

AAUW-NYS GOTV Counterpart Newsletter Get Out The Vote!



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Tomorrow is Election Day!

The candidates have debated, the attack ads have fired back and forth, the robocalls are over, and billions in so-called “dark” money has been spent to influence the voters about their selection. Vote tomorrow, if you haven’t already voted early. Vote for yourself, your family, your community, your nation, and your future! And use your social networks to remind others to vote!

Getting Out The Vote!

New York Voters’ Checklist:

<http://www.866ourvote.org/pages/body/NY-Checklist-2012-FINAL.pdf>

Know Your Rights on Election Day

If you are an eligible voter, you have the following rights:

- ♦ If your name is not on the official voter list but you believe you are eligible to vote in that precinct, even if an election official challenges your vote, you have the right to cast a provisional ballot.
- ♦ If you are in line when the polls close, you are entitled to vote, no matter how long it takes to get to the booth.
- ♦ In many states, employers must allow you time to vote at some point during the day and you can't be fired for being late due to long polling lines. Check your personnel policies with your employer.
- ♦ You have the right to vote without being intimidated by anyone.
- ♦ If you are elderly or if you have a physical disability, you have the right to vote using an accessible voting method and you have the right to receive help with voting by an election officer or any other person of your choice.
- ♦ Visit the Election Protection website for more information on your rights.
<http://www.866ourvote.org/>

Ways You Can Safeguard Your Vote On Election Day

1. **Be sure to bring whatever ID your state may require.** It's always a good idea to take along some form of government-issued identification, such as your driver's license. You may not need it, but it's best to have it.
2. **Bring your cell phone,** if you have one. If you encounter or observe any problems, call a hotline immediately (see point #11).
3. **Ask for a paper ballot.** If you don't want to use a machine, see if your polling place can provide a paper ballot. Some states, such as California, require polling places to have these available on request. If machines aren't working or there are other problems, ask for an emergency ballot (although they may not be available everywhere).
4. **Verify your vote.** If you're voting on an electronic voting machine, check the review screen to make sure it reflects your vote. If the machine produces a paper record (27 states require one), read it carefully to make sure it correctly reflects your vote. If it is incorrect, speak to a polling attendant. Don't leave until you're sure your vote has been properly recorded.
5. **Document and report.** If you encounter or observe difficulties such as excessive lines, voter harassment, or malfunctioning machines, be sure to take pictures and write down the details. Get all the facts you can—location, names, and specific problem. We recommend two nationwide networks where you can report problems. One is **1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683)**, which will have volunteer lawyers in many locations standing by to provide assistance. The other is **1-866 MY VOTE-1 (1-866-698-6831)**, which will record your problem by voicemail, then forward your call to your local board of elections. Both will enter the information you provide into a database, then use that information to support challenges to problem elections, as well as demands for reform in the future.

Into the future

Work for fair, transparent elections. Voice your questions about voting machines, voter suppression, and election problems promptly. Keep the issue in front of your election officials. If we want clean, trustworthy elections in 2014, we have to start working on it now.

Want more information? Here are three websites from the leading edge on voting issues: 866ourvote.org, verifiedvoting.org, and ourvotelive.org.
<http://tinyurl.com/cfl6a76>

Given the concerns already expressed in many areas about the possibility of electoral irregularities, one group has begun organizing, if the problems are severe. You may want to check out: **No More Stolen Elections** at <http://nomorestolenelections.org/>.

New York City Polling News:

NYC Poll Site Changes:

Certain poll site locations may have changed in New York City. You can call 311 to find out if your poll site has changed, or check the full list of changes here:

<http://www.elections.ny.gov/CountyBOEStormInfo.html>

New York City Information: For the latest information concerning the Board of Elections in the City of New York please follow this link:

http://vote.nyc.ny.us/html/temp_hours/temp_hours.shtml

Poll Site Changes due to Hurricane Sandy

The State has established a toll-free number to assist voters with questions about voting, poll site changes and absentee ballots. The number is **1-855-NYS-SANDY (1-855-697-7263)**. <http://www.elections.ny.gov/CountyBOEStormInfo.html>

Richmond County (Staten Island) Emergency Absentee Ballot

Phone number 718-876-0079

Richmond County Office for in-person absentee ballot pickup –

1 Edgewater Plaza, 4th Floor,

Staten Island, NY 10305

Mailing Address to Mail absentee ballot applications – same as above

Office Hours: Monday 9:00am-5:00pm

Manhattan Emergency Absentee Ballot

Phone number 212-465-0503

Manhattan Office to Pick Up Ballots – 450 West 33rd Street 10th Floor

Mailing Address to mail absentee ballot applications – 200 Varick Street, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10014

Office Hours: Monday 9:00am-5:00pm

Bronx

Phone 718-299-9017

Bronx County Office for in-person absentee ballot pickup – 1780 Grand Concourse, 5th Floor, Concourse Level, Bronx, NY 10457

Mailing address to mail absentee ballot applications – same as above

Office Hours: Monday 9:00am-5:00pm

Queens

Phone 718-730-6730

Queens County Office to pick up absentee ballots – 126-06 Queens Boulevard, 4th Floor, Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Mailing address to mail absentee ballot applications – same as above

Office Hours: Monday 9:00am-5:00pm

Kings (Brooklyn)

Phone 718-797-8800

Kings County Office to pick up absentee ballots – 345 Adams Street, 4th Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Mailing address to mail absentee ballot applications – same as above

Office Hours: Monday 9:00am-5:00pm

Nassau County

To pick up absentee ballots –

240 Old Country Road 5th Floor Mineola, NY 11501

Mailing address to mail absentee ballot applications – same as above

Phone# 516-571-2411

Office Hours: Monday 7:00am-10:00pm

Suffolk County

To pick up absentee ballots – 700 Yaphank Ave. Yaphank, NY 11980

Mailing address to mail absentee ballot applications – same as above

Phone number 631-852-4500

OFFICE HOURS: Monday: 9:00am – 7:00 PM

The Youth Vote:

Two-Thirds of Young People Likely to Vote

CIRCLE released a groundbreaking poll of young people's views of the election. The survey, commissioned by the Youth Education Fund, is unique in that it polled 1,695 youth (ages 18-29) in June/July and 1,109 of the same youth between October 12 and 23. Surveying the same people twice provides powerful evidence of change over time. With just 8 days until the election, CIRCLE's new youth poll, commissioned by the Youth Engagement Fund, shows the following:

- ♦ The proportion saying they are extremely likely to vote has risen 9.9 points, from 44.7% to 54.6%. Two-thirds (67.3%) of young adults are "very" or "extremely" likely to vote, up 7.1 percentage points since June/July.
- ♦ The proportion who are paying attention to the election has also risen, from 56.1% to 71%.

Attitudes Towards Issues: Jobs and the Economy Still Lead

In both surveys, we asked young people to pick their top issue. Although we added more options in October, the proportion selecting "jobs and the economy" as the number-one issue actually rose to 37.9%, 26 points ahead of the runner-up issue, which was health care. Given the prominent recent discussion of abortion, it is worth noting that abortion is the top issue for just 3.4% of respondents, including people on both sides of that issue, and with women being twice as concerned as men. Attitudes about the country and politics have shifted somewhat:

- ♦ 31% of young people now feel that the US is headed in the right direction, up from 25.1% in June/July.
- ♦ Fewer respondents feel that the government is responsive now.
- ♦ Respondents still complain that politicians fail to address the issues that matter to them, but that belief has declined by nine points.
- ♦ More young people (an increase of four points) now say that the federal deficit is too big and that the government is too powerful, reflecting a modest shift toward Republican positions on the economy.
- ♦ Young people still prefer spending to stimulate the economy over cuts in taxes and spending, as they did in July, but support for tax and spending cuts has risen since the July poll.
- ♦ Support for the Affordable Health Care Act has risen by three points, but opposition also rose by 2.5 points, and the largest group remains undecided about the Act.
- ♦ 72.6% of respondents believe that, as a group, young people have the power to change things in this country.

Research has shown that when they are asked to get involved, young people do engage, and that once they vote, voting become a habit. Those polled in October said that appeals from parents (46.9%) and friends (41.6%, asking in person) would have the most influence on them becoming more likely to vote.

<http://www.civicyouth.org/youth-on-horserace-52-obama-v-35-romney/>

National student election picks Obama as next president

An online poll taken by millions of American students that has picked four presidential elections correctly says Barack Obama will defeat Mitt Romney on Election Day. OneVote project is maintained by Channel One, the education media service, and its polls in 1992, 2000, 2004, and 2008 correctly picked each election's winner. Channel One tells us that President Obama won the matchup with Romney by a 50 percent to 44 percent margin. In terms of electoral votes, Obama received an equivalent of 412 votes to 124 votes for Romney, with two votes in Maine tied. Romney only took Virginia among the nine swing states tracked by election watchers. Middle- and high-school students across the country filled out ballots last week, which were inspected in the classroom by their teachers.

<http://tinyurl.com/c7oqb4p>

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

Issue: The Electoral College

WaPo-ABC tracking poll: Popular vote > electoral college

Most likely voters — including both Democrats and Republicans — say the winner of the presidential election should be decided by popular vote, not the electoral college, according to the latest release of the Washington Post-ABC News tracking poll. The presidency, will be decided at the state level — with the overwhelming focus on a small set of swing states where polls also point to an extraordinarily competitive contest next

week. But most voters wish that weren't so: 56 percent of all likely voters say they would prefer the one who gets the most votes across the country to be the next president; 37 percent would want the one with more electoral votes to prevail. A split verdict between the national vote and the electoral college has become a distinct possibility given the close competitiveness of candidates at both levels. If such a divided result were to happen, 59 percent of independents, 56 percent of Democrats and 51 percent of Republicans say they would prefer that the candidate with the higher popular vote tally win the White House. Before the presidential election in 2000, majorities of Democrats and Republicans alike said they preferred the popular vote. But four years later, support for the popular vote had risen higher still, and GOP support had plummeted, going from 66 percent in 2000 to 35 percent just before the 2004 election. The obvious intervening event were the results of the contest in 2000: a slender popular vote win for Democrat Al Gore, but an electoral win for George W. Bush.

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

Issue: Work-Life Balance

Pay Satisfaction Key Driver of Work-Family Conflict

Employees who are more satisfied with their pay report lower levels of work-family conflict, a study by a University of Illinois labor and employment relations professor shows. A worker's actual salary is as important as pay satisfaction in determining a worker's happiness, according to the research by professor Amit Kramer. "Pay, as you might expect, is a relative thing," Kramer said. "I think most people would agree that a certain level of pay that allows you to meet your needs is critical. However, beyond that level, relative pay becomes an issue and with it, perception of pay or pay satisfaction." Kramer says once workers achieve this "sufficient" level of pay, they shift their reference point from what their actual pay allows them to do, to other social reference points such as how much their peers are paid. "It becomes 'my pay' compared to others; 'my pay' compared to the effort I invest; 'my pay' compared to the things I give up and miss in life for the opportunity cost of working," he said. "Organizations believe that actual pay is the No. 1 incentive for employees. While this may be true for some employees, for others the social aspects of pay and the things they perceive to be sacrificing for pay are stronger or act as additional incentives and disincentives." The effect of a pay raise on pay satisfaction only has a moderate relationship, Kramer says. According to the study, even highly compensated employees report high work-family conflict because they, too, can perceive pay inequity among colleagues. So what can employers do -- if anything -- to increase pay satisfaction among employees? "If employees perceive work as a sacrifice they have to make, then the work environment itself is not ideal," he said. "If employers can understand the trade-offs employees perceive to be doing -- sacrificing family for work, for example -- then they can offer different work arrangements and policies that compensate for that. Flexible work arrangements, paid vacation days and compressed workweeks would be good examples of this. It also might be ideal to tailor policies and benefits based on different needs of employees, since each employee will perceive that they are making different trade-offs." Kramer says the research speaks to the need for

more family- and life-friendly policies in the workplace. "In a time when the boundaries between work, life and family are so blurred with the increased use of technology that allows many employees to work everywhere, anytime, I think employers should consider offering flexible work arrangements to employees who can perform their work off-site and off-schedule," he said. "That type of a flexible policy that would allow all employees - not just those with families -- to better balance work, family and life demands as they see fit." Family demands can come from many different sources, all of which require different kinds of flexibility, Kramer says. "Young children demand more emergency-type flexibility -- for example, leaving work on short notice to pickup a sick child from day care, or staying home with a sick child," he said. "Older children require more 'planned' flexibility -- for example, a week of college visits -- while elder parents, like young children, need more short-notice, emergency-type flexibility."

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/10/121030143142.htm>

Issue: Education

NYSASBO report details bleak financial picture for school finances

High-needs rural school districts could see their savings evaporate in three years, according to a report by the New York State Association of School Business Officials. The September 2012 report says that, if current trends in the use of unrestricted funds and restrictions on revenue continue, approximately 200 lower-wealth school districts in the state could begin to lose all of their savings by 2015. The revenue restrictions include the 2 percent property tax cap and state aid caps. There is a way to get over the hump, but it would need to be addressed in Albany, according to Michael J. Borges, NYSASBO executive director. "What is needed is significant mandate relief," Mr. Borges said during a telephone interview Tuesday. The only options currently available to districts, according to the report, are "deficit financing," which allows them to borrow for ongoing operational expenses; advance or "spin up" of state aid from future years; bailout - extra state aid in the current year to meet operational needs; or a takeover of the school district by the state Education Department. The report says the state can approach "this impending fiscal calamity" in three ways: "prevent fiscal insolvency from happening in the first place by granting waivers to schools exempting them from regulations or laws that hamper their ability to stay solvent;" "react to each crisis as they develop on a case by case basis" or "develop a statewide approach with an early warning system and intervention process with correction action plan (similar to SED's academically failing schools approach." It all boils down to mandate relief to cut back on costs, he said. "School education is labor intensive. Whenever you have something that is labor intensive the costs are going to be high. There are certain things the state had not done to address these costs. They've sort of fallen flat on mandate relief," Mr. Borges said. In the interim, Mr. Borges said school districts could save money through avenues such as renegotiating contracts with employees or cutting back on energy costs. But without some type of action, the report says, the financial situation will get worse for districts. "A multi-year analysis suggests that the problem is getting worse and that the necessity of high need districts to dip into savings is something of a trend," it said.

<http://www.mpcourier.com/article/20121031/DCO01/710319953>

School pension costs expected to skyrocket

Pension costs for schools are set to grow nearly 40 percent next school year, a major hit to education budgets already crippled by rising costs. The state Teachers' Retirement System estimated that schools would have to pay as much as 16.5 percent of payroll to cover pension costs, according to a bulletin released earlier this month. The current rate is 11.84 percent. School officials said the increase comes as other costs are growing, such as health insurance for employees. Schools also are grappling with a property-tax cap that limits the growth in taxes to 2 percent a year; an override of the cap requires 60 percent of support from voters in May. Growing pension costs continue to be a problem for schools and local governments. In the 2009-10 school year, pension costs cost \$926 million statewide. In fall 2013, nearly twice as much will need to be collected: about \$1.8 billion. The new pension costs would need to be collected in the fall of 2014.

<http://tinyurl.com/d2oqtzt>

Issue: Employment

Job Growth? See Health Care, Hospitality

While unemployment remains stubbornly high, but some sectors are booming. Which are healthiest? Health care added more jobs than any other sector in 2011, with 350,300. Next were food service and accommodation (273,700) and professional and technical services (246,200). The federal government expects health care to have gained a total of 5.6 million jobs by 2020. The average annual wage nationally was \$45,230 in 2011. But if you were working in the fastest-growing categories, you may have earned more: \$47,550 for health care on average, \$59,280 for professional services. Where you live may have helped or hurt your employment odds, too. In 2011 33 states had unemployment rates below the national average of 8.9 percent. North Dakota was lowest at 3.5 percent; Nevada was worst off at 13.5 percent.

<http://tinyurl.com/c6kn7av>

Issue: Medicaid

What the Medicaid Eligibility Expansion Means for Women

<http://www.nwlc.org/resource/what-medicaid-eligibility-expansion-means-women>

Issue: Child Poverty

Join the Dialogue on Poverty

Did you know that 20% of children in New York State are considered poor? Or that nearly 10% live in extreme poverty? The impact of poverty on children is devastating. Growing up poor is detrimental to cognitive, physical, and social-emotional development. Poor children are at-risk for not graduating high school, not going to college, becoming teen parents, and ending up in the criminal justice system. The

Looking Forward: Improving the Well-Being of Children and Families, a post-election policy forum on poverty hosted by the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, in Albany, NY. Mark your calendar for **Thursday, November 29th** and register today for this special forum.
<http://tinyurl.com/cl8xu6w>

Thank you!

To all the branches and the AAUW members across the state who have worked so hard to register voters; to educate them about the issues; to make sure people know where to vote and how to vote; who have organized rides to the polls; who have held candidate and issue forums; who have written OpEds and Letters to the Editor; televised candidate interviews and forums; talked to a neighbor or a friend about voting; or who worked on a college campus to encourage our young people to vote. You have done the hard work at the grassroots level to ensure our democracy works.

Tomorrow we vote and hopefully we will have clear cut results so we can move forward. Because there is still more hard work ahead of us as we educate our new and returning legislators at the local, state and federal level about the issues we care about and the needs that must be met.

Donna Seymour
AAUW-NYS Public Policy Director