



Temple Beth El
of Huntington

For Immediate Release: December 27, 2017

A Community Discussion:

Voting Rights ***Democracy Works Best When Everyone Participates***

The Long Island Network for Change (LINC) in partnership with the Chai Club of Temple Beth El of Huntington is sponsoring an important community program concerning the right to vote and access to the ballot on Sunday, January 21, 2018 at 3 PM, at Temple Beth El, 660 Park Avenue, Huntington, NY 11743.

Topics to be discussed:

- Awareness of New York State voter laws vs. other states
- Early voting
- Voter turnout
- Access for minorities and the disabled
- Civic Engagement

Keynote Speakers:

Judie Gorenstein, 1st Vice President and Voter Service Chair of the League of Women Voters New York State
Jonathan Brater, Counsel for the Democracy Program of the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law

Community projects and personal action will be presented, along with the opportunity for audience discussion.

A prominent panel of community organizers will include:

Gabriela Castillo, Coordinator of the Long Island Civic Engagement Table,
Leonard Urban, a member of the Town of Huntington Citizens Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities,
Ryan Adell, the Founder and Executive Director of Next Generation Politics.

Representatives of Long Island voter's groups will man informational tables and address questions and concerns affecting every Long Islander. Complimentary snacks and drinks will also be available for attendees to sample and enjoy.

This event is free and open to all.

Optional RSVP at tbe.votersrights@gmail.com For planning purposes, please include the number of guests attending.

About:

Judie Gorenstein, 1st Vice President/Voter Services Chair of the League of Women Voters New York State

Judie joined the LWV of Huntington in 2004. She soon became a co-chair of the voter service committee at LWV of Huntington and voter service chair of LWV-Suffolk County. In 2008 she was elected President of her local League and served in that position until June 2017.

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Judie had been on the state board since 2010 as citizen/education youth program director. In 2015 she was nominated and elected to be first VP of LWVNYS and Voter Service Chair.

Judie has always seen voter services as core of the league's mission. As voter service chair, Judie saw her primary role as helping local leagues, MALS and ILOs run successful voter registration drives and candidate nights. She engaged members of leagues with surveys, teleconference calls, workshops and most recently an online voter service google group allowing two-way communication between leagues, each other, and the state.

Jonathan Brater, Counsel for the Brennan Center's Democracy Program

Jonathan Brater's work focuses on voting rights and elections. In this capacity, Mr. Brater has worked on litigation to block enforcement of restrictive state voting laws, prevent unlawful purges, and ensure fair districts. Mr. Brater has contributed to publications and advocacy in these areas of policy in addition to the Brennan Center's efforts to modernize voter registration.

Mr. Brater has testified before the Presidential Commission on Election Administration and he has appeared in numerous media publications, including the *Boston Review* and *Huffington Post*.

From 2005 to 2008, Mr. Brater worked on the staff of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce in the United States Congress. As a legislative analyst, he conducted research and drafted documents for the Chairman of the Committee on issues of substantive policy and legislative process.

Mr. Brater graduated *cum laude* from Michigan Law School in 2011. There, he served as Executive Editor of the *Michigan Law Review* and Chair of the Michigan Election Law Project, a student organization focused on voting rights and election law. Mr. Brater received a B.A. from Columbia University with a major in classics.

Gabriela Castillo, Coordinator Long Island Civic Engagement Table

Gaby has been working with immigrant and working class communities for many years in different capacities. As an attorney, she represented and worked extensively with immigrant victims of crime and those facing possible removal from the United States. From 2007-2013, Gaby worked as a Staff Attorney with Legal Services of Southern Piedmont in Charlotte, North Carolina where she represented immigrant families before the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and Immigration Court.

In 2014, she began working as an attorney with SEPA Mujer, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the empowerment of Latina immigrant women on Long Island. It was through this organization that Gaby began to connect her legal work with community organizing and began to get involved in advocacy/policy work around issues that impact the everyday lives of those most vulnerable in our communities.

In 2015, Gaby joined Make the Road NY as a Senior Staff Attorney where she continued representing immigrant families while engaging in advocacy and outreach work. In January 2016, Gaby took over the role of Coordinator for the Long Island Civic Engagement Table. Gaby firmly believes that one of the most important and effective ways to create lasting change and to empower our community is through civic participation and education.

Leonard Urban

Leonard Urban, a retired teacher, has lived in Huntington for 40 years with his wife Patricia. They have three adult children. He has needed and used hearing aids since he was 12 years old because of an inherited profound hearing loss. In 2012 he received a cochlear implant. Mr. Urban is an active member of the Hearing Loss Association of America. He serves on the Town of Huntington Citizens Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities and the LIJ Hearing and Speech Patient Family Council.

Ryan Adell

Ryan Adell is the Founder and Executive Director of Next Generation Politics, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting civic engagement and bipartisanship among young people. As a senior at Kings Park High School, Ryan continues to grow NGP and collaborate with the organization's leaders from across the U.S. On the side, Ryan works as a lifeguard and enjoys swimming and rowing.

The Long Island Network for Change (LINC) is a grassroots group of concerned citizens whose mission is to be a force for social, racial, economic and environmental justice through personal engagement, education and political action. Temple Beth El is a Reform Congregation located at 660 Park Avenue in Huntington, New York. TBE nurtures and engenders progressive thinking as well as traditional values to create an environment that is both comfortable and stimulating for its congregation and guests.

CONTACT: Patti Kresner at 631-757-9630 or Pkresner@broadcastdirectpr.com

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