



Newsletter November 2020

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[The Prez says...](#)

It was an interesting and exciting month (an understatement) in the Mid-Hudson Region, the United States and around the world. We survived the 2020 election season mostly intact, due in part to the amazing efforts by Leagues around the country. Accusations of voter fraud and lawsuits on every level continue, but the electoral system stays strong and



elections were held peacefully. Our local Boards of Elections have not been immune to these actions and we have members looking in on what's happening in both Ulster and Dutchess Counties. I would like to acknowledge Karen Holloway in particular for representing us so well this season in Dutchess, a place where we have had little presence in their local government for some time.

There is big news from our local League as well, due to the joyous birth of their son by our Vice President, Jen Clark and her husband, Alex Kupfer. While I am sad to see Jen step back for a while, she will remain an important part of our Board. I wish her and Alex the very best and I am confident that they will be outstanding parents, though I will truly miss her bright and pleasant partnership.



Cindy and Maura

Please give a warm welcome to Maura O'Meara, current board member and our next Vice President, filling the remainder of Jen's term. Maura brings an infectious energy and enthusiasm to programs, both online and in person, voter registrations and all manner of events. I very much appreciate that she said yes! Maura is a natural

leader and I am looking forward to working with her in this new capacity. It is my sincere belief that she will support and represent our League very well as Vice President.

In October, I said a sad farewell to Renee Sachs, a founding member of our League. Please take a moment to read about her in the article below.

Cindy Bell, President
LWV Mid-Hudson Region

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Welcome to New Members

We want to extend a hearty welcome to **Kathleen Nolan**, former Ulster County Legislator, for renewing her commitment to the League of Women Voters. She has long been a community advocate, and we sincerely appreciate her participation in our organization.

We also want to welcome new member **Sara Healy**, who lives just over the Dutchess County line in Elizaville, but has long been entrenched in Dutchess and Ulster activities. For 8 years, Sara was the manager of the Dutchess County Sheep and Wool Festival, and raised sheep and goats herself. She also volunteers at the People's Place in Kingston, as well as the Bardavon and UPAC. We look forward to Sara's lending her leadership skills to the League.

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Remembering Renee Sachs

Pictured are Renee Sachs (l) and Shirley Kobran (r) planning a benefit lunch for the LWV Mid-Hudson Region back in 1962. Renee, who died in October, was a

formative force in the origin of our local League.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about her stellar life and accomplishments.



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Notes on the Election..



Early Voters in New Paltz

“The best way to understand elections is to be a poll worker,” I

was told by a veteran League member. Not able to do so because of Covid concerns this year, I volunteered with the organization Election Protection. Despite the weather, the long lines and all

ELECTION PROTECTION 

that driving around, it was immensely rewarding. You can read more about it and my experiences on our website by [CLICKING HERE](#)



Amy Fradon and her mom, Ramona Fradon

Ulster Democrats ask for more voting time

New member and well known musician **Amy Fradon** and her 94 year old mom were quoted in the Ulster County Democratic Committee's lawsuit against the Board of Elections over the long wait time during the early voting period. Complainants said they had stood on line at five early-voting sites for at least 45 minutes and much longer in some cases, three and a half hours in New Paltz and Highland. State Supreme Court Justice Lisa Fisher granted the UCDC's request for all polling stations to be open longer hours on the Saturday and Sunday before Election Day. Amy was delighted to be part of the suit, saying "My mother and I have voted together as often as possible in the last 40 years. She is a stalwart old leftie and did not want to miss voting this year."

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Dutchess Voters Approve New Redistricting Commission

Dutchess County residents voted overwhelmingly in favor of Proposition 1 on their ballot:

"Shall Dutchess County adopt a local law establishing an **Independent Reapportionment Commission** for the purpose of drawing Dutchess County legislative districts following every decennial census?"

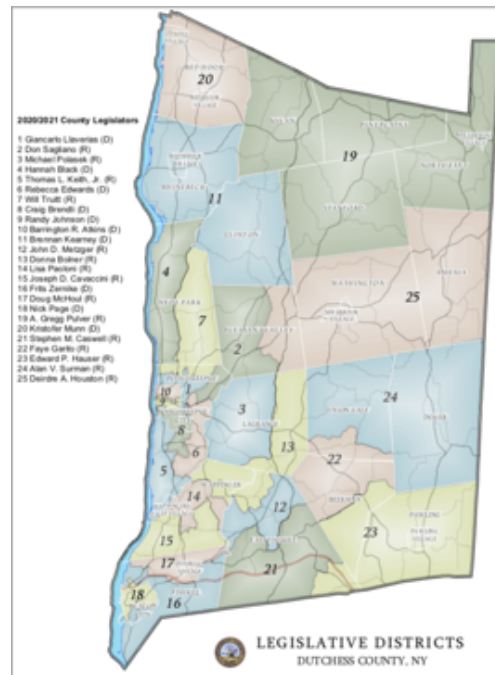
A resolution proposing this was approved by the Dutchess County legislators earlier this year, pending approval by the electorate in the general election.

This proposition takes reapportionment of legislative districts out of the hands of elected officials (thus nullifying self-interest tactics). Two Commission members are each appointed by the legislative majority and minority parties, and those four choose the remaining three from a pool of candidates nominated by the County Executive.

Particulars of the selection process, and the objectives of the Commission can be found [BY CLICKING HERE](#)

The League applauds the Dutchess County Legislature and the County electorate for implementing this nonpolitical method of reconfiguring its legislative districts. We look forward to seeing how the districts change using this new method.

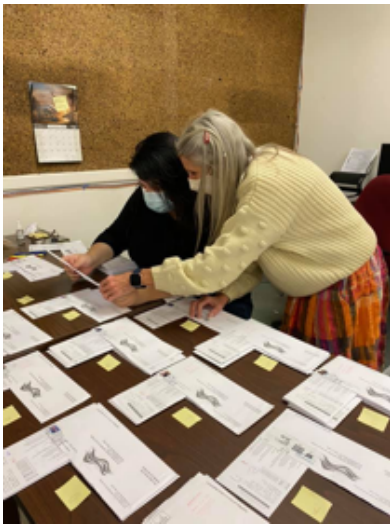
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Current Dutchess County Legislative Districts

And the Winners are...

See the particulars of the unofficial 2020 Election results as of November



Counting the ballots in Dutchess County

20th by [CLICKING HERE](#).

New York State counties are required to have their tallies to the state Board of Elections by November 28th. The state Board of Elections will then issue its Certified General Election Results by December 7th. See the full 2020 Election Timeline below.

2020 Federal Election Timeline

11/28/2020 County Boards of Elections send their results to the NYS Board of Elections

12/07/2020 County results are certified by the NYS Board of Elections

12/14/2020 Electors gather to vote

12/23/2020 Electors deliver their results

01/06/2021 Congress counts Electors' votes and declares the winner

01/20/2021 Presidential Inauguration

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

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Becoming More Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive

Both the national and state Leagues have put together much information and materials to support the national push for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. [CLICK HERE](#) for more details on what we mean by each of those terms, and how our policy reflects them. [CLICK HERE](#) for more details on how our local League has been working to implement this policy.



Naturalization Ceremony

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Programs in the New Year



Ulster Republican BOE Commissioner Thomas Turco with Dutchess Democratic BOE Commissioner Elizabeth Soto at a recent seminar

Two programs that we put on over the last year or two proved so popular, that we intend to offer them once again. One is called "**Running for Office**" designed to give any interested individual an understanding of the nuts and bolts needed to present yourself as a candidate.

The second is a repeat of our program on **Redirecting Food Waste**. There really should be no food waste. At our event held last March at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, a dedicated "recycle" chef showed us how she reports to work at the wee hours of the morning to see what leftovers other restaurants at the CIA were unable to use. From these food scraps that "repurpose and reuse" chef creates delectable edibles that we all got a chance to taste.



Chefs in a CIA kitchen

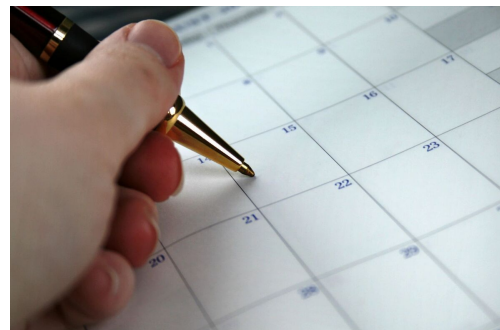
More on these programs, and others we will offer in the new year, as the time draws closer.

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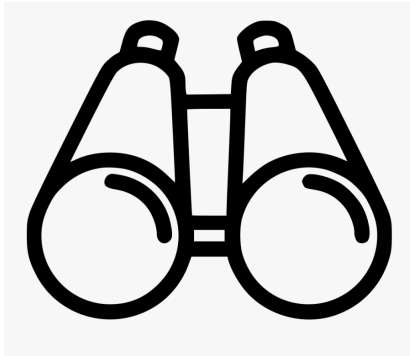
Action Items for Members

Manna Jo's Calendar

If you do not know about [Manna's Picks Calendar](#) on Facebook, take a look. Started by County Legislator Manna Jo Greene, who is also the Environmental Action Director for Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, this is a great resource for anyone interested in what is going on in the local activist and particularly environmental community. Current hot



button is the decommissioning of the Indian Point nuclear power plant, but you can find a wealth of websites, zoom meetings, organizations, events, marches, demonstrations - all listed. You can subscribe to her biweekly email or send a listing you would like her to publish to MannasCalendar@gmail.com



Observer Corps

The League likes to keep an eye on what is being planned and how in local government. We need eagle eyes who are willing to sit in on County Legislature committees and follow important initiatives, letting us know

when issues are going to come up in legislature sessions. We have in the past followed the rocky path of election finance reform in Ulster County (still only a proposal) and member Karen Holloway has been keeping us informed through the development of Proposition 1 and election lawsuits in Dutchess county. Now that meetings are open to observers on zoom, you can monitor easily from your home. If you are interested in finding out more, please email: lwvmidhudson@gmail.com

Attend a Board Meeting

All Members can attend LWVMHR board meetings. If you are interested in learning more about your organization, who is on the board, and the initiatives being pursued, you are welcome to join via zoom. You can join using a computer, device or dial up phone. The next board meeting is on Tuesday December 1st 6:00-8:00pm. Email lwvmidhudson@gmail.com for a zoom invitation.



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Giving Thanks



The sun sets over the Hudson River

As the year draws to a close, and following such a significant General Election, we give thanks that our democracy stands strong.

Empowering

Voters/Defending

Democracy: that's what the

League of Women Voters is all about. We tried to enable as many voices as possible in this last election, and did the voters turn out!! We are so grateful. And we are grateful to the many other organizations throughout the land who encouraged citizens to vote.

This newsletter is going to take a break in December. We look forward to meeting with you again in January, with more news regarding the policies and objectives of the League. Meanwhile, check in every now and then to the National League site LWV.org, the State League site LWVNY.org, and our own website LWVMIDHUDSON.org.

Encourage your friends to join our League and to donate [HERE](#)

A Happy Thanksgiving to you, and a warm and heartfelt Happy New Year to each and every one of you.

Sincerely,



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