



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

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# e-news/October 2015

Please forward this update to your local League members. Many will appreciate knowing what LWVCT is doing on their behalf.

## **TWO FALL CONFERENCES – ONE CRITICAL TOPIC**

**“Voting Fraud, Voting Suppression: Myths and Realities”**

**Saturday, October 24 at the Darien Library**

**Saturday, November 7 at UCONN Law School, West Hartford**

It is not too late to register for one or both of these great events. Hope to see folks from every local league at one of them. Registration is available on [www.lwvct.org](http://www.lwvct.org), by e-mail [lwvct@lwvct.org](mailto:lwvct@lwvct.org), or by phone 203-288-7996.

## **RECENT ACTIONS BY LWVCT AND LWVCTEF BOARDS**

- Agreed to partnership with Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission to work on prison gerrymandering.
- Signed on, along with 35 other states, to a letter to EPA urging restoration of studies on the effects of fracking and fracking waste on ground water.
- Approved the mini-grant application submitted by LWV Westport for the purchase of Vote Today signs for placement on league member lawns to encourage voter turnout.

## **GOOD NEWS!**

Residents of Connecticut have just been handed a major victory by the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Today it declared that the 2013 gun safety laws passed after the Sandy Hook shooting **do not violate the Second Amendment**. The appellate court upheld the decision, stating “**Connecticut laws prohibiting possession of semiautomatic assault weapons and large- capacity magazines do not violate the Second Amendment**, and that the challenged individual provisions are not void for vagueness.”

LWVCT has been invited to join a national multi-league coalition with Center for American Progress on sharing information and strategies for working to reduce gun violence. The group will be working through regularly scheduled conference calls. Our legislative specialist, Sue McCalley will coordinate our involvement.

## **WEBSITE STATUS**

Wendy Skratt (LWVCT Director at Large and LWV Stamford) is happy to report that she has received confirmation that our Easy Web site transfer work will be taken on by Meg Dalton from Stamford. Meg has agreed to parse our content from old structures into the new structure on a **four-week deadline** for a fee of \$3000. The Board determined that this work is an appropriate use of funds from the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary account.

In the meantime, our current site is still active. If you have things to add to your local league page, please notify the office. Jean will send the changes to our web manager, Kelly.

## **RADIO STATIONS RECEIVE 3 PSA'S**

Requests from local leagues for PSA's reminding folks to vote were received. Heard and accomplished! Jara Burnett drafted three and Jean Rabinow sent them out to the major radio stations. If your league has a local station, encourage them to run the announcements. Check with Jean at the office if you have questions.

## **SAVE THE DATES:**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1**

### **Advocacy at the Capitol**

Workshop for legislative specialists and other local league leaders interested in advocacy provided by our lobbyist, Judy Blei and associates. More information in November.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

### **"Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First Hundred Years" at Long Wharf Theatre, New Haven**

The sisters were civil rights pioneers, but their stories were largely unknown until Amy Hill Hearth, a reporter for *The New York Times*, interviewed them for a feature story in 1991, then expanded her story into book form. It is now a fascinating and lively play. Join us for fun and help to support LWVCT.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 8**

### **SIR (Symposium on International Relations) "Social Media: Role in Elections, Civic Engagement and Privacy"**

This is the working title at the moment, but you get the idea.

**FYI -**

October 13, 2015

The Honorable Denise W. Merrill, Secretary of the State  
30 Trinity Street Hartford, CT 06106

James Wadleigh Chief Executive Officer, Access Health Connecticut  
280 Trumbull Street Hartford, CT 06103

Dear Secretary Merrill and Mr. Wadleigh: The League of Women Voters of Connecticut has been contacted by representatives of Demos and Project Vote, who have made us aware that Connecticut is the only state not in compliance with Section 7 of the National Voter Registration

Act of 1993. Specifically we have been told that Access Health Connecticut, a mandatory NVRA voter registration agency, is failing to properly distribute voter registration applications.

The primary issue brought to our attention is that while applicants to Access Health Connecticut may be asked if they wish to register to vote, those who do are directed to the state's online voter registration site, where they must have a driver's license or state issued ID in order to complete the registration process. Without those IDs they are directed to download, print out, complete and mail in the voter registration form. Clients lacking access to a printer are stymied. We wonder if it would be possible to give those without IDs the additional option of requesting that a registration form be mailed to them?

Knowing Secretary Merrill's emphasis on streamlining the registration and election process, we are confident there is a way to bring Connecticut into full compliance with Section 7 of the NVRA. If LWVCT can be of assistance, we stand ready to do so.

Sincerely,  
Gloria S. Bent, President