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## **Contact:**

Nancy Hedinger, President, League of Women Voters of the Morristown Area LWVForumsMorris@gmail.com

## League of Women Voters Will Not Be Holding Commissioner or Municipal Debates in Morris County for Election 2022

The League of Women Voters (LWV) has a century-long reputation of providing unbiased information to voters through candidate forums and debates, candidate questionnaires, voter registration drives and community education events. It is the League's mission to empower voters by educating and informing them about voting and the issues that impact them and their communities. Three Leagues serve the voters of Morris County, LWV of the Morristown Area, LWV Warren and West Morris Counties and LWV Mountain Lakes. For the past several years, they have sponsored a series of candidates forums in all races, from boards of education to Congress. Voters are invited to the live forums where they are given the opportunity to ask questions and hear candidates discuss the issues of importance to them. In response to Covid19 protocols, these events were held virtually in 2020 and 2021 and can be viewed here <a href="https://bit.ly/3RnD77G">https://bit.ly/3RnD77G</a>.

League debate moderators are highly trained and follow long established nonpartisan LWV rules and format. Questions are solicited from the public on-line and screened by the League and its co-sponsors to eliminate abusive language, questions of a personal nature, and inaccurate phrasing. Only those questions that address issues the candidate can be reasonably expected to address, if elected, are used.

This year, since all the candidates from one party throughout Morris County have either declined or not responded to invitations to participate, the three Leagues of Women Voters in Morris County were not able to meet their own strict guidelines for unbiased debates. For a League-sponsored General Election debate to take place, there must be representation from more than one political party. Therefore, there will be no candidate debates for County Commissioner and municipal elections. A date for the Congressional debate in District 11 will be announced soon.

All three Morris County Leagues have scheduled School Board candidate forums and will hold several voter registration drives and educational opportunities between now and November 8.

The deadline to register to vote in the 2022 General Election is October 18, 2022. You can register to vote if you are a U.S. citizen, 17 years old (with the understanding you may not vote before your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday), have been a resident of Morris County 30 days before the elections and you are not currently serving a sentence of incarceration for a felony conviction. Register to vote at <a href="https://bit.ly/3wGjvj9">https://bit.ly/3wGjvj9</a>.

New Jersey voters may now vote early, in person, on a voting machine, between October 29 and November 6. During this time, a limited number of polling locations will be open from 10 am – 8 pm on weekdays and Saturdays and from 10 am – 6 pm on Sundays.

<u>League of Women Voters of the Morristown Area</u>
<u>League of Women Voters of Warren and West Morris Counties</u>
<u>League of Women Voters of Mountain Lakes</u>