're probably getting campaign literature nearly every day in your mailbox. Facebook and other social media just add to that. And don't get me started on TV ads! For the campaign postcards, after you've read the message on steroids, read the fine print to see who sent the mailer. Sometimes it's the candidate's own campaign (like on TV: "I'm so and so and I support this message.") Other times it's an opponent's campaign. But often it is a third-party organization. Who is really the \$\$\$ behind some of these groups is very hard to determine. Whether you choose to believe the message is up to you.

**From the candidates themselves:**

Just about every candidate in NH has a social media presence and a website. If you're not sure where a candidate stands, check that out.

How to find the websites or FB links? One excellent non-partisan source in New Hampshire is [CitizensCount.org](http://CitizensCount.org). You'll need to play around on the site but you will find the names of who is running, how they voted on bills if they're incumbents, and usually a website or email or Facebook site. If the candidates have answered the Citizens Count survey, you'll also find their answers, in their own words, to a set of questions on a broad range of topics.

[WMUR](http://WMUR) also has candidates' statements on a number of issues for the top of the ballot races on its website.

The national League of Women Voters started [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) a number of years ago. Some candidates have replied to the surveys; many have not. Input your street address to see the candidates on your ballot.

**From a variety of news sources—print and online:**

You've heard about the news media "silo" effect. Don't live in one for this election. Read a variety of publications about the campaign issues and the candidates. Some are free online. Hunt around.

**From TV and radio candidate forums:**

The major races (US Senate & Congress, NH Governor) will be covered later in October by WMUR-TV and NHPR and maybe other major media outlets. We don't yet have dates for any of that. But when we do we will post them on our website, on our [Candidate Forums webpage](#). Check it often; we're constantly updating. And when a forum has been recorded, we post the link so if you missed one you can watch it on your own time.

**By attending local candidate forums:**

League of Women Voters has held two candidate forums so far (for Executive Council District 2 pre-primary and a NH House for Laconia earlier this week.) Two forums organized by the Southern Rockingham county unit are scheduled, another is in the works. Peterborough Plus unit is organizing two. Three are planned in the Kearsarge/Sunapee area. Meredith and

Gilford are also scheduled, as is a forum in Concord for wards 1, 2, and 3. Most of these will be recorded for those who can't attend in person to view later. Check our [Candidates Forum page](#) for these plus others. If you know of a forum coming up in your area, please send us info so we can post it.

### **What about those ballot questions?**

If you've checked out your town's sample ballot, available on the Secretary of State's website or at your town clerk's office, you've seen there are two questions you can vote on this year. One is a **constitutional amendment that would get rid of the county office of Register of Probate**. The duties of the register were transferred to the courts in a reorganization a decade ago. Now the office has only one minor duty. A yes vote writes Register of Probate out of the constitution and thus out of existence. A no vote keeps the status quo.

The second question pops up every ten years. It asks **whether a state constitutional convention should be held**, with the goal of proposing constitutional amendments that would then come before the voters on a November ballot. A yes vote would require voters to choose convention delegates (probably via the November 2024 ballot). A no vote would put off any convention for at least 4 or 5 years.

We have a 2 pages pdf explaining these questions and how the votes will be tallied. If you're canvassing or tabling for the election, or if you have a way of distributing this in your community, feel free to print it out and make copies. The document is on the [Publications page of LWVNH.org](#).

### **A request from New Hampshire's Voter Empowerment Task Force:**

If you want to help monitor the election in your town by observing at the polls, from early evening until counting is done, email the League and we'll forward your name to the VETF for more information.

### **From LWV – US, this message: Congress Moves to Protect Elections, Fails to Advance Financial Transparency**

On September 21, the US House passed the bipartisan Presidential Electoral Reform Act. The bill would strengthen the Electoral Count Act and has been lauded as a step against future insurrections like the one that occurred on January 6, 2021. The Senate also unanimously passed out of the Senate Rules Committee on September 27, their similar legislation,

Advances in election reform, however, did not extend to financial transparency in the Senate's decision not to advance the Disclose Act the following day. In response, LWV-US CEO Virginia Kase Solomón stated:

"The League will continue to fight to ensure that voters can make decisions free from the influence of dark money and special interest groups in our politics. We call on our elected officials to continue to put this issue at the forefront of the fight for our democracy."