

AAUW-NYS GOTV Counterpart Newsletter Get Out The Vote!



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Create a Personal Voting Plan to increase voter turnout!

Sad to say, **New York State's rate of voter participation is very low at 59%.** In fact, we rank 12th from the bottom on the list of 50 states. We can do better!

Separate studies have showed that:

- ♦ People who saw that their Facebook friends were voting were more likely to vote themselves.
- ♦ When people were prompted for their voting plan (how and when they would vote), it increased turnout by up to 9.1%.³

So, pick 5 to 10 friends (or more!) and share your one-sentence voting plan with them. Your message can be as simple as this: "Hi. I'm going to vote after I drop the kids off at school and before I go to work." But make it personal for you.

Share your simple vote plan message with your e-mail list, with your Facebook friends, and on Twitter and other the social media sites you share, like LinkedIn, Tumblr, etc.

Attach it to a picture of you voting for even more power. Maybe even your shoes in the voting booth, as suggested by AAUW:

AAUW's Voting Shoes Campaign - Put Your Right Foot Forward and VOTE!

On Tuesday, November 6, you have some serious choices to make – and from the ballot box to your closet, we're with you all the way. **That's why we're asking you to show off your personal, patriotic style by sending us a picture of the shoes you'll wear to the polls.** To submit your shoes, e-mail your first name, state, age, and the picture of your shoes to itsmyvoteaauw@gmail.com. Be sure to tell us why you picked these shoes: sneakers for a workout, heels for the office, black flats for a restaurant job, or perhaps some bunny slippers or combat boots for folks filling out an absentee ballot This way, you can plan the logistics of how you'll get to the polls and the pair of shoes you plan to wear!

The New York State Judicial Candidate Voter Guide

The 2012 Judicial Candidate Voter Guide covers elected, trial-level judge positions, other than Town and Village Justices. The list of candidates for each position is provided by the State and County Boards of Elections after the judicial nominating conventions take place. The biographical information about each candidate is provided by the candidate. <http://www.nycourts.gov/vote/2012/>

Congressional Races to Watch

On Friday I spoke with Susan Bock at YNN.com. YNN has sponsored a number of televised Congressional debate this fall to educate their viewers and voters about issues and candidates. These debates are available on their website:

- ♦ **NYS Senate race: Gillibrand vs. Long** <http://tinyurl.com/9g8cc4g>
- ♦ **NY-18: Hayworth vs. Maloney** <http://tinyurl.com/9mm4hr8>
- ♦ **NY-21: Owens vs. Doheny** <http://tinyurl.com/995aakm>
- ♦ **NY-24:** YNN will televise a debate with candidates **Ann Marie Buerkle, Dan Maffei and Ursula Rozum** on Mon., Oct. 29 at 7 pm. The debate will be available online following the live event.
- ♦ **NY 27: Hochul vs. Collins** <http://tinyurl.com/9lz5hdq>

News from other races:

- ♦ **NY-23: Incumbent Reed takes on challenger Shinagawa** <http://tinyurl.com/8fhbh45>
- ♦ **NY-22: Hanna, Lamb debate jobs, fracking** <http://tinyurl.com/9zbg09m>
- ♦ **Eye on NY-24th Congressional District candidates differ on hyrdofracking** <http://tinyurl.com/8wnpk5s>

AAUW Action Fund Voter Guides: NY-25, NY-27 and NYS Senate

- ♦ The AAUW Action Fund has produced a **Voter Guide for the NY-25 House race**. If you are in this district, here is a look at the two candidates, incumbent, Democrat **Louise Slaughter** and her Republican opponent **Maggie Brooks**. Branches in NY-25 can download this guide and inform members and voters of their positions on AAUW issues.
 - ♦ <http://www.aauwaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/NY-25.pdf>
- ♦ The AAUW Action Fund has produced a **Voter Guide for the NY-27 House race**. If you are in this district, here is a look at the two candidates, incumbent, Democrat **Kathy Hochul** and her Republican opponent **Chris Collins**. Branches in NY-27 can download this guide and inform members and voters of their positions on AAUW issues.
 - ♦ <http://www.aauwaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/NY-27.pdf>

- ♦ The AAUW Action Fund has produced a **Voter Guide for the NYS Senate** race between the incumbent, **Kirsten Gillibrand** (D) and her challenger, **Wendy Long** (R). Use this information to inform members and voters about these candidates for US Senate.
 - ♦ <http://www.aauwaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/New-York-Senate.pdf>
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NYS Races to Watch:

7th State Senate District Candidates Debate

Incumbent state Senator **Jack Martins** (R, C- Mineola) and his opponent **Daniel S. Ross** (D, WFP-Manhasset) answered voters' concerns on a wide range of topics, including marriage equality, access to birth control and abortion rights, hydro-fracking and more.

<http://portwashington.patch.com/articles/7th-state-senate-district-candidates-debate>

48th NYS Senate Seat

The **St. Lawrence County Branch** conducted two **Conversations with Candidates** for the **48th Senate**:

- ♦ **Patty Ritchie**, R, 48th NY Senate:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woZvyd03isl>
- ♦ **Amy Tresidder**, D, NY 48th State Senate:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Pzihu6j_xs

NYS Assembly 118 Seat

The **St. Lawrence County Branch** conducted two **Conversations with Candidates** for the new **118th Assembly**:

- ♦ **Joseph Chilelli**, D, 118th NYS Assembly:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PYzhFOGVIA>
 - ♦ **Marc Butler**, R, 118th NYS Assembly:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54s7dU4hBs8>
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The Youth Vote:

SUNY Albany: Group aims to get college block motivated on Election Day

The "Think Globally, Vote Locally" group got 1,000 SUNY Albany students registered to vote by the night of Oct. 11 in order to create a "power block," so students will have a voice in New York state politics. Martha Mahoney, a junior at UAlbany, said, "State legislators will look at us and realize that students do vote. They might think before they drop financial aid and increase SUNY tuition."

<http://tinyurl.com/9gomb7k>

SUNY Oneonta: Election excites some area college students

<http://tinyurl.com/95nnssp>

How Does Social Media Help Young Adults Become Politically Active?

Young adults speaking out about their political beliefs on websites, such as Facebook or blogs, are more likely to participate in public affairs, according to a study out of Washington State University. The study analyzed the political involvement, online interaction, and something known as political efficacy of over 400 undergraduate college students. The researchers found that participants using different sources to express their political opinions were more likely to participate in public affairs such as paying attention to election information and staying informed about elections. Prior research has shown that the more informed a citizen is, the more likely they are to participate in elections. They also found that participants using traditional news sources, government sources, and candidate websites had higher levels of political efficacy, which is the belief that their participation matters. “When young people are motivated, even blogs and social media can be important sources of information and contribute to their political participation,” Dr. Bruce Pinkleton, co-author of the study said. “Given the historically low levels of political participation among young people, this is an important finding. The more we can get people involved in the political process, the more likely we are to enjoy the benefits of a strong, healthy democracy.”

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/10/121026084346.htm>

AAUW-NYS Branch GOTV & Public Policy Action!

The **A-G-J Branch** reports their **FMCC students held Debate Watching Parties** for all three Presidential debates.

The **Adirondack Branch** will hear Attorney George Mathewson speaking on “**Hydrofracking for Natural Gas in New York State**” on Nov. 8.

The **Kingston Branch’s** Public Policy film group will view and discuss **The Invisible War** (<http://invisiblewarmovie.com/>), a groundbreaking investigative documentary about one of our country's most shameful and best kept secrets: **the epidemic of rape within our US military**. Today, a female soldier in Iraq and Afghanistan is more likely to be raped by a fellow soldier than killed by enemy fire with the number of assaults in the last decade alone in the hundreds of thousands. Focusing on the powerfully emotional stories of several young women, the film reveals the systemic cover up of the crimes.

Voters:

By the numbers - Women voters

The 2008 Election

- ♦ 65.7% - The percentage of eligible female voters who voted in the 2008 election.
- ♦ 61.5% - The percentage of eligible male voters who voted in the 2008 election.
- ♦ 70.4 million -- The number of women who cast ballots in the 2008 presidential election, versus 60.7 million men.

- ♦ 56% - The percentage of female voters who voted for Barack Obama in 2008, versus 43% for John McCain.
- ♦ 70% - The percentage of single female voters who voted for Barack Obama over John McCain in 2008.
- ♦ 597,000 -- The number by which female voters in Florida outvoted males in the 2008 election, the largest gap in the swing states.

The 2012 Election Cycle

- ♦ 39% - In a Gallup survey, the percentage of female registered voters in 12 key states who rated abortion as the most important issue for women in the 2012 election. The issue did not rank as one of the top 10 priorities for men among registered male voters.
- ♦ 60% - In a Gallup survey, the percentage of female registered voters in 12 key states, who rated government policies on birth control as an extremely/very important issue influencing their vote, versus 39% of registered male voters.

<http://www.cnn.com/2012/10/25/politics/btn-women-voters/index.html>

What's at Stake for Women (and their families) in 2012:

Equal Pay:

It's almost time for Halloween, and you know what's really scary? Werewolves, witches and... the wage gap — the frightening amount of money women lose every year due to wage discrimination! **On Monday, the National Partnership is kicking off a three-day campaign to ask our candidates a simple question: #RU4FairPay? Share the message with your social networking partners!**

You know what's really scary?
Congress stalling on **fair pay!**

Tweet your candidates using the hashtag #RU4FairPay

Send custom tweets via
NationalPartnership.org/Scary

national partnership
for women & families

NATIONAL
WOMEN'S
LAW CENTER
EXPANDING THE POSSIBILITIES

Issue: Campaign Spending

The League of Women Voters of NYS has produced a series of materials for local League to host community forums on campaign finance reform. The background paper is **Preserving our Democracy: Campaign Finance Reform for New York State** and LWV has



sent a flash drive to all local Leagues with a Power Point Presentation on the issue (with speaker notes on each slide), an electronic copy of background paper, electronic copies of handout and glossary for distribution at educational forums, and other background reports and studies for more detailed information on the issue. The LWV is probably one of your community partners for GOTV activities. Check with your local League about participating in one of these community forums. When all is said and done (and spent), this election has already set records for the impact of money on the process.

Here's a Memo From the Boss - Vote This Way

Until 2010, federal law barred companies from using corporate money to endorse and campaign for political candidates — and that included urging employees to support specific politicians. But the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision has freed companies from those restrictions, and now several major companies, including Georgia-Pacific and Cintas, have sent letters or information packets to their employees suggesting — and sometimes explicitly recommending — how they should vote this fall. In these letters, the executives complain about the costs of overregulation, the health care overhaul and possible tax increases. Even before Citizens United, unions were allowed to promote candidates to their members. Democrats and Republicans alike acknowledged the effectiveness of labor's political efforts.

<http://tinyurl.com/8nrrfub>

Spending big to take money out of politics

Two New York City-based Super PACs have pledged to spend half a million dollars in a regional state Senate election to make a point that there should be less money in politics. The groups, called Friends of Democracy and Protect Our Democracy, said they would fund television and mail advertisements supporting Democratic candidate Cecilia Tkaczyk, the vice president of the Duanesburg School Board, in her bid against Assemblyman George Amedore, R-Rotterdam. The groups are funded primarily by Jonathan Soros, son of the billionaire Democratic donor George Soros, as well as Facebook co-founder Chris Hughes and his husband, venture capitalist Sean Eldridge. Both are pushing for a system of public campaign finance matching similar to one that exists now in New York City.

<http://tinyurl.com/8g4q8no>

Issue: Retirement

Retirement anxiety grows among young adults

Americans are more worried about having the wealth and income necessary to fund their retirements than they were at the end of the Great Recession, according to a Pew Research Center survey. Despite a slowly improving economy and a rebounding stock market, nearly four in 10 Americans are not confident that they will have the financial wherewithal to retire. A similar report in 2009 found that one in four adults were concerned that they would not be financially ready for retirement, Pew said. Strikingly, that anxiety is now most pronounced among young adults, a marked shift over three years ago when workers in their 50s were most worried that they would outlive their retirement savings. More than half of adults aged 36 to 40 say that they are not confident that their nest eggs will last through retirement, three times the share who expressed similar doubts in 2009. The retirement concerns of younger workers are compounded by the reality that younger workers are less likely than their older counterparts to have guaranteed pensions, meaning they have to rely on their own assets to supplement Social Security in retirement.

<http://tinyurl.com/8h2h6qy>

Issue: Paid Family Leave

One-Third of Parents Concerned About Losing Jobs, Pay When They Stay Home With Sick Kids

Many child care providers have rules that exclude sick children from care, spurring anxious moments for millions of working parents. In a new University of Michigan poll, one-third of parents of young children report they are concerned about losing jobs or pay when they stay home to care for sick children who can't attend child care. The University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health recently asked parents who have children younger than six years old in child care about the impact of child care illness on their families. In the poll, nearly two-thirds of parents of young children in child care say their children could not attend because of illness in the past year. Almost one-half of parents with young children in child care indicated that they've missed work in the last year to care for sick kids, and one-quarter missed work three or more times. One-half of the parents of young children in child care said finding alternative or back-up care is difficult. Along with the 33 percent of parents who were concerned about losing pay or jobs because of missing work for sick kids, 31 percent said they don't have enough paid leave to cover the days they need for sick children.

"Improving employee benefits related to paid sick leave appears to be important for many parents. More supportive sick leave policies would allow parents to care for their sick children at home or give parents the opportunity to go to their child's usual health care provider instead of the emergency room."

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/10/121022112851.htm>

Issue: Student Loans & Debt

Parents drowning in debt from sending their children to college

What parent doesn't want to be able to send their child to college? It used to be parents would scrimp and save to do so. Instead parents are now drowning in debt to make it happen. A new study shows one in five households are deep in college debt. There's an increasing trend with people who are age 40-50 having the fastest growing amount of student loan debt outstanding," said Mark Kantrowitz of Finaid.com. And it's not from their own undergraduate degrees. "Parentplus loans, from their graduate education and from cosigning on private student loans," said Kantrowitz. Parentplus loans are a relatively new kind of loan from the federal government. Rates are capped at 7.9% and the interest is often tax deductible. But even so, the average debt is \$34,000. "It's the only form of federal education loans that doesn't have an annual or aggregate loan limit," said Kantrowitz. A critical point when combined with the climbing cost of college. "Before the credit crisis about half of all student loans required cosigners. In the aftermath of the credit crisis and today more than 90% of new private student loans require cosigners," said Kantrowitz. He makes a point of telling parents and students to only borrow what they really need and not up to the loan limit. Kantrowitz also said you should never co-sign or take out a loan that will take more than 10 years to pay off.
<http://tinyurl.com/8vpvxom>

Issue: Contraception

Groups Urge Congress To Make Science-Based Decisions on Women's Health

Two advocacy groups launched a campaign to educate lawmakers about women's health and encourage them to support science-based policies. The **Educate Congress** campaign, created by Our Bodies Ourselves and Every Mother Counts, is distributing copies of the sexual and reproductive health book "[Our Bodies, Ourselves](#)" to every member of Congress. The campaign has several policy goals, including upholding the preventive care coverage requirements being implemented under the Affordable Care Act, supporting Medicaid-funded efforts to improve maternity care, boosting foreign aid to support maternal health, requiring fertility clinics to participate in a data registry on health risks, strengthening medical device regulations, eliminating abortion restrictions and avoiding legislative language that distinguishes between rape and "forcible rape."
<http://www.indiegogo.com/educate-congress>

Issue: Medicaid

Report: ACA Repeal, Medicaid Block Grants Would Cut \$1.7T, Reduce Number of Beneficiaries by Up to 38 Million

Repealing the Affordable Care Act and transforming Medicaid into a block grant system would reduce federal Medicaid spending by \$1.7 trillion between 2013 and 2022, according to an analysis released by the Kaiser Family Foundation. The plan to repeal the ACA and alter Medicaid is included in Republican vice presidential nominee and House

Budget Committee Chair Paul Ryan's (R-WI) House-approved fiscal year 2013 budget proposal. The report found that \$932 billion of the \$1.7 trillion funding reduction would come from repealing the ACA's Medicaid expansion and \$810 billion would come from converting Medicaid into a block grant program. The \$1.7 trillion cut represents a 38% reduction in spending compared with current projected spending, according to CQ HealthBeat. The report also notes that the spending reductions related to the block grant proposal would grow over time. According to the analysis, the plan would result in 31 million to 38 million fewer U.S. residents with Medicaid coverage in 2022. Of those individuals, 17 million would no longer be eligible for Medicaid coverage because of the ACA repeal, while 14 million to 21 million individuals would be ineligible because of changes to the program due to block grants, according to the report .

<http://tinyurl.com/8rpot7l>

Medicaid Spending Slows: Survey

Yearly growth in Medicaid spending slowed sharply last year and enrollment in the program increased only slightly as the U.S. economy began to recover, according to a Kaiser Family Foundation survey. It found that for the fiscal year ending in June, total spending on Medicaid rose by only 2 percent, compared with a nearly 10 percent increase in 2011. Enrollment growth was 3.2 percent, compared with 4.4 percent in 2011 and 7.2 percent in 2010. Along with an improving economy, cost-cutting by states also played a role in reducing spending on Medicaid and enrollment in the program, which provides health and long-term care coverage to more than 60 million poor people and costs the federal government and states more than \$400 billion a year. Last year, 45 states cut or froze reimbursement rates for hospitals and doctors and 18 states scaled back benefits such as dental, vision and drug coverage. Many states also expanded the use of managed care for Medicaid patients.

<http://consumer.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=670056>

Spotlight on NYS Policy:

Cuomo tells communities to lay off the mandate complaints

Local governments complaining about the high costs of state-mandated services should more aggressively consolidate overlapping local programs and “pray” for a robust national economic recovery to bring in more tax revenues, a combative Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo said Monday. Localities have said they eventually embraced the property tax cap approved by Cuomo and legislators in 2011 because of hopes that the state, after decades of discussions, would move to reduce state mandates on required services and such things as edicts imposed on public construction projects. Cuomo was having none of the complaints Monday and said local officials have a simple choice: cut the cost of government or ask voters to approve overrides to an annual property tax cap of about 2 percent. His comments come as an increasing number of localities, including school districts, say the state, especially with the new property tax cap, has to do more to reduce costly mandates, including various laws that raise personnel costs beyond just salaries paid to government employees. According to the New York Conference of

Mayors, “A tax cap without mandate relief will do nothing to address true cost drivers that plague municipal budgets, and is therefore doomed to fail.”

<http://tinyurl.com/8p8nsqn>

AAUW NYS Facebook:

Today’s AAUW-NYS Countdown to Election Message on Facebook:

October 28: 9 days to Election Day! Patricia McGuire, President, Trinity Washington University: “School reform will not succeed in the absence of a comprehensive agenda to address the conditions of poverty, homelessness, parental illiteracy, drug abuse, hunger and violence that leave children abandoned and debilitated on the margins of this society.” **Women in STEM occupations earn 33% more than those in non-STEM occupations and that the wage gap between men and women in STEM jobs is significantly smaller than in other fields.**

Remember to “like” our state Facebook page and stay up to date with all the breaking news. <http://www.facebook.com/AAUW.NYS> **Share things from our page to yours and help us build our social network for change!**

Share your successes!

Please stay safe as Superstorm Sandy wends its way up the East Coast. Pay close attention to all warnings in your area.

5 reasons why Sandy is expected to be a superstorm

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_SUPERSTORM_5_THINGS_TO_KNOW
