



Suffolk County Voter

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December 2015

LWVSC Board Meeting: 10:00 am Wednesday December 16 at SCCC, Main St., Riverhead -followed by holiday lunch at Digger's Pub (short walk from SCCC)

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October 8, 2015: Student Day at the Suffolk County Legislature

Students debate mock bill to ban drones over school property



Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory and the League of Women Voters of Suffolk County on Oct. 8 hosted 27 high school students from Hauppauge High School, Commack High School, Smithtown High School East, Huntington High School and North Babylon High School for a Student Day at the William H. Rogers Legislature Building in Hauppauge.

"I was immensely impressed by the intellect and enthusiasm of these young people," said Presiding Officer Gregory. "Student Day was structured to reinforce that government is not merely an abstract idea, but a tangible entity that is powered by the people it serves. I commend the League of Women Voters for its commitment to executing this event and to educating the public about the importance of civic engagement."

"This innovative and valuable program created by the Suffolk County Legislature and the League of Women Voters exceeded all our expectations," said Lisa Scott, president of the League of Women Voters of Suffolk County. "We are proud of the enthusiasm, intelligence and skills of our local high school participants and look forward to working with the Legislature and the schools on future Student Days and other good government forums and initiatives. The League is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and this program served to expose our students to the workings of their county legislature, and actually experience, via role-playing, how a bill becomes a law in Suffolk County."

Following presentations from officials representing various county agencies, students broke into caucuses to discuss mock legislation that would ban the use of drones over school property. In a simulated General Meeting, students portrayed legislators and concerned citizens who argued for or against the bill. After lively debate, the bill failed to obtain the majority needed to pass, as the vote tied at 9-9.

"Student Day at the Suffolk County Legislature was a valuable experience that helped me better my communication skills and increase my knowledge of our local government," said Ally McFadyen, a senior at Smithtown High School East. "I loved posing as the Presiding Officer

because it gave me the power to conduct a General Meeting and understand how the Legislature functions. I plan on incorporating the skills I acquired during this exercise into my daily life by addressing issues clearly and working in a group to find the best solution to a problem. I would like to thank the Suffolk County Legislature and the League of Women Voters for organizing this event, which has inspired me to get more involved in my community."

