

## EDITORIALS

# LIU vet school a big plus for LI

LIU Post already has horses on its Brookville campus. Now, add dogs and cats, and a host of other animals, too. That's part of what it will take to complete a project with far-reaching implications for the university — and for the region.

In the fall of 2019, pending state and federal accreditation, LIU will open a four-year veterinary school, the first of its kind in the metropolitan area and the 31st in the country. With an expected enrollment of 400 students — 100 in each year of study — the school will train future veterinarians and researchers and widen the spotlight on Long Island's fine colleges and universities. Offering a doctorate of veterinary medicine will be an asset for LIU, on top of its equine studies and veterinary technology programs.

And it will provide an economic boost for the Island. Start with the \$40 million project to build the school, including \$12 million in state funds meant for projects that could create jobs and opportunities, especially in life sciences. LIU will construct a 47,000-square-foot building and renovate 13,000 square feet of additional space. The school will boast a \$20 million payroll and 100 full-time jobs, along with hundreds of students who will flock to the Island for schooling they can't get elsewhere in the area, and will work as interns and residents in local veterinary clinics and hospitals.

But the school's effects will multiply when combined with other academic institutions, laboratory spaces, and veterinary offices and hospitals on the Island. Together, they create a cluster of opportunity — assets that could form the foundation of a new segment of Long Island's economy in biotechnology and related industries, fields that advocates say are key to the Island's economic growth.

Indeed, the LIU veterinary school is the kind of research institution that will bring to the Island talented researchers and veterinarians who can put their skills to use. And that could help attract corporations and high-paying, high-skilled jobs to the region, giving graduating students reason to stay on the Island.

It's an exciting moment, and the region's leaders should capitalize on it by getting out the word about the new school, encouraging links between the universities and businesses, and providing incentives for business development and job creation. Perhaps this time, Long Island's old dogs will learn some new tricks. — *The editorial board*

## Friday's a key deadline for first-time voters

New York's Byzantine election laws make it difficult to vote here. One relevant example: It's too late to switch your party registration if you hope to vote in a different primary in 2018, including the federal primaries in June and the state primaries in September, when candidates for governor and the State Legislature will compete.

There is no early voting or automatic voter registration in New York State, among other egregious state decisions that protect incumbents and political leaders and diminish your voice.

Don't let that stop you. Or at least some of you. If you're registering for the first time in New York, you can act now. June 1 is the deadline for new voters to register in time for the June 26 federal primary. You'll also be eligible to vote in the Sept. 13 state primary.

The 2018 midterm congressional elections are keys to determining the nation's direction for the next two years. Play a role in picking party candidates. If you're new to voting, register online or at your local board of elections. It's your duty. — *The editorial board*



■ Matt Davies is off. See his cartoons at [newsday.com/matt](http://newsday.com/matt)

## LETTERS

### Frustration over gun violence at schools

Until the shooting at a high school in Santa Fe, Texas, I have always sympathized with the victims ["10 dead in Texas school shooting," News, May 19].

Unfortunately, the narrative has always been the same. A troubled young man appears to have been bullied by his fellow students and does not know how to deal peacefully with his problems. Is the school administration even aware of the bullying? Does it provide the atmosphere in which a bullied student can seek help? Are there mental health professionals to give a troubled or bullied student support or counseling?

People will argue for gun control. But there is still the underlying problem of a young student who has issues and feels he has no solution except to take out stu-

dents who have been mean to him. Surely, school districts all over the country should examine the bullying problem and the mental health of students before another person is wounded by a troubled soul.

Marian Milne,  
Oceanside

Since the shooting at Santa Fe High School, I have heard politicians and the National Rifle Association cite video games, open school doors, mental illness, and even too much Ritalin as the causes for gun violence.

Other countries have everything I just mentioned, but we are the only country with a school shooting epidemic. Let's use our common sense and get real: It's the guns!

Roberta Comerchero,  
Commack

The United States has had nearly two dozen school

shootings in 2018 in which someone was hurt or killed. Our politicians continue to talk about what should be done, but no laws to eliminate or control these disasters are enacted.

We have children who take weapons from their parents or buy them. If parents do not sufficiently keep weapons out of reach, they should be prosecuted.

I believe the media are too explicit and descriptive in their coverage and make the killers see themselves as heroes. People are too passive in believing they will not see these killings in their school systems or locations.

Peter G Kraeker,  
Hicksville

Another school shooting and we hear the same tired, cold written message from President Donald Trump. And what's more disturbing is that the number of U.S. stu-