

# the Voice

Fall 2021



**the newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Litchfield County**  
*Serving Litchfield and Surrounding Communities*

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## Board Meetings

Board Meetings are on the first Monday of the month at 9:30 AM at the Litchfield Community Center.

## WORDS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

My best wishes to you all for a Happy Fall 2021- May we all be healthy and free of the virus as we head into the Winter season. Emerging from under the heavy weight of a pandemic of historic proportions, we know we have altered our usual behavior in how we interact with each other. We have learned that we have the ability to adapt to a new normal while still keeping our eye on the goals. We have provided our members with the resources to stay motivated and engaged and will continue to do so.

Our mission continues to be to educate and advocate. Some of the current issues facing us include: People Powered Fair Maps (unfair practices of redistricting for partisan goals); Voting in Local Elections; Freedom To Vote Act; timely and accurate information for voters; voter registration. In partnering with the Litchfield Historical Society, we hope to provide programs that are topical and informative.

We learned in the past year that we must be prepared to meet challenges that require the acquisition of new skills. Among those challenges are learning and utilizing computer technology that allows us to reach our members virtually if not able to in person. (For me, I miss person to person contact but reality sometimes interrupts life.)

We want to encourage all our members to join us in our efforts to empower voters and defend democracy. We need your talents to make our League vital and dynamic. With your help we can continue to grow and fulfil our mission and you will have a welcoming place to express your views.

Remember the League was founded by brave women who believed the right to vote should be available to every American. Participating in our government is a fundamental pillar in our democracy. Let's continue to carry on the work of the last 100 years into the next century.

Marie Pettibone

**[www.litchfieldlww.org](http://www.litchfieldlww.org)**  
**[lwwoflc@gmail.com](mailto:lwwoflc@gmail.com)**

## It Is Time to Register To Vote!

**CT VOTES!**  
**Register. Vote.**

[www.lwvct.org](http://www.lwvct.org)

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

*The Election is Tuesday, November 2, 2021*

*Polls will be open from 6am to 8pm*

To register to vote, you must be:

- a U.S. citizen
- a CT resident
- 18 by 11/2/2021

It's easiest to do online using your DMV issued ID - scan the code!

Can't make it  
to the polls? Find info  
about voting absentee  
and more at  
**[myvote.ct.gov](http://myvote.ct.gov)**



**ONLINE**  
**VOTER**  
**REGISTRATION**



**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF STAMFORD

Deadline for  
registering online:  
**Tuesday, 10/26/2021**

Use your DMV issued  
ID to complete  
registration online.

For the 2021 election, the state will **NOT** automatically send registered voters an application for an absentee ballot. You can download an application online.

The League of Women Voters of Litchfield County provided a table for Voter Registration at the "Community Belonging" event in Torrington, CT.



Naugatuck Valley Community College  
Voter Registration



**WAMOGO**

**VOTER REGISTRATION**

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 14**

## 2021 Election Calendar

Oct 26 Last day to register

Nov 1 Limited registration for those qualifying after Oct 26

Nov 2 Election Day 6am to 8pm

Note: Every town must have Election Day Registration

# DEBATES

## MAYOR of TORRINGTON

Elinor Carbone   Stephen Ivain

Monday, October 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

(Doors will open at 6:40 p.m.)

FIVE POINTS ART CENTER for the VISUAL ARTS  
855 University Drive, Torrington, CT

***In Person:*** Masks will be required. No pro-candidate brochures, clothing or buttons in the debate room.

***Virtual:*** Please RSVP via [dmorrison@cityviews-ct.com](mailto:dmorrison@cityviews-ct.com).

You may submit questions to for the candidates via [lwvoflc.events@gmail.com](mailto:lwvoflc.events@gmail.com).  
Questions to focus on what is important for the City of Torrington. Submission deadline is Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Come hear the Candidates answer questions from their constituents.**

## Four Running for First Selectman in Kent

The League, along with the Kent Library, is hosting a debate on Wednesday, October 27. The four candidates are incumbent, Jean Speck, Republican, Edward Matson and two petitioning candidates, James Rudall and Rufus deRham.

Since this will be a streamed, live debate with no audience, the League will

Only be required to provide a minimal crew, Moderator, Bibby Veerman and 4 Timers. The library will take care of the technical aspects.

This should be an interesting one to watch because 4 candidates must mean there are some hot button issues in Kent. We will send an email with the details closer to the date.

# Debate News Continued

## DAILY DIGEST GOSHEN

### **GOP candidate declines debate because 'everyone knows me'**

Voters interested in where the two candidates for first selectman stand on issues facing the town likely won't be enlightened by a debate between them.

Peter Kujawski, the Democratic candidate, is willing to debate, but the Republican candidate, Todd Carusillo, says there's no need for one because he's so well-known in town.

"I've been involved in town since 1993, serving on boards and commissions and as a volunteer, and everyone knows me, so in my eyes there's no reason," Carusillo said Thursday.

The League of Women Voters of Litchfield County has halted its attempt to schedule a debate after receiving no response from the Republican Party, said President Kerry Mayers of Goshen.

Mayers explained the league's decision in a Sept. 7 email to Carusillo, Kujawski, Republican Town Committee Chairman Christopher Sanders and Democratic Town Committee Chairwoman Leya Edison.

"We are sorry to inform you that, because of non-response from the Republican Party, the League of Women Voters of Litchfield County is canceling its efforts to host a debate for the first selectman candidates in Goshen," Mayers wrote. "We do these debates as a service to voters because we believe that a well-informed electorate benefits everyone."

Mayers said the league would be willing to hold a debate if the Republican Party expresses interest.

Carusillo and Kujawski are squaring off in a race to determine who will succeed eight-term First Selectman Robert P. Valentine, a Republican who won't be pursuing a new term but will be running for a seat on the Board of Finance.

Kujawski, in an email to Democratic Party members Wednesday, said he remains open to a debate that would allow him to speak to voters.

"We hope this will not be the last word on the scheduling of a debate," he wrote.

# Debate News Continued



Sophia Glickman, Nancy Rogers, Katie Orletski

## Roxbury Debate



Pat Donovan, Kerry Mayers, Laura Stancs Bernie Harrington



Judi Armstrong, Rosemarie Greco

# Chapter News



## Rally for Reproductive Rights

Salisbury was one of the locations where people gathered on Oct 2, to show their support for Reproductive Rights and their solidarity with the women in Texas. Judi Armstrong and Kerry Mayers attended, carrying homemade signs. The energy in the park in front of the White Hart was heart warming. There were three speakers including representative Maria Horn. One of the points which stands out in my mind is the way that Roe is being undermined by state laws. This is not new. It has been a well-planned and long-term strategy. We in Connecticut should not sit back and assume that it cannot happen here.

In addition, the Supreme Court does not seem to be willing to step in and stem the tide which is washing away long-established laws. It will take a grass roots effort on our part to protect the hard-fought rights of women and of voters. Encourage everyone you know to vote on November 2. Local elections are very important.

# Chapter News continued

## Welcome New Members

### **Bridgewater**

Katie Orletski

### **Goshen**

Krista Rizzo

Erin Strouse

Ellen Wulf

### **Litchfield**

Laura Cardello

Anthea Disney

Paul Ofman

Ursula Ofman

Nancy Post

William Post

Merle Waxman

Agnes Wilkie

### **Torrington**

Judy Pless

### **Washington**

Nancy Steinman

### **Winsted**

Candy Perez

### **Woodbury**

Sophia Glickman



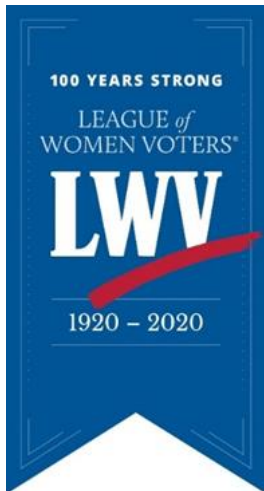
# Chapter News continued



## Tapping Reeve Garden Party



Kerry Mayers with Laura Smits, Connecticut League President



## **League of Women Voters , CT**

### **Legislative priorities for 2021 - Advocacy**

#### **LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES:**

- ◆ **No Excuse Absentee Voting, HJ58 - Passed and goes to General Session in 2023 before it can appear on out ballots in 2024.**
- ◆ **Early Voting, HJ 59 – passed and will appear as a referendum question on our ballots in 2022.**
- ◆ **Equalize Comprehensive access to mental, behavioral and physical health care in response to the pandemic. (SB1)**
- ◆ **Racial equality; fair redistricting counting incarcerated persons for purpose of determining Legislative Districts (SB 753)**
- ◆ **Funds for child care ( SB 883); Citizens Election Program / CEP.**
- ◆ **Solid Waste Management Bill (SB1037) – spearheaded by the League’s Legislative specialist Kathy Golas.**

#### **UNSUCCESSFUL :**

**Reducing Transportation Related Carbon Emissions (SB 884) . Though unsuccessful, this bill will come back in 2022.**

**For more information on the League’s actions and advocacy, go to [LWV.ORG](http://LWV.ORG) for action Alerts and Education and Action.**