

October 2008

# The Voter



League of Women Voters,  
Rensselaer County NY

### Special points of interest:

- Voter information resources
- Oct. 25 date for Health Care Reform program
- Troy Housing Authority elections rescheduled

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***“When you pull the lever.....  
What will happen to Your Health Care?”***  
**A pre-election program sponsored by:**  
***The League of Women Voters of New York State  
and  
The Capital Region Local LWVs of  
Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, & Schenectady***

***Location: Rockefeller Institute- 411 State St. Albany***

***When: Saturday, October 25***

***Time: 10:00am- 12:00pm***

***\*\*\*Seating is limited, so please reserve your seat by calling  
221-1904 by October 17.\*\*\****

Panelists Include:

Courtney Burke - Director, New York State Health Policy Research Center Rockefeller Institute

Mark Ustin - former Deputy Director and Counsel for the Berger Commission, now attorney for Manatt, Phelps and Philips

Lydia Gottesfeld - Federal Issues Organizer of Citizen Action of New York

Gino Pazzaglini - CEO Seton Health

Donna Packard-Mahoney - LWVNYS Off-Board Specialist Health Care

**Come to this timely event and learn what may or may not happen to health care as a result of the election as well as the continuing role for state and local governments despite who wins the election.**

## Members of the Board

**Co-President** Gail K. DeMarco 424-2413  
gdemarco@nycap.rr.com *Public Spokesperson, Receive/Distribute State and National Mailings, Mail and Phone Calls, New Member Orientation*

**Co-President** Diane Bell 273-5172 dianebell@nycap.rr.com *Public Spokesperson, Board meeting agendas, New Member Involvement, Calendar/Board List, Web Page, General Meeting Program Coordinator*

**Secretary** Margaret Story 272-1566  
mrgstry@aol.com *Minutes/Correspondence*

**Treasurer** Irene Wynnyczuk 279-9789  
iwynn@nycap.rr.com *Treasurer, Budget Committee, Co-Chair Membership/Finance Drive, Co-Chair THA Elections*

**Director** Anne Burton 283-3499

aburton@usoncology.com *Public Relations, Member Involvement*

**Director** Mary Muller 274-0846  
mullers@mac.com *"Voter" editor and mailing.*

**Director** George W. O'Connor 272-6512  
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**Director** Donna Packard-Mahoney 283-6423  
dmahoney@nycap.rr.com *Action/Issues/Advocacy*

**Director** Fred Stein 663-5230  
fstein@nycap.rr.com *Natural Resources/Rensselaer Co. Government, Education*

**Director** David Wolcott 766-0242  
DavidRWolcott72@cs.com

**Director** Hazel Landa 279-3714  
dryland2@aol.com

## Letter from the Co-Presidents

Election time is here and your League is busy. In October, there will be two Public Forums on the Troy Public Library issue: on the 14<sup>th</sup> the Forum will take place in the Main Library in Troy; on the 15<sup>th</sup> it will be in the Lansingburgh Branch of the Library. On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Troy Neighborhood Action Council will host a Public Forum on many election issues. Thanks go to Anne Burton for making the arrangements for these events.

State Voters' Guides Part II which contains Facts for Voters, Presidential Candidates and the Ballot Proposal are being distributed by your League to local libraries and other groups. Margaret Story coordinated this effort. The Local League Voters' Guide has been prepared by Hazel Landa and will be distributed with the State document. Thanks to Margaret and Hazel for bringing this together. You will note that they have been copied into this VOTER.

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, the League is pleased to co-sponsor the regional Health Care Forum. What an important topic for just before the election. Thanks to Donna Packard-Mahoney and Anne Burton for their work on this event.

For those who sent in comments on Legislative Priorities, please note that your comments were added with the Board members and will be sent to the State to meet their November 1 deadline. In general terms, the priorities that will go forward are: #1 Health Care; #2 Good Government; #3 Energy and Environment.

**Gail DeMarco and Diane Bell**

## RE-SCHEDULED TROY HOUSING AUTHORITY 2008 TENANT COMMISSIONER ELECTION TO TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3,

The election was postponed from Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> in order to include Section 8 tenants in the process. There are now four candidates for the two tenant commis-

sioner positions. The re-scheduled election will be held from 12 Noon to 8 pm at the various housing sites. We hope that all the monitors who were

scheduled for August will be available for the new date. They will be contacted to confirm and sent updated instructions.



## Compact for a National Popular Vote

A big Thank-You to Lori Dawson and Barbara Thomas from the Saratoga County League who led our discussion on “The Compact for a National Popular Vote” which was held at the East Greenbush Community Library on Sept. 20. Members from the Rensselaer County League, the Albany County League and Schenectady County League enjoyed 2 hours of presentation

and discussion from a historical and political perspective-to clearly define and illustrate the issues of the “compact” vs the League position which had been adopted several years ago with regard to the national popular vote by constitutional amendment. The history of the Electoral College as well as pros and cons of the compact were presented.

Thanks also to Nancy

Fairchild for her able assistance at the welcome and voter registration table. Finally, thank you also goes to Mahlon Lowry, Anne Burton’s granddaughter, who modeled the League of Women Voters T shirt, size extra large, now on sale at 3 for \$20 from the NYS League office!

More info on this topic will be presented to the membership to be able to answer the consensus questions due to be completed by each League by May 9,

**“Saturday, October 25 is the date set for our next program on Health Care Reform.”**

### Voter Registration at the Troy Farmers’ Market

Thank you to all who participated in the Voter Registration events at the outdoor Farmers’ Market on the last Saturday of each month during the summer. These included Marcie Easterling (now at Cape Cod), Irene Wynczyk, Judy Traite, Anne Burton, and Dinnie Shanlley. During the hustle and bustle of fresh produce, cheese and wine sales, we were able to register from 10 to 20 new voters each session. We also had a bonus: information-giving, visiting with other League members from the greater Capital area, and some great publicity for our League!



## VOTER GUIDES 2008: NATIONAL & LOCAL



League members should be ready to answer questions from voters this election year.



### PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

#### DEMOCRAT, WORKING FAMILIES

##### BARACK OBAMA

**EXPERIENCE:** US Senator from Illinois; Illinois State Senator; Constitutional Law Professor; Civil Rights

Lawyer

**EDUCATION:** Harvard Law School, JD, 1991 Columbia University, BA, 1983

**WEB SITE:** [www.barackobama.com](http://www.barackobama.com)

**NOTABLE:** Harvard Law Review President

**AGE:** 47

**RESIDENCE:** Chicago, Illinois

**VP NOMINEE:** Joseph Biden – US Senator from Delaware

**Health Care Stance** (According to published candidate information)

Obama will sign universal health legislation by the end of his first term, ensuring all Americans have high quality,

affordable coverage. His plan will save a typical American family up to \$2,500 annually; modernize our

health care system to contain costs and improve quality; and promote prevention and public health.

**Iraq and the Middle East** (According to published candidate information)

Obama opposed the war in Iraq from the beginning. He will end it by withdrawing our combat troops over 16

months, calling a new constitutional convention, and urging Iraq's neighbors to work towards stability. Obama

seeks a two-state solution--Israel and Palestine

living side by side in peace and security.

#### REPUBLICAN, CONSERVATIVE, INDEPENDENCE

##### JOHN MCCAIN

**EXPERIENCE:** US Senator from Arizona; US Representative from Arizona; Naval Liaison to US Senate;

Naval Aviator

**EDUCATION:** US Naval Academy, BS, 1958

**WEB SITE:** [www.johnmccain.com](http://www.johnmccain.com)

**NOTABLE:** Decorated Vietnam Vet/POW

**AGE:** 72

**RESIDENCE:** Phoenix, Arizona

**VP NOMINEE:** Sarah Palin – Governor of Alaska

**Health Care Stance** (According to published candidate information)

The problem with American health care is not one of quality, but one of cost. I have proposed a health care plan

that addresses the escalating cost of health care to ensure more American families can afford access to the finest

health care system in the world.

**Iraq and the Middle East** (According to published candidate information)

Two generations of Americans have fought wars in Iraq; we cannot condemn a third to the same fate by letting

that country become a failed state in which we must again intervene. Anchoring Iraq in a stable, prosperous

region must be the purpose of American strategy in the Middle East.

#### SOCIALIST WORKERS

##### ROGER CALERO

**EXPERIENCE:** Writer and Activist; Former Meat Packer

**EDUCATION:**

**WEB SITE:** [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com)

**NOTABLE:** Nicaraguan Native

**AGE:** 38

**RESIDENCE:** Bronx, New York

**VP NOMINEE:** Alyson Kennedy – Garment Worker

**Health Care Stance** (According to published candidate information)

The federal government must guarantee lifetime medical care and retirement pensions for all. No cuts in Social

Security, Medicare, or workers compensation payments.

**Iraq and the Middle East** (According to published candidate information)

In a bipartisan effort, the war makers in Washington are using the military and political gains they have

registered in Iraq since mid-2007 to extend the deployment of U.S. troops there and expand and deepen their

aggression in Afghanistan. In contrast to both Democrats and Republicans, the Socialist Workers campaign

demands immediate, unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. and coalition troops from both countries, and

everywhere else U.S. forces are stationed.

#### SOCIALISM, LIBERATION

##### GLORIA LA RIVA

**EXPERIENCE:** Worker/Human Rights Activist; Union Organizer

**EDUCATION:** Brandeis University (attended)

**WEB SITE:** www.votepl.org

**NOTABLE:** Frequent nominee of Workers World Party

**AGE:** 54

**RESIDENCE:** California

**VP NOMINEE:** Eugene Puryear – Anti-war and Social Justice Organizer

**Health Care Stance** (According to published candidate information)

The La Riva/Puryear PSL presidential campaign believes that quality health care must be free and available to

all people. Capitalist insurance companies and providers must be dismantled and replaced with publicly-owned

entities that provide health care for all.

**Iraq and the Middle East** (According to published candidate information)

We stand for the immediate removal of all U.S. and foreign forces from Iraq. All U.S. bases and the gigantic

U.S. embassy in Baghdad should be shut down immediately. Reparations should be paid to the Iraqi people for

the vast destruction inflicted on their land by the launching of an unprovoked war of aggression.

**GREEN**

**CYNTHIA MCKINNEY**

**EXPERIENCE:** US Representative from Georgia; Georgia House of Representatives; Atlanta HIV Health

Services Council; College Professor

**EDUCATION:** University of Southern California; Tufts University, BA, 1978

**WEB SITE:** votetruth08.com

**NOTABLE:** First African-American Georgia Congresswoman

**AGE:** 53

**RESIDENCE:** Atlanta, Georgia

**VP NOMINEE:** Rosa Clemente –

Journalist and Activist

**Health Care Stance** (According to published candidate information)

The United States is the only industrialized nation in the world without a national health care system. The

current system's high costs and widely recognized failures demand that bold steps be taken. The Green Party

supports a universal, comprehensive, national single-payer health insurance program as the only solution to the

current disastrous for-profit system.

**Iraq and the Middle East** (According to published candidate information)

Our government does not have the right to justify pre-emptive invasion of another country on the grounds that

the other country harbors, trains, equips and funds a terrorist cell. Our commitments compel us to oppose U.S.

government support for "friendly" regimes, both in Israel and in the Arab world, whenever those regimes

violate human rights, international law, and existing treaties. Those same values compel us to support popular

movements for peace and demilitarization.

**League of Women Voters of New York State, 62 Grand Street, Albany, New York 12207**

**Telephone: 5 18-465-4162 Fax: 5 18-465-0812**

**E-Mail: [lwvny@lwvny.org](mailto:lwvny@lwvny.org) Website: [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)**

**\*\*The League of Women Voters of New York State is a unique, multi-issue, nonpartisan, political organization. It encourages the informed and active participation of**

**citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. \*\***

**For Rensselaer County**

<http://lwvrc.org>

For information about Registration, Polling Places, Absentee Ballots, contact: Rensselaer County Board of Elections 270-2990

State Supreme Court Justice

Salary: \$136,700

3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District

Patrick J. McGrath D, W

Anthony J. Carpinello R, I, C

Representatives to U.S. Congress from New York

Term: 2 years – Salary: \$162,100

20<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

Kirsten E. Gillibrand D, W

Sandy Treadwell R, I, C

21<sup>st</sup> Congressional District

Paul D. Tonko D, WF

James R. Buhmaster R, C

Phillip G. Steck I

**CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE IN THE NEW YORK STATE GOVERNMENT**

**State Senate** -- Term: 2 years Salary: \$79,500

43<sup>rd</sup> Senatorial District

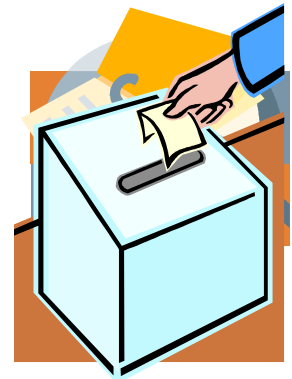
Michael A. Russo D

Roy J. McDonald R, I, C

Christopher N. Consuello WF

**State Assembly** – Term: 2 years Salary: \$79,500

106<sup>th</sup> District



**New voter registrations are up in Rensselaer County—those voters will need to understand how voting works.**



**Voters Guide**

108<sup>th</sup> District

Timothy P. Gordon D, I, WF

Steve F. McLaughlin R, C

112<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Ian McGaughey D, I, WF

Tony Jordan R, C

Abbreviations:

Independent I Democrat D

Socialist Worker SW Republican R

Socialism, Liberation LS Conservative C

Green G Libertarian L

Populist P

**Candidates for Office in Rensselaer County**

**Town of Grafton:**

**Town Council**

**Marie E. Claus R**

**Town of Poestenkill**

**Town Council:**

**Amanda L. Cropsey D**

**Paul J. Santandera R,I,C**

**Town of Petersburg**

**Superintendent of Highways:**

**Raymond A. Harrison, Jr. R**

**Town of Pittstown**

**Town Justice**

**Nancy H. Herrington D**

**Kenneth J. Marbot R, I, C**

**Highway Superintendent**

**Daniel Breen R**

**You Will Also be Voting on...**

**Statewide Ballot Proposal:**

Proposal Number One:

Amendment to Article t, section 6 of the Constitution, in relation to additional civil service credit for members of the armed forces of the United States

The proposed amendment would eliminate the requirement that veterans who were disabled in the actual performance of duty in any war be receiving disability payments for the United States Veterans Administration in order to qualify for additional points on a civil service examination for appointment or promotion. Under the proposed amendment, the disability must only be certified to exist by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The proposed amendment would also update the reference to the "United States Veterans Administration" to instead refer to the "United States Department of Veterans Affairs" to reflect current federal government structure. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

**Troy Public Library Proposal:**

Proposition 2:

Shall the Troy Public Library District be established within the boundaries of the City of Troy. Yes \_\_\_\_\_

**Polls open at 6 a.m. and close at 9 p.m. on November 4**

No \_\_\_\_\_

Proposition 3:

Shall the library district be supported with an annual budget of \$800,00 to be levied with a tax upon taxable real property within the boundary of the City of Troy.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Election-Troy Library Board Members**

Nov. 4, 2008 --100 Second St., Troy NY

Election of seven trustees of the library board. The three trustees receiving the first, second and Third Highest Number of votes shall serve for three years, the two trustees receiving the fourth and fifth highest number of votes shall serve for two years, and the two trustees receiving the sixth and seventh number of votes shall serve for one year. You may vote for as many of the following candidates as you wish.

\_\_\_\_\_ Kristina Almquist

\_\_\_\_\_ Deborah Byers

\_\_\_\_\_ Jim Corsaro

\_\_\_\_\_ Nancy Burgin

\_\_\_\_\_ Paul Hohenberg

\_\_\_\_\_ Mary Muller

\_\_\_\_\_ Tracy Penk-Masucci

\_\_\_\_\_ Write-in

**Correction to Membership Directory:**

Please make the following corrections to the current edition of our membership Directory 2008-2009:

**Brower:** add "Apt. 180" to Street Address and add brower@Beverwyck.com to e-mail.

**Ehrlich:** add "Apt 3" to Street Address and add ehrlieh@rpi.edu to e-mail.

**Lashway:** change e-mail to rita.lashway@gmail.com

**Muller, Steve:** change e-mail to smuller1@nycap.rr.com

**Neary:** change e-mail to jneary2@nycap.rr.com (that is a 2 rather than a 7)

**Wolcott:** change e-mail to DavidR-Wolcott72@cs.com

**O'Connor:** change e-mail to GOCONNOR14@nycap.rr.com

**Mooradian:** add osvanna@nycap.rr.com and add home phone # 272-0702



*"to err is human...  
To correct divine"  
George O'Connor  
Membership  
Directory Editor*



## League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County Calendar for 2008-2009

### **OCTOBER 2008**

- 1 – Rensselaer County Legislature Open Forum, Wed., 6 pm
- 2 – Troy City Council, Thurs., 7 pm
- 9 – LWV of Rensselaer County, Monthly Board meeting, Thurs., 7 pm** (Krause Center, Troy)
- 10 – Voter Registration deadline (forms postmarked by this date)
- 13 – *Columbus Day, Mon.*
- 14 – Rensselaer County Legislature Monthly Meeting, Tues., 7 pm
  
- 14 Public Forum, Troy Public Library, Main Branch, Tues, 6:30 pm
  
- 15 Public Forum, Troy Public Library, Lansingburgh Branch, Wed., 6:30 pm
  
- 22 Public Forum, Troy Neighborhood Action Co, CYO Center, 237 4<sup>th</sup> St, Troy, Wed., 7 pm
  
- 25 LWV Health Care Forum, Rockefeller Institute, 411 State St. Albany, Sat. 10 am
- 28 – Absentee Ballots - last day to postmark application for ballot

### **NOVEMBER 2008**

- 3 – Absentee Ballots – last day to apply in person for ballot
- 3 – Absentee Ballots – last day to postmark ballot
- 4 – Election Day, Tues., 6 am-9 pm and LWV of Rensselaer County, Election Night Reporting, 8:45-9:15 pm**
- 5 – Rensselaer County Legislature Open Forum, Wed., 6 pm
- 6 – Troy City Council, Thurs., 7 pm
- 11 – *Veterans Day, Tues.*
- 11 – Rensselaer County Legislature Monthly Meeting, Tues., 7 pm (?)
- 13- LWV of Rensselaer County, Monthly Board meeting, Thurs., 7 pm** (Krause Center, Troy)
- 27 – *Thanksgiving, Thurs.*



League of Women Voters,  
Rensselaer County

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