

LWVNEW NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

VOTER SERVICE

CANDIDATE FORUMS

North Salem: Wed Oct 4, 7pm

The North Salem forum at the Ruth Keeler Memorial Library was well-attended. We had the participation of all three candidates running for two seats on the North Salem Town Board: Elizabeth Almeyda, Katherine Daniels, and Brent Golisano. Our moderator was John Hessel of the New Rochelle League. Student member Andea Sarno had volunteered to act as timekeeper but a school-related scheduling conflict got in the way; we thank her for her willingness to help.



Left to right: Moderator John Hessel and candidates Elizabeth Almeyda, Brent Golisano, and Katherine Daniels. (Photo credit: LWVNEW)

The forum was well-received. We packed up while the candidates stayed behind to talk to voters and, during that time, received lots of positive feedback. Library Director Cathleen Sulli has since received positive feedback about the event as well.

There is no video recording of the forum but two local media outlets sent reporters and covered the event:

The North Salem News:

><https://news.halstonmedia.com/towns/halston-media/sections/elections/articles/north-salem-town-board-candidates-speak-out-at-lwv-forum>

The North Salem Post:

>[Meet the candidates running for North Salem Town Board – The North Salem Post](#)

Pound Ridge: Thurs Oct 5, 7pm

This virtual forum featured the two candidates running for Town Supervisor, Kevin Hansan and John McCown, as well as the 5 candidates running for two seats on the Town Board: Alison Boak, Christopher Boey, Susan Lee, Namasha Schelling, and Cynthia Shereda.

Susan Weisfeld from the Rivertowns League of Women Voters was the moderator and LWVNEW member Kitley Covill acted as timekeeper. Thank you, Kitley!

Many thanks to member Lisa Colby for organizing this candidate forum.

Lisa is a new member who jumped at the chance to help. Her thoughtfulness and diligence were apparent every step of the way.

Watch a recording here. (Town Supervisor candidates are first, followed by the Town Board candidates at 50:25): [LWV Poundridge Candidate Forum Town Supervisor & Town Board 10/5/23 - YouTube](#)

The Pound Ridge forum had 179 live viewers and, as of this newsletter, 250 additional views-on-demand.

Lewisboro: Wed Oct 11, 7pm

This virtual forum featured the two candidates running for Town Supervisor, Tony Goncalves and Mary Ann Loustaunau, as well as the four candidates running for two seats on the Town Board: Alison Biddle, Stephen Lennox, Richard Sklarin, and Dan Welsh. It was moderated by Marcia Brewster of the Rivertowns League. LWVNEW member Tara Finneran was set to act as timekeeper but had to pull

out the night-of, with regrets. We thank her for volunteering.

Thank you to member Katherine Dering for organizing and planning this forum.

Katherine is a pro. She has organized many candidate forums over the years and it shows.

Watch the video here. (Town Supervisor candidates are first, followed by the Town Board candidates at 30:15): [LWV Lewisboro Candidate Forum Town Supervisor & Town Board 10/11/23 - YouTube](#)

The Lewisboro forum had 83 live viewers and, as of this newsletter, 649 additional views-on-demand.

Bedford: Thurs Oct 12, 6:30pm

This virtual forum featured the four candidates running for two seats on the Bedford Town Board: Bobbi Bittker, Thomas Catoliato, Mike Palladino, and Don Scott. The program was moderated by Alice Tenney of the Mamaroneck League; Lisa Pizzurro acted as timekeeper.

Many thanks to member Kimberly Morella for planning this forum.

This was Kimberly's first time organizing a League forum and she did a great job; we are grateful to her for stepping up!

Watch the video here: [LWV Bedford Candidate Forum Town Board 10/12/23 - YouTube](#)

The Bedford forum had 65 live viewers and, as of this newsletter, 257 additional views-on-demand.

We received LOTS of questions for the candidates from residents of Pound Ridge, Lewisboro, and Bedford. Thank you to LWVNEW members Lisa Colby, Katherine Dering, Kimberly Morella, Lisa Pizzurro, and Susan Ferris Rights for going through the submissions. Again, the virtual forums are all available for viewing on-demand at our website, www.LWVNEW.org

Additional Resources

Bedford

>[Four candidates for Bedford Town Board share hopes and views | Town of Bedford | record-review.com](#)
>[Bedford-Katonah Politics & Government News | Bedford-Katonah, NY Patch](#)
>[Bedford Election Guide 2023 | Halston Media, NY News TAPinto](#)

Lewisboro

>[Ten questions for Lewisboro supervisor candidates | Town of Lewisboro | record-review.com](#)
>[Bedford-Katonah Politics & Government News | Bedford-Katonah, NY Patch](#)

Mount Kisco

>[Mount Kisco Election Guide 2023 | Halston Media, NY News TAPinto](#)
>[Chappaqua-Mount Kisco Politics & Government News | Chappaqua-Mount Kisco, NY Patch](#)

North Salem

><https://news.halstonmedia.com/towns/halston-media/sections/elections/articles/north-salem-town-board-candidates-speak-out-at-lwv-forum>
>[Meet the candidates running for North Salem Town Board – The North Salem Post](#)

Pound Ridge

>[Supervisor candidates clash in LWV forum | Town of Pound Ridge | record-review.com](#)
>[Bedford-Katonah Politics & Government News | Bedford-Katonah, NY Patch](#)

VOTE411.ORG

The *Find What's on Your Ballot* tool at Vote411.org replaces the paper version of the League's Voters Guide.

Click here: [Personalized Ballot | VOTE411](#)

We created a one-page, step-by-step "How-To" for people unfamiliar with Vote411. Thank you to Karen Schleimer

for dropping copies at the senior center & library in Mount Kisco. We offered the instructions to other libraries in our area; North Salem's Ruth Keeler Memorial Library and the Lewisboro Library took us up on our offer and we dropped copies at each. Information about Vote411 was included in candidate forum ads created by Susan Ferris Rights that ran in local papers.

The *Find What's on Your Ballot* tool is a big part of Vote411, as it generates all of the races, candidates, and proposals that will be on your ballot. (You may be surprised to see just how many things you have to make a decision about!) But at Vote411, you can also register to vote, find your polling place, and much more. Recordings of our virtual candidate forums are available there as well. www.Vote411.org

BALLOT PROPOSALS

As **New York State residents, we will all have two statewide ballot questions** to vote on.

Proposal One: Removal of small city school districts from special constitutional dept limitation

Proposal Two: Extending sewage project debt exclusion from debt limit

>For details, go to [2023 Statewide Ballot Proposals | New York State Board of Elections \(ny.gov\)](#)

LWVNYS held a Zoom Webinar explaining the two statewide proposals.

>A video of that is available for viewing here: [Understanding New York's 2023 Ballot Proposals - YouTube](#)

More info:

>Proposal 1: [New York Proposal 1, Remove Debt Limit on Small City School Districts Amendment \(2023\) - Ballotpedia](#)

>[New York Proposal 2, Exclude Indebtedness for Sewage Facilities Amendment \(2023\) - Ballotpedia](#)

Two of our towns, **Lewisboro and Pound Ridge, also have *local* ballot questions** to consider.

LEWISBORO: Shall the bond resolution dated July 24 2023, titled "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,100,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN OF LEWISBORO, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK, TO PAY THE COST OF PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE TOWN, IN AND FOR SAID TOWN" be approved?

POUND RIDGE: Shall the Town of Pound Ridge continue to make contributions to a capital reserve fund dedicated to acquiring ownership rights, easements

or interests in Open Space areas, as defined in Section 247 of the General Municipal Law, and to maintaining and preserving those Open Space areas previously or hereafter acquired by the fund. Such contributions shall continue to be financed from the annual general tax levy for a period of ten (10) years, commencing January 1, 2024, of \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed value from 2024 through 2033.

All of this information can be found by going to our Elections & Voting page at www.LWVNEW.org/elections-voting.

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Nov 5: Last day of Early Voting

Nov 6: Last day to *apply in person* at BOE for an absentee ballot

Nov 7: Election Day, the last day to vote and the postmark deadline for completed absentee ballots

Nov 7: Last day to deliver completed absentee ballots to the BOE or any polling site in Westchester County

Questions about any of these deadlines?

Contact the County Board of Elections:

Main number: 914-995-5700

Registrations: 914-995-5713

Absentee Ballots 914-995-5285

THREE WAYS TO VOTE

ONE: ABSENTEE VOTING

To vote by absentee ballot, you must first APPLY for an absentee ballot.

New York State does *not* have No Excuse Absentee Voting; you need to meet certain criteria to be eligible to vote via absentee ballot.

To vote absentee, you must be:

1. Absent from your county on Election Day.
2. Unable to appear at the polls due to temporary or permanent illness or disability.
3. Unable to appear because you are the primary care giver of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled.
4. A resident or patient of a Veterans Health Administration Hospital.
5. Detained in jail awaiting Grand Jury action or confined in prison after conviction for an offense other than a felony.

Important: You may no longer receive an absentee ballot and then vote via a voting machine. If you are issued an absentee ballot and decide to vote in person instead, you will need to vote via an affidavit ballot.

More info about this – and about Absentee Voting – can be found at [Absentee Ballots \(westchestergov.com\)](http://westchestergov.com)

TWO: EARLY VOTING

We should all get in the habit of thinking of Election Day as the 10th and final day to cast our ballots. This year, Early Voting runs from October 28 to November 5. Registered Westchester County Voters may vote early at *any* designated Early Voting polling site in the county.

Remaining Early Voting Schedule

Tuesday, Oct 31: Noon to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov 1: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thursday, Nov 2: Noon to 8 p.m.

Friday, Nov 3: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, Nov 4: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday, Nov 5: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Closest Early Voting Polling Sites

>Mount Kisco Library

100 E Main St., Mount Kisco

>Pound Ridge Town House

179 Westchester Ave., Pound Ridge

>Somers Town House

335 Route 202, Somers

For the other Early Voting sites in Westchester, go to [Early Voting 2023 \(westchestergov.com\)](https://www.westchestergov.com)

THREE: VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7. Polls in New York will be open from 6 am until 9 pm. You should receive a card in the mail from the Board of Elections, confirming your polling place.

REGISTERING THE FORMERLY INCARCERATED

The Freedom Vote: Amplifying the Power of Formerly Incarcerated People took place on Tuesday, October 3. This event happened just as our local candidate forums were beginning. We posted about it on Facebook but want to take this opportunity now to let you know how it turned out; it would be a shame for this to get lost in the election season shuffle!

This event began as the much smaller idea of our Voter Registration Liaison, Allison Chernow. Allison applied for, and received, a grant from the U.S. League of Women Voters to register the formerly incarcerated to vote. She partnered with Charles Moore at *Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA)* with the idea of registering voters at parole offices. As a formerly incarcerated person himself, Charles would act as a “credible messenger,” something Allison rightfully thought was very important.

As her vision changed in scope and scale, Allison was encouraged by LWVUS to partner with the League of Women Voters of the City of New York, as they had also received grant money toward registering the formerly incarcerated. Allison is all about collaboration and this event is proof of that! LWVNEW and LWVNYC ended up planning a much

larger event with RTA and other social justice groups: *Exodus Transitional Community*, *Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison*, and *Women’s Community Justice Association*. The *Freedom Vote* program took place in Harlem, featuring *many* credible messengers: a panel of social justice advocates and keynote speaker Eddie Gibbs, the first formerly incarcerated member of the New York State Assembly. Several formerly incarcerated people in attendance also registered to vote.

By all accounts, the evening was successful and inspiring. The hope is that it will become an annual event. We are so proud of Allison; her initiative and imagination led to an important extension of LWVNEW’s voter registration efforts.



RTA’s Charles Moore, Assemblymember Eddie Gibbs, and LWVNEW’s Allison Chernow



(l. to r.) Sherletta McCaskill, LWVNYC; Charles Moore, RTA; Allison Chernow, LWVNEW; Diane Burrows, LWVNYC

A brief wrap-up video will soon be available on the *News & Events* page of our website:

www.LWVNEW.org/events-1.

All right, that’s a wrap on all of our voter service activities for Fall 2023! Phew!

Now for a few other things...

MEMBERSHIP

DUES

Have you received a renewal notice? You can pay at the website or mail a check to the PO box.

>Pay by mail:

PO Box 385, Cross River NY 10518

>Pay online:

www.LWVNEW.org/membership

>Questions? Contact Membership Chair Lisa Pizzurro at LWVNEW@gmail.com



**A warm welcome to
our newest member,
Charlene Indelicato**



OTHER

NATURALIZATION COURT

Naturalization Committee Co-Chair Kimberly Morella was joined by member Nzingha Milanes at the Naturalization Ceremony in White Plains on October 13. Here is Kimberly's summary:

It was fortunate that the Naturalization Committee has so many interested participants and we were in need of a late replacement and were able to fill the slot quickly.

We were a part of the monthly Oath of Citizenship to new citizens at naturalization ceremonies which take place at the Richard J. Daronco Courthouse in White Plains. These ceremonies mark the culmination of the process of applying for United States citizenship for our newest citizens.

On Friday, October 13th Naturalization Co-chair Kimberly Morella and Nzingha Milanes represented our organization along with a representative of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

We were honored to assist the Office of the County Clerk after 57 newly sworn U.S. Citizens received their certificates of Naturalization.

The welcome handouts included flags provided by the Clerk's office, a flag lapel pin attached to a brochure on "The Flag Code" and the LWV 2023 Voters Guide. It was a great honor to represent our organization and be part of such a special day for 57 new citizens and their families. We can't wait to do it again!

Thank you, Kimberly and Nzingha. We are grateful for your representation and happy that you had the opportunity to experience such an important and moving occasion.



Photo credit: Kimberly Morella
LWVNEW member Nzingha Milanes (on right) with DAR representative Philomena Dunn and Judge Alexandra D Murphy.

LWVNEW BOARD MEETINGS 2023-24
TUES NOV 14 Board & Committee Chairs
 7 pm on ZOOM
TUES DEC 12
 12:30 pm at 10 Deer Ridge Rd
TUES JAN 9 Board & Committee Chairs
 7 pm on ZOOM
TUES FEB 13
 12:30 pm at 10 Deer Ridge Rd
TUES MAR 12 Board & Committee Chairs
 7 pm on ZOOM
TUES APR 9
 12:30 pm at 10 Deer Ridge Rd
MAY TBD
 ANNUAL MEETING
TUES JUN 11 Board & Committee Chairs
 7 pm on ZOOM

ANY MEMBER is welcome to attend our monthly Board meetings.

WEBSITE

There is SO MUCH election and voting information on our site! Video recordings of the virtual candidate forums (Pound Ridge, Lewisboro & Bedford) can be found on the *News & Events* page and all other information can be found on the *Elections & Voting* page.

www.LWVNEW.org/events-1
www.LWVNEW.org/elections-voting

SOCIAL MEDIA

We really encourage those of you who use social media to 1) like and follow LWVNEW and 2) share our posts. (Some of you already do this. We see you and thank you!)

Facebook: LWVNEW

Twitter: @LWVNEW

WHAT CAN I DO IN THE LEAD-UP TO ELECTION DAY?

Thanks for asking! 😊

- ✓ Let people know about all of the election information available on our website, LWVNEW.org
 - Video recordings of virtual candidate forums (Bedford, Lewisboro & Pound Ridge)
 - Registration information
 - Early Voting information
 - Absentee Voting information
 - Election Day information
 - A link to the LWV’s election & voting website, Vote411.org
- ✓ Like & follow LWVNEW on social media
- ✓ VOTE!

Democracy is not a spectator sport!

