



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF BUFFALO/NIAGARA

your
VOTER

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Voter is published 11 times a year. Send copy by the second Monday of the month to Terri Parks at lwvoter@verizon.net.

The League, the WNY Peace Center Latin American Solidarity Committee and Immigrant and Refugee Task Force present

Border Justice Issues in WNY

Monday, November 22, 2021

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Canisius College Science Hall

1900 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14208

Parking: Lot to the south of the building or in the parking ramp at Jefferson Street and Delavan Avenue, entrance on Jefferson



Join us for a panel highlighting **Border Justice Issues in WNY** where we will hear from people who are directly impacted by immigration policies locally. Buffalo is a border city and immigrant communities face different challenges based on their immigration status. We will hear personal stories from a refugee, an asylum seeker, a current detainee, and an immigration attorney. The panel will discuss the process of resettlement in a new city, the isolating impacts of detention, and the importance of ensuring all immigrants have access to an attorney regardless of their immigration status. Learn how you can get involved with immigrant rights issues!

Moderator: Madi McEwen, Community Organizer, Justice for Migrant Families

There is no registration required, but all attendees must wear masks.

League of Women Voters Mission

The League of Women Voters is a good government organization that encourages informed and active participation in the political process, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League never supports political parties or candidates.

Getting Out the Vote in 2021

It has been a very busy election cycle so far. We partnered with: the League of Women Voters of New York State, PUSH Buffalo, VOICE Buffalo, the Buffalo Jewish Federation, Self Advocates of New York State, the Hispanic Heritage Month organizers, and the Buffalo Literacy Center.

Vote 411.org: Barb Jezioro coordinated our efforts for candidates for countywide offices in Erie and Niagara Counties and invited them to post their biographical statements and answer questions on Vote411.org for both the primary and general elections. Some responded, and voters have been able to compare candidates' points of view.

Voter registration tabling: We held 20 voter registration events at the ECC campuses, Villa Maria College, Medaille College, the University at Buffalo, and the Main Library. Twenty-two volunteers filled 30 tabling slots. We registered 127 new voters, made 216 contacts with those who were already registered, met 31 people who were not registered or who didn't plan to vote, answered 32 questions, and had 10 other interactions. We handed out seven absentee ballot request applications, 88 early voting site lists, 123 LWVBN information/reminder cards, 42 LWVNY Voting Guide Part I cards, 97 LWVNY Voting Guide Part II Cards, 40 TRY pamphlets, and 33 voter registration forms that folks took home to complete.

Presentations/webinars: On October 14, our League, in partnership with the Buffalo branch of the NAACP, Self Advocates of New York State (SANYS), and VOICE Buffalo, organized a webinar to explain four of the proposals on this year's ballot. I also explained those proposals at a statewide meeting of SANYS the previous day.

The Doorknob Hanger Project: With the help of Tyrell Ford of PUSH Buffalo, we identified 371 registered voters in six low-turnout precincts in two low-turnout Common Council districts in Buffalo. We selected voters who had a 40%-60% "voter propensity," likelihood to vote. We filled 400

large doorknob hangers with voting materials and handwritten postcards reminding recipients to vote on November 2. Volunteers wrote postcards, stuffed doorknob hangers, and distributed them in the six precincts. We have the names of these voters, and hope to research the results to see how many of those who received our information voted.

Information and materials distribution: In addition to materials distributed at voter registration tables and in doorknob hangers, we distributed 4,760 LWVBN reminder/information cards, 250 LWVNY Voters Guide I cards, 2,810 LWVNY Voters Guide II pamphlets in English, 996 Erie County early voting site lists, 200 LWVNY ballot proposal recommendation cards, and 1,367 LWVNY Voters Guide II pamphlets in Spanish to the following groups: the Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries, PUSH Buffalo, the Buffalo branch of the NAACP, NOAH/Niagara, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, the Buffalo Literacy Center, VOICE Buffalo, Broadway Market, and the North Tonawanda Public Library. Self Advocates of New York State received an electronic copy of the LWVBN information/reminder card and LWVNY Voters Guide Part II, and SANYS and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community received copies of Barbara Gunderson's easier-to-read PowerPoint on the ballot proposals.

Volunteers who made it all happen: Mike Egan, Jennifer Hoffman, Patti Meyer-Lee, Alberta Roman, Taylor Seitz, Fran Holmes, Terri Parks, Eileen Cassidy, Ann Zawicki, Onda Simmons, Kathie Macaluso, Lillis McLean, Sandra O'Hara, Nina Lukin, Shirley Joy, Liz McGough, Cindy Havey, Ramona Gallagher, Susan Dombrowski, Ruth Haines, Barb Jezioro, Alice Rosenthal, Joan Simon, Lauren and Dave Petit, Becca LaCivita and her team, Liz Zausmer, Barbara Gunderson, Margaret Sontag and her daughter, Lauren and Cindy Pristach, Peg Mergenhagen, Mary Scheeder, Janet Goodsell, Barbara Heifferon, Maria Evancho, and Lucy Rados.

Barbara Gunderson, Voter Services Chair

Additional Concerns about the West Valley Nuclear Site

“O Canada, glorious and free!O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.”

Writing this on Canadian Thanksgiving, I could hardly fail to think about the first piece of League activity I encountered in my study of West Valley nuclear documents. Last week we put a copy of it into a League display at the North Tonawanda Library. The signature, Frances Arcara, Coordinator, LWV Lake Erie Basin Committee (LEBC), is at the bottom of a single-spaced, densely-reasoned five pages, followed by references and a technical report on soils characteristic of glacial lake deposits in this area. All of this is included as “Letter 39” in Appendix G to the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Long Term Management of Liquid High-Level Radioactive Wastes Stored at the Western New York Nuclear Service Center West Valley*.

The Lake Erie Basin Committee minced no words in this 1981 statement to the Department of Energy: “The LEBC has commented four times previously on various proposals for the Western New York Nuclear Service Center site at West Valley New York.” It goes on to review all the needs for research that it had previously pointed out after its extensive review of geological reports. Had any of their suggestions been followed? No, more extensive study was needed of the instability of the site.

A 1979 radiological survey had indicated that radioactivity was migrating off the site in water, but it was not clear what the source was: the Nuclear Regulatory Commission burial ground? The low-level (state) burial ground? The reprocessing building? This leaching threatened the Great Lakes, and along the way, the uptake of radionuclides into food plants and aquatic organisms. The League needed to know.

The focus of the LEBC statement was on international relations. Had Canadian citizens and public interest groups had an opportunity to comment on the proposals that had gone through the National Environmental Policy Act process in the U.S.? Their drinking water would be affected as well as ours by either small leaks or a catastrophic spill. “The LEBC is very concerned about the rising hostility between Ottawa and Washington about the whole range of problems such as fisheries, transborder air agreements, Great Lakes pollution, and taxation policies,” they concluded, no need to add to the tension.

Does any of this sound familiar, 40 years later? (Fill in the blanks with COVID regulations and Canada’s proposal to build a deep geological disposal site for nuclear waste near Lake Huron.)

Pat Townsend

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions discussion group will meet via Zoom at 10 a.m. on November 4 to discuss Chapter 8 in the 2021 Great Decisions book: **The end of Globalization?** The Foreign Policy Association, which sponsors this discussion group nationwide, says this about the topic, **The end of globalization?** **by Anne O. Krueger:** “As the United States enters another election season, the merits and drawbacks of globalization are again being debated by the presidential candidates. With the passing of the Brexit vote and Donald Trump’s America First doctrine,

protectionist policies have become more prevalent, challenging globalization. What is globalization and how will it be affected by protectionist trade policies? How will the United States and the world be affected by such policies? Is globalization really at an end, or in need of a refresh?”

Toni Cudney will lead the discussion. Contact Fran Holmes by phone or email for additional information.

Fran Holmes, Coordinator for Great Decisions



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NOVEMBER 2021

Note: Due to social distancing and stay-at-home practices, meetings are subject to change and may take place via phone or computer. Please contact the committee chair for the latest information.

Tuesday, November 2, 4:00 p.m.
Program, Issues & Events Committee
via Zoom

Thursday, November 4, 10:00 a.m.
Great Decisions
via Zoom

Monday, November 8, 4:00 p.m.
Board of Directors
via Zoom

Tuesday, November 9, 5:30 p.m.
Critical Race Theory: What it is and what it is not, Ilio Di Paolo's Restaurant

Wednesday, November 10, 2:00 p.m.
Local Government Committee
via Zoom

Monday, November 15, 7:00 p.m.
Get Out the Vote Committee
via Zoom

Tuesday, November 16, 7:00 p.m.
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee
via Zoom

Wednesday, November 17, 4:00 p.m.
Waterfront Committee
via Zoom

Thursday, November 18, 1:30 p.m.
Education Committee
via Zoom

Friday, November 19, 11:00 a.m.
Healthcare Committee
via Zoom

Friday, November 19, 1:00 p.m.
Money in Politics Committee
League Office

Thursday, November 22, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Border Justice Issues in WNY
Canisius College Science Hall