

AAUW-NYS GOTV Counterpart Newsletter Get Out The Vote!



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Thursday, September 13, 2012 – New York State and Local Primary Day

Learn more about the races and the issues at: <http://www.elections.ny.gov/>

It's My Vote Campaign - Voter Registration and Education Materials

Women wield great power in American politics. More than ever before, women are registering to vote and casting ballots in greater numbers and with more consistency than men. It's vital that we continue this achievement and engage millennial women.

There are as many Millennials as there are baby boomers — and women ages 18–31 have enormous potential to be as potent a force in politics for years to come. The difference right now is that Millennials have yet to establish a consistent pattern of voting.

By engaging with millennial women, the **It's My Vote, I Will Be Heard** campaign will support an enormous generation of young women in establishing lifelong voting habits and to strengthen the voice of women in the 2012 elections.

Here are five one-page papers prepared by national that address the concerns of Millennials in this election cycle. You may find them useful as you plan your Get Out the Vote Campaign. They include:

- ♦ Access to Birth Control
- ♦ College Affordability
- ♦ Employment and Jobs
- ♦ The Gender Pay Gap
- ♦ It's My Vote Campaign

Feel free to print the issues papers on your branch letterhead as handouts or draw upon them for your campus outreach. <http://www.aauw-nys.org/pp.htm>

The Youth Vote:

The Millennial generation will be 30% of voters by 2030. Connect with them NOW!

College Students Show Little Interest in Politics This Election Year

A study conducted this spring by the International Center for Media & the Public Agenda at the University of Maryland determined that college students today are apathetic about politics. “In fact, the vast majority of students reported that while they were registered to vote and plan to vote in the November election, they said they’d be more likely to pay attention to politics if they saw the direct relevance of the election to their lives.” That apathy is dangerous and the savvy college student should be paying close attention the issues and the politics surrounding this fall’s election. No group of citizens is more likely to be negatively affected by the outcome of this fall’s races in the long term than the college-aged.

<http://newsdesk.umd.edu/engaged/release.cfm>

Rock the Vote has posted **97 short YouTube videos** of students discussing what issues concern them for the 2012 elections. Find out what concerns them and then get them registered to vote!

<http://youtu.be/GHSrLeEESrk?a>

How Will Young People Influence the Presidential Election?

<http://tinyurl.com/97r6oxg>

Students Find Convention a Civics Lab Come Alive

<http://tinyurl.com/8obe4ws>

New York City Council District Maps

On Sept. 4, the NYC Districting Commission released preliminary draft City Council District Maps.

The Commission also set up an online interactive mapping tool for voters to use to create their own vision for the New York City Council. We encourage you to take advantage of the online mapping tool and make your voice heard.

The public will have an opportunity to comment on the maps in the weeks to come, stay tuned.

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dc/html/mapping/mapping.shtml>



Nearly 3,500 New Yorkers register to vote online

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo announced that 3,474 New Yorkers have signed up for the state Department of Motor Vehicle's new online voter registration service since it was launched Aug. 16. Among those who registered, 1,028 were first-time voters. The website, <https://my.dmv.ny.gov/crm/>, is available to New York residents who own a valid driver's license or non-driver identification. When it comes to voter registration, New York is ranked 47th in the nation with less than 64 percent of eligible residents registered to vote.

<http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20120902/NEWS03/709029871/-1/news>

AAUW-NYS Branch GOTV Action!

On Sept. 8 and 9, the **Fairport Area Branch** and **Greater Rochester Area Branch** will sponsor a voter registration drive at Memorial Art Gallery's (MAG) Clothesline Art Show. The League of Women Voters/Rochester Metro Area are making materials available; AAUW materials will also BE at the table.

This year, the **Greater Rochester Area** AAUW Branch Dinners will be focusing on "My Purse, My Voice, My Vote," and we have some great subjects for the upcoming Branch Dinners. We will be focusing on, among other things, this year's presidential election, pay equity, and finances. To that end, our first dinner on **Sept. 11** will focus on **Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid** and the potential changes that could come depending on the outcome of the election. Our guest speaker will be **Fran Weisberg**, Executive Director of the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency, also known as FLHSA.

Nancy Mion, the **Islip Area** Public Policy Director, has scheduled a **Voter Registration drive at Dowling College for their Constitution Day Celebration**, Mon., Sept. 17.

District 6's Fall Conference on Oct. 27 (10 am - 2 pm) at St. Joseph's College is on **Running for Office**, with **Personal Political Experiences, Modeling a Non-Candidates Forum**, and Susan B. Anthony and Lone Island Suffragists.

St. Lawrence County Branch's Public Policy Chair Kathleen Stein has been filling in the schedule for the **Conversations With Candidates**, a local public access TV project partnered with **AAUW, LWV & WKCN at Clarkson University**. Candidates for state and federal office sit down for conversations with local voters about the issues of the day for broadcast on local TV & YouTube prior to Election Day.

The **Kingston Branch** will host a program, **Fighting to Protect Women's Healthcare** on Tues., Oct. 16 at 5 pm at the Kingston Library Community Room. Women's healthcare has absorbed many attacks this past year and Planned Parenthood has been on the front lines. The Policy Committee has arranged for **Ruth-Ellen Blodgett**,

President and CEO of our Regional Planned Parenthood, to speak to AAUW about this issue. President Blodgett speaks with clarity and passion about the history and operation of Planned Parenthood. She will describe the current clinical services provided by Planned Parenthood in Kingston and the challenges that the changing health care system poses to this type of service. This event is open to the public.

Kingston Branch's Public Policy Film & Discussion

Looks at **9/11: The Myth and The Reality** on Sunday, Sept. 16, 11 AM. "Composed of two powerful speeches given by Philosopher and Theologist Dr. David Ray Griffin at The Commonwealth Club in San Francisco (4/3/06) and at The Grand Lake Theater in Oakland (3/30/06), 9/11: The Myth and The Reality exposes the official story of 9/11 for what it truly is: a sacred myth. Griffin details nine of the most commonly held myths and misconceptions about the events surrounding 9/11 and with logical precision proves the fallacies of each one. Each speech is followed by an in-depth question & answer section featuring hard-hitting questions about 9/11 posed to one of the subject's foremost scholars." Great idea!

Thanks to **Ruth Wahtera**, the AAUW-NYS Communications Director, for this great information:

Here's great on-demand training for organizers working on voter registration, voter education, candidate support, or other issues. Take a look:

Training: anytime, anywhere Access our best trainings from anywhere, whenever you want to learn.

NOI OnDemand webinars:

- Getting Out Your Vote
- GOTV Universes & Capacity
- Engaging Volunteers in GOTV
- Rapid Response
- Media & Blogger Outreach
- Managing Staff & Volunteers
- Leading a Data-Drive Action Program
- Volunteer Recruitment and Capacity Planning
- Using New Media to Tell the Story
- Email Campaigning

<http://www.neworganizing.com/content/blog/ondemand-update-08-20>

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

Issue: Education

Education policies, funding at stake in 2012 election

When voters go to the polls to choose the nation's next president in November, they'll be making a choice that has important implications for schooling in the next four years. This fall you will most likely not hear the differences on education between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney framed in these terms: as a public good versus a commodity. Yet, in the broadest strokes, this is what is at stake in the presidential election of 2012—two very different visions of education, and two very different ways to solve the problems that the American system of education faces. One based on a principle of universality, the other based on market forces...

Tell us what you think

Who do you plan to vote for in November, and why? What are the issues that matter most to you, and what do you think about each candidate's position on these issues? Let us know by taking part in our short online poll. All results will remain anonymous and will be reported in aggregate in our October and November issues.

<http://tinyurl.com/8rhy9n4>

Thanks to Diane Haney of North Shore Branch for this reference:

The Danger in School Funding Cuts

This Billy Easton NY Times OpEd from last May points out the dangers when "Poor school districts are being forced to cut electives, remedial tutoring, foreign languages and other programs and services to balance budgets. Many schools in less prosperous areas face what the state commissioner of education calls 'educational insolvency.'"

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/26/opinion/the-danger-in-school-spending-cuts.html>

Educate NY Now

As New York's students head back to school today, their opportunities are shrinking as the achievement gap continues to grow. Despite all our efforts (and some success on state funding), state aid cuts continue to hurt our schools and our kids. Students are coming back to overcrowded classrooms, fewer AP courses, less music and art options, reduced help for those who are struggling and many other cuts in programs, electives and services that provide students with the opportunity for success. Educate NY Now is organizing parents, educators, unions, community organizations, and administrators around a campaign to ensure all students - regardless of economic background - are given a quality education.

Learn more and join the effort:

http://action.citizenactionny.org/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=6557

In Districts Where Seniors Outnumber Children, Schools Adjust

There are more than 900 counties where residents 65 and older now edge out school-age children. Out of more than 3,000 counties and county equivalents nationwide, seniors outnumber schoolchildren by more than 2-to-1 in 33 counties, recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau show. Educators in such counties are grappling with ways to keep the

older community engaged in and supportive of their schools, from bringing older residents into classes to reframing education issues to address safety and economic concerns.

http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2012/08/29/02age_ep.h32.html

Issue: Social Security

Fact #38 - All that stands between many seniors and poverty - For many, social security is no small deal

One of every three Americans over 65 depends on Social Security checks to stay above the poverty line. Without these benefits, the poverty rate among seniors would soar from the current 9 percent to 45 percent. The average monthly Social Security benefit for a retired worker was about \$1,230 at the beginning of 2012, and the official poverty line for an individual over 65 is \$10,788 annually.



Face the Facts USA delivers provocative, useful facts about big issues to help Americans debunk myths, hold better conversations, and make smart decisions.

Issue: Medicare

U.S. voters see Medicare as a top election issue; here is a terrific side-by-side comparison of the Obama & Ryan plans for this critical health care program for seniors.

<http://tinyurl.com/9pn9gsb>

Medicare's political importance goes beyond seniors

Recent polling data shows that the issue resonates with boomers in key swing states. In Wisconsin, about 80 percent of respondents aged 50 to 64 ranked Medicare as "important" or "very important" in a Quinnipiac University/CBS/New York Times survey taken August 15-21, versus 91 percent for those 65 and older. Florida and Ohio produced comparable results in the same survey. There are 41 million seniors and 61 million boomers in the United States. With numbers like that vitally interested in a single issue, the importance of Medicare is likely to grow as the presidential campaign and congressional races move into the post-Labor Day home stretch. Medicare, which is expected to become financially insolvent in 2024, covers almost 50 million elderly and disabled people. Soaring U.S. healthcare costs have made it a target in efforts to reduce the federal deficit.

<http://tinyurl.com/9o325yd>

Issue: The Farm Bill

Passage of the Farm Bill is held up in Congress. It affects the food programs many Americans now rely on during the Great Recession.

More than 50 million Americans short of food

More than 50 million Americans couldn't afford to buy food at some point in 2011, according to federal data. Children in some 3.9 million households suffered from food insecurity last year, with their families unable to provide them with adequate, nutritious food at times. Nearly 17 million Americans suffered from "very low food security," meaning they had to reduce the amount they ate, saying the food they bought did not last and they didn't have the funds to buy more. They typically found themselves in this situation a few days a month for seven months of the year. A record 46.7 million received food stamps in June. Only 57% of food insecure households said they participate in a federal food and nutrition assistance program.

<http://money.cnn.com/2012/09/05/news/economy/food-hunger/index.html>

Issue: Equal Pay

Check out the latest issue of the newsletter for the **NYS Assembly Task Force on Women's Issues**:

A photo and story about **2012 AAUW Lobby Day** in Albany last April. "To commemorate National Equal Pay Day, Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee was invited to address members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in Albany. AAUW is a nation-wide network composed of more than 100,000 members and donors, 1,000 branches, and 600 college/university institution partners. For 130 years, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day for the purposes of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research."

<http://assembly.state.ny.us/comm/WomIss/20120821/index.pdf>



Jaffee addressing the American Association of University Women (AAUW) about the Equal Pay Act.

Issue: State Debt

U.S. states' debt tops \$4 trillion-report

America's 50 state governments owe \$4.19 trillion, including outstanding bonds, unfunded pension commitments and budget gaps, according to a new report. At \$617.6

billion, California had by far the biggest total debt, more than twice the total of No. 2, New York, with \$300.1 billion owed, according to State Budget Solutions, a research and non-partisan advocacy group. "Our states are in trouble and no amount of budget gimmicks, political posturing or hiding bills will fix the massive debt that they face," said Bob Williams, president of State Budget Solutions. "Drastic reforms, innovations and political courage are needed to put our states back on the road to fiscal survival." <http://tinyurl.com/8tzo85t>

Spotlight on Legislation: Healthy Families Act

It's back-to-school time and across the country, and parents are double checking their back-to-school supply list: Backpacks? Check. New crayons and pencils? Check. Notebooks? Check. Earned paid sick days? Not for nearly 40 million Americans.

Wait, back up, earned sick days are a back-to-school essential?

Absolutely! Let's face it: Kids share everything, especially germs, and especially in school. Moms and dads know this, and want to protect the health of all children. But when working parents are unable to earn paid sick days, they are faced with a difficult choice: Send their child to school sick or stay home with their child and risk losing a day's pay or possibly even their jobs.

Tell your members of Congress "Welcome back from August Recess – Now, it's time to help us prepare for the new school year by passing the Healthy Families Act so that all working parents have access to earned paid sick days."

http://action.momsrising.org/sign/paid_sick_days_school_supplies/

Earned paid sick days aren't just a critical school supply; they're good for the national economy too. Access to earned paid sick days keeps people in the jobs they desperately need. Research shows that earned sick days save employers money because earned sick days far outweigh the costs of replacing workers including advertising for, interviewing, and training new employees. Additionally, "presenteeism," when workers come to work sick, costs the national economy about \$160 billion a year in lost productivity.

It's time to take this commonsense policy nationwide. **The Healthy Families Act** (H.R. 1876, S. 984) would set an important national standard for paid sick days. Its passage would be a critical step toward meeting the health and financial needs of working families.

The Healthy Families Act would:

- ♦ Allow workers in businesses with 15 or more employees to earn up to seven job protected paid sick days each year to be used to recover from their own illness, access preventive care, or provide care for a sick family member.

- ♦ Allow workers who are victims of domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault to use their paid sick days to recover or seek assistance related to an incident.
- ♦ Include a simple method for calculating accrued sick time. Workers would earn a minimum of one hour of paid sick time for every 30 hours worked, up to 56 hours (seven days) per year, unless the employer selects a higher limit.
- ♦ Allow employers to require certification if an employee uses more than three paid sick days in a row. For victims of domestic violence, the certification may be from a law enforcement officer or victim advocate.
- ♦ Allow employers to continue using their existing policies, as long as they meet the minimums set forth in the Healthy Families Act (for time, types of use, and method of use).

We need to make sure that our elected officials know that access to earned paid sick days are important to our families' health and economic security. Earned paid sick days are a no-brainer. Tell your member of Congress to support the Healthy Families Act. Ask about it at a campaign event.

Thanks to **Elise Russo**, our AAUW-NYS International Director, for this great link!

Program Issue: Turning NY State Purple

October is Domestic Violence Prevention Month.

Advocates are Turning NY State Purple to raise public awareness. Violence occurs in families, in intimate relationships, dating relationships, against children, the elderly, and in every culture and community, and at every income level. This is the focus of MSK 3.0 in 2012-13.



Learn more about this state-wide effort, <http://opdv.ny.gov/index.html>.

These key advances for women's health and economic rights are under attack in this election year. Any of these would make a good Voter Education Forum topic or the focus of a candidate question:

1. Women's Right to Vote (1920)
2. Social Security Act (1935)
3. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
4. Medicare (1965)
5. Medicaid (1965)
6. Title X, The National Family Planning Program (1970)
7. Title IX of the Education Amendments (1972)
8. *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision (1973)

9. The Violence Against Women Act (1994)
 10. The Affordable Care Act (2010)
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AAUW NYS Facebook:

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! We update the page daily with all kinds of breaking news if interest to members and friends about the election, women’s issues and news stories.

Share your successes!