



## VOTE411.org Frequently Asked Questions – Spring 2016

### 1. How would my Local League use VOTE411.org?

VOTE411.org helps you to create an online Voters' Guide. The final guide (see photos below) shows a voter the candidates for each race that the voter will see on the ballot, and offers in-depth information and links to additional information. If you are the one creating the Voters' Guide, VOTE411.org offers numerous tools to track the progress of collecting responses for the Voters' Guide.

State \*  
- Select -

Zip \*

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### NYC Council Special Election - 31st District

Choose two candidates from below to compare.



**Marie Adam-Ovide (BS)**  
District Manager of Community Board 8, Queens



**Selvena N. Brooks (RN)**  
Sr. Communications Specialist



**Michael Duncan (ON)**  
Business Owner



**Allan W. Jennings (PR)**



**Saywalah Kesselly (GC)**  
Administrator



**Jacques M. Leandre (FD)**  
Lawyer



**Pesach Osina (CV)**

State \*  
- Select -

Zip \*

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**NYC Council Special Election - 31st District**



**Marie Adam-Ovide (BS)**  
District Manager of  
Community Board 8, Queens



**Selvena N. Brooks (RN)**  
Sr. Communications  
Specialist

**Change Candidates** >

**Biographical Information** -

<p><b>Campaign Web Site</b> <a href="#">www.vote4marie.com</a></p> <p><b>Campaign Office Address</b> 121-12 234th Street, Laurelton, NY 11422</p> <p><b>Campaign Email</b> <a href="mailto:vote4marie@hotmail.com">vote4marie@hotmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Campaign Telephone Number</b> 718-723-0645</p> <p><b>City/Town of Residence</b> Laurelton</p> <p><b>Occupation</b> District Manager of Community Board 8, Queens</p> <p><b>Current Political Office (if applicable)</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Education</b> The City College of New York (CUNY), B.A. in Political Science</p> <p><b>Experience and Qualifications</b> Director of Constituent Services for Former Councilman David Weprin - Chair of Finance Committee, Community Board District Manager - Currently running an office that ensures the delivery of City Services. I do not need on the job training.</p> <p><b>Community Involvement</b> Former PTA President of Eagle Academy of Southeast Queens, Member of NAACP</p> <p><b>Party Affiliation</b> Democrat</p>	<p><b>Campaign Web Site</b> <a href="#">www.brooks2013.com</a></p> <p><b>Campaign Office Address</b> 186-15 Merrick Boulevard, Springfield Gardens, NY 11413</p> <p><b>Campaign Email</b> <a href="mailto:FriendsOfSelvenaBrooks@gmail.com">FriendsOfSelvenaBrooks@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Campaign Telephone Number</b> 917.952.8920</p> <p><b>City/Town of Residence</b> Rockaway Beach, Queens, NY</p> <p><b>Occupation</b> Most recently, Sr. Communications Specialist, SEIU</p> <p><b>Current Political Office (if applicable)</b> n/a</p> <p><b>Education</b> BA, Wilberforce University, 2005 MA, NYU, International law/dispute settlement, 2010</p> <p><b>Experience and Qualifications</b> Extensive experience in government, public service, and the private sector over the past decade, working on a range of issues that matter to the residents of Southeast Queens. Proven ability to get results and move the community forward.</p> <p><b>Community Involvement</b> Extensive experience working to reduce gun violence, improve</p>
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For spring 2016 municipal elections, we expect that local Leagues would control and prepare the information for their Voters' Guide using VOTE411.org, and the LWVMA would support for these efforts.

2. *Can we still put our Voters' Guide in our local newspaper as well?*  
Yes, you can assemble the information in VOTE411.org and then publish the Voters' Guide as a PDF or as a text document that can be sent to local newspapers.
3. *Can we include a link to the cable TV video on demand of our Candidates' Night?*  
Yes, you can use VOTE411.org to post videos from Candidates' Nights.
4. *Can we promote our Candidates' Night in advance?*  
VOTE411.org will help you invite candidates to participate and track their acceptance. Once the candidates have accepted, it will appear on the "Event Calendar" on the front page of VOTE411.org, so that anyone who checks the website will see the scheduled event.
5. *Will VOTE411.org be available for the March 1 presidential primary election?*  
Yes.
6. *Is there any way to use it for special town elections as well as scheduled ones?*  
Yes, it would be used in the same way, and a suggested timeline (shown below) would apply.

7. *If we want to use Vote411 for our municipal elections in spring 2016, what do we need to get started?*

You need a login, which LWVMA can provide to you after January 1, 2016; the races that you will be covering in your local election; and the name and e-mail address for each candidate. If you have a mailing address but not an e-mail address, VOTE411.org can help you generate a letter that can be mailed to each candidate, and you can invite the candidate to participate in that way.

8. *What would be the timeline for municipal elections for spring 2016?*

The guidance provided by LWV is that the online Voters' Guide should be available about four weeks before the election. The preliminary work should begin four weeks before the launch date, so the total lead time required is 8 weeks before the election.

9. *How is this better than the way we've been creating voter guides?*

The value of Voters' Guides created by the League of Women Voters is in the careful formulation of questions for candidates and in the thorough and careful vetting of the information contained in the Voters' Guide. VOTE411.org Voters' Guides will also require these same requirements, but the value offered by VOTE411 is in its ability to streamline the collection of the information directly from candidates, and ease the production of the finished product. In addition, the web-based platform will make the guide available to all voters throughout the state, and can benefit voters in areas where we do not have active Local Leagues.

10. *What will be the cost to use this for municipal elections in spring 2016?*

Thanks to a generous donation from a member and from receipt of a grant from the Filene Foundation, VOTE411.org will be offered to Local Leagues for free for 2016.

11. *What kind of support will we receive in getting started with VOTE411.org – from LWVMA, from LWVUS?*

The LWVUS has a staff person dedicated to supporting the implementation of VOTE411.org, as well as numerous webinars with information (see <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/vote411-opportunities-participation>). The Wellesley League of Women Voters has been using VOTE411.org for several years, and members have said that it has been easy and useful. At the LWVMA, we are willing to offer some teleconference roundtables to support these efforts of Local Leagues.

*12. Will every voter in the state be able to access VOTE411.org, or only in those areas where we have a local League?*

We are evaluating what the interest will be from Local Leagues in using VOTE411.org for spring 2016 municipal elections to determine how widely we will implement VOTE411.org this spring.

For more information please contact [Mary Ann Ashton](#), LWVMA Voter Service Chair, or [Meryl Kessler](#), LWVMA Executive Director.