

## Issues & Advocacy

### LWV Huntington Supports Ban on Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

Public Hearing Held July 9

The Directors of the Huntington League adopted a statement in May calling for the Town of Huntington to ban the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. On July 9, at 2 pm at Huntington Town Hall, the Town Council heard public comments about a proposal that would phase in such a ban. As proposed by Council Members Dave DeBernardo and Sal Ferro, next year no one could use a gas blower between Memorial Day and Labor Day, and for the rest of the year, not before 8 am or after 5pm. In 2026, use of gas-powered blowers would be banned completely. Some landscapers already use battery-powered blowers instead.

Issues & Advocacy committee member Frances Whittelsey spoke at the hearing on behalf of the League.

The League statement says that gas blowers... “endanger public health and cause air pollution that contributes to climate change and poor air quality in our neighborhoods.”

It continues: “For the landscape workers who use them constantly, they are a serious health hazard. A worker or homeowner using a gas leaf blower is exposed to a noise level of 100 decibels, as loud as a jack hammer breaking pavement. That level of noise can not only cause deafness and tinnitus, but also non-auditory effects such as reduced cognitive performance and mental health, sleep disruption, ischemic heart disease, heart attack, and hypertension. As far away as 800 feet from the blower operator, the sound level of blowers is still [above the safety level recommended by the World Health Organization](#).

Gas leaf blowers are also a major contributor to air pollution and a particular danger to people, including children, who suffer from asthma and other lung problems. They emit toxic air contaminants, fine particle pollution, Nitrogen Oxides (NOx), and other smog-forming pollutants. The human health impacts of these pollutants are well-documented: [breathing problems, asthma attacks and other lung health issues, cardiovascular issues, and even premature deaths](#).

In fact, a mere half hour of yard work with a two-stroke, gas-powered leaf blower emits the same amount of pollution as driving a Ford F-150 Raptor truck from Texas to Alaska. Use of a blower for 1 hour produces carcinogenic emissions, ozone and tiny particles--as much pollution as 15 cars driving in your neighborhood for an hour. California is [phasing out](#) gas-powered leaf blowers, banning their sale this year,<sup>1</sup> after discovering that gas leaf blowers and related lawn care equipment [emit more ozone pollution than all of California's tens of millions of cars, combined](#).

Gas leaf blowers are a threat to public health, a major contributor to air pollution and a public nuisance. The time is now to banish this 100-year-old technology from Huntington.”

More facts and sources can be found [here](#).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/news/carb-approves-updated-regulations-requiring-most-new-small-road-engines-be-zero-emission-2024>