



4 Park St. Room 200
Concord, NH 03301

www.LWVNH.org

NH Voter, the newsletter of the League of Women Voters NH January 2023

Welcome to 2023, a new session of the NH Legislature and the US Congress. Lots of bills that affect us to be followed. As a non-partisan NH-based organization, the League of Women Voters NH will try to keep our members and friends informed. What bills are coming up in public hearings? Which bills need you as voters to weigh in? How can you connect with your own state reps and state senator to make your views known?

The League takes direct action on bills on which we have a formal position. Our positions are never partisan but are based on serious study and member consensus. You can find our state League positions and a link to the national positions on our website: visit LWVNH.org and pull down the "About" menu to open the "Positions" tab.

If you want to take direct action, we are here to help you learn how to testify on bills, how to submit online testimony or sign in pro/con, how to make your views known via letters to the editor, how to share what you learn with others.

To that end, we are forming "teams" to follow and take action on some of our key issues in the NH Legislature. Members and friends who want to join a "team" should sign up with their names and emails. The team leader will be in touch when action is needed. It is possible that a team might hold a zoom meeting to discuss the bills, then decide who will testify in person, who can sign in or testify online, and who might write a letter to the editor to inform the public. Team members do not need to be able to attend legislative hearings; there's lots to be done from home and via computer.

The three initial teams are as follow:

Election Law and Voting Rights – team leaders Liz Tentarelli and Nancy Marashio

Public Education and Education Funding – team leader Janet Ward

Healthcare Issues, with a focus on reproductive rights – team leader Sara McNeil

Campaign Finance Reform – team leader Olivia Zink

Following the NH state budget as it is developed – team leader needed

If you would like to sign up or to learn more about a team of your interest, email us at LWVnewhampshire@gmail.com and we'll put you in touch with the team leader.

Whether you wish to join a team or not, we offer an **online webinar**, in connection with the Lunch'n'Learn series hosted by the NH Women's Bar Association, on **Monday, January 9 at noon.**

NHWBA & LWVNH: How Citizens Can Participate in the Legislative Process

Join the New Hampshire Women's Bar Association (NHWBA) and the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire (LWVNH) for a Lunch & Learn webinar and workshop on "How Citizens Can Participate in the Legislative Process."

Panelists include Liz Tentarelli, President of League of Women Voters NH, Olivia Zink, Executive Director of Open Democracy, Cathy Corkery, Executive Director of Sierra Club NH chapter, and Linda Bundy, a "newbie" to political activism in 2021. Panelists will explain how

NH citizens can learn about bills, how they can sign in to support bills, how to testify, and perhaps most important of all how they can connect with their own state reps and senators to make their views known.

This is part three of the joint NHWBA and LWVNH series on political involvement. The panelists will speak from their own years of experience as activists helping shape legislation in NH. They will take audience questions after their presentations.

Registration is required to get the webinar link. You can register through the following link: https://mclanemiddleton.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_un_5sJENSkG-IRuHDBEmog

COMING UP IN CONCORD:

This week, the NH Legislature held an organizational session on Wednesday, **Jan. 4**. With a very closely matched Republican/Democrat House, the Speaker has appointed representatives in equal numbers (generally 10 of each party) to nearly all committees. Committee chairs are Republicans, reflecting the 201-197 Republican majority overall in the NH House. *(Note: a tie in Rochester Ward 4 will be decided in a special election on Feb. 21, and one Dem rep resigned recently. Presumably a special election for that Nashua seat will be scheduled.)*

On Thursday **Jan. 5** at noon Governor Sununu will be inaugurated for his fourth term.

From our friends at Open Democracy, an invitation to join a rally **“Our Freedoms Our Vote”** on the corner of Main St and Loudon Rd, at 3 pm on Friday, **Jan. 6** – a public declaration that the insurrection attempt of Jan. 6, 2021, must never happen again. Come if you can; sign up is requested but not required.

RSVP: <https://www.mobilize.us/jan6hearings/event/545818/>

This is one block from the

capitol, and Open Democracy will provide signs.

Starting next week, committees will begin public hearings on the 800 or more bills filed. All hearings will be live-streamed so you can watch from home. You'll find the links on the Legislature's home page: <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/>

League will send its weekly legislative alert, about specific priority bills and public hearings, each Friday as soon as we can glean information from the legislative calendars.

Resources you can use: On the [Publications page of our website](#) are several updated fliers that we encourage you to download and distribute if you wish. Our “Voting in NH” flier has been updated to reflect the change in registration rules for election day registrants. Our “How Federal and NH governments are Alike and Different” has been updated, and will be once again if the Congress can ever agree on a House speaker. On that page we also have a color-coded chart about “How a Bill Becomes a Law in NH”, a list of our “Congressional delegation” and their contact information, and past LWVNH newsletters.