



THE VOTER

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Founded in 1977

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May-June 2014

Term Limits and Ballot Access Studies

Anne Marshall and Carol Mellor

The committee participating in the state term limit and ballot access studies are preparing presentations to be made at the July 14, 2014 Members Meeting at the Bridgehampton Library. We hope that our members will attend to hear about the basic principles that will guide us in considering these important topics at a consensus meeting to be held in November. We invite other interested residents of the East End to join us.

The League's involvement in this study emanated from grass roots program planning and the proceedings at the last LWWNYS convention. A great number of local leagues suggested that we review our existing position, which opposes term limits for state wide officials and state legislators. Based on their expressed interest, the State Board recommended that we conduct this study, and the delegates at the convention voted to do so. The ballot access study was not recommended by the board, but the delegates at the convention requested that it be considered,

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Salute To Sag Harbor: A Narrated Walking Tour

By Joanne McEvoy-Samborn & Gladys Remler

On a drizzly Thursday in May, League members and non-members who had read about the event enjoyed a one mile women's history walking tour led by Sag Harbor historical raconteurs Tony Garro and Annette Hinkle.



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SAVE THE DATE

Monday, July 14, 2014

7 pm

Member Meeting:

Ballot Access and Term Limits Studies. Hear the results of the study group's research into these timely topics. You need to be there to be well-informed when we hold our consensus meeting in the fall on both topics.

(Note: no Members meeting in August)

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons

Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, in both its values and practices, is committed to diversity and pluralism. This means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of economic position, gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs. The League of Women Voters of the Hamptons affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of the East End.

Membership

Any person who supports the mission of the League may become a member.

The Voter Newsletter

The newsletter of the Hamptons League, *The Voter*, is dedicated to bringing useful information, background, perspective and commentary on public policy issues confronting League members and other community citizens in Southampton and East Hampton, Suffolk County and the State of New York. It explores the work of the League to promote positive solutions, and it empowers people to make a difference in their communities.

The Voter is published seven times a year (January/February/March, April, May/June, July/August, September, October, and November/December) by the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons, P. O. Box 2253, East Hampton, NY 11937.

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President's Message

by Glorian Berk

What does the League mean to you? I often ask myself this question, especially as I talk about the League to new acquaintances to encourage them to join. To me, the League is a local organization of incredibly articulate, smart members. The LWVH reputation is of an organization that is fair and provides trusted information:

- Through our member meetings
- Candidate debates
- White papers on specific issues, i.e., town manager form of government
- Voters' guides

On a personal level, many of the League members have become my friends. When I retired to Southampton from New York City almost nine years ago, a hiking friend, Judi Roth, suggested I join the League. She took me to a Winter Blah's lunch and I was hooked. I was able to channel my passion for environmental issues with the League's Natural Resources Committee.

The League of Women Voters is bigger than our local league here in the Hamptons. We are part of a County ILO ((Inter-League Organization), a State League and a National League. At the County ILO, work on issues of importance across Suffolk County. For example, we joined with the Brookhaven League to become members of the Long Island Clean Water Partnership. We share and sometimes borrow ideas from each other; for example, the Huntington League ran a Running & Winning Program this year based on the success of our prior events.

The State League allows us to speak to the government in Albany about issues that are important across the state. A small office staff headquartered in Albany allows the State League to lobby face to face with elected officials on issues of importance to the League; for example, the Women's Equality Agenda.

The National League gives us a voice in Washington to lobby for issues of importance nationally to the League; for example, voting rights and campaign finance reform. They provide leadership training and highlight best practices across individual leagues.

So, what does the League mean to you? What do you tell your friends about the League to encourage them to join? Each one of us needs to be ambassadors for the League to encourage new members. How do you do it? Please share your ideas and we'll publish them in a future issue of *The Voter*. Contact me or Judy Samuelson at copresident@lwvhamptons.org.

Reports from Hamptons Attendees at the LWVUS National Convention

by Sue Wilson and Carol Mellor

Sue Wilson and Carol Mellor attended The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) 51st biennial National convention held in early June in Dallas, Texas. Susan is 3rd Vice President/Development LWVNY. Carol is the Grass Roots Director. Sue represented the State League; Carol our local League. This convention was notable for several reasons, including a contested election for president. Deidre McNab, president of the Florida league, was nominated from the floor and waged a campaign focused on her perception of a crisis in membership numbers. During the debate between the candidates, she represented that she could double the membership in two years. The balloted election resulted, however, in an overwhelming victory for Elisabeth MacNamara.

Notable at this convention were training sessions lead by representatives of National which divided the delegates into new local leaders, experienced local leaders, state leaders and Member and Leadership development program. Although the subject matter, such as use of social media, development techniques, increasing membership and fostering new leaders, were similar, the presentations were addressed to the needs and concerns of the specific audience.

In addition, National hosted discussions of the major substantive issues upon which the League planned to work in the immediate future, while state and local league ran caucuses on subjects ranging from climate change to education.

The delegates set the LWVUS program agenda for the next two years, including adoption of a three-part program focusing on key structures of American democracy, taking into account campaign finance reform, the constitutional amendment process, and redistricting reform for the U.S. Congress. Two resolution were passed, one "approving support of a price on carbon emissions that will increase in stages, as part of an overall program to improve energy efficiency and to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy, fast enough to avoid serious damage and the second urging quick action of the three part program directed at constitutional process, campaign finance and redistricting. In addition, The League adopted through concurrence a position on human trafficking enabling state and local Leagues across the country to take action protecting victims of such crimes.

Speakers ranged from political leaders to several political pundits, all of whom exhorted the League to continue to be at the forefront of the fights for democratic process and voting rights.

Future Activities

By Valerie King Ph.D.

It was an excellent year for Health Committee activities, and we are appreciative of the hard work, leadership and mentoring of prior committee chair Naomi Epstein. The LWVH Health Committee welcomes Dr. Kaye Umana (family medicine) Dr. Beverly Ann Dixon (microbiology) Dr. Joelle Efthimiou (neuropsychology) and Dolores Brivio (NODA hospital volunteer). If other LWVH members or members of the community are interested in joining us, please contact me at: 631-267-3282 or e-mail: valeriekingphd@gmail.com During the summer, the committee plans to communicate by e-mail and share ideas for upcoming goals and action plans. We expect to continue to monitor health concerns on a national, state and local level. We will be reviewing enrollment and insurance plan participation in Obamacare (ACA) as it impacts our community, and will monitor the process of the Southampton Hospital/Stony Brook Hospital affiliation. Committee members were pleased to attend the Kraus Family/Hudson River Health Center Open House in Southampton, and plan to schedule meetings at the clinic regarding the implementation and expansion of Federally Qualified Health Center services. Our committee will continue to focus on the issue of access to behavioral health services for residents of the South Fork, especially for youth in our community.

Other local health news

Our successful April 9 LWVH-Health Forum, "How Access To Health Care Is Changing On The East End" is being broadcast on LTV Channel 20. Go to www.ltveh.org and check out the schedule!

There is a new resource sponsored by Southampton Hospital to access information regarding Tick diseases. Call 631-726-TICK or go to the website www.EastEndTick-Resource.org. Note that this is an information-only facility, not a treatment center. If you missed the June 7 hospital community panel presentation on Tick Diseases, you can view the event on SEA TV local channels in July or go to the Tick Resource website listed above and follow the link for youtube.com. Dr. Dempsey will give a talk 6:30 pm July 15 at the Cutchogue Library and Dr. Fernando at 6:30 pm July 30 at the Hampton Bays Library.



Recent Events

Salute To Sag Harbor: A Narrated Walking Tour

Continued from page 1

First stop was the home of Annie Cooper Boyd, now the site of the Sag Harbor Historical Society. Next we visited the former home of Mrs. Russell Sage, a Suffragist and one of the first female philanthropists. It is now the Sag Harbor Whaling & Historical Museum. Next was a visit to Anna Westfall's home, where for many years she ran a highly regarded finishing school. We saw where Betty Friedan, author of the "Feminine Mystique," once lived. We also saw a few homes that were once known as "houses of ill repute" in an age where few sources of income were available to women left behind to support themselves and their children while their men were at sea.

After the one mile walking tour we had a private tour and talk by , Greg Therriault, manager of the Whaling Museum. He talked about the hazardous way of life of a whaler who could be away at sea from family and loved ones for years at a time. Countless numbers died in their efforts to make living.

After lunch and shopping, we adjourned to the Sag Harbor Village Hall for a talk discussion with Deputy Mayor Dr. Robby Stein. He spoke candidly about Sag Harbor's concerns and plans for the future and answered questions.

Last stop for some of us was Temple Adas Israel with its beautiful stained glass windows created by Romany Kramoris. Long-time congregation member David Lee gave a very lively talk on the history of the Temple. Others chose to visit the Old Whalers' Church in the village.

We all had a great time, despite deteriorating weather, with a torrential downpour while we were at lunch. All in all this was a very successful event. Some non-league members on the tour expressed interest in joining. That's another plus to such events, planned by the LWVH Special Events Committee, as well as promoting the League and raising funds.



Stopping in front of Betty Friedan's home prompted a discussion on the impact of "The Feminine Mystique."



The rain held off until Anna Westfall's house, once used as a finishing school to support her family.



First stop on the tour, led by Annette Hinkle and Tony Garro, left, was the Annie Cooper Boyd house, the current home of the Sag Harbor Historical Society.

A Video Workshop Stresses Importance of Voting

by Judi Roth

The Education Committee's goal is to persuade, convince, and encourage young people to vote. Earlier in the year we put out a call for one-minute videos from students 10-18. That led us to the video workshop held on April 25. We recruited two professionals, Charles Certain videographer at SEA-TV and Frank Cento, a film and theater director who works with SYS and the Southampton Youth Services department where he teaches video techniques to young people.

We all know Charles as the "cool guy" who films our meetings (along with Sarah Pleat, camera operator). A father of teenagers, he is dedicated to helping kids become good citizens. Frank's ideas and energy for helping kids is enormous. We were also pleased to have new League member Lynn Arthur, a political strategist who knows how to use social media, speak to the students.

All we needed was a cast. Enter 15 high school juniors from Pierson, East Hampton, Bridgehampton and Southampton high schools. Four teams were assigned the job of creating four different public service announcements. The concepts were:

- 1) No dialogue; just signs about the value of voting
- 2) "I'm only one vote" vs. "my vote is crucial"
- 3) the history of voting
- 4) Too busy to vote

Kids chose music, scenery (using "green screen" technique), wrote scripts and rehearsed their parts. Our directors Charles and Frank each filmed two PSA's. Take after take was required as kids forgot lines, wanted to do things over, walked too fast or too slow – but they enjoyed every minute. The final products can be seen on our Facebook page, posted on individual YouTube sites and shown on SEA-TV and LTV. Each student gets a CD.

We were in the hands of experts. The kids all sensed this and just gave themselves over to having fun while learning. My own best memory is the young boy from East Hampton High School who did a rap about voting. He had his iPhone in his ear and he was singing to music that Charles would insert. To fulfill the Suffolk County League grant we had pledged to bring voter registration to young people, particularly those in underserved areas. Enter Martha Potter, a new Education Committee member. A former high school history teacher, she is not daunted by being in front of a class of kids. At Riverhead High School on May 1, Martha and I were joined by Ursula Lynch who walked the kids through filling out



voter registration forms at the end of the program activity. We presented in three classes and registered 34 students. We also had them fill out postcards with their address so that we can mail them reminders when Election Day rolls around in November. Our next stop was East Hampton High School on May 16, where Judy Samuelson joined us, and then back to Riverhead with Ursula to do two classes at BOCES on May 29.



Highlights of June 4 Board Meeting

Appointment of new directors

Joy Cordery, Joanne Samborn, Valerie King and Judi Roth were officially installed for 2014-2015.

National Convention Discussion

The board reviewed six topics proposed by other leagues and members, to give direction to Carol Mellor, our representative at the Convention. They are:

1. Opposition to human trafficking: yes to concurrence
2. Living wage/income inequality: Yes to concurrence on living wage. No to study on income inequality; not within our mission or competency
3. Campaign finance reform: No – too big an issue on a national level (we must focus on state/local issues)
4. Restoring voting rights to ex-felons: A qualified no. NY restores felons' rights. National position to support state efforts might be appropriate.
5. Reducing carbon footprint: No to adding 'price on carbon emissions' to position as it would be too limiting. Susan Wilson will attend caucus.
6. Election of a new president. Undecided.

Discussion Items

The LWVNY Budget was reviewed and approved. It was noted that there is no increase to the PMP.

Communication Issues

The board agreed to hire Bruce McGowin to do the layout of The Voter. We will pay for his services. It was decided to reduce the number of yearly issues to seven by combining January, February and March. The board will also work to increase advertiser revenue and will consider increasing advertising rates next year. Advertisers should know that their ads also appear on our website and that we include a "see us online" on each printed ad page.

The Voter advertiser solicitation

Joy distributed advertising materials and asked everyone to sell ads. This is vital in light of now paying a designer.

Upcoming Events

The board was reminded of the June 16 Members Meeting at the Marine Science Center, Southampton campus of Stony Brook University. Natural Resources committee will provide refreshments.

Committee Reports

Education – The student video project was a great success. Judi asked for discussion on how to express appreciation for the volunteer professionals. We will give them honorary League memberships.

Judi, Martha Potter, Judy S. and Ursula presented a modified "Vote18" at seven events. This was related to the LWVUS pass-through grant on outreach to underserved youth groups. The committee will do a follow up mailing to remind new voters to vote. LWVH sent two students to Students Inside Albany program.

Membership – Estelle noted that a dues renewal mailing was sent out. She suggested that new members be assigned a 'mentor' to introduce them to the league and to encourage them join a committee based on interests. Two new members joined as a result of the April Membership meeting. More expressed interest at the Sag Harbor event.

Special Events – Gladys proposed a cocktail party fund raiser. After discussion, it was tabled in favor of less complicated, potentially more profitable events such as 'Hot Topics' luncheons.

Health – Valerie reported on the open house at the Hudson River Healthcare Center. The committee will follow the merger of Stony Brook with Southampton Hospital and implementation of the Affordable Care Act. She suggested the CD of our recent Health Care Membership Meeting be shown at Senior Centers.

Natural Resources – Sue mentioned a video contest designed to help citizens modify their behavior in an effort to improve local water quality. Details were recently covered in the East Hampton Star.

Voter Services – Anne reported that the committee is focused on the two studies. The next Voter Services Member Meeting will be on July 14 at 7:00, at the Library.

Public Relations – Arlene provided clipping and press releases and letters to the editor by Judi Roth and Judy Samuelson. Finally, she mentioned that she is having a yard sale to benefit the League on June 21. Others invited to join in.



Suffolk County Voter

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July 2014

LWVSC Board Retreat: Wednesday, July 16 at Judy Samuelson's home.

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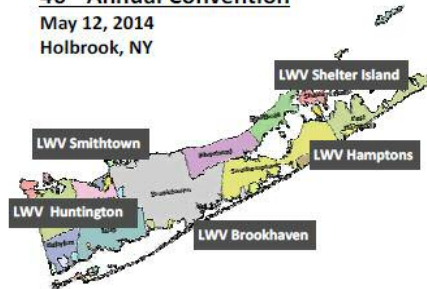
Wrapping up our year with a successful and well-attended Annual Convention, the Suffolk County League of Women Voters' new "Year" commences with a new Board, a July retreat to discuss priorities and plans, and a new focus on County Legislative Issues in many areas of League concern.



League of Women Voters
of Suffolk County

46th Annual Convention

May 12, 2014
Holbrook, NY



LWVSC's board thanks outgoing Directors Judie Gorenstein (Huntington) and Arlene Lesser (Smithtown), and welcomes new Directors Robbie Fishman and Norma Michael (both Brookhaven).

Judie Gorenstein is also thanked for her dedication as LWVSC's Voter Service Chair, thus creating an "opportunity" for a new VS team to take on the job in this year's election season.

2014 Liberty Award Local League Service: Voter Registration for New Citizens at Naturalization Ceremonies



The Liberty Award honors an individual or organization whose passion, leadership and action have had a significant impact on a priority issue of the League of Women Voters of Suffolk County.

Brookhaven:
Linda Devin-Sheehan

Hamptons:
Anne Marshall
Carol Mellor

Huntington:
Eileen Coblens
Barbara Magaliff

Smithtown:
Sondra Irvine

The 20 page 2014 Annual Convention booklet is an inspirational and useful tool for all—read about programs and achievements of local Leagues as well as LWVSC. For copies contact lisawscott@gmail.com.

Janos Marton, Special Counsel to the NYS Moreland Commission to Investigate Public Corruption gave an informative keynote presentation to 50 attendees at our Annual Convention with insights into the commission's purpose, investigations, findings and recommendations.

It appears that Suffolk County fiscal consolidation (including abolishing the County Treasurer's office) will be on the ballot again in November. LWVSC will monitor developments and plans a guide to educate voters on this issue.

Mary McLaughlin, LWVSC's Legislative Director, and LWVSC's 1st VP Nancy Marr have been attending General Sessions of the Suffolk County Legislature, as well as many SC Leg committee meetings. There are many areas of interest and concern to the League, particularly regarding the county health centers, and water, sewer, development and housing issues. We are in great need of additional League members to monitor and attend meetings in Hauppauge and Riverhead, and report back to LWVSC for possible future education and action.

Action At National Convention On Living Wage And Economic (In)Equality

by Carol Mellor and Susan Wilson

Delegates did not pass motions for a concurrence with a Kansas position on a living wage and a proposal for a study on economic inequality. Although these actions might look as if delegates were insensitive to these issues, a closer examination belies this and, further, illustrates the grassroots, careful and deliberative nature of our organization.

The proposal for the adoption, by concurrence, of a position in support of a living wage was defeated by a very close vote, and, to judge from the comments made from the floor of the convention, was defeated. Generally, I think it could be said that the delegates were in favor of minimum wage and a living wage as related but separate concepts, but the language of the Kansas position was problematic for many of us. It seemed to be the sense of the delegates that the issue should be more carefully explored so that a position, if ultimately adopted, would be clear, comprehensive and used to easily support action on the issue.

By separate motion, the LWV of Berkeley Albany Emeryville, CA moved to adopt a study on Economic Inequality which would identify the social and political impacts of economic inequality on our democracy and seek appropriate policy solutions.

Both proposals, and the issues they raised, were crystallized by a demographer from Rice University, Dr. Stephen Murdock, in a talk titled "Population Change in the United States and Texas: Implications for Education and Socioeconomic Development." The conclusions were clear. Minority populations are skyrocketing; they are less educated and poorer than the non-Hispanic white population and unless we take huge steps to see that these young people are educated and receive other forms of assistance enabling them to share in economic prosperity, the underpinnings of our economic system are in real danger of collapse.

Can We Help The Monarch Butterflies?

by Joy Cordery



Monarch butterflies make an extraordinary migration: from North America they fly nearly 3000 miles to a small grove of trees in Mexico to overwinter. The Hamptons see the late summer migration of thousands of Monarchs flying southward along the coast. But last year it was reported that there were only a few dozen here and there.

What has happened over the last decade?

Possible causes include: illegal destruction of trees in the grove severe winter storms, and industrial agriculture's increased use of the weed killer glyphosate (marketed by Monsanto as Roundup). Use has increased tenfold, reaching 182 million pounds annually.

Glyphosate kills milkweed, the only plant on which Monarchs lay their eggs. Monarchs take three generations (over a few weeks) to return north, and if there is no milkweed for the caterpillars to feed on, no butterflies will emerge to continue the journey. Where there may have been hundreds of millions of these critical weeds 10 years ago, today there are only a fraction, on roadsides, abandoned lots and gardens.

Environmental groups are petitioning the E.P.A. to adopt tough new restrictions on the use of glyphosate and other herbicides; for municipalities to limit their use along highways (where milkweed often grows) and to encourage farmers to establish herbicide-free zones in their fields.

How we can help

Plant milkweed (*Asclepius*). Attractive *Asclepius* varieties are available at Lynch's Garden Center in Southampton, Fort Pond Native Plants in Montauk, and other garden centers. Or you can buy seeds for fall planting.

For more information, go to www.letmonarchsfly.org
(From Andrew Messinger, Natural Resources Defense Council, World Wildlife Fund)

Calendar

July-August 2014

Note: Meeting dates and times are published several weeks in advance and are subject to change. Please contact the Chairs or visit our website at www.lwvhamptons.org for updates. If you don't see a meeting for a committee of interest, contact the Chair of that committee. Contact information is listed on last inside page of "The Voter" and on the website, www.lwvhamptons.org.

July 10 - 12:30 PM Thursday	Voter Services Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton
July 14 - 7:00 PM Monday	LWVH Member Meeting (no member meeting in August)	Presentation by Study Committee on Term Limits & Ballot Access Hampton Library, Bridgehampton
July 15 - 10:00 AM Tuesday	Natural Resources Committee Meeting	Hampton Library, Bridgehampton
August 6 - 4:00 PM Wednesday	Special Events Committee Meeting	Paneras, Bridgehampton
August 6 - 5:30 PM Wednesday	LWVH Board Meeting (no member meeting in July)	Bridgehampton National Bank, Bridgehampton
TOWN BOARD MEETINGS		
July 3 - 6:30 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
July 8 - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
July 17 - 6:30 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
July 22 - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
August 7 - 6:30 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
August 12 - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton
August 21 - 6:30 PM	East Hampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Courtroom, 159 Pantigo Rd., East Hampton
August 26 - 1:00 PM	Southampton Town Board Meeting	Town Hall Board Room, Southampton Town Hall, 116 Hampton Rd., Southampton

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51st Biennial LWVUS Convention

by Susan Wilson & Carol Mellor

GETTING BUSINESS DONE

How do 644 opinionated, passionate delegates get things done at convention? By following Parliamentary Procedure, more commonly known in this country as Roberts Rules of Order.

Parliamentary procedure is the body of rules, ethics, and customs governing meetings and other operations of other deliberative assemblies. It is part of the common law originating primarily in the practices of the House of Commons of the UK Parliament.

At its heart is the rule of the majority with respect for the minority. Its object is to allow deliberation upon questions of interest and to arrive at the sense or the will of the assembly. Self-governing organizations follow parliamentary procedure to Self-governing organizations follow parliamentary procedure to debate and reach group decisions --usually by vote --with the least possible friction. Rules of order consist of rules written by the body itself (often referred to as bylaws), but also usually supplemented by a published parliamentary authority adopted by

the body. Typically, national, state, and other full-scale legislative assemblies have extensive internally written rules of order, whereas non-legislative bodies write and adopt a limited set of specific rules as the need arises.

Term Limits and Ballot Access Studies

Continued from page 1

and it, too, passed. As a result, state locals are considering both issues which impact on state government.

The term limits issue is fairly straightforward: should we cap the number of terms our state elected officials can serve? We on the East End are not unfamiliar with term limits since they are in effect in the Town of Southampton and in the Suffolk County legislature.

The ballot access study is multi-faceted. It explores cross endorsements (fusion voting), and a unique NY statute termed "Wilson-Pakula", both of which impact the way candidates' names appear on the primary ballot, and then considers rules governing which voters are eligible to vote in the primaries.

These issues impact our choices at the voting booth. Anyone concerned about those choices should come to our July 14 meeting.

The Voter

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