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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government.

The league works to increase and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Any person 16 years and older, regardless of gender, may become a League member.

www.lwvtompkins.org
lwvtompkins@gmail.com
https://www.vote411.org/

Co-Presidents
Kay Wagner
cmw18@cornell.edu
Sally Grubb
sally.grubb@gmail.com

Vice-President
Megan Nettleton
Nettleton.Megan@gmail.com

Treasurer
Ann Coyne
acoyne@unomaha.edu

Board Secretary
Nancy Skipper
nancysueskipper@gmail.com

Directors
Charlotte Coffman
cwc4@cornell.edu
Ann Mueller
celticac12@gmail.com
Pamela Tolbert
pst3@cornell.edu
Kelly Speiser
kelly.speiser@gmail.com

Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs
Voter Services - Sally Grubb
VOTE411 - Nancy Skipper
Natural Resources - Kay Wagner and Susan Multer
Health Committee - Ann Mueller
Membership - Pam Tolbert
Program Committee - Megan Nettleton
Youth Services Committee - Megan Nettleton
History Committee - Florence Smith
Website Management - Ann Warde
Welcome to this first bulletin of our new League year 2022-2023. We hope you enjoy it. It briefly captures what we did last year and presents our plans for the coming year.

On May 2, we held our first and very successful Hybrid Annual Meeting in the Fellowship Hall at Forest Home Chapel. In all, 17 members attended either online or in person, together with potential member and “techie” Joseph Heafeli. Eight of us attended in person at the Chapel which was wonderful. At the meeting we adopted Annual Committee Reports, our budget for 2022-23, and amendments to our by-laws. In addition, we voted unanimously to accept the Nominations Committee slate of officers and new board members. We also discussed plans for our participation in the Ithaca Festival Parade on June 2 this year. Charlotte Coffman says more detailed information will follow, but members, their spouses and families and friends are encouraged to join us as we represent 102 years of successful League activity.

Despite the continuing pandemic and the restrictions this has imposed on many activities, the past year has been a busy one, from voter activities to programs to member meetings. We have been pleased that a number of our newer members who are not on the board have joined our zoom board meetings and encourage other members to do the same. We have a new website – tremendous thanks to Mike Duttweiler for all his hard work on both our previous website and setting up the new one - and many thanks to David Quinn-Jacobs who has given us use of a server and worked with Mike to set up the new pages. A big thank you as well to Ann Warde for agreeing to take over web management from Mike.

Committee members have been working closely with groups at the state level regarding different pieces of legislation concerning various areas of interest. And some members have joined two new LWVNY committees, the Youth Committee and the Criminal Justice Committee. The reports are included later in the bulletin. Information on the LWNY legislative actions can be found at https://lwvny.org/legislative-action/

LWVNY asked the local Leagues to hold member meetings for several concurrences this year. In March we voted on two. We voted in favor of the position that supports allowing people to vote while incarcerated. The other concurrence was more complicated and had three parts to it. Members voted “yes” on the position statement for state election administration, “no” on the position for local election administration, and, since the third position on local and state boards depended in part on our vote for local election administration, we voted “no” on that position as well.
A very informative State League Training session was held at Coltivare in early April and was attended by several members. Photos and a brief report appear later in this bulletin.

LWVNY and our League have been closely following the events surrounding the state redistricting process. LWVNY wrote an amicus brief opposing the way in which the redistricting was done by the state legislature and expressed its concern that the independent commission was not able to settle on one set of maps. The Appeals Court for NYS has rejected the district lines for the congressional and the state senate races. Currently the Assembly lines are also being challenged. The Democratic Party is appealing these decisions in Federal Court and requesting that the June primaries go ahead. As a result of these actions, dates for the primary races will be affected. We are doing our best to keep our website up to date with all available information. As of writing this article, the information posted at https://lwvtompkins.org/voting/#redistricting is up to date.

Local redistricting efforts are still ongoing and do not affect this year’s November elections. We will keep you posted with updates via emails and on our website. Please help others also keep informed.

We are very fortunate that our state assembly representative, Anna Kelles, accepted our invitation to meet with our members and those of the Cortland County League via zoom quarterly. The meetings have been very informative. She listens carefully to our interests and concerns and responds in depth to our questions. We hope that more of you will attend these very valuable sessions in the coming year. It has been difficult to make a similar arrangement with our state senators since we currently have three different senators serving our county. If the final redistricting lines for the state senate place all of Tompkins County in a single district we hope to be able to have good conversations with our new senator.

We are sad to learn that Lory Saltzman has decided she needs to step down as chair of the Membership Committee and from the board. We are happy that she plans to remain active in our League and value her important thoughts and contributions to our discussions and activities. See later in the bulletin a short biography of Lory written by Kelly Speiser. We are fortunate that Pam Tolbert has agreed to take on the role of Membership Committee Chair.

The LWVUS is holding its biannual convention this June. It will be a hybrid event, both in person and over Zoom. All of us can attend whether we are delegates or not. There will be some very interesting workshops and programs and every effort is being made to make the convention as worthwhile over Zoom as in person. Please let us know if you are planning to attend. We have not yet chosen our two delegates – you could be one of them. Registration fees for our delegates will be covered by our League. For those of you attending who are not delegates, we have funds in the budget to support a discount in the cost of registrations. A link for information and to register follows: https://www.lwv.org/manage-your-league/council-convention.

Read on for more news about what your league has been doing and will be doing during 2022-2023 with your continued support and active participation.

Co-Presidents
Sally Grubb and Kay Wagner
Plan Your Votes for 2022

The June 28, 2022 Primary is no longer a Federal Primary. A Primary Election for residents of Tompkins County will be held on June 28, 2022.

This primary is for registered Democrats and Republicans in Tompkins County. The contests are:
- New York State Governor (Democratic and Republican)
- NY State Lieutenant Governor (Democratic)
- City of Ithaca, 4th Ward Alderperson (Democratic)

Absentee eligibility for this election includes: civilian, permanent, UOCAVA, and military. Absentees must also be enrolled in the party having the primary.

- VOTE by Absentee Ballot, Early, or on Election Day June 28, 6am—9 pm
- Request Absentee Ballot by mail by June 13, in person by June 27.
- Last day to deliver to poll site, to be mailed postmarked or delivered to BOE, June 28
- Early Voting June 18—June 26 at Ithaca Town Hall and 72 Brown Road

Tompkins County Board of Elections: http://tompkinscountyny.gov/boe
128 East Buffalo Street, Ithaca, NY 14850
607-274-5522

Provides a wide array of important information for voters including, local election calendars, offices to be filled, registration and absentee ballot forms and directions.

Board of Elections sources:

Check your registration status and find out where to vote
https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/

How to register to vote https://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html

Absentee ballots https://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html

Absentee deadlines
https://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingDeadlines.html#AbsenteeDeadlines

NOVEMBER 8—General Election
Getting to know Lory Saltzman
Submitted by Kelly Speiser

It’s just who I am and what I’ve always been.
——— Lory Saltzman, 5.3.22

Like so many older League members, Dolores “Lory” Saltzman’s consciousness was shaped by the Great Depression. Her father, a physician, treated patients who could not pay; eventually, he had to close his office due to rising crime in the area.

Lory grew up on the border of Jamaica and Cambria Heights on Long Island, an area that was ethnically and socio-economically diverse; her elementary school was integrated, but she personally witnessed acts of racial injustice. She also recalls seeing, as a child, groups marching with swastika banners, and other students practicing their Nazi salutes. (Note: there were several Nazi enclaves, including summer camps, on Long Island in the 1930s.)

Lory’s parents did not have the means to send her away to college, so she attended New Queens College, where she majored in Math. This was in the wake of World War II; the GI Bill students were older and more serious, and the faculty were very dedicated. It was a good time to be a student.

At this point, Lory met her husband-to-be, Sid. Shortly after they were wed, Sid joined the service. Lory followed him to Virginia, where he enrolled in mine warfare school. Lory found living in the South deeply jarring. In particular, she was struck by the way the reconstruction of Colonial Williamsburg revealed the tension between slavery and freedom in the American experiment.

Eventually, Sid went overseas, and Lory went to work. Among her fascinating experiences, she worked for the scientist who discovered rH factor, and was a draftperson for electronic products. When Sid returned, he began working on early commercial computer prototypes, and was recruited by Cornell to enroll in a PhD program in Industrial Engineering. After receiving a PhD, Sid decided he preferred people to machines, so he moved to City & Regional Planning, where he remained for the rest of his career. Lory obtained an MA in Mathematics Education and taught at TC3 for a number of years.
Lory enrolled in the Peace Studies program, but she never finished her thesis; she found the demands of family and community life to be more compelling. She became very involved in the political scene in Ithaca, which she describes as mostly Republican - it was the time when Connie Cook, a Republican, was working on many issues, including abortion laws in the State. Lory found herself among a group of nonpartisan friends who had shared goals of eliminating corruption and creating a more equitable society. She was introduced to the League of Women Voters, which she soon joined. The League was very active in recruiting people to run for School Board positions and other local offices, and getting people out to vote.

“Looking back, I can’t believe I had the time to do all this!”

Starting during the Vietnam War, Lory became very involved with antiwar activism, particularly the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (which is the oldest continuously active peace organization in the United States). It was a different time, she says; people of all political persuasions were protesting in front of the Post Office. “We had a constant feeling of making a better world from what we found when we got here.”

Over the last several years, Lory has been concerned about dwindling League membership; to that end, she has assisted on both the Nominating Committee and the Membership Committee, which she chaired for the last four years. She is very happy to see younger members come on board. She wholeheartedly supports mentoring younger and newer members so that they are in a position to take on leadership roles.

She feels the biggest problems facing our country today are partisan enmity and gerrymandering. “We have to get after this problem,” she says. By 2024? “Maybe not so much.”

And finally, “We need to make sure people feel their vote matters, and that they are voting for something that matters.”
Soup and Bread Lunch
March 30, 2022

Instead of the traditional soup and bread lunch hosted by the board, the program committee organized a new way to honor long term LWV members this spring.

Flowers, lunch, dessert and certificates of honor were delivered to our honorary members, as well at the Duttweilers. We wanted to thank Michael and Linda for their many years of keeping our website running smoothly.

While we all missed being together, Ann W and Megan N had a really great time organizing, delivering, and connecting with the wonderful people who have contributed to our League over the decades.

A note from Honoree Nina Miller
“Thanks so much for the lovely lunch that arrived today via a very friendly delivery person! I am touched and honored.

When we first arrived in Ithaca in 1964 I was 24 years old, had two very young children, a degree in literature and creative writing and was at a loss about how to establish roots in this new community. We were broke and I was homesick for the life we had left behind in Philadelphia. But a few months after arriving here, I had the good fortune to meet Joan Bechhofer at a dinner party, and she invited me to the League's annual dinner. And that evening changed my life.

I joined the League right away, and spent some years on the Board. It was there I got to know some of the most remarkable women I have ever encountered: Ruith DeWire, Beverly Livesay, Connie Currier, Barbara Holcomb, Laurie Saltzman, others whose names have slipped out of my aging brain. They were mostly wives of academics, women with their own credentials who had followed husbands to Ithaca and found how difficult it was to get meaningful work. So they put their extraordinary intellectual energy and insight into League activities, and into making a huge difference in our community. I learned so much just by listening to them, and was fortunate to form some deep friendships. My own path into human services was shaped by observing their commitments and sharing their values. It is wonderful to know, especially in these troubled times, that the League continues its careful and thoughtful work to strengthen our democracy and improve the quality of life for all.”

A note from Honoree Marnie Johnson

Special Delivery! All from Wegmans
The best part of a celebration

Ann Warde with Honoree Linda Duttweiler

Honoree Debra Levin and her family
Bans Off our Bodies
May 14, 2022
LWVTC joined Planned Parenthood of Greater New York, who organized rallies in Corning and Ithaca proclaiming Bans Off our Bodies. People gathered in opposition to the potential overturning of Roe Versus Wade and Planned Parenthood versus Casey, on the Ithaca Commons at Bernie Milton Pavilion.

LWVTC was well represented with Kelly Speiser spoke eloquently on our behalf. Linda Duttweiler, Ann Warde and Nancy Skipper handed out flyers urging people to vote. We learned subsequently that our presence, and what Kelly said was much appreciated.

"My name is Kelly Speiser. I speak to you today as a member of the League of Women Voters of Tompkins County. The League was founded in 1920, just 6 months before women won the right to vote. The League is a nonpartisan organization that welcomes all genders as members. It has worked for over a century to educate and empower voters and to defend our democracy.

I am a lifelong New Yorker and an Ithaca resident of over 30 years. I chose to raise my family here. Throughout my life, I have had access to the best reproductive health care and I have had autonomy over my body. This is not something I can take for granted any longer.

LWVTC member speaking at Ban Off our Bodies
Abortion rights are not just an issue for people with uteruses - they are a human rights issue. Abortion rights in this country are rooted in the Constitutional right to privacy. If Roe and Planned Parenthood v. Casey are overturned, other personal decisions protected by that same right are threatened.

In addition, if we outlaw safe and accessible reproductive health care, we are essentially declaring a war on people in poverty. It will be low-income people, who are disproportionately people of color and minorities, who will be hurt the most if people with uteruses and their partners cannot choose what to do during pregnancy.

The League of Women Voters joins with reproductive rights organizations across the US in the fight to provide every US resident, regardless of their race, gender, or socioeconomic status, with access to affordable, quality health care, including birth control, abortion care, and the right to make reproductive choices that are right for them.

Our country is at a crucial moment in our fight for reproductive freedom. What is at stake: our constitutional right to abortion, which has protected women and pregnant people for nearly 50 years. If Roe is overturned, tens of millions of people with uteruses across the country may lose the right to make decisions about their own bodies.

The majority of Americans support safe and legal abortions. WE must take action now. YOUR VOTE MATTERS.

Make your voice heard by voting in Local Elections – School Board, village, town, and city, as well as State and National Elections. Our Congressman Tom Reed has resigned and a special election is coming soon! Vote for his replacement!

GO to VOTE411.org and find out who is running; the flyers are being handed out below. Vote for the person who represents your views. Then hold them accountable.

Your vote helps determine your access:
To affordable health care
To racial, economic and social justice,
To climate reform
To equity in education
It ensures that we’re all represented in our government, Not just those of us with greater wealth or systemic advantages.
Go out and VOTE
LEAGUE MEMBERS WILL WALK IN THE ITHACA FESTIVAL PARADE JUNE 2, 2002

Please contact Charlotte Coffman, cwc4@cornell.edu or telephone 607-351-9722, if

• you want to participate
• you know someone who wants to participate
• you need transportation
• you have questions

Our League will march in the 2022 Ithaca Festival Parade to celebrate the 102-year anniversary of women's right to vote, to share the festival theme of Together Again, and to encourage community members to vote in this election year.

What: We will carry signs and march to the sounds of recorded suffragist songs.

When: Thursday, June 2, 6-8pm

Where: Downtown Ithaca, NY

Who: Members, family, friends, and representatives of partner organizations. Invite someone to accompany you. They need not be a League member. More marchers = more fun!

Attire: Recreate the suffragist look with a long black or white skirt and a long-sleeved black or white blouse. Add a big hat or cape if you like. Men should wear long pants in a solid color and a long-sleeved shirt. We will provide a sash and a sign at the parade.

Note: If costuming is not your thing, you can still walk with us wearing street clothes.

Starting time: We must be in place by 5:30pm. The parade begins at 6pm.

Starting place: The parade organizes along Lewis, Jay, and Cayuga streets – I will relay our exact staging location about 10 days prior to the parade.

Parade Route: Along Cayuga Street from Lewis and Jay streets to ½ block east on Buffalo. Length of march: 0.6 miles.

Note: If you don't want to stand/walk for 2 1/2 hours, you might locate yourself somewhere along Cayuga Street and join us as we pass.
LWVNY Training Recap
April 9, 2022

LWVTC was delighted to learn that one of the State League's spring training sessions would take place in Ithaca on Saturday April 9th. We reached out to TCPL to hold the event in their Borg Warner room, however they were already committed to tax preparation. We were extremely pleased when Coltivare agreed to host the day's activities, providing us with two meeting rooms, and serving snacks and a wonderful buffet lunch. They couldn't have been more accommodating and helpful.

Several local members as well as colleagues from Cortland and Broom Counties were present as is captured in this photograph. Tompkins County members can be seen in the background near the windows.

The sessions were excellent. Charlotte Coffman and I were among those who attended the session on advocacy and found it very helpful especially in understanding why the chapters need to adhere so closely to the concurrence record. Charlotte also reported that The Engaging Youth Through Civic Collaborations was also interesting and included, among other tips:

- A Youth Toolkit is in progress with the launch scheduled for June 2022.
- Suffolk County brings youth together for county government experience. (Might we sponsor “Students Inside Tompkins”?)

Joanne Kowalski also appreciated this session and thought the presenter, recent college student, Nick Doran was key to the success of this presentations.

Having just gone through the nominating process for our league, Joanne also highlighted some good ideas regarding Membership recruitment and development.

- hold a workshop for new members; at the least, contact new members for a conversation about interests
- mentor new members
- have the nominating process be a year-round effort and with the board's involvement in terms of suggestions and needs
- co-sponsor events with 'like-minded' organizations
- don't immediately ask new members to take leadership roles

There were three handouts in the folder that provide some really good information about following up with prospects, leadership development as well as non-traditional models of leadership.
Joanne continued to comment on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion -- this was probably the session that was least helpful in terms of providing ideas, although partnering with organizations representing diverse populations could be a way to diversify membership and even tap into Students in Albany.

Engaging Youth through Civic Collaboration
- Nick Doran was key to the presentation for this topic; perhaps he can be a source for any ideas the league comes up with
- connecting with social studies teachers in high schools
- Nick mentioned the state committee putting together a youth toolkit which would be a good resource
- Connecting with the Center for Civic Engagement at local colleges

Let’s Take Action
- helpful to hear about advocacy vs lobbying and the league position process
- update on the legislative calendar
- information about the upcoming primaries and the possibly delay due to pending court action regarding election maps

Kelly Speiser found Laura Bierman’s suggestions extremely helpful.

For those of you unable to attend the meeting, powerpoint presentations which apply to training session state wide can be found at: https://lwvny.org/regional-training-workshops/
The Leagues Annual Reports and Program plans were presented and adopted at the Annual Meeting held on May 2, 2022.

The slate of officers and board members for 2022/23 presented by the Nominating Committee were approved unanimously as was the Financial Report and Budget for next year. Because of the lack of in person activity during 2021/22 our expenses were lower than budgeted last year, and we are now in good shape for the future. While our funds held at the Community Foundation are subject to market forces we are still in good financial shape.

Health and Natural Resources committees have been very active and Nat Resources is including an updated report for this bulletin.

We are working with Cortland League on a project to increase voter registration amongst youth for which Cortland received a competitive grant. Plans are to reach out to all our youth contacts in the school districts, BOCES and TC3 to promote a context we are planning for youth to produce PSA's, Facebook Posts, and Tic Toc videos on the importance of voting and voter registration. WRFI and a Cortland Station are already on board to support this project.

Megan Nettleton continues to very successfully manage our public relations through press releases, Facebook Posts and other social media.

Voter services committee have learned to continue their activities in large part virtually with only a few in person outdoor registration events in 2021. We hope to become more active with in person activities this year.

VOTE411 has continued to work hard and successfully ensure all available election information is provided at Vote411.org before every election. Even with the problems caused by redistricting Vote411 remains the most up to date source of information.
The Natural Resources Committee has been busy on several fronts. Our program “Bitcoin, Cryptocurrency, Blockchain: the Promise and Peril”, which focused on the environmental problems associated with Bitcoins and some other forms of cryptocurrency, was a great success, with over 180 people attending. Our speaker, Irene Weiser, has been checking the number of views the recording has received and at last account it was over 2,000! We were pleased that the Cortland League joined us in presenting this program.

We continue to address the environmental concerns regarding data centers that process blockchain transactions using the Proof of Work protocol and have been working with Beth Radow, Chair of the Committee on Energy, Agriculture and the Environment, and LWVNY on this issue. Susan Multer and Beth have worked hard on a letter to Gov. Hochul requesting executive action that would require a moratorium on some of these activities in the state until an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is completed. They have also written and received LWVNY approval for a Memorandum of Support (MOS) for the legislation that is now in both the assembly and the state senate requiring a moratorium in certain cases until an EIS is done. Amended versions of these bills are A.7389C/S.6486D.

Kay Wagner and Beth Radow are studying the Draft Scoping Plan for implementing the NYS Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) that was passed in 2019. The LWVNY committee chaired by Beth Radow will be submitting comments on the draft. To help us prepare and better understand the issues involved, Beth was the moderator for the program “Tackling New York’s Climate Emergency” held by LWVNY and the Environmental Advocates of New York on April 7. A recording of the program can be found at https://lwvny.org/climate-emergency/ This website also contains a link to the Draft Scoping document and the slides used for the program. A link to the LWVNY comments will be on our website sometime in early June.

The LWVNY committee chaired by Ms. Radow has been very active on other legislative fronts. As a result, the LWVNY has signed on to a letter to Assemblymember Fahey and State Senator Hinchey urging them to no longer sponsor the Carbon Dioxide Removal Leadership Act, since it offers a false solution while funds could better be spent elsewhere. (See https://lwvny.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/1_-Direct-Air-Capture-email-letter-final.pdf ). The LWVNY will also be supporting two new bills, the Extended Producer Responsibility Act (EPR) A10184 and the Better Bottle Bill A10185. The EPR bill is stronger than the version originally proposed by Gov. Hochul.

As we look forward to next year we will continue with our efforts concerning the issues discussed above as well as other activities that impact climate change. There is a lot happening locally, especially in the city and town of Ithaca with their efforts to quickly and dramatically reduce the use of fossil fuels. We hope to learn more about those efforts and assist in educating the public in whatever ways are most important.
Program Committee Report  
Submitted by Ann Warde and Megan Nettleton

Programs have looked different this year, with the ongoing Pandemic. But we were still very active!

The League hosted several online programs, including two on a concurrence regarding Health Care, assisted with Natural Resources on a program about Bitcoin, and held several member meetings on Zoom. Instead of the traditional Soup and Bread Lunch, Megan N and Ann W delivered either a catered lunch or flowers together with a certificate in honor of their long service to the League to new honorary members and other long-term members.

We also coordinated quarterly informational Zoom meetings with Assemblymember Dr Anna Kelles. The meetings included the Cortland League membership and were held on August 16, November 22, and February 28.

We also participated in several zoom meetings for members interested in working on issues related to NY redistricting. Some members submitted written testimony to public redistricting programs sponsored by the NY Independent Redistricting Committee, and Connie Stirling-Engman gave a spoken statement representing our League at two meetings.

Several members were also involved in the national League voting rights efforts to lobby for the For the People Act (HR1).

Looking forward

In the next year the Program Committee wants to focus more on building partnerships in the community. This will be a concentrated effort to reach out to other organizations, with offers to help, collaborate, or provide assistance. Our community has so many amazing organizations within it, we are really excited to work in community with them.

This is a shift in focus for our League, and we are thrilled with the idea of being more involved in our community. If you have an organization within the community that you would like see the LWV partner with, please let us know! The League and the community are better when we all work together. We would love all League Members to join us!
Statewide Committees

Kelly Speiser and Susan Multer joined the LWVNY statewide Committee on Criminal Justice when it was first formed in December. The committee met monthly until the budget was passed. Now that legislators are working on bills, the committee meets more often. The committee is co-chaired by Vivione Marshall (NYC) and Richard Rifkin (Albany). Either Laura Bierman or Erica Smitka from our state league office meets with us. Our priorities have been protection of bail reform and passing the bills known as Elder Parole, Fair and Timely Parole, Clean Slate, and TAP (tuition assistance to take college courses while in prison).

In 2021 Megan Nettleton was invited to join the Youth Services Committee which is chaired by Crystal Josephs and is focused on sharing youth related program initiatives.

Save The Date!

June 20th at 4pm on Zoom

Our next quarterly informational Zoom meeting with Assemblymember Dr Anna Kelles. The meetings are held with the Cortland League of Women Voters.

If you wish to attend this meeting, please email Megan.Nettleton@gmail.com
How to contact your Representatives

Washington DC.

SENATORS
Kirsten E. Gillibrand
202-224-4451
www.gillibrand.senate.gov

Charles E. Schumer
202-224-6542;
senator@schumer.senate.gov
www.schumer.senate.gov

REPRESENTATIVES:
Tom Reed
202-225-3161; 607-654-7566;
reed.house.gov

Albany

SENATORS
Peter Oberacker
518-455- 3131; 607-758-9005
oberacker@nysenate.gov
51st—Towns of Groton, Dryden, Caroline, Danby

Pamela Helming
518-455- 2366, 315-568-9816
helming@nysenate.gov
54th—Town of Lansing

Thomas O’Mara
518-455- 2091; 607-735-9671
www.nysenate.gov/senator/thomas-f-omara
58th—Towns of Ithaca, Newfield, Enfield, Ulysses

Representative in the NYS Assembly
ASSEMBLYWOMAN Dr. Anna Kelles
518-455-5444; 607-277- 8030
https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Anna-Kelles/
District 125-Tompkins County
The League of Women Voters of Tompkins County publishes this bulletin four times a year.

Previous bulletins can be found on our website at http://www.lwvtompkins.org/bulletins.html

For information about our league go to http://www.lwvtompkins.org/

Reach us by email at lwvtompkins@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/LeagueOfWomenVotersOfTompkinsCounty/

Communications and Public Office Information https://www2.tompkincountyny.gov/pubinfo

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