The League of Women Voters of Huntington, NY (LWVH) has been busy doing our work! In addition to being a presence in the student cafeterias of college campuses registering students, participating in celebratory fall festivals sporting our signs of League membership, and hosting traditional "Meet the Candidates" events, we've been very busy attending and keeping more than a few eyes on local happenings at Town Hall meetings. In line with our time-honored values and mission of non-partisanship and equity, equal access to the fruits of our Constitution, and inclusion for all, we observe the local scene with the goal of safeguarding those values and rights for our residents in this community. In the last few months, two potential challenges to that mission arose and were met with the voice of The League of Women Voters of Huntington.

The first instance was a long time in coming, and finally came to a hearing before the Town Board of Huntington in August, 2022. The issue was a bold attempt to change the rules governing affordable housing home sales and apartment re-leases so that administrative fees would be in line with those charged by private real estate brokers rather than tied to the Consumer Price Index. In fact, the proposed change was for a 400% increase! In her letter to the Town Board, our LWVH President, Liz Thalheimer, wrote: "As this Board well knows, the two markets are not governed by the same economic determinants. Commercial values reflect the current market situation, while the value of affordable units is held to a ceiling based on the Consumer Price Index." In mid-August the issue came to a vote and the proposal was rejected.

The second issue only recently surfaced and yet it dealt with amending a section of the Town Code on the books since 1970… a law that regulated the "where" of performing abortions in the Town of Huntington. The LWVH supports reproductive rights unconditionally. Ten members of the League attended the Town Board meeting in mid-October. Our President spoke as did another member of our group. We are so pleased to report that the 1970 Chapter #155 of Town Code which dictates the location of pregnancy termination services was terminated, itself.

So, while it seems at times that doors and windows are closing simultaneously, we need to do what we can in our localities to keep the winds of change blowing, keep those windows open, help our mission to flourish.