

NEWS RELEASE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE HAMPTONS

P.O. Box 2253
East Hampton, New York 11937

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Arlene Hinkemeyer, Publicity (631) 324-6713
Carol Mellor, President (631) 907-9576

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE HAMPTONS HOSTS PUBLIC FORUM ON
“THE NYS SCHOOL PROPERTY TAX CAP BILL:
HOW WILL IT AFFECT OUR TAXES? OUR SCHOOLS?”
Monday, September 8, 7 p.m.**

For a timely “back to school” program, the League of Women Voters of the Hamptons is hosting a free community forum on “The NYS School Property Tax Cap Bill: How Will It Affect Our Taxes? Our Schools?”

The meeting takes place on Monday, September 8, at 7 p.m. at the Bridgehampton Unitarian Universalist Meetinghouse, 977 Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike, nearly two miles north of the Bridgehampton War Memorial on Montauk Highway.

School administrators and teachers, school board members, parents and the general public are all invited to hear the pros and cons of the legislation from the distinguished panel composed of State Senator Kenneth LaValle, of the Senate Education Committee; State Assemblyman Fred Thiele, of the Assembly Education Committee; Gary Bixhorn, Chief Operating Officer of Eastern Suffolk BOCES; and Richard Iannuzzi, President of the NYS United Teachers (NYSUT).

A tax cap bill, S.8736, based on the recommendations of the NYS Commission on Property Tax Relief, passed the State Senate on August 8. It would cap a school district’s property tax increase at 4%, or 120% of the consumer price index, whichever is less. The cap excludes the taxes needed for capital improvements. It provides that a school district can override this cap if 55% of voters approve the budget. Companion bills were also passed in the Senate on August 8 to help reduce school district costs.

On August 19, the State Assembly passed an alternate bill, A.11838, to cap property taxes through a different approach, a “circuit breaker” that would provide property tax reductions based on a family’s income.

The speakers will explain the ramifications of the bills and answer audience questions. Handouts at the meeting will provide details on the bills. For further information, call the League at 283-0759. To join the League, call 324-8662.

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