

## **Voter Engagement Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 9, 2021**

**Present:** Gervlyn Auguste, Linda Biemer, Charlie Compton, Sharon Exley, Vaughn Golden, Margaret Goodfellow, Carla Michalak, Darin Schmidt, Alison Twang, Karl Wokan, Sara Wokan

**1. Meeting called at 3:02pm. Linda welcomed and thanked everyone for attending today's meeting.**

**2. Minutes from October 5, 2021 approved.**

**3. County Clerk Race:**

- Candidate Mihalko pulled out of the Meet and Greet event the day before the event via an email to Carla, Carla tried to reach candidate Mihalko but he would not respond other than to say it was for personal reasons
- We had always planned this to be an educational forum but made this our focus once Mihalko withdrew
- Sharon described what occurs in the Broome County Clerk's office using the PPT that she and Carla developed as her guide
- A few students and members of the CEB board attended, we had hoped for a larger audience and for more community members
- The County Clerk's office is not a "glamorous" office, possibly why we did not draw a big turnout?
- Carla shared the YouTube video link with the SUNY Broome campus that Mike V made and SUNY Broome students that watched it did enjoy the video
- The Broome – Tioga League of Women Voters did withdraw from the event once candidate Mihalko withdrew, did that impact attendance?

**4. Binghamton Mayoral Race:**

- Social Media employed for the event went well
- Karl stated that the candidates conducted themselves well
- Vaughn did a great job as moderator
- At the BU watch party, about 20 students attended it and were quite excited when Vaughn gave them the "shout out"
- Great response on Social Media, even a week later, the video of the debate was still being shared amongst social media users
- Questions were being screened as they came in to the website prior to the debate and during that night. About 30 questions were submitted prior to the debate and about 10 questions were submitted during the debate via Facebook and Twitter, only time for one question from FB/Twitter

- Charlie expects that at the next debate, WSKG could have a small audience, perhaps 30-35

#### 5. Discussion: 2021 Local Election Results

- Low VTO
- Are we returning to “status quo”
- Lack of awareness on ballot proposals
- Ballot proposals were written poorly
- Charlie proposed talking more about issues and engaging candidates on issues, perhaps have a debate format with candidates on the issues

#### 6. Voter Education in Local Schools: Pat, Nikki and Scott were unavailable for this meeting but will be invited to our next meeting

- Jackie would like the committee to complete a survey so she has a better understanding of what to communicate to the teachers/educators. Please click [here](#).
- Margaret proposed a number of ways that the League of Women Voters could work with Jackie and the educators, she will speak with Jackie directly on suggestions
- **Please be sure to complete the survey** so Jackie has additional ideas from the committee on what we envision our relationship to be with our K-12 partners
- Jackie mentioned that the New Visions Government class is very engaged doing internships and other community service projects.

Jackie also shared this email/link for us to review: “The Seal of Civic Readiness is being piloted by a few districts in our region this year, but I believe will be open to all NYS schools next year. There might be some great opportunities for partnership to provide students with opportunities to get civically engaged.”

<http://www.nysed.gov/curriculum-instruction/civic-readiness-initiative>

#### 7. 2022 Elections - Important Dates: Petitions out in February, due by April 7; Primary June 22, General Election Nov. 8

Candidates: U.S. Senate (NY Senator Schumer's seat); Congress (Claudia Tenney's seat); NYS Governor, Lt. Gov., Comptroller, Attorney General; NYS Senate and Assembly; Broome Co. Legislature, Broome Co. Sheriff

8. **Re-districting:** NYS for Congress, State Senate and Assembly being done by NYS Independent Redistricting Commission of 10 members and 20 staff; for Broome County Legislature - local committee of 5 county legislators - 3 Republicans, 2 Democrats. Margaret, Gervlyne, and Linda attended a NYS Re-districting Commission meeting via Zoom October 19 led by Isis McIntosh Green, a staff member. Two draft plans of the NYS new districts are now available, with the final versions to be available in January and new lines drawn by January 15. Margaret on behalf of the LWVBT submitted testimony and watched the hearing online. Linda, Alison and Gervlyne attended. There were several public hearings around the state for comments on the drafts, including one in Binghamton at BU.

**Meeting concluded at 4:15pm. Happy Thanksgiving! Enjoy the rest of the holidays and we will meet in the New Year! Please plan now to meet on Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 at 3pm.**