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PRESS RELEASE

Teaching High School Students how to Engage in Politics: League of Women Voters and NYS Social Studies Supervisory Association Release Voter Education Lesson Plans for High School Seniors

The League of Women Voters of New York State’s Education Foundation and the NYS Social Studies Supervisory Association (NYS4A) are pleased to announce the publication of seven lesson plans for teachers of the New York Grade 12 Participation in Government course. The goal of these lessons is to educate New York State’s future voters to become active citizens. Students will develop a better understanding of how public policy is made in New York and learn more about their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

The seven lesson plans are designed to provide teachers and students with information specific to New York State. Lessons can be customized to meet the needs of individual classrooms or student interests and are designed to be inquiry-based and non-partisan. The lessons are based on the Key Ideas and Social Studies Practices of the New York State Social Studies Curriculum Framework. The lesson plans could be integrated into existing units or combined for a unit of instruction on New York government. With these lesson plans, Participation in Government teachers would have ready-made resources which will engage high school seniors.

Lesson topics include:

- The structure of New York State Government
- Individual rights and responsibilities in New York State
- Voting in New York State
- The Public Policy Process (Laws) in New York
- Influencing New York State Government
- Participating in Political Action in Your Local Community
- Participating in Community Service in Your Local Community
In addition to materials in the lesson plans, teachers are encouraged to consult the Voter Services resources developed and published by the League of Women Voters New York. Updated voter services information, including voter rights, voter registration information, voting locations, find your elected official, and district maps, is available on the League of Women Voters New York website (www.lwvncivics.org).

The lesson plans were written by three New York Social Studies teachers:

- Kathleen Argus, Syracuse City School District
- Jody Butts, Susquehenna Valley Public Schools
- Robert Keyser, Shenendehowa Central School District

and edited by Lisa Kissinger, Social Studies Academic Administrator, Shenendehowa Central Schools, and President of the New York State Social Studies Supervisory Association; Laura Ladd Bierman, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters New York and Jennifer Wilson, Director of Program and Policy, League of Women Voters New York.