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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS *of New York State*

2020 Voter Service Survey Results for Nov 3 General Election

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR LEAGUES! You surpassed our expectations and achieved the mission of registering, educating, and GOTV in spite of COVID and the need to social distance. The annual voter service survey showing the total of all 40 League responses is attached for you to see exactly how you all did it. We've referenced specific responses and hope while you enjoy seeing the results, you will also get ideas for future efforts.

The pandemic and need to social distance required Leagues to find new ways to register voters, and they did. While Leagues were able to do some in-person voter registration, (much more than we anticipated), the drives looked different than in the past, and although smaller, still impressive. (See Survey questions 4 - 11)

The pandemic prevented most Leagues from doing in person training for not only their own volunteers but volunteers from other organizations and groups. Yet training people from other groups was more important than ever before as our members could not actually go into communities and be at events. LWVNYS held a zoom meeting and put together a Voter Registration While Social Distancing Tool kit. 15 Leagues provided virtual training to many underserved communities through networking with various organizations. (See Survey Questions 18 -19 to see to whom and where)

The pandemic did NOT prevent Leagues from reaching out to underserved communities by using technology, networking and being creative. 14 Leagues made their own or had videos made. 30 Leagues reached out to different underserved communities. (See Survey Questions 20 - 21 for where the videos appeared and Question 23 to see which communities were reached and how.)

The pandemic did not prevent Leagues from holding candidate forums. This year, only 1 League held an in person candidate event. 20 Leagues organized a total of 44 virtual candidate forums, mostly using a zoom webinar platform, recording it and then having it posted. The extraordinary take away from the virtual forums was the number of people who watched. (See Survey Question 31 to appreciate the huge numbers.) These data indicate—even when we can hold in person forums, we need to use what we learned this year and possibly use a hybrid model in the future.

The pandemic did NOT hinder our Leagues from Getting Out the Vote. In fact, all 40 Leagues reported making efforts to GOTV. (See Survey Question 36 to see how.)

Pandemic or not, it is always difficult to measure our results. If we measure by the number of Leagues who made an effort, it would be 100 %. However, when asked if Leagues were able to measure the success of their efforts, only 4 reported being able to do so, but only once their BOE has final results. Clearly, LWVNYS and Leagues need to work on finding ways to measure results of all we do.

The pandemic resulted in VOTE 411 being more important than ever. 33 Leagues used and marketed VOTE 411. (See Survey Question 47 to see how.)

The pandemic and changes to absentee ballots caused confusion and uncertainty. Voters had questions as to how, when and where. When voters are uncertain, they trust their local Leagues who all together fielded over 3,000 questions.

The pandemic and changes also made it more important for Leagues to work with their county BOEs. 33 Leagues had contact with their BOE. How many had excellent relationships? (See Survey Question 53)

The pandemic did not stop volunteers from working. In fact, more volunteered than ever before. (Look at the last Question in the Survey to see how many.)

Thanks to all our Leagues who met the challenges this year. A special thanks to the 40 who completed the survey and the many who provided details of what they had done. Next year, there will be some of the same challenges - we hope the pandemic goes away but expect there may still be a need to social distance - but even more challenges as an off year. However, the relationships that you built, the networking you have done, the technological skills you have acquired will help you meet the future challenges. LWVNYS will continue to be a resource. The vast majority of Leagues found the toolkits we developed this year and zoom meetings we held, helpful. We will update and edit the tool kits to include best practices and ideas as to when and when not you need to social distance. We will welcome your suggestions. We will answer your questions. Together we can and will do so much!

1. Your Name LWVNYS
2. Local League 40 leagues responded by December 4, 2020
3. Email Address lwny@lwny.org
4. Did your league conduct **in person voter registration drives** between July 1 and Oct 9?
Only 9 leagues did not conduct some in person voter registration drive.
5. 11 leagues held from 1 - 5
7 leagues held from 5 -10
7 held more than 15, with Rochester holding 57
6. Did you register high school students in the schools?
6 registered high school students in the schools, with one league doing it with a power point and one having trained a student to do it. Other leagues who did it virtually and were not present, did not report it.
7. How many schools?
5 schools
8. How many registered?
Over 2,003 students
9. Did you register college students at colleges?
18 leagues registered college students at college. Some were in contact with colleges and

supplied information and materials.

10. How many colleges?
86 colleges
11. How many registered?
525 through turbovote
360 not using turbovote. Many leagues did not have numbers.
12. Did you register voters at naturalization ceremonies?
Only 2, LWV of Albany and LWV North Country
13. If yes, please explain how you registered or provided registration info.
Albany gave out packets to every new citizen: 500 packets in two batches, 150 in one batch and 300 for rest of year, with total of 950;
North Country delivered packets to 3 ceremonies
14. Did you register voters in communities, eg. farmers' markets?
Only 12 out of 40 leagues did not register voters in communities.
15. How many days?
7 leagues 1-5 days
5 leagues 6-10 days
4 leagues 11- 20 days
3 leagues more than 21 days, with NYC doing 96 days and Geneva having one student member do it twice a week for 3 months.
16. How many registered?
5 leagues 1-10 people
3 leagues 11-25 people
4 leagues 26-50 people
4 leagues 195+ people
Many did not indicate numbers.
17. Did you provide training to league members on voter registration virtually?
16 leagues provided training to league members
18. Did you provide virtual training workshops for other organizations or groups?
15 leagues provided training workshops for other organizations
19. If yes, which organizations or groups?
Advocacy groups for disabled
Alliance for Absolute Justice
Ethical Cultural Society
NAACP,
MLK Center
Catholic Charities
Zona International

Housing Help
Libraries
Colleges
Family Service League
AAUW
Albany County Jail Coalitions
Woman's Bar Association
Rotary Club
Zona International
Raha Syracuse – group of Muslim youth leaders' group
Many more

20. Did you make or have videos made?
14 leagues made or had videos made

21. If Yes, did they appear on (check all that apply)
Facebook 9
Webpage 8
Instagram 5
Digital Signs 2
YouTube 3
Twitter 1
PSA 2
Podcast 1
E blasts 1

22. Did you reach out to underserved communities?
30 leagues reached out to underserved communities

23. Which and How?
Leagues reached out with flyers, door knockers, car magnets, postcards, bus signs, social media, phone calls, lawn signs, speaking engagements, PSAs and tabling.
Leagues did this at food pantries, food distribution centers, low income housing, minority neighborhoods, churches, free lunch programs, community health centers, libraries, post offices, county jails, nursing homes, assisted living centers, homeless shelters, public hospitals, Salvation Army, YMCA Peekskill Hispanic Committee and others.

24. Did you reach out to people with disabilities?
19 leagues reached out to people with disabilities and one is planning on doing it in the future.

25. Which and How?
Leagues connected with groups by sending links to LWVNY zoom and following up, provided Flyers.

Groups included: NAACP, Mountainview Social Club, Meals on Wheels, Westchester Disabled on the Move, SANYS, Special Services Suffolk Library System, United Helper, Organization Maximizing Independent Living, DePaul Center, Finger Lakes Independent Mental Health Center, ARC of Onondaga, Hope House and others

26. Did you reach out to youth?

25 leagues reached out to youth.

27. How?

Leagues reached out to high school and college youth on school campuses, in and outside of classes, in youth groups with social media, with videos, power point presentations, webinars, VR tables, packets of materials

Education program: Tools for Change

Zoom Webinar- Rejuvenating Politics, Why Your Vote Matters

Partnered with other groups: Rejoice the Vote, SUNY Fredonia's American Democracy project,

Binghamton University Center for Civic Engagement, high schools. colleges, churches, youth groups

Westchester ILO started a youth corps which engages other youth and has 20+ members. Made several of their own videos.

LWV of Geneva held a student voting video competition.

LWV of Huntington had a GOTV video contest.

28. Did you find zoom meeting on VR while social distancing helpful?

The vast majority found it helpful; only 3 leagues did not.

29. Did you find the Voter Registration While Social Distancing Toolkit helpful?

The vast majority found it helpful; only 3 leagues did not find toolkit helpful

30. How many virtual candidate forums did you organize? What races? (For example, State Assembly or Senate, Congressional, County, Local, or other)

20 leagues organized 46 candidate forums; they were for State Assembly, State Senate, Congress and 1 County clerk.

St Lawrence did not have forums but held 8 conversations with candidates that got 526 views on Facebook.

Utica provided timekeepers for 119th AD held at WATQ FM Radio Station. (500 + listened.)

North Country provided timekeeper for US Assembly and State Senate race with Mountain Lake TV

31. How many people viewed during and after event?

1 league 1-20 viewers

6 leagues 50-100 viewers

5 leagues 140-200 viewers

2 leagues 250-300 viewers

1 league 450-500 viewers

2 leagues 550-600 viewers
3 leagues 700-775 viewers
1 league 800 viewers
6 leagues 1,000-1500 viewers
1 league 4,143 viewers (LWV Hamptons)

32. Did you need to cancel any events due to No Empty Chair Policy (requirement needing more than one candidate for a race)? If so, how many?
13 leagues needed to cancel event due to No Empty Chair policy. 19 forums cancelled due to this policy. One cancellation was on the day before event when a candidate became ill and one was on the day of event due to the candidate having family issues. Another did not like format with moderator.

33. Did you cancel any other events for other reasons?
Yes 8

34. If so, what were the reasons?
Most of these were due to COVID. LWV of Rochester was partnering with TV station which required candidates to meet certain criteria. One candidate did not meet financial criteria and the league had to back out as all candidates were not invited.

35. Were the templates in the Virtual Candidate Event Toolkit helpful?
The vast majority found them helpful, only 2 reported it was not helpful

36. What efforts did you take to Get Out the Vote? Check all that apply.

All 40 Leagues made efforts to GOTV.

31 leagues Flyers

8 leagues Workshops

13 leagues Videos

34 leagues Facebook

24 leagues Webpage

11 leagues Instagram

12 leagues Digital Signs

Other (Please indicate):

Chain-E-mail graphic (like a chain letter)

Lawn signs

PSAs

Palm card

Vote masks and tote bags

Zoom meeting discussing 3 options for voting

GOTV video

Letters to Editors

A Banner across main thoroughfare

Motorcade on first day of early voting, bands and snacks

Interviews on local news stations

37. Did you print and distribute flyers?

31 leagues Yes

38. How many and where did you distribute them?
5,000 in food bags LWV Thompkins
2,000 with census matters LWV of Westchester
5,000 door hangers LWV of Rochester
2,500 Huntington
Also 100s at: community centers, farmers' markets, food banks, gas stations on busy highways, laundromats, libraries, Meals on Wheels, post offices, Philharmonic events, rallies, school food boxes, Volunteer Transportation Authority, Disability groups, Black Lives Matter marches, Senior Centers, Websites of other organization
39. Did you have digital/electronic signs displaying voter information?
12 leagues Yes
40. If yes, where?
Theater marquees
High School
Fire station Early Voting site
Metro North RR
Bank
Cable NRTV
Corner of main streets and major thoroughfares
41. Were you able to reach out to underserved communities and groups (Check all that you did)
21 leagues Minority Communities
17 leagues People With Disabilities
16 leagues Youth
Other:
Seniors
Incarcerated
Low Income
Assisted Living
42. Were you able to measure your results?
19 leagues said no, some estimated their results and 4 leagues are waiting for BOE results
Westchester ILO and NYC said they could measure.
Broome county able to measure results of those incarcerated - 6
LWV of Huntington knows numbers that were viewed on FaceBook, Instagram, and YouTube
43. Did you find the Toolkit on GOTV while social distancing helpful?
The vast majority found it helpful, only 2 leagues did not find helpful.
44. Did you find the zoom meeting on GOTV helpful?
The vast majority found it helpful, with only 4 not finding it helpful
45. Would you do anything differently next year to Get out the Vote?
Assess effectiveness of efforts
Start earlier

More volunteers
Engage youth
Get help on social media
Better follow up
Use Pledge-To -Vote reminder cards
Always try to improve. Tweak what we did; do not use bands
AVOID PANDEMIC! Hopefully more face to face contact but will continue using zoom type meetings because of high turnout.

46. Did you participate in Vote 411?
33 leagues Yes

47. Did you help market Vote 411 to the public? Please explain.
On all written material, flyers, information cards, postcards
Posted on webpage
Facebook and Instagram and Twitter
Interviews on radio
Letters to Editor
Newsletter
Press release
Posting on county buses
PSAs prior to each candidate forum
Yard signs
Youth corps video
Vote 411 masks
Voter guides

48. Did you receive questions or comments on how to apply for absentee ballot? (Please estimate totals and most frequently asked question or issue)
Over-30 leagues did get questions. Of the estimated total of 3,000, NYC got 1,500.
Questions included: How to apply, Where to get application, Deadlines, How to track, How to make sure it is counted, and from College students, which address to use and how to complete.

49. Did you receive questions or comments on the ability to cure absentee ballot (Please estimate totals)
9 leagues received questions; NYC received 1,000

50. Any other Comments on Absentee Ballot Process:
Mistrust and confusion
Many voting in person because fearful absentee would not count
Need no excuse absentee ballots in NY

51. Did your League have contact with County BOE prior to Nov 3?
33 leagues had contact with BOE. Some not directly but their ILO did.
3 leagues said they did not have any contact.
1 league did try, but emails and phone calls were not acknowledged.

52. If you did meet, how?

20 leagues Phone
7 leagues Virtual
7 leagues Email
2 leagues In person
Chautauqua met and recorded video on voting process

53. Does your league have a good relationship with BOE? Please explain.
2 leagues reported not having a good relationship with their BOE
1 league reported a mixed relationship. It used to be excellent but with the new commissioner, the relationship got strained. We are working on improving it but it deteriorated when we were not able to observe absentee ballot counting
1 league reported ok but would want to improve.
2 leagues reported good relationship with only 1 of the commissioners
1 league reported polite relationship but not always helpful.
21 leagues reported very good to excellent relationships: Their county BOE meets with them, respectful, helpful, asks leagues for suggestions, publicizes their material, mentions league when speaking to county legislatures.
LWV North Country was so impressed, they are giving their BOE a plaque and certificate.
54. Approximately how many volunteers participated in Voter Registration?
Over 500
55. Approximately how many volunteers participated in Candidate Events?
Over 190
56. Approximately how many volunteers participated in GOTV?
Over 600
57. Did you recruit any new volunteers or members through these activities?
23 leagues recruited over 335 volunteers and new members.

**THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DID THIS YEAR TO MAKE VOTING
SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC!**