

Deborah Gist to Speak at League Day at the State House

**March 10 in the Governor's Reception Room
Open to the Public**

Program:

Tours of state house following the path of the legislative process

Address by Deborah Gist, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Dinner

Deborah Gist, R.I. Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, will be the featured speaker at League Day at the State House on March 10, at 5:00 pm, in the Governor's Reception Room.

Commissioner Gist came to RI in July, 2009, from Washington, DC, where she served as the District's State Superintendent of Education. She was responsible for transitioning all state-level education functions to the newly formed office of the State Superintendent of Education and for putting into effect the accountability systems of the Federal No Child Left Behind education law. Ms. Gist created new, progressive educator-certification policies for teachers and school administrators, and she enacted new standards for teacher-preparation programs to improve quality, expand opportunity, and encourage innovation. In addition to spending 10 years serving directly in schools, where she was named "Teacher of the Year" in two different school systems, Gist was a senior policy analyst at the U.S. Department of Education. She earned a master's degree in public administration from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government, where she was also selected as a Kennedy Fellow and received the Littauer Fellowship for academic excellence and community service.

Schedule of Events

Legislative Tours of State House (by preregistration only)

3:20 PM: Assemble for first tour outside Governor's Reception Room

3:50 PM Assemble for second tour outside Governor's Reception Room

The League's lobbyist, Greta Abbott, will conduct two half-hour tours of the state house to educate members about the process of legislation, and point out places where League members can participate. The groups will start with where a bill begins and follow its path through the State House until it becomes law. Tours are limited to five people each, in order not to interfere with the business of the Legislature. Tours are free, but only 5 people can be accommodated on each. Call (401) 272-2950 during the morning to reserve a place on one of the two tours. If there is greater interest, further tours may be scheduled at a future time.

4:30-5:00 PM: Sign in for dinner (Dinner reservations and **payment must be received by March 5.**)

Speaker: Education Commissioner Deborah Gist, "The View from the Commissioner's Office."

5:00-6:30 PM: Audience questions to follow. This talk is free and previous registration is not required.

Dinner

6:30 PM: – Turkey and all the trimmings. Registration and payment for dinner must be received in the League office by March 5.

Register NOW for dinner

Cost for Dinner: \$30. pp Students: \$20. pp

Open to the Public. If you have questions, please call (401) 434-6440 or click on state@lwvri.org
RSVP for dinner by March 5. Please send form below with payment if you want dinner. There is no charge for the tour and the program, but you must sign up to reserve a place on a tour.

Come early and see the Legislature in action!

_____ YES! I will join you for dinner on League Day at the State House

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

Please make checks payable to:

League of Women Voters of RI Number attending _____

172 Taunton Ave. Suite 8

East Providence, RI 02914 @ \$30 pp – Students \$20 pp _____

I can not attend, but here is my (non-tax deductible) donation of _____

League Day at the State House is an annual event, open to the public. Each year's speaker addresses an issue of critical importance to Rhode Islanders. The League of Women Voters, founded in 1920, is *a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*