September Program

"Making Local, Healthy Food Accessible Through Schools & Communities"

Tuesday, September 25, 2018, 6:30 pm, Vestal Public Library, Vestal, NY

Guest Panel:

Erin Summerlee, Food and Health Network Director, Rural Health Network serving South Central NY

Mark Bordeau, Senior Food Service Director, Broome Tioga BOCES and Vice President, NY School Nutrition Association

Kate Miller-Corcoran, Farm Share Coordinator, VINES (Volunteers Improving Neighborhood Environments)

Rachel Mischler, RD, CDN, Outpatient Dietician, Lourdes Hospital

Recipes to share as snacks will be available (scaled down for home use).
PRESIDENT’S REPORT
Going to the Polls in November

Welcome back to the action! The League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga Counties is gearing up for an active Fall 2018. Debates, voter registration, educational programs, elections and more will be happening over the next few months.

Want to check your voter registration? Look at your ballot and poll site information? See who your representatives are?

Broome County Voter Information site: https://www.broomevotes.com/voterinformation
Tioga County Voter Information site: https://www.tiogacountyny.com/departments/board-of-elections/

Want to put a political sign up in your yard (Broome County regulations)? https://docs.wix-static.com/ugd/be9a23_4ddbebcfd0bb476eb6246fb4675c175.pdf

See who is running? https://www.broomevotes.com/candidates

As we strongly encourage people to be active participants in our democracy, there are some sobering statistics upon which to reflect:

“New York ranked 41st in the country for voter turnout in the 2016 general election, with just more than 63 percent of the "voting-eligible population" casting ballots... If New York turnout is measured by comparing the number of ballots cast against the number of registered voters as of Nov. 1 (which hit a new high heading into the November election), turnout was 67 percent (just higher than 65 percent in 2012 but lower than the 71 percent in 2008), state Board of Elections data show.

The turnout in a presidential year was remarkably better than in the 2014 midterms and gubernatorial election. Twenty-nine percent of the voting-eligible population turned out for that election, making the Empire State a basement dweller with the 49th best turnout in the nation, according to U.S. Elections Project data.” (Albany Times Union, https://blog.timesunion.com/capitol/archives/273112/report-new-york-ranks-41st-in-voter-turnout-in-2016/)

Did you know?
- 37 states and D.C. have early voting. NY doesn’t.
- 12 states and D.C. have automatic voter registration. NY doesn’t.
- 16 states have fully open primaries NY doesn’t.


A little “online research” on our local counties (Broome and Tioga) shows that 62% of registered voters in Broome and 63% of registered voters in Tioga cast ballots in 2016. That is lower than the overall state percentage as listed above at 67%.

Your voice is loudest on Election Day. Please vote.

Susan Ruff
President, LWVBTC

BROOME-TIOGA SUFFRAGE ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

SAVE THE DATE
CELEBRATING THE 1913 BINGHAMTON SUFFRAGE CONVENTION
Saturday, October 6th, 1 pm

The Broome-Tioga Suffrage Anniversary Committee will once again celebrate the historic 1913 NYS Woman Suffrage Convention that was held at the Centenary Methodist Church (now Landmark Church).

A program and reenactment of the convention will begin at 1:00 pm, Saturday, October 6th at the church, located at 126 Court St., Binghamton. Following the program BTSAC will join the Preservation Association of the Southern Tier outside to unveil a historical marker commemorating the convention. The event will be held during NYS Path Through History Weekend. More details will follow. Period costume is optional.
VOTER SERVICE REPORT

Voter service has scheduled a live televised debate for the NY-22 Congressional Race on November 1st from 8-9 pm at WSKG Studios in Vestal, NY. Further details on the event will be sent via e-mail.

The LWV’s of Utica/Rome Metro and Cortland extended invitations for NY-22 events in their areas, but cancelled due to non-commitment or declination by Claudia Tenney.

Important information on voting statistics is already stated in President Susan Ruff’s report. Four in ten eligible voters don’t vote.

Among the most common reasons voters cite for not voting are a lack of competition and meaningful choices on the ballot or problems with their voter registration or getting to the polls.

The 2018 LWNYS Voter Guide Part II-Statewide Candidates (Governor, Comptroller, and Attorney General races) will be available in late September/early October and will be e-mailed and posted on our website.

I will send an e-mail about the on-line voter guide, Civic Engine, for the general election when it goes “live.”

Voter Service is considering voter registration initiatives in consultation with the Board. Your help and advice will be needed. More info will follow via e-mail.

As you prepare to vote, here is some guidance you will find beneficial for yourself or to share with others. Of particular note is Six: Use of Distortion Techniques.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Margaret Goodfellow, 1st VP and Voter Service Chair, LWVBTC

How to Judge a Candidate
Adapted from LWVUS article 8/19/08). (Revised LWVBTC~Margaret Goodfellow 9/15/18).

Elections present voters with important choices. Whether it is a local race that will affect your community or a national race that could change the direction of the country, it is a time to consider the issues which you care about and decide which candidate you support.

How do voters compare candidates? To be honest, all too often, slogans, name recognition and personality are the only criteria. It is difficult to move beyond a candidate’s image to the substance of a campaign.

However, it is possible to move beyond style to substance. Here are some suggestions:

One: Decide what you are looking for in a candidate.

Candidates should be judged in two ways: the positions they take on issues and the leadership qualities and experience they would bring to the office. Your first step in picking a candidate is to decide the issues you care about and the qualities you want in a leader.

When you consider issues, think about community or national problems that you want in people in government to address. Also consider what party the candidate belongs to and the party position taken on the issues. For example, you may be interested in national security, government funding for student loans, unemployment, or immigration.

What are the characteristics you want in an effective leader. Do you look for intelligence, honesty? The ability to communicate? What else?
Two: Gather materials about the candidates.

Put together information about the candidates. Collect any records you can find on the candidates. Sources of information you may choose to review include:

- websites of candidate, political party and social media
- campaign literature
- direct mail letters
- credible news sources (newspapers, television, internet, radio reports)
- radio and television ads
- candidates’ speeches and position statements

Three: Evaluate candidates’ stands on issues.

Do the materials give you an overall impression of the candidates? What specific conclusions can you draw about the candidates’ stands on issues? Look at websites such as https://votesmart.org/.

Four: Learn about the candidates’ leadership abilities.

Deciding if a candidate will be a good leader is difficult. How can you know if someone will be honest, open or able to act under pressure if elected to office? Do campaign materials emphasize issues or image? Here are some ways to read between the lines as you evaluate the candidates’ leadership qualities:

- Look at the candidates’ background and their experience. How prepared are they for the job?
- Observe the candidates’ campaigns. Do they give speeches to different groups – even those groups that may disagree with the candidates’ views on issues? Do they accept invitations to debate? Do the campaigns emphasize media events, where the candidates can be seen but not heard? (For instance, a candidate is seen cutting ribbons to open new bridges rather than talking about transportation).

Five: Learn how other people view the candidate.

Now that you have accumulated information from campaigns and other sources, you will want to learn what other people think about the candidates. Their opinions can help clarify your own views, but do not discount your own informed judgments. You are the most careful observer of all!

- Seek the opinions of others in your community who keep track of political campaigns. Interview three people (not family members) to find out which candidate they support and why. Learn what has shaped their political opinions. Was it an event? An idea or program proposed by a candidate? A particular issue about which they feel strongly? A long-standing party loyalty?

- Learn about endorsements. This is a way for interest groups and organizations to give a “stamp of approval” to a candidate. Endorsements provide clues to the issues a candidate supports. Get a list of endorsements for each candidate. Find out what these groups stand for and find out why they are endorsing this candidate.

- Look into campaign contributions. Look on-line at the Federal Elections Commission and NYS Board of Elections websites. Where do the candidates get the funds to finance their campaigns? Do they use their own money or raise funds from a few wealthy donors, from many small contributors or from Political Action Committees? (PACs, as they are known, are groups formed to raise and distribute money to candidates.) Many types of information about campaign contributions must be reported to the government and are watched by the press.

https://www.fec.gov/data/receipts/individual-contributions/?two_year_transaction_period=2018&min_date=01%2F01%2F2017&max_date=09%2F17%2F2018

https://www.elections.ny.gov/contribandexpend.html
Five: Continued.

- Check for stories on campaign finance or go online to www.opensecrets.org. How might these campaign contributions affect the candidates’ conduct in office? You might also want to analyze an incumbent’s voting record on issues important to PACs and other campaign contributors.

- Opinion polls will be taken by a variety of groups to evaluate public support for the different candidates. Polls reveal who is leading at a certain point in the race. This information can be crucial for a candidate because it can increase support and contributions from people who want to be on the winning team. As you read the polls, ask these questions: Who sponsored the poll? Was the poll produced by a trusted and independent group? Were all the figures released, even unfavorable data? What kinds of questions were asked? Were they slanted or unbiased? How were respondents selected – randomly or in such a way to include all segments of the population? How many people were included in the poll sample?

Six: Continued.

- Rumor mongering: These include statements such as, “Everyone says my opponent is a crook, but I have no personal knowledge of any wrongdoing,” which imply (but do not state) that the opponent is guilty.

- Guilt by association: These are statements such as, “We all know Candidate B is backed by big money interest,” that attack candidates because of their supporters rather than because of their stands on the issues.

- Catchwords: These are phrases such as “Law and Order” or “un-American” designed to trigger a knee-jerk emotional reaction rather than to inform.

- Passing the blame: These are instances in which a candidate denies responsibility for an action or blames opponents for things over which they had no control.

- Promising the sky: These are unrealistic promises that no elected official could fulfill. If it sounds too good to be true, be suspicious.

- Evading real issues: These include instances in which candidates may avoid answering direct questions, offer only vague solutions, or talk about the benefits of proposed programs but never get specific about possible problems or costs.

Six: See through distortion techniques.

All candidates are trying to sell themselves to voters. Sometimes their language is so skillfully crafted that they distort the truth in ways that are difficult for even the most careful observer to detect. Here are examples of distortion techniques that you should watch for as you review candidates’ campaign materials.

- Name calling/Appeals to prejudice: These are attacks on an opponent based on characteristics that will not affect performance in office. Accusations such as, “My opponent is arrogant and full of hot air,” do not give any real information about the candidate. Reference to race, ethnicity or marital status can be subtly used to instill prejudice.

Without you, the election won’t be the same.

Vote.

Graphic Credit: LWVBTC 9/18
Seven: Evaluate candidates’ use of media.

Television, social media and the internet are visual media dependent on high resolution pictures and explosive headlines to tug at your emotions and keep your interest. Candidates are aware of their power and try to use it to their advantage. In a newscast, the picture you see of a crowd with banners and balloons cheering for a candidate may have been staged by a media advisor whose job is to make the candidate look good on television. As you watch news coverage of campaigns, be aware of staged events and try to find out what the candidate is saying about the issues.

The same warning applies to televised political advertisements. When you watch political ads, you need to be aware of how the medium influences your reactions. Ask yourself some questions as you watch. Did you find out anything about issues or qualifications or was the ad designed only to affect your attitude or feelings about a candidate? How important were the script, setting and music?

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan, grassroots political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Men and women are welcome to join.

Be Part of the Action—Join Today!
Membership Application

_____Individual membership $60/yr.
_____Household membership $90/yr. (2 people)
_____Student membership $20/yr.
_____Send me information about the League.

Name__________________________________________
Address________________________________________
City________________________ State____ Zip_____
Phone_______________________________
E-mail_______________________________

Make checks payable to LWVBTC and mail with this coupon to LWWBTC, PO Box 944, Vestal, NY 13851-0944.

___I would like to support the League with a tax deductible contribution to the LWVNYS Education Foundation $_______.

Make checks payable to “LWVNYS Education Foundation” and mail with this coupon to LWVBTC, PO Box 944, Vestal, NY 13851-0944.

Welcome to our new members!

Jeanette Allen
John Harrick
Charles Stieglitz

Final 2018
Naturalization Ceremony is Nov. 16th.

Broome County Courthouse, 11 am
Voter Registration after ceremony.
Volunteer today!

Margaret Goodfellow-655-1929
Susan Ruff-761-7557
Sara Wokan-785-6703
LWVUS National Convention, Chicago, IL June 28 to July 1, 2018

The National Convention is held every other year. The Convention is part League business, part inspirational speakers and part networking. There are also a variety of workshops or “caucuses”. These focus on special topics. This was one of the best-attended National Conventions in recent history, with 762 Leagues and 867 voting delegates from 49 states! There were many friends and family in attendance, bringing the total attendance to over 1,000. It was so big, the hotel had a hard time accommodating us.

**Highlights of LWVUS Business**

There were many motions made and discussed.

**Election reform!**

The 2018 Convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States urgently reaffirms its long-held position that the *Electoral College should be abolished*. The motion passed.

**Climate Action!**

The League of Women Voters stands united with, and in support of, efforts to price carbon emissions, whether cap and trade, carbon tax/fee, or another viable pricing mechanism. The League does not have a position on how the revenue generated is to be used. We do not espouse any single method of pricing carbon over another. We will evaluate all proposed methods based on their effectiveness to abate emissions and whether the method can be successfully implemented. The motion passed.

The League of Women Voters supports a set of climate assessment criteria that ensures that energy policies align with current climate science. These criteria require that the latest climate science be used to evaluate proposed energy policies and major projects in light of the globally-agreed-upon goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees C, informed by the successful spirit of global cooperation as affirmed in the UN COP 21 Paris agreement. The motion passed.

**No increase in dues!**

The PMP remains at $32/each for LWVUS dues.

**Inspirations**

Carrie Davis, the Democracy Program Director for The Joyce Foundation, spoke to us about telling our collective story. This was about understanding the impact the LWV has had over the years and thinking about what we need to do in the future. For example, we need to collect data and share it. We need to understand our local demographics and how it is related to voter turnout. We need to work toward more diversity in the LWV at all levels. [http://www.joycefdn.org/](http://www.joycefdn.org/)

All of us attended diversity training. This was meant to inform us of our unconscious biases and give us tools to work toward more diversity in the LWV. We did a fun exercise where we looked at photos of five people and filled out a checklist of our impressions. Of course, the large, tattooed guy was actually the mayor of a town and deeply involved in community action. The smiling guy in a suit was actually a serial killer.

More on Page 8!
LWVUS National Convention, Chicago, IL June 28 to July 1, 2018, Continued.

One of the most interesting workshops I attended was the one on healthcare reform. The LWVUS supports the push for single-payer health care. The presentation was given by Dr. Claudia M. Fegan, MD, CHCQM, FACP - internal medicine, Chicago, chief medical officer for the Cook County Health and Hospital System and John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County. She shared many startling statistics such as the fact that, in the U.S., we pay around $10,000 each year for healthcare, which is $5,000 MORE than Canadians pay. What’s worse is that our health outcomes are NOT as good as they are in Canada. For seniors in the U.S. living at or below poverty level, around 40% of their income goes to medical expenses! I often get asked WHY it is so hard to convert our system to single-payer in the U.S. Could it be because there are three healthcare lobbyists for EVERY member of Congress? Visit http://www.pnhp.org/facts/what-is-single-payer for more info from her organization.

When I go to a convention or conference, I look for ideas for actions I or my organization can take. Here is my short list:

- To improve our diversity, the best suggestion I heard was to plan with other community organizations. Our League is doing some collaborations, but we must reach out and enthusiastically support many others. A rising tide lifts all boats.
- We have a program to support people who want to be members, but can’t afford the full dues payment.
- There is a large need for Poll Watchers. To ensure fair and honest elections, New York State law provides for appointing Poll Watchers to observe voting at the polls. Poll Watchers are designated by candidates, the chair of any party committee, or independent organizations which have candidates on the ballot and/or political committees. NY McKinney’s Election Law Section 8-500 states: Must be a registered voter in the county or city holding the election; can’t be a candidate in that district; an organization, a party committee, or a group of two or more candidates can appoint poll watchers, but none of them can have more than three poll watchers in one location at one time and no more than one poll watcher at a time beyond the guardrail.

Here is an example of an application from Tioga County. https://www.tiogacountyny.com/media/1709/pollwatcherguide-brochure2015rt38update.pdf

This would be a great way for our members to participate in the election process. This is important work in that we need to know when people have difficulty voting, be it because of technology, harassment, disability or other. Here’s a great website for comprehensive information on this subject:

- The Internet is one of the most powerful tools for activists ever created! Yet, many of us have little training in how to use it. Local organizations and libraries routinely hold classes (often for free) to anyone that wants to learn how to use this powerful tool. Training often includes things such as how to use our devices, where to find good info on-line and how to use social media and e-mail to our advantage.
- We could do more “marketing” activities about how and where to vote. For example, we could do public service announcements (PSA’s) near election time and increase our social media footprint. It is never a bad idea to promote voter registration and voting!

~Gay Canough, LWVBTC Board Member and Delegate, 2018 LWVUS Convention
The prospect of attending the Students Inside Albany Conference kept me moving through some very stressful weeks. It served as motivation during Advanced Placement testing, and it was something to which I could look forward. I was not only excited about what I would be learning; in fact, I was more excited about the prospect of learning something in a different way—hands-on, outside a classroom, and without the stress of receiving a grade.

And learn I did.

I learned the most from my fellow students. For example, when we were preparing for our mock session, I was in awe of how passionate people became about gun control. I knew it was a charged issue, and I had some opinions; however, I was surrounded by people who seemed to know far more.

Similarly, two days later, I sat at breakfast with two girls extremely passionate about automatic voter registration. I did not even know that was an issue, never mind that there was a bill in the state legislature. I learned why it is important to minorities, and it was exciting to hear a perspective I do not encounter in Binghamton.

Overall, the most valuable lesson I learned is that my generation, often stereotyped by cell phones and delusion, are, in fact, informed, passionate, and excited for their opportunity to add their voice to the noise of adult politics. They helped me understand the value of my voice, and because of this, I am very excited to register to vote. They are the future politicians of our country, and I look forward to the day I can vote for them.

~Update~ This fall Kristen is a high school senior at Susquehanna Valley enrolled in the New Visions Program at Broome-Tioga BOCES.
Impressions and Experiences

Logan Blakeslee

For everything that I did during my adventure in Albany, I’m glad to have done it with such an amazing group of passionate students. Exploring the city alongside them was an experience I’ll never forget.

The start of the SIA event began with students arriving at a top-tier hotel, yet many of us were very far from home and perfectly aware that everyone was a total stranger to one another. It did not take long to start up conversations, however, and once SIA had begun in earnest, we had already made friends. I remember a strong sense of camaraderie between us. Even as I debated with my peers in the Assembly during a mock session, I had to admire their commitment and heartfelt responses.

There was rarely a moment in Albany that wasn’t spent doing something noteworthy. Touring the gargantuan New York State Capitol was awe-inspiring, and it felt as though history was being made around every corner. I was honored to speak with my local assemblyman, Clifford Crouch, and state senator, Fred Akshar, in their own workplace, both on the assembly floor and the senate floor, respectively. They were both great mentors and enthusiastic about guiding guide me through the process of state government.

On the topic of making history, I got to witness the appointment of Barbara Underwood to the position of State Attorney General. There was a great deal of spectacle to the moment, as she is the first woman to hold that title in New York.

The last day of SIA was an emotional one. The night beforehand we threw a final celebration, which included bowling, yet in the morning we had to say goodbye. The memories of friends brought together by SIA will surely last forever.

“Update~ This fall Logan is an enrolled freshman at SUNY-Broome and Binghamton University. He has been appointed to a 2-year term on the NYS Education Department’s Youth Advisory Committee to advise the Office of Special Education on policies regarding the education of students with special needs."
League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga Counties
WSKG
CSPAN
Binghamton University
SUNY Broome
Apalachin Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Society, Inc.

Presents

LIVE TELEVISED DEBATE

NY-22 Congressional District
Claudia Tenney and Anthony Brindisi

Thursday, November 1st  8-9 pm

WSKG Studios, 601 Gates Road, Vestal, NY

Registration announced on WSKG webpage.  https://www.wskg.org
Space limited. Registrations accepted until full.
Questions submitted via web form.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th># of Votes</th>
<th>TOPICS</th>
<th>Comparison with 2017-18 26 responses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>13</td>
<td><strong>Basic human needs met</strong> by reducing hunger and poverty and promoting self-sufficiency</td>
<td>3rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Public financing of <strong>single-payer universal health care</strong> insurance to cover basic health care in order to improve access and contain costs</td>
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<td>1st</td>
<td>13</td>
<td><strong>Clean water, clean air, healthy soil</strong>: Natural resources conserved and wisely managed as interrelated parts of life supporting ecosystems</td>
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<td>2nd</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Protect the public health and the second amendment through common sense solutions to <strong>curtail gun violence</strong>: universal background checks, ban on all military style semi-automatic weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines</td>
<td>Issue not surveyed in 2017</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Financing of political campaigns that ensures the public's right to know, combats corruption and undue influence, enables candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allows maximum citizen participation in the political process</td>
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<td>4th</td>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Prisoner rehabilitation</strong>, education, transparent community oversight, re-entry support, alternatives to bail and alternatives to incarceration within our region</td>
<td>8th</td>
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<td>5th</td>
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<td><strong>Ethics reform</strong> at all levels of government</td>
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<td>5th</td>
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<td><strong>Immigration policies</strong> that promote family reunification, meet the country's economic and employment needs, and are responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises</td>
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<td>5th</td>
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<td>Public financing of <strong>public education</strong> at all levels, starting with preschool</td>
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<td>6th</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Access to high quality, comprehensive, timely, coordinated and affordable <strong>physical and mental health care</strong> including better funding for health promotion and disease prevention</td>
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<td>6th</td>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>Apportionment and redistricting of congressional districts</strong> and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population</td>
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<td>7th</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Affordable and accessible <strong>public transportation</strong> in the region</td>
<td>6th</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Women’s issues, including employment equity and domestic violence</td>
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**Other:** Volunteers for Program Committee, 2020 Census, voting reform, health care delivery and quality, housing quality and cost for moderate to low income persons, registration of high school 18-year olds and SUNY-Broome students, recruitment of younger women and men to join LWV, education reform in the form of following the example of Sudbury Schools giving students a greater voice in their education. Train service, local school consolidation.
## Calendar

Visit lwv-broometioga.org for the latest event details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd Tuesday</td>
<td>LWVBTC Board Meeting, open to the public, 6:30 pm, ETM Solar Works, 300 North St., Endicott, NY 13760. Phone: 785-6499.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 25</td>
<td>Farm to Schools Program, 6:30 pm</td>
<td>Vestal Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>Suffrage Convention, 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Broome-Tioga Suffrage Committee Landmark Church, 126 Court Street, Binghamton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>Pipelines Program, 6:45 pm</td>
<td>Vestal Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>NY-22 Congressional Debate 8-9 pm</td>
<td>WSKG Studios</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 1</td>
<td>Annual Brunch, 9:30 am</td>
<td>Union Presbyterian Church 200 East Main Street, Endicott</td>
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