

The Voter



Items of Interest

- Politics in Our Communities
- Results of Legislative Races
- Results of Statewide Elections
- Saving Energy and Money This Winter

Save the Date!

~League Holiday Get-Together, Saturday, December 6, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Morrell Room, Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant Street, Brunswick.

~Topsham Board of Selectmen Forum, Wednesday, December 17, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Topsham Town Hall, 100 Main Street.

~Special Election Day, Tuesday, January 6, Main Exhibition Hall, Topsham Fairgrounds, Topsham. For information, call the Town Clerk at 725-5821.

~Special Election Day, Tuesday, January 13, Freeport High School, Holbrook Street, Freeport, For more information, call the Town Clerk at 865-4743.



League Holiday Get-Together With a Purpose!

Brunswick, ME — Maine Partners for Cool Communities (MPCC) will join the League of Women Voters of the Brunswick Area in the Memorial Room at the Curtis Memorial Library on Saturday, December 6, at 1:30 p.m. for a fun-filled exchange on saving the planet and saving money. The Cool Starts with You! program is an interactive get-together designed to reach out to communities and neighborhoods across Maine with information and incentives to curb global warming.

Cool Starts with You! complements MPCC's Cool Communities projects and programs already underway in Brunswick and neighboring communities. We will have games with "cool" prizes and some discussion about Global Warming and what we can do about it in our homes and neighborhoods. There will be opportunities to share ideas and tips and discover Smart Energy Solutions to help us all reduce our carbon emissions by 2% each year until 2050.

This program can assist in engaging and mobilizing you

and your neighbors to reach the goals of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. You will be provided information on measuring your energy use while establishing a household Carbon Footprint. You will leave the program with encouragement to take action along with information about reaching out to other neighborhoods in the community.

Neighbor by neighbor, block by block, we can build an informed community that is

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League Co-Sponsors Topsham Selectman Forum

Topsham, ME — On Wednesday, December 17, the League of Women Voters, Topsham's Future and the Topsham Public Library will co-sponsor a forum for candidates for Topsham Selectman at the Topsham Town Hall, 100 Main Street, from 7:00 until 8:30 p.m. The forum will be broadcast on Topsham Public Ac-

cess Television.

On November 4, Paul Bennett and Ron Riendeau were elected to fill the two open seats on the Board of Selectmen. However, Bennett declined to be sworn into office following a controversy about his 1996 felony conviction.

A special election is scheduled

to take place on Tuesday, January 6, at the Main Exhibition Hall at the Topsham Fairgrounds off Elm Street. Polling hours will be announced at a later date.

Candidates on the ballot will be Carol Clark, Michael Dumas, Paul Fothergill, James Morris, Thomas Sawyer and James Trusiani.

Politics in Our Communities



Bath, ME - In **Bath**, James Omo, Sean Paulhus, David Sinclair and Andrew Winglass were elected to the Ward 1, Ward 2, Ward 6 and At Large seats on the City Council. All four men ran unopposed.

In **Brunswick**, Gerald Favreau, who ran unopposed, was elected to the District 5 Town Council seat. Benet Pols and Deborah Atwood were elected to the District 7 and At Large seats.

James Grant, who ran unopposed, was elected to the District 5 School Board seat. Michele Joyce and John Jones Jr. were elected to the District 7 and At Large seats.

In **Freeport**, Eric Pandor, Joe Migliaccio and Rich DeGrandpre, who all ran unopposed, were elected to the District 2, District 3 and At Large Town Council seats.

Kristin Bailey and Beth Parker were elected from a four-person field to serve three-year terms on the School Committee. Christine Monroe,

who ran unopposed, was elected to a two-year term.

Freeport voters decided by a margin of 2,464 to 2,217 to approve a school consolidation plan with the neighboring Towns of Durham and Pownal. The referendum passed by much wider margins in the other two communities.

The three towns must now form an 11-member board to oversee the consolidated school district. Freeport is entitled to six seats.

The election of board members is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, January 13, at Freeport High School on Holbrook Street. Nomination papers are due at the Superintendent's Office on 17 West Street before Friday, November 28, at 4:00 p.m.

In **Topsham**, Paul Bennett and Ron Riendeau defeated Jim Trusiani for two seats on the Board of Selectmen. However, Bennett declined to be sworn into office following a controversy about his 1996

manslaughter conviction.

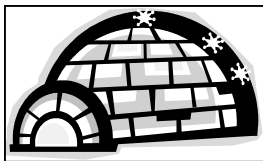
The referendum on the Town Charter proposal, which would have changed Topsham's form of government from a town meeting to a town council, lost by a margin of 2,911 to 2,350.

Roland Tufts, who ran unopposed, was elected to the SAD 75 Board of Directors. Jane Scease with 32 votes and Claudia Beckwith with 14 votes were elected as write-in candidates to fill Topsham's two remaining seats.

A special election to fill the open seat on the Board of Selectmen is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, January 6, at the Main Exhibition Hall at the Topsham Fairgrounds off Elm Street. For more information, call the town clerk at 725-5821 x124.

Candidates on the ballot will be Carol Clark, Michael Dumas, Paul Fothergill, James Morris, Thomas Sawyer and James Trusiani.

Keep Cool All Year Long!



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actively engaged in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and turning the world to "cool" while saving energy and money.

Joan Saxe, of Freeport, a former President of the League of

Women Voters of Brunswick and a current member of the League of Women Voters of the Portland Area, will be leading this program. During her term in Brunswick, Joan was known for her work in the environmental protection arena.

Please bring a goodie to share or \$3.00 to help defray the cost of beverages. Wine, eggnog, coffee and tea will be served. Local members of the Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club (maine.sierraclub.org) will be joining us for this event.

Results of Legislative Races

Augusta, ME - Incumbents generally fared well in the November 4 election. However, there were two upsets in Maine State Senate races that increased the Democrats' majority from 18 to 17 to 20 to 15.

In District 15, which covers Auburn, Durham, New Gloucester and Poland, four-term Democratic Representative Deborah Simpson of Auburn defeated two-term Republican Senator Lois Snowe-Mello of Poland. In District 19, which covers all of Sagadahoc County and Dresden in Lincoln County, Democrat Seth Goodall of Richmond defeated one-term Republican Senator Paula Benoit of Phippsburg. Both victories, which were by slim margins, survived recounts.

In District 10, which covers Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell and Pownal, four-term Democratic Representative Stan Gerzofsky of Brunswick defeated Green Jason Bergquist and Republican Cody Gillis Sr., both of Brunswick. In District 20, which covers all of Lincoln County, minus Dresden, plus Washington in Knox County and Windsor in Kennebec County, former four-term Republican Representative David Trahan of Waldoboro defeated four-term Democratic Representative Peter Rines of Wiscasset.

Come December 3, the gap between Democrats and Republicans in the House will increase from 90 to 59 to 96 to 54 with one Independent instead of two.

In local House races, the winners were the following: Democrat Charles Kruger of Thomaston in District 48; incumbent Democrat Wendy Pieh of Bremen in District 50; incumbent Republican Kerri Prescott of Topsham in District 60; incumbent Democrat Bruce MacDonald of Boothbay in District 61; incumbent Democrat Thom Watson of Bath in District 62; incumbent Democrat Charlie Priest of Brunswick in District 63; incumbent Democrat Leila Percy of Phippsburg in District 64; Democrat Peter Kent of Woolwich in District 65; Democrat Alex Cornell du Houx of Brunswick in District 66; incumbent Democrat David Webster of Freeport in District 106.



Results of Statewide Elections

Augusta, ME - Maine people cast their ballots for President and elected one United States Senator and two United States Representatives on Tuesday, November 4.

Democrat Barack Obama outpolled Republican John McCain by a margin of 59 to 41, winning all four of Maine's Electoral College votes. The only county where Senator McCain received a majority of votes was Piscataquis.

Incumbent Republican Susan Collins defeated Democrat Tom Allen in the Senate race by a margin of 61 to 39.

In the First District, Democrat Chellie Pingree defeated Republican Charlie Summers by a margin of 55 to 45 for the seat vacated by Tom Allen in the House. In the Second District, incumbent Democrat Mike Michaud defeated Republican John Frary by a margin of 67 to 33.

Three questions also appeared on the statewide ballot. The people's veto of a law to raise taxes on beverages to help fund the Dirigo Health Program was passed by a margin of 65 to 35.

The citizens' initiative question designed to pass *An Act to Allow a Casino in Oxford County* was defeated by a margin of 54 to 46. The water bond passed by a margin of 50.3 to 49.7.





League of Women Voters of the
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Please deliver to:

***The League of Women Voters is where
hands-on work to safeguard democracy
leads to civic improvement.***

Send your email address to lwbva@gwi.net.
The Voter is now available electronically!

Join Us for the Holiday Get-Together on Saturday, December 6!

Saving Energy and Money This Winter *Eleanor Revelle, LWVUS*

Washington, DC - When colder weather strikes, heating bills start to climb. Not only is that hard on the checkbook; it also means increased greenhouse gas emissions. What is a thrifty, ecologically-minded person to do?

Dialing down the thermostat is the most direct step you can take. In colder climates, every degree that you lower the setting on your thermostat will result in roughly a three percent reduction in the amount of energy used.

Adding insulation is one of the most cost-effective im-

provements you can make, and the attic is the best and easiest place to start. Proper insulation levels in the walls, foundation, and basement or crawl space will also help make your house tighter — and more comfortable.

Sealing air leaks — a major source of heat loss in older homes — is another very important energy-saver. You can spot many of these problem areas on your own with a do-it-yourself home energy audit. Or you can arrange for a professional auditor to carry out a more thorough assessment of your home. To locate a profes-

sional auditor, visit the Efficiency Maine site at <http://www.mainehomeperformance.org/Homeowner.php>.

Another area for attention is your home's **heating system**. You can improve its efficiency by insulating ducts that pass through unheated spaces, changing the air filter regularly, and arranging for regular, professional maintenance.

Your heating service company can also advise you as to whether replacing your existing furnace with a new, high-efficiency unit would make sense.

