



# League of Women Voters® of Cortland County

# V O T E R

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## MAY - JUNE 2017

### LWVCC ANNUAL MEETING

Join us at Tinelli's Hathaway House  
3976 NY-41, Cincinnatus, NY 13040

Tuesday, June 13, 2017, 6-8PM

Dinner (Choice of Vegetable Strudel or Chicken Breast Stuffed with Dressing) is \$25

RSVP: [farrisdc@yahoo.com](mailto:farrisdc@yahoo.com) or call 607-344-3097 with your meal selection by June 5, 2017.

See p. 2 for the schedule and slate of officers, p. 3 for proposed budget.

### ALICE A. WALKER AWARD

#### Do you know a woman worthy of this award?

The award honors a member of the Cortland County community whose volunteer leadership reflects those qualities that we valued in Alice A. Walker:

- a commitment to community service,
- an independent spirit and outlook,
- a clear sense of justice, and
- an ability to focus on an area of need in the community.

Find nomination forms on p. 9 below.

Send your nomination for the Alice Walker Award via email to Sheila Cohen at [scohen3@twcny.rr.com](mailto:scohen3@twcny.rr.com) OR via US mail to LWV Cortland, PO Box 22, Cortland, NY 13045.

The deadline for receiving nominations is Wednesday, May 31, 2017

#### CONTENTS:

Annual Meeting Schedule, Proposed Slate p. 2  
 Proposed Budget 2017-2018, p. 3  
 How to Become an Active Member, p. 4  
 Youth Services, p. 5  
 LWVCC Observer Corps, p. 6  
 Welcome to new LWVCC Friends and Members, p. 7

Suffrage Tribute at Cortland Dairy Parade, p. 7  
 Suffrage Anniversary Events & Resources, p. 8  
 Alice A. Walker Award nomination form; p. 9  
 Membership Application, p. 10  
 LWV & The Environment, p. 11-12  
 The Earthwise Pledge, p. 13

## ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

5:00 PM – Social Hour with Hors d’oeuvres

6:00 PM - Dinner

6:45 PM - Program

Report on *Students Inside Albany*  
Presentation of Alice Walker Award  
Featured Speaker: Caroline Kaltefleiter

### Business Meeting

Approval of 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes  
President's Report  
Proposed Budget for 2017-2018  
Nominating Committee Report & Vote

## LWVCC 2017-2018 PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

**President:** Alison King

**Vice President:** Kelsey Ryan

**Secretary:** Suzanne Etherington

**Treasurer:** Lenore Schwager

### **Board Members 2017-2019**

Sheila Cohen

Charlotte Farris

Linda Frank

Kelsey Ryan

### **Board Members 2016-2018**

Dottie Fowler

Norma Rhodes

Jo Schaffer

### **Nominating Committee**

Norma Rhodes, Chairperson

Charlotte Farris

Anita Wright

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CORTLAND COUNTY  
2017-2018 PROPOSED BUDGET AND 2016-2017 BUDGET & ACTUALS**

	2016-2017 Proposed Budget	2016-2017 Actual through 5/1/2017	2017-2018 Proposed Budget
<b>INCOME</b>			
Dues	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,660.00	\$ 1,600.00
Contributions (incl. Friends)		\$ 233.00	\$ 200.00
Member	\$ 100.00	\$ 42.12	\$ 100.00
Non Member Student in Albany		\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
Election Reporting		\$ 215.00	
Other/Fundraising	\$ 400.00	\$ 64.30	\$ 359.00
Bank Interest		\$ 0.97	
Organ Donor Voter Registration Partnership		\$ 150.00	\$ 75.00
Annual Dinner	\$ 650.00		\$ 850.00
Transfer from Reserve	\$ 705.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,155.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,765.39</b>	<b>\$ 3,584.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Dues - National Support	\$ 750.00	\$ 864.00	\$ 850.00
- State Support	\$ 450.00	\$ 540.00	\$ 540.00
Administration	\$ 100.00		
P.O. Box Rental	\$ 30.00	\$ 74.00	\$ 74.00
Programs/Projects/Fund Raising	\$ 125.00	\$ 112.88	\$ 125.00
Newsletter			
Publications	\$ 200.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 100.00
Publicity	\$ 150.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 65.00
Voter Service	\$ 200.00		
Vote 411			
Printing		\$ 164.42	\$ 150.00
Delegate Travel			
National			
State	\$ 400.00		
Leg. Conference			
Area Workshop			
Website	\$ 100.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 200.00
Annual Dinner	\$ 650.00		\$ 830.00
Students Inside Albany (SIA)		\$ 400.00	\$ 650.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,155.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,560.30</b>	<b>\$ 3,584.00</b>
<b>EDUCATION FUND</b>			
Starting Balance		\$ 210.00	
Income		\$ 275.00	
Expenses (SIA)		\$ 250.00	
Ending Balance		\$ 235.00	

# BECOME AN ACTIVE MEMBER!



## GET INVOLVED WITH VOTER SERVICES

Jo Schaffer and Dottie Fowler are co-chairs of the Voter Services Committee. Contact Jo Schaffer at [schaffer@twcny.rr.com](mailto:schaffer@twcny.rr.com) or Dottie [dfowler13045@verizon.net](mailto:dfowler13045@verizon.net) to find out how you can participate:

- **HELP ORGANIZE A FORUM ON GRASSROOTS ACTIVISM**  
Jo Schaffer and Dottie Fowler need your help to plan a forum with Democratic and Republican Election commissioners and Party chairs to be held within the next few weeks.
- **HELP US WITH VOTER REGISTRATION**  
Three dates are set: 1) August 5, 2017 Arts & Wine festival , 2) August 26, 2017 SUNY Cortland move-in day, and 3) October 7-8, 2017 PumpkinFest . We need your help at our booth. And we're looking for more events where we can register voters.
- **ORGANIZE CANDIDATE FORUMS**  
School board forums are held in the spring and political forums in the fall.
- **BECOME A POLL WATCHER**

## JOIN THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Charlotte Farris chairs the Membership Committee. You may contact her at [farrisdc@yahoo.com](mailto:farrisdc@yahoo.com) to provide much needed help in developing and implementing strategies to recruit new members. One of our recent successful membership recruitment activities has been our social informational events organized in concert with our Educational and Programming Committee. At our last informational/social, Thursday, April 13, 2017, approximately 30 people attended; many non-members. You can help the chair follow up by reaching out to these potential members.

## PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH AND PROGRAM PLANNING

At our last information social event planned with the membership committee, we heard Jenny Shonk talk about “How to spot Fake News and Combat it with CRAAP (Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy, and Purpose)” at the Cortland Free Library. The Thursday, April 13, 2017 event caught the attention of NBC3, which promoted the event in a Weekend Today interview of LWVCC President Alison King on April 9. Other programs have resulted from rather extensive study, e.g. Is it Time to Hire a County Administrator? If you would like to work with this committee, contact Alison King at [lwvcortland@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcortland@gmail.com).

## EDUCATE AND ENGAGE YOUNG VOTERS

Linda Frank chairs the Youth Services Committee, which selects students and arranges their participation in *STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY*. The committee also disseminates voter registration information to high school students. (See page 3 for more information about *STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY*).

## JOIN THE LWVCC OBSERVER CORPS

The Observer Corps acts as the eyes and ears of the League in monitoring local government. (For more information about the Corps, see page 4).

## MARCH IN THE DAIRY PARADE (For details, see p.6).

## HELP COORDINATE SUFFRAGE ANNIVERSARY EVENTS (See p. 6 for resources.).

## ADVOCATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (See p. 11-13 to learn more).

## YOUTH SERVICES

The Youth Services Committee is responsible for selecting students to attend *Students Inside Albany*, an interactive conference that brings together high school students from across the state each spring to learn about NY State government and citizen participation. The Cortland League's Youth Services Committee manages promotion, selection, arrangements, and fundraising. We have been able to send two students to this exciting conference. The committee also disseminates voter and registration such as *First Voice*, a brochure for first-time voters. Contact Linda Frank if you are interested in helping: [Lindalen@twcny.rr.com](mailto:Lindalen@twcny.rr.com).

### STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY

#### League of Women Voters Selects Two High School Students to attend Albany Conference

Homer High School 12<sup>th</sup> grader, Emma Murphy, and Cortland High School 9<sup>th</sup> grader Abigail Bowker will attend the Students Inside Albany Conference, May 21-24, 2017. The conference, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of NYS Education Foundation, is designed to increase students' awareness of their responsibility in representative government. During this event, they will interact with students from all across NY State and with NYS government officials.

Last year's controversial national election has spurred Abigail's interest in government in general. Learning more about NYS government will fit well with this interest. Abigail has been active in Peaceful Panthers (an anti-bullying group), student government, and in school safety patrols. She has participated in many school sports (tennis, volleyball, softball). She has played viola in the school orchestra, been in school musicals, and danced competitively. Beyond school, Abby is active in the Cortland community. She has volunteered in her church's Children's Puppet Ministry, the Salvation Army, and other efforts that bring help to those in need, both here and abroad. She often leads these local efforts.

Emma comes from a political background. Her grandfather is currently Homer Town Supervisor and her grandmother, his behind-the-scenes support, developed her own civic interests as well. Emma has already taken advantage of opportunities to participate in activities that relate to some of her interests: agriculture, women's rights and law. In 2016, she was one of the top state delegates to the World Food Prize Symposium and she is President of Homer's Future Farmers of America chapter. Emma has worked at various after-school jobs for many years. She has volunteered as a youth leader at her church and has taught Sunday school. She will be attending Ferrum College in Virginia, majoring in political science and environmental law.

Both students are sponsored by the Cortland County LWV. Two other organizations have contributed to these scholarships: Zonta International and AAUW- Cortland Branch. At our annual meeting, we will hear reports on their experience "Inside Albany."

# LWVCC OBSERVER CORPS

The League encourages informed and active participation in government. The **Observer Corps** helps the League monitor local government actions to understand policy issues, inform citizens, and ensure good government practices.

## NY State Law Requires Open Meetings of our Government Officials

“It is essential to the maintenance of a democratic society that the public business be performed in an open and public manner and that the citizens of this state be fully aware of and able to observe the performance of public officials and attend and listen to the deliberations and decisions that go into the making of public policy.”<sup>1</sup>

The requirement that meetings be open to the general public applies to any official meeting of a public body that requires a quorum to conduct public business, is performing a government function, and has two or more members.<sup>2</sup> The law provides exceptions for executive sessions for eight specific purposes only.<sup>3</sup>

### OBSERVERS: THE EYES AND EARS OF THE LEAGUE

A League observer is the eyes and ears of the League, observing how government works and learning about issues for local study and action.

As an observer, you are exercising the recognized right to be present at any public meeting.

**OBJECTIVE:** To monitor governmental bodies for information of importance to the League and the community.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

- Attend assigned meetings, arriving promptly.
- Take notes or fill out an observer form.
- Report to the Cortland LWV board.
- Advise the board of opportunities for action on League positions

Contact [lwvcortland@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcortland@gmail.com) to become a member of the Observe Corps.

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<sup>1</sup> NYS Public Officers Law, Article 7, Section 100.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, Section 102.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, Section 105.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Debra Keith  
Kathleen (Kathy) Beardsley  
Jamie Dangler  
Patrick M. Snyder  
Mary Alice Bellardini  
Patricia Colasurdo  
Sara Earl  
Jane Hall  
Jill Hearn  
Kelsey Ryan

## WELCOME TO NEW FRIENDS

Linda Fumarola  
Linda Jones  
John Suarez  
Katie Kerr  
Clay Benedict  
Dorothy Dumond  
Dottie Kelly  
Stephanie Spina  
Ellen Wright

### Join us in the Dairy Parade to Celebrate 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote in New York State

**When:** Tuesday, June 6 5:30PM **Where to Meet:** See Cortland Standard

**Who:** Everyone is welcome to join. This is what democracy looks like. Come and represent all that is fine about America -- your service organization, your union, your religious institute, your political party, your ethnicity, etc.

**What to Wear:** Wear white, gold and purple – these were the colors of the Suffragists. Some of us are dressing in vintage white dresses and hats. See Historical photos. Men might wear 1920's type clothing and hats.

**Purpose:** To stand together and send a message of support for values of human decency, equal rights and freedom from discrimination as we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Women's Right to Vote in New York State.

**Theme and Signs:** We will pay tribute to our Dairy Industry And will carry a large road-width banner noting the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NYS Suffrage. We will also provide blank signs in the shape of cows and magic markers for you at the staging ground if you wish to identify a group that you represent. You are welcome to bring your own identifying signs as well.

We are thrilled that a young Cortland 4H'er will reenact the role of horse-riding Inez Milholland, the famous Suffragist Martyr who died while touring the country to win the vote.

**Sponsors** include National Association of Letter Carriers, The Cortland Women's Coalition consisting of the following 6 organizations: ZONTA, Cortland League of Women Voters, YWCA Cortland, American Association of University Women – Cortland Branch, SUNY Cortland Center for Gender and Intercultural Studies, SUNY Cortland Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

**Contact Person:** Email to sign up -- Andrea Rankin [andrearankin45@hotmail.com](mailto:andrearankin45@hotmail.com)



## HELP ORGANIZE OTHER SUFFRAGE ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

### ANNIVERSARY DATES

November 6, 2017: 100th Anniversary of Woman Suffrage in New York State  
November 19, 2019: 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of New York State  
February 14, 2020: 100th Anniversary of National League of Women Voters  
August 26, 2020: 100th Anniversary of the official certification of the ratification of the 19th amendment by the US Secretary of State

The NY State League has many resources for organizing programs and events. See the state website for valuable information including events that are scheduled around these anniversaries:

<http://www.lwvny.org/programs-studies/womens-suffrage/index.html>.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- <http://www.nystateofpolitics.com/2017/05/ad-campaign-highlights-ny-role-in-womens-suffrage-movement/>
- Postcard has information about how to order free video about Inez Milholland.

Dear Andrea -  
Thank you for  
your poster order  
Here is where  
you can  
request  
free DVD  
Spread the  
history

**Inez Milholland**  
Forward Into Light  
*A Film by Martha Wheelock*

Visit **INEZMILHOLLAND.ORG** to request  
a free DVD of this film. And tell others to  
order & spread this inspirational history of  
our Right to Vote. Honor Inez's sacrifice by  
casting your vote. 800-428-7136.

**WOMEN** 12000 Meserupk Aves, Suite 2, Studio City, CA 91604  
inezholland.org • ne@inezholland.org • 310-428-7136

**WOMEN** WEED WEST PRESENTS  
Forward Into Light  
**Inez Milholland**

This short documentary tells the story of American icon, Inez Milholland who broke convention with her striking conscience advocating for gender equality, pacifism, racial justice, unions and free speech in the early Twentieth Century. She became the voice of suffrage. In 1916 she crossed the country, giving 50 speeches in 28 days. Pushing through exhaustion and anemia she fell at the podium, October 23, 1916 in Blanchard Hall, Los Angeles. She was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital where she died a month later at age 30. Her last public sentence, "President Wilson, how long must women wait for liberty!"

Inez Milholland lived and died to tell us that it is not winning the vote, but **CASTING THE VOTE**.

A Superwoman, a rare radiant creature.  
*The Women Lawyers' Journal*

The Poster Girl of Radicalism.  
*New York Times*

Running time: 15 minutes • InezMilholland.org • © Martha Wheelock





## Become a Member of the League of Women Voters of Cortland County

Need to stretch your mind and skills as well as make a difference in the community and the world? These are reasons to become a member and volunteer with other members of our organization. We are affiliated with highly effective NYS and US League organizations that support our activities in multiple ways and provide opportunities for state and national involvement.

We tailor the experience to your needs. Below are some ideas to help you think about the perfect role for you!

- Serve on one or more committees. Check your preference:
  - **Communications** (work on the newsletter and website; publicize league activities and positions)
  - **Membership and Fundraising** (keep our base of support increasing and strong);
  - **Voter Services** (organize candidate forums for local, state, and national elections; plan voter registration activities);
  - **Program** (plan and execute programs on current issues based on the state and national League agenda);
  - **Youth Services** (register new voters through League-sponsored programs such as “First Vote” and identify outstanding students to participate in “Students Inside Albany;”
  - **Nominating** (make sure we have a dynamic Board of Directors,) and
  - **Good Government** (help ensure that local government is open and responsive to citizens)
- Serve as a member of the Board of Directors or as an officer. We are always looking for new leadership.

### *League of Women Voters Membership Application – Cortland Branch*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Please send this page with check payable to:  
"League of Women Voters Cortland"  
PO Box 22  
Cortland, NY 13045*

*Tax Deductible donations of any amount for educational programs payable to “LWVNYS Education Foundation”  
c/o Cortland League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 22 Cortland, NY 13045*

## THE LEAGUE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Cortland and New York State Leagues have researched and taken a position on a number of environmental issues. These include the “Ash for Trash” proposal in Cortland County, New York State’s environmental review process (SEQR), and Climate Change (<https://youtu.be/gLH3zicwEmc>).

The Cortland LWV President, Alison King, spoke on behalf of the NYS League at a hearing on the SEQR process in Albany on March 31.

### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGHOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

The following is the LWNYS statement on the DEC's proposed changes to the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) requirements:

The League of Women Voters of New York State supports transparency and optimizing public engagement throughout the environmental review process. The League also supports a review process that includes assessments by impartial experts of actual and potential environmental impacts on both our natural resources and human health. In addition, the League supports consistent enforcement to ensure compliance with the outcome of the review process.

At the 3/31/2017 hearing, Dr. King also provided oral and written testimony as an individual. The Cortland LWV has endorsed these comments, which follow.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Oral Testimony by Alison B. King, PhD  
March 31, 2017

Re: NYS Proposed Amendments to State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) regulations

I make the following comments as an individual, a health policy analyst and toxicologist. I came up from Cortland County in the hope that people here might take steps to repair the SEQR process so that reality at the local level reflects the letter and intent of state law and regulation.

The stated purpose of an environmental quality review is to incorporate consideration of environmental factors into government agency planning and decision-making at the earliest possible time (6 NYCRR Part 617.1(c)). Tapping public input early and constructively through mandatory public scoping has potential to increase SEQR efficiency. A robust SEQR process must also be responsive to substantive new information and ensure participation of people qualified to evaluate critical impacts. Furthermore, incentives are needed to translate SEQR policy into routine practice at the local level and avoid conflicts of interest, as I will discuss.

Scoping: The Department of Environmental Conservation’s (DEC’s) proposal to mandate public scoping is a positive step. However, for public scoping to produce meaningful improvements in local SEQR practices, clarification of scoping requirements is also needed. The following specific suggestions are intended to better ensure that government officials understand scoping requirements, that adequate time is allotted to evaluate public comments, and lead agencies incorporate relevant, substantive comments into the final scope, thus strengthening evaluation of environmental impact.

First, revise the definition of scoping in §617.2 to ensure consistency with §617.8 by referring readers to scoping requirements of §617.8(f).

Second, amend section 617.8 to state that “The lead agency must [[may either]] provide a period of time for the public to review and provide written comments on a draft scope. Must, not may  
Also insert that: The final written scope shall incorporate public comments on topics in §617.8(e)(f)(1)-(6) unless the comments are determined to be unreasonable or irrelevant.

This addition is intended to ensure that someone reads the public's scoping comments, evaluates the comments, and acts upon them.

Third, in 617.8 where it states that the final scope must include "the reasonable alternatives to be considered" insert: including social, economic and other essential considerations;

NYS Environmental Conservation Law §8-0109(1) states that, "Agencies ... shall act and choose alternatives which, consistent with social, economic and other essential considerations, to the maximum extent practicable, minimize or avoid adverse environmental effects, including effects revealed in the environmental impact statement process." To evaluate alternatives, for example, economic impact should be considered. This information should be available to the public.

To enable response to public comments on the draft scope, SEQR should increase the time for the lead agency to provide a final written scope to at least 90 days and allow for extension of this time period when necessary, consistent with reasons provided in current 6 NYCRR § 617.9(a)(5)(ii):

Responsiveness: Public participation is important throughout the SEQR process. It is unrealistic to expect full public participation at the initial scoping stage when project awareness may be low. The SEQR process should be responsive to substantive new information. The proposed restriction of DEIS content to information included in the final scope is counter-productive and unreasonable. The proposed amendment to §618.8(h) should be removed; it would inappropriately curtail the authority of the lead agency to judge content of the DEIS.

Qualified Evaluators: The proposed SEQR amendments do not address a serious flaw that undermines the integrity of SEQR: Local governments operate with very limited discretionary budgets and staff. Involved agencies and their agents often lack personnel who are qualified to evaluate health impact and other complex issues. Local government officials may not know what questions to ask. An engineering firm retained to prepare an EIS may have little incentive to hire health experts.

Amendments to SEQR regulations should establish a process and resources for evaluation of health risks. One potential remedy is designation of trained staff within the Department of Health as SEQR consultants and evaluators of EIS adequacy. Likewise, investment in DEC staff and resources might enable oversight to assess whether basic SEQR standards are met.

Conflicts of Interest: Numerous provisions in SEQR regulations, including regulatory timeframes, are based on a scenario where the lead agency, project sponsor, and applicant are separate entities. However, in cases where a proposed governmental action triggers SEQR (e.g., siting a new jail), there is an inherent conflict of interest if the project's proponent is also designated as the lead agency. SEQR amendments are needed to minimize impact of such conflicts, which may inappropriately delay initiation of SEQR and bias the SEQR process.

Local Implementation: At a local level, SEQR missteps are common. Type 1 Actions are mis-categorized as Unlisted or Type II. Projects are advanced with substantial expenditure of public funds before initiation of SEQR. Public comments are dismissed with little consideration and no consequence. To illustrate, the Appendix documents problems in the conduct of SEQR for solid waste projects (9/13/2016 letter to DEC Division of Materials Management re proposed Solid Waste Regulations and DGEIS).

Changing SEQR practices at the village, town, and county level requires not only education but also a substantial shift in expectations. The impact of SEQR amendments is likely to be modest without enforcement through incentives, penalties for noncompliance, or both.

Currently, the recourse for citizens seeking SEQR enforcement is expensive - an Article 78 proceeding. New York's stewardship of the environment is broken if citizens must sue to get the system to work. Environmental protection in NYS will improve if local government officials understand SEQR requirements and act responsibly without litigation.

Thank you.

**The LWWNYS is educating people to VOTE WITH YOUR \$\$ AND ACTIONS to preserve our planet.**

**Take the *Be Earthwise* Pledge.**



**Be Earthwise**

*Preserve our Planet*

**VOTE WITH YOUR \$\$ AND ACTIONS**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NYS**

Abraham Lincoln is credited with saying “**The best way to predict your future is to create it.**” Democracy enables Americans to create our future when we vote for our representatives on Election Day. Beyond elections, our vote can count every day with how we spend our money and through our actions.

**Do you want to make your vote count every day?** The League of Women Voters has led the environmental protection movement for decades, consistently supporting legislation to preserve our nation’s natural resources and protect against public health effects of climate change. Science demonstrates what’s best for the Earth is also what’s best for you. Now more than ever, the League is working to ensure that the public is educated on issues affecting the climate and the air we breathe, the water we drink and the soil that grows our food.

In support of the League’s effort to respect the environment and address the impacts of climate change, the League of Women Voters of NYS introduces **Be Earthwise**, our new campaign to engage all Americans from every state to learn the facts, vote with your dollars and vote with your daily actions to preserve our planet.

**Although Earth Day has passed, it’s never too late to take the Earthwise Pledge!**

Vote with your **Be Earthwise** dollars and **Be Earthwise** actions.

**The *Be Earthwise* Pledge**

**I’ll vote with my dollars.** I PLEDGE to respect the environment and address the effects of climate change when making my consumer purchases.

**I’ll vote with my actions.** I PLEDGE to respect the environment and the address effects of climate change through my daily activities.

**I’ll participate in our democracy.** I PLEDGE to take action as a citizen to help shape public policy that respects the environment and addresses the effects of climate change.

**[Click Here to Take the \*Be Earthwise\* Pledge](#)**