



# The VOTER

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VOLUME 61 NUMBER 6

October 2021

## Calendar (League activities in bold)

EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION/INFO
Speaker meeting	Dec TBA			Zoom. We have ideas for a speaker -- watch for an announcement,
Program Planning	Jan 2022 TBA			We decided to do this a bit later (we usually go in December). Watch for the date, later.

Check out the Google calendar on our home page. <https://www.lwccnj.org/>

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### Meeting Report

#### August 14 Member and Board meeting report.

1. Finalized plans for the Kickoff
2. Discussed ways to make money on small items, like wares sales.
3. We have a grant jointly with BurlCo and are starting to spend it.

#### September 13, 2021 Board Meeting

1. Discussed ways to get more VOTE411 responses, such as post cards to the candidates who haven't responded.
2. Learned about a 15-minute PSA for higher schools that Pat B and Suzanne D created. We have notified many schools.
3. We have 5,000 post cards for get out the vote. People will have to buy their own stamps as e don't have several thousand dollars.
4. The December meeting will be a speaker meeting. Program Planning will move to January.
5. We will (under Janet's leadership) do a survey to see what format members prefer information, and in particular the value of the Voter versus alternative formats.
6. Janet agreed to be our primary Twitter person. Send her things to be posted.
7. We may switch our email and website to Club Express. Suzanne is looking into it.

**October 4, 2021 report in the next issue!**

# League of Women Voters of Camden County

## Editor's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

Our Co-Presidents are super busy with election and other activities, so this month a note from me.

First, welcome to three new members, Becky Strickland, Debbie Esposito, and Sophia Gawronski. Sophia is a Camden County College student who asked Anita about joining and was given her membership on the spot!

Thanks to Harriet Snyder and Suzanne Daulerio for writing up the Kickoff. I'm always on the lookout for individuals willing to do short write ups on League activities. If you volunteer at a voter registration event or other activity and would like to describe your experiences, let me know!

There are two questions on the ballot this fall -- neither is a core League issue and LWWNJ has not taken a position on them, but has, as usual, done its own analysis and pro/con list to supplement the official explanation. The two questions are (1) to allow an expansion of sports betting to NJ teams and games played in NJ and (2) to expand the list of non-profit organizations that can use proceeds from gambling to support operating expenses (rather than just charitable functions). These are a bit complicated -- get a better understanding by reading the LWWNJ analysis at <https://www.lwvnj.org/vote#ballot-analyses>

I don't have to urge any of my readers to vote!

In League,  
Ed Gracely  
Secretary and Voter Editor

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**The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization of men and women, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.**

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***The VOTER* is published ten times a year to keep the membership and public informed of the activities of the League of Women Voters of Camden County. For subscription or membership information call (856) 438-0182.**

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## Getting there - Directions!

**From your house or back yard.** All meetings are virtual for the time being. Zoom!

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### Board of Commissioners Meetings

We encourage League members to observe Board of Commissioners meetings when they are convenient for you. Just show up with a LWV button to let them know we are watching! Don't make any statements -- you aren't entitled to speak for the League (or even yourself after wearing a League button). You can ask a neutral/informative question, however. It's good for Camden County!

The list for the year is online in the form of a county events calendar at <https://www.camdencounty.com/events/> It has lots of entries and is a bit hard to navigate.

It is helpful to show the list as a calendar month (see pulldown menu on the right). Caucus meetings appear to be on the third Tuesday, and Commissioners meetings are the Thursday after that, which can be either the third or fourth Thursday.

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## VOTERS SERVICE REPORT

Our recent voter outreach activities included events at Osborn Family Health Center in Camden on August 10<sup>th</sup>, Camden County College City Campus September 16<sup>th</sup>, Blackwood Campus September 29<sup>th</sup>, in addition to Rutgers Camden October 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

Many thanks to Sharon Ritz for organizing the Osborn event, and to Winne Rowell-Bullard who covered the Camden County College City Campus event single handedly, on short notice no less – Kudos to you Winne! Dr. Audrey Miller and Abena McClendon managed the Rutgers Campus activities. Right there with us at these events, raising awareness, chatting with visitors and students: Harriet Snyder, Sakina Davis, Claudia Tucker-Keto, Marty Weiner, Joan Divor and sorors of Delta Sigma Theta. See pictures elsewhere in this issue.

Dozens of students completed Voter Registration Applications on the spot, some took the paper applications with them, and many more chose to register online – the most popular option. We handed out hundreds of Vote411 info cards along with our freebies, and many students used their phones to snap a photo of the Board Worker flyer. We made an effort to share posters and quantities of info cards with any educators who stopped to chat.

Over the past several months, LWVCC and LWV BurlCo have been collaborating with the Food Bank of South Jersey for voter registration and GOTV initiatives funded by a grant from Feeding America and LWVUS. It was a pleasure to work closely with members of these organizations, designing bi-lingual info cards, signs, giveaways, and training materials for the Food Bank volunteers who interacted directly with their clients. Early reports from this effort indicate that most of the food bank visitors were already registered to vote, or not eligible. Nevertheless, it has been an inspiring experience, we formed some valuable contacts and connections while raising awareness and building trust in the community.

But wait, there's more: Pat Butenis and Suzanne Daulerio have been working diligently on high school outreach; Janet Fisher-Hughes continues to populate Vote411 with a small group of members; Jodi Feldman has again successfully organized a large-scale postcard campaign, this one targeting young voters in low turnout areas. See Jodi's report elsewhere in this issue for more details.

Voters Service is a lot of what we do, and yet it's not everything. Check out our website, LWVCCNJ.org, or LWVNJ.org, for information on initiatives and our positions on issues as varied as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Redistricting, text and phone banking, moderating candidate forums and debates, just to name a few.

Feel free to get in touch, I'm always happy to chat!

*Anita Hahn*

cell #856-261-2783

Co-President

League of Women Voters  
of Camden County (NJ)

## Pictures from CCC 9-29-21 Welcome Back event



## Other Voters Services Activities



*Osborn Family Health Center in Camden on August 10<sup>th</sup>*



*Rutgers Camden October 11<sup>th</sup>*

## Kickoff Report

*Harriet Snyder and Suzanne Daulerio*

For our Fall Kickoff, held on Zoom, we heard a personal account of her immigrant experience from Ya-Mei Chen, Field Office Director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Mt. Laurel. Ms. Chen pointed out that the League of Women Voters of Camden County has helped more than 7000 new citizens register to vote at naturalization ceremonies over the years.

Calling herself an “Accidental Immigrant,” Ms. Chen explained how, having been accepted by Ohio State University, she came to the United States to get a graduate degree in journalism and then return home to Taiwan to become a news anchor. Although she did return to Taiwan after she graduated, she married a fellow OSU student from Taiwan and returned to the U.S.

Ms. Chen gave some examples of the culture shock she experienced adjusting to a second language and different geography, climate, and culture. Coming from a semi-tropical, mountainous, island nation, she was awed by the vast plains of the Midwest that she saw from the window of the airplane. She had difficulty understanding a professor who spoke English with a Czech accent and was struck by the less formal attitudes of students toward their teachers.

During the Q&A period, Ms. Chen pointed out that although she is not working as a journalist, her degree taught her to ask good questions. She spoke of how the citizenship process has been affected by the pandemic. Although many resources for citizenship, including interviews, have been available online for many years, since Covid there are even more resources. And to avoid ceremonies for large groups of new citizens, administrators have been deputized by a judge to swear in small groups several times a day.

Finally, asked if anything in the U.S. is still a mystery to her, she promptly replied, “Football.”



## LWVNJ Action Alert -- Same Day Registration

Because of the advocacy of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey, our partners, and you - NJ advocates making your voices heard - New Jersey has passed automatic voter registration, in-person early voting, online voter registration, and restored voting rights to individuals on parole and probation. But if we truly want to be a national leader, we must pass same day voter registration.

We have partnered with the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice to launch Democracy in a Day, a **campaign to pass same day voter registration** in New Jersey.

Join us by making your voice heard. [Tell your legislators that you support same day voter registration.](#)

NJ's arbitrary 21 day voter registration deadline disenfranchises people every election. 20 states and DC already have same day registration and it's time we join them. Same day is secure, and is proven to increase voter turnout - as much as a 10 percentage point increase for 18-24 year-olds.

And this [recent report](#) finds that "Black voter turnout is on average 2-17 percentage points higher in SDR than in non-SDR states" and "Latinx voters in SDR states turned out at rates that were on average 0.1-17.5 percentage points higher than Latinx voters in similar non-SDR states studied."

As I write this, our team is hard at work organizing support for same day voter registration. Momentum is building, but we need you to help us ensure same day voter registration becomes a reality in our state. [Contact your legislators](#), [donate to support this work](#), and if you want to get more involved, contact Assatta Mann, League of Women Voters of New Jersey Community Organizer, at [amann@lwnj.org](mailto:amann@lwnj.org) for volunteer opportunities.

Thank you for your work fighting for a more inclusive and accessible democracy.

Best Wishes,





## Postcard Education Activity

*Jodi Feldman*

Many thanks to our members and friends who volunteered to write voter education postcards with our Chapter! With the League's 'Energizing Young Voters' initiative in mind, and support from LWNJ, we reached out to some of our youngest voters in Camden County. What an effort it was! Forty-five volunteers and their recruits picked up cards, wrote out a message, contributed towards postage, and mailed more than 4,200 postcards to registered voters between the ages of 18-24 in Camden! We highlighted the League's Vote411 website which provides valuable information about voter registration, polling locations, sample ballots, candidates' positions, vote by mail, and more! We reminded voters that there are three ways to vote in the upcoming General Election -- 1) Early In-Person voting between 10/23-10/31; 2) Vote-by-Mail Ballot; and 3) In-Person voting on 11/2. At a time when in-person voting registration and GOTV opportunities are still limited by COVID-19, we are proud of the tremendous response to this voter information effort!

Postcard group organized by Audrey Miller



## Contacts for Volunteering

**Voter Registration/Education:** Anita Hahn -- [hahna98@yahoo.com](mailto:hahna98@yahoo.com)

**Government/Advocacy:** Jane Scarpellino -- [jlscarpellino@yahoo.com](mailto:jlscarpellino@yahoo.com)

**Moderating/timekeeping:** Ed Gracely -- [Edgracely@verizon.net](mailto:Edgracely@verizon.net)

**Running & Winning High School Girls Leadership Pgm:**

Janet Fisher-Hughes [Fishyhugs@msn.com](mailto:Fishyhugs@msn.com)

**Social Media/Communication:** Kristin Burke -- [kristinbburke@gmail.com](mailto:kristinbburke@gmail.com)

**Fundraising and Other Outreach:** Kristin Burke -- [kristinbburke@gmail.com](mailto:kristinbburke@gmail.com)

**Vote411 (entering information about candidates):**

Janet Fisher-Hughes -- [Fishyhugs@msn.com](mailto:Fishyhugs@msn.com)

# LWVCC MEMBERSHIP FORM

YES, I am Interested in:

- *Learning about government and the political process.*
- *Becoming involved in the political process in nonpartisan ways.*
- *Meeting and working with other citizens who care about good government.*

***I Want to Join the League of Women Voters of Camden County!***

Send this form with your check to: LWVCC, PO Box 245, Voorhees, NJ 08043

Or join online. Visit: <https://www.lwvccnj.org/join-the-league.html>

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ (our primary mode of communication)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Cell / Home / Work (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (circle type)

Phone 2 Cell / Home / Work (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (circle type)

**Please check activities that might interest you:**

- Voter registration IN PERSON (such as tabling events)
- Voter education ELECTRONIC (for example Vote411.org website)
- Voter education SPEAKING (such as invited talks to local groups or schools)
- Social media, marketing, and/or public relations
- Planning events/ activities
- Advocacy/working with elected officials on League priorities
- Fund raising
- Moderating/Time keeping (Training is provided)
- Writing short articles or summaries for the website or the monthly newsletter
- Running & Winning (our program for high school girls)

**And circle how active you would like to be:**

Membership only    A few times a year    About once a month    More active

**First time new annual membership** is only \$25! \$25 for each new household member.

**Student membership** is \$10!

**Under 35 membership** is \$35 (after the first year, which is only \$25)

**Regular renewal membership** is \$60 annually (plus \$30 for each additional household membership).

Number of members in the household: \_\_\_\_\_

Total dues: \_\_\_\_\_

Extra gift: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you!