The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government. The league works to increase and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Any person 16 years and older, male or female, may become a League member.

lwvtompkins.org
lwvtompkins@gmail.com

2019 ELECTIONS – LOCAL VOTER GUIDES – VOTE411 ELECTRONIC VOTER GUIDE!

VOTE411 is web-based electronic voter guide as a community service for voters and candidates.

Our local League is compiling voter guide information for the 2019 March 19th and April 23rd Village Elections, June 25th Primary Election and November 5th General Election. This information is part of the League participating in the National VOTE411.

The purpose of VOTE411 is to provide voters with non-partisan voting and election information, and to enable candidates to provide their contact and biographical information and their responses to questions posed so that voters can become more informed. All candidates are contacted directly by U.S. mail and invited to participate. If they choose not to participate or provide information, their name and the office that they are running for will be listed.

A March 19, 2019 Village Election Guide (2 pages) is included in this issue of the Bulletin. It will be attached to the email or included in your paper copy. It includes some important dates, Tompkins County Board of Elections contact information, and information on the upcoming Village Elections for the Villages of Cayuga Heights, Dryden, Groton, and Trumansburg - polling locations, offices to be filled, and candidates. The PDF is also available on the website.

If you are interested in working on this project, please call Kathy, 257-8199.
Do you want to get paid to help our community?

Become a census taker!

The Census has a local impact!

Not only will the data you collect determine our representation in Congress, there are also local issues at hand. The census helps determine who funds are spent in our community on things like roads, schools, and hospitals.

Qualifications: https://2020census.gov/jobs
Health Committee Annual Report

During 2018-2019, the Health Committee co-sponsored a program on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) with the Tompkins County Public Health Department on November 14th. The Committee is sponsoring a program on April 29 on “The Legalization of Recreational Marijuana: Pros and Cons”. The program will include the District Attorney, a Psychologist, the Sheriff, a physician, and a college educator.

For 2019-20 year, the Health Committee is planning a program on “The New Look at Public Health”, which will include participants talking about the public health implications of child abuse, homelessness, immunizations and domestic violence.

Debbie Levin, Diane Kelleher, Ann Coyne, Kay Sharp, Ann Ward
President’s Annual Report

The League has received wonderful news about voter reform. The Assembly and Senate passed bills on early voting, same-day registration, no-excuse absentee ballot, statewide voter registration transfer, consolidation of state and federal primaries, and pre-registration for 16-17 year olds. The League has been advocating for these changes for years. Our League has designated these reforms as our legislative agenda for several years. It is so good to see that our work has paid off. These reforms have an impact on election boards. As seen in the February 20-26 Tompkins Weekly report, the Election Board in Tompkins County is preparing for implementation of these new laws.

This year the League was pleased to have a new law that 16-17 year olds will not be imprisoned in adult prisons for non-violent crimes. I was personally rewarded as I joined in the direct lobbying for this reform in Albany. The implementation of this law is still problematic as increased detention center space not as yet been funded. One step at a time, a good thing takes many.

The 2018 election season was busy for our League. We received many requests for a moderator for candidate forums. Our League has the reputation that we provide well-organized, respectful forums. In keeping with the State League procedures, our League’s Candidate Forum Guidelines were updated. All candidates who are included in a forum that we moderate are asked to follow these Guidelines. After talking to other League Presidents, I feel we are doing something right as we have not run into problems that others have experienced. Our Guidelines have served us well.

As our League ages, our number of members has decreased. However, in more than in the past 10 years, we have seen an increase in new members in 2018. The Membership and Program Committees have been doing a lot to reach out to other organizations to solicit interest in joining our League. We appreciate the work they are doing.

I have been your president for many years. I have been honored to serve and represent you. I have seen changes in the Boards over these years, and I have seen some ways that despite our reduction in numbers, the Board is doing more work with fewer people. They’re working more with committees and co-directors. This has increased enjoyment among members and increased investment in greater goals.

This is the last term that I will be your President. Thank you for your support and confidence that I can do well in representing you in the community all these years.

Kay Sharp
## Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Program</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 23rd at noon</td>
<td>Borg Warner Room at Tompkins County Public Library</td>
<td>Soup &amp; Bread Luncheon History of Suffrage Activities in Tompkins County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, April 29th at 7pm</td>
<td>Borg Warner Room at Tompkins County Public Library</td>
<td>The Legalization of Recreational Marijuana: Pros and Cons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, May 6th, at 5:30pm</td>
<td>To be Announced</td>
<td>The League’s Annual Meeting!</td>
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<td>Dinner and program for all members</td>
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2019 brings us another opportunity for a big year as the run-up to the 2020 Presidential election is in full swing. There are also a number of local elections coming up in the next few months, including:

- Village of Cayuga Heights (three Trustees), Tuesday, March 19th
- Village of Dryden (Mayor and two Trustees), Tuesday, March 19th
- Village of Groton (Mayor and two Trustees), Tuesday, March 19th
- Village of Trumansburg (one Trustee), Tuesday, March 19th
- Village of Lansing (Mayor and two Trustees), Tuesday, April 23rd
This has been a busy year for the Natural Resources Committee. We have been learning about local land use issues and their environmental impacts and plan to continue with this focus during the coming year. Significant development has been planned or is already underway, both inside the city and elsewhere in the county, and we have been trying to follow it closely.

The committee started the year by co-sponsoring the program “Farmers Can Help Cool the Planet”. This program focused on farming techniques that can enrich the soil while at the same time sequestering carbon in the plants and soil. The speakers were Dr. Jeffrey Creque, from the Marin Carbon Project and the Carbon Cycle Institute in California lands, and three local farmers representing different sectors of our agricultural economy: Suzanne Hunt from Hunt Country Vineyards; Steve Gabriel, writer and farmer with Wellspring Forest Farm using silvopasture; and Brian Caldwell, farmer with Hemlock Grove Farm in West Danby and Cornell agronomist (retired) specializing in Organic Farming practices. Jonathan Bates, of Food Forest Farm in Caroline, was the Moderator.

In October our committee learned about plans for a major project to be built on Cornell’s North Campus. Although we felt it was important for Cornell to provide significantly more student housing, the plans called for the use of natural gas instead of heat pumps and, in general, did not sufficiently address the problem of climate change. We wrote a letter to the City of Ithaca Planning Board and the City of Ithaca Council and presented it at one of the meetings of the planning board. The letter expressed our concerns about the plans and our hope that Cornell would become a leader in using new development techniques rather than building in the ways of the past. A copy of the letter is on the League’s website.

In February we were excited to present the program “Our Lakes and Streams: Their Health and Care”. The speakers were Hilary Lambert, Steward of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, and Andrew Zepp, Executive Director of the Finger Lakes Land Trust. Our co-sponsors were the Campaign for Renewable Energy, Fossil Free Tompkins, Sustainable Tompkins, and the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council. The program was well attended with 70-80 people present and many asking interesting questions.

Our speakers talked about various problems confronting our lake, including the presence of toxic algae, and the efforts the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network and the Finger Lakes Land Trust are making to reduce or eliminate negative impacts on the lake and its watershed. Hilary Lambert also described the many different groups of mostly volunteers that are working around the lake to monitor its health and take some needed actions. Nate Launer, the Outreach Director for the Community Science Institute, supplemented Lambert’s talk with a discussion of what the volunteer groups were finding and the significance of those efforts. A very good and thorough write-up of the program has appeared in The Ithaca Voice – there is a link to it on our website at http://lwvtompkins.org/program_archive.html
Right now we are looking forward to co-sponsoring an event that will follow up on the fall program concerning farming techniques used to help cool the planet. The free all-day event “Climate Wise Gardening: An Earthkeeping Fair” will be held on Saturday, April 27 at Boynton Middle School. There will be demonstrations, exhibits, talks and films which should be both interesting and fun.

Looking forward to next year, we plan to continue our efforts to learn more about local land use and take action when appropriate. We will begin by reading and discussing the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan (found at http://tompkinscountyny.gov/planning/comprehensive-plan) and may study the plans local towns have written. We are also interested in looking at some large maps of the county in order to get an overview and better understand the impacts (positive and negative) of the comprehensive plan as well as where development may be happening in the near future.

The questions we have center around the location and types of anticipated development, preservation of farmland, preservation and nurturing of our forests and woodlands, and the ways in which transportation (particularly public transportation) will be integrated into future development. While focusing on county land use, we will continue to monitor other environmental issues at the local, state, and national levels. Always at the front of our minds will be the serious problems surrounding climate change.
We hope to see you all at the annual soup and bread luncheon!

The Tompkins County League of Women Voters

Annual Soup and Bread Luncheon
Saturday, March 23rd 2019
12-2pm

This year we have a new location, the Borg Warner Room at the Tompkins County Public Library.

Stay for a presentation at 1pm by Carol Kammen, Tompkins County Historian and Elaine Engel, Cornell University Archivist Emerita

“Achieving Beulah Land: A History of Suffrage Activities in Tompkins County”

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact

Charlotte Coffman
272-7551

cwc4@cornell.edu
This past year, 2018, was another active year for the Voter Services Committee. Our wonderful and dedicated Voter Services volunteers represented the League at many festivals and events around the county, including many events we attend regularly, such as the Naturalization Ceremonies at the Tompkins County Courthouse, Ithaca Festival, and the Apple Harvest Festival.

We were happy to attend new events this year by invitation, such as at a Juneteenth event at the Southside Community Center. We also signed up new voters at an event called “We Are Ithaca” in conjunction with the photography project with the same title. We participated in a community event at Northside, were invited to table with the Unitarian Church at PorchFest, and were especially thrilled to have been invited to speak to future voters at Groton and Dryden high schools. We were also asked to moderate a Tompkins County Sheriff’s candidate forum.

We signed up over 160 new and new-to-Tompkins County voters in 2018. The events in which we signed up the most registrants were at Cornell University, Constitution Day at the Tompkins-Cortland Community College, and the Apple Harvest Festival (31, 42, and 44 registrations, respectively).

There will be more elections coming up in 2019, including the Primary Election on June 25th and the General Election November 5th, and we will be keeping everyone informed of all the information in the upcoming months. We continue to post regularly to the League Facebook page and Twitter account to keep everyone informed, and we encourage all members to share it with others. As always, there will be information in our monthly newsletter and the League website.

If you would like to volunteer, or have any questions or comments on Voter Services, please contact Mandy Qualls (mandyqualls@gmail.com).
Interested in becoming a league member?

The league would love to have you!

Who can join LWV-TC? Membership is open to all men and women, 16 years or older.

What does membership bring?
Joining the League of Tompkins County automatically enrolls you in the League of Women Voters of New York State and the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Membership includes our Voter newsletter with reports, legislative action, events, news, membership updates, and more. For more information, here is our Membership Booklet.

To join LWV-TC, print and complete the membership form and return it to League of Women Voters of Tompkins County
303 Savage Farm Drive
Ithaca, NY 14850

You will receive a packet from the Membership Chair. If you have problems accessing or printing the form, please contact lwvtompkins@gmail.com
YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN ALBANY
SENOATORS

James Seward 518-455- 3131; 607-758- 9005
www.nysenate.gov/senator/james-l- seward
51st—Towns of Groton, Dryden, Caroline, Danby

Pamela Helming 518-455- 2366, 315-568- 9816
helming@nysenate.gov
54th—Town of Lansing

Thomas O’Mara 518-455- 2091; 607-735- 9671
www.nysenate.gov/senator/thomas-f-omara
59th—Towns of Ithaca, Newfield, Enfield, Ulysses; City of Ithaca

ASSEMBLYWOMAN
Barbara Lifton 518-455- 5444; 607-277- 8030
www.assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Barbara-Lifton

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON

SENOATORS
Kirsten E. Gillibrand 202-224- 4451 e-mail and
web-site: www.gillibrand.senate.gov

Charles E. Schumer 202-224- 6542;
senator@schumer.senate.gov;
www.schumer.senate.gov

REPRESENTATIVES:
Tom Reed 202-225- 3161; 607-654-7566; e-mail
and web-site: reed.house.gov

Important Links

http://lwvtompkins.org/bulletins.html
See all of the League’s Past Bulletins

http://lwvtompkins.org/calendar.html
The League’s Calendar of Events

http://lwv.org/
The National League Website

http://www.lwvny.org/
The State League Website

http://lwvtompkins.org/stand.html
Where the Tompkins County League
stands on important issues

http://www.lwvtompkins.org/program_archive.html
A link to previous league sponsored
programs which were videotaped.

http://www.lwvtompkins.org/voting.html
Find out when the Upcoming Elections
https://www.elections.ny.gov/
Governor Cuomo
gov.cuomo@chamber.state.ny.us