



**NH Voter, the newsletter of the League of Women Voters NH
December 2023**

What do you see yourself doing in 2024?

It may seem odd at this busy personal time of year to talk about politics, but the fact is that in late January filing will open for candidates running for town offices and schoolboards. If **Running for Office** is something you've been mulling over, we encourage you to join a zoom workshop offered by 603 Forward, one of our partner organizations in the NH Campaign for Voting Rights. The workshop is on the evening of Dec. 14. Details and registration can be found at this link:

<https://www.603forward.org/runforoffice2024?emci=b17ea746-3c8e-ee11-8924-6045bdd47111&emdi=6c32a305-d08e-ee11-8925-002248223cba&ceid=1603611>

Note: on my computer, this link took a minute or two to open, but it did open. Patience will be rewarded.

If you're more about encouraging voters to become informed than running yourself, let's talk about **local candidate forums**. It takes more than yard signs to tell voters what candidates stand for. League of Women Voters has a long tradition of holding candidate forums. We'd like to increase the number we hold in New Hampshire, but that requires getting members and community groups trained in how to organize a forum and how to moderate one.

We are once again offering our **candidate forums workshop**, most likely via zoom. We can also do a moderators' workshop online.

If you think your town would benefit from getting to know your local candidates before voters go to the polls, and you think you could round up a few people to help you hold a forum, please sign up for the training. We'll pick a date in early January, after we see how many people are willing to take the training.

Email lvvnewhampshire@gmail.com with your name, the town you live in, and your email. We'll get back to you!

It's not too early to talk about **voting in the Jan. 23 presidential primary**.

Some things to know and to share with friends and neighbors:

1. If you're not yet registered to vote in your town, you may register before mid January at your town/city clerk's office or at the polling place on election day. Be sure to bring a photo ID and paperwork to show you live in that town. Tell your grandkid to bring something to prove his age if he's a new registrant.
2. On election day, all voters should bring a photo ID to speed things up for everyone.
3. Make a plan to vote. Be sure you know where your polling place is, and what the hours are. Some cities have made changes; check this out in advance. Plan your transportation to the polls.
4. If you'll be out of town/state and unable to get to the polls on Jan. 23, send an absentee ballot application form to your own town or city clerk now. You can download one here:

<https://www.sos.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt561/files/documents/2023-11/2024-absentee-ballot-application-state-election-remediated.pdf>

Which ballot to get? If you're registered as a **Democrat**, you'll get the blue ballot with 21 candidates listed, none of whom are Joe Biden. Pres. Biden has chosen not to file in NH, because he supports having South Carolina be the "first in the nation" primary. If you wish to vote for Biden, you can fill in the oval at the end of the list and neatly write or print his name. It will be counted.

But who are those 21 candidates on the Democrat ballot? Most of them you've never heard of; a couple are serious about running, such as Congressman Dean Phillips and Marianne Williamson. Because it is so easy to get on the ballot for the presidential primary in NH, we have some attention-seekers who know they won't win but are willing to spend \$1,000 to file: Vermin Supreme, Paperboy Love Prince, and President R. Boddie (yes, his legal first name is President) are the most intriguing names. Profiles of many candidates can be found on CitizensCount.org website.

If you're a **Republican**, your ballot will be pink and will have 24 names on it. Since the October filing deadline, some well-known serious candidates have officially dropped out of the race, but their names will still be on the ballot: Mike Pence, Doug Burgum, Tim Scott, Perry Johnson. Also on the Republican ballot are the names currently in the news including Donald Trump, Nikki Haley, Christ Christie, Vivek Ramaswamey, Ron DeSantis, and Asa Hutchinson. Will some drop out before Jan. 23? And a bunch of unknown wannabees are included, none with such colorful names as on the Dem ballot. Most Republican candidate profiles can also be found on CitizensCount.org

If you are an "**undeclared**" voter, you will be allowed to choose which party's ballot you want to vote on Jan. 23. Just remember that, if you want to return to "undeclared" party status, fill out the card at the registrar's table before you leave the polling place.

We've heard of voters showing up at the polls, swearing they are undeclared or belong to a particular party and the voter rolls show something else. There is nothing that can be done about this before Jan. 23; you can't change party now. But if this happens to you, you may vote the ballot you get and change party on your way out, so you're ready for the September state/federal primary.

The primaries are just one step in the long road to the nomination and then the actual election.

The Republican **nominating convention** will be July 15-18, the Democrat Aug. 19-22. NH delegates (which in 2020 were 22 for the GOP, 33 for the Dems) are pledged to vote for NH's winner in their respective parties in the first round, but then things can change.

If you're thinking our first in the nation primary doesn't really matter, more than 10 months before the general election next November, think again. The press (and voters around the country) look at the results of the vote in NH. It's a big deal. If you're not inspired by the choices on the primary ballots, plan to vote anyway because it's part of being a good citizen. New Hampshire has historically high voter turnout compared to other states; let's uphold our reputation!

Before we leave you with happy holiday greetings, the board of League of Women Voters NH thanks members for paying their annual dues to keep us operating, and thanks others for supporting our work by spreading the word that LWVNH.org is the place to go to find election and legislative information.

Our **legislative alerts about bills in the NH Legislature** will resume just before the new year. We'll also be partnering with Open Democracy to hold an **online workshop about testifying in the legislature on bills that matter to you**. That's the evening of January 4: sign up here.

https://www.opendemocracynh.org/testimony_workshop?fbclid=IwAR1KJAXVRjs7y8THkf5DSnSPiLJb0P05tP7SXhqWEuHK3mJMaCzJQYVqdwQ

Best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy holiday season!