



BULLETIN
lwva.com

February 2023

Calendar

February 7	Tuesday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting via Zoom teleconference. The meeting URL will be sent to attendees; email one of the Co-Presidents if you would like to attend.
February 14	Tuesday	103rd anniversary of the founding of the national League of Women Voters.
March 7	Tuesday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting via Zoom teleconference. The meeting URL will be sent to attendees; email one of the Co-Presidents if you would like to attend.
March 23	Thursday	Save the date: Candidates' Night, co-sponsored with Envision Arlington, live in Town Hall. Watch for details in the March Bulletin. See page 3 to learn about our volunteer needs.

Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski: Co-Presidents
 CarolynMParsons@msn.com, amolszewski@gmail.com
Ann FitzGerald: Membership AnnFitz@rcn.com

Kim Haase: Bulletin Editor c.haase@comcast.net
Margaret Reiners: Bulletin Mailing mlreiners@gmail.com

Co-President's Message

Dear League Members,

I hope 2023 is going well for everyone so far. The recent warm weather has brought us much rain, but in lieu of that, we could have become buried in snow. It was wonderful to see the MLK Day Celebration held in person at Town Hall. We are looking forward to having our upcoming events in person, again, too.

The first program on our schedule is Candidates Night on March 23rd. Please check page 3 of the bulletin for information on how to volunteer. Planning is also going on for a program about the Arlington Housing Authority and for our annual Legislators Brunch.

Our board meetings are held by Zoom during the winter months. Please reach out to Carolyn or me if you would like to attend. It can be a great opportunity to learn more about the League's activities right from the comfort of your own home!

Angela Olszewski

LWVA LEADERSHIP 2022–2023

Carolyn Parsons, Co-President	781-646-9309
Angela Olszewski, Co-President	781-648-8649
Meredith Zona, Organization VP	781-648-2753
Patricia Muldoon, Action VP	339-223-3300
Joan Martin, Treasurer	617-966-4521
Anne Linn, Secretary	781-643-0356
Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director	781-646-9711
Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Voter Service	781-648-9026
Jo Anne Preston, Voter Service	781-643-5431
Kim Haase, Bulletin Editor/Ads	781-643-3429
Margaret Reiners, Bulletin Mailing	781-646-9611
Janice Bakey, Email Coordinator	781-643-4345
Phyllis Maddox, Webmistress	774-266-3422
Samantha Dutra, Member at Large	857-266-9570

The BULLETIN is published monthly except during the summer and December by the League of Women Voters of Arlington, PO Box 461, Arlington, MA 02476.

Come Help with Candidates' Night!

Mark your calendars: Arlington Candidates' Night is Thursday, March 23 at 8 p.m., in person in Town Hall for the first time since 2019. The event will also be broadcast live on ACMi and shown on cable several times before the election. As always, the LWVA and Envision Arlington co-sponsor the event.

There will be question-and-answer sessions with the candidates for town-wide offices: Select Board, School Committee, Board of Assessors, and Town Clerk. There will also be informal sessions with candidates for Town Meeting before the event, from 7:30 to 8. But it can't happen without you!

As we did last year, we will be asking people to submit questions for the candidates in advance, to be selected by volunteers from the LWVA and Envision Arlington. The March Bulletin will have details.

We need volunteers for the following positions:

- **Timers:** We need at least four volunteers to keep time during the question-and-answer session, and to hold up time cards to keep all candidates within time limits so everyone gets a fair chance to speak.
- **Greeters:** We need at least two volunteers to greet people arriving at Candidates' Night and provide information about the League.
- **Set-up/Take-down:** Help us to put up precinct signs and get other items organized for the event or take down and pack up when the event is over.


Thank you for your help! Contact Angela Olszewski (amolszewski@gmail.com, 781-648-8649) to sign up.

LWVA Wins January 2023 Scharfman Grant for Voting Signs

From the State League

The LWV Arlington (LWVA) received a Lotte E. Scharfman Grant in January 2023 for Arlington voting signs. In August 2022, LWV Arlington had 20 "Arlington Votes" signs made for the Sept. 6, 2022 State Primary Election. LWVA members posted these signs on home lawns and in other visible areas to remind and encourage citizens to vote. LWVA will have new dates printed and attached to these signs for use in future elections. These signs aim to help the Arlington Town Clerk get the word out about upcoming election days.



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Town Election Calendar

Nomination papers are currently available at the Town Clerk's office on the second floor of Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Ave.

Vote-by-mail postcards have been sent to all voters.

For more details about the election, visit

<https://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/elections-voting>.

February 3	Friday noon	Last day for incumbent Town Meeting Members to file notice of re-election.
February 8	Wednesday 5 p.m.	Last day for obtaining nomination papers.
February 10	Friday 5 p.m.	Last day for filing nomination papers with Board of Registrars at Town Clerk's office.
March 7	Tuesday 5 p.m.	Last day to submit Town Meeting candidate statements.
March 22	Wednesday 5 p.m.	Last day to register to vote in the Town Election (10 days before the election)
March 27	Monday 5 p.m.	Last day to request a mailed ballot.
April 1	Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Town Election.



**Salutes the
League of Women Voters
for its contribution to
our community**

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781-648-2345

john@leonelaw.com, www.leonelaw.com

Initial consultation is free for LWVA members

Recent News from the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts

From the State League

LWVMA Convention: New Date to Save - June 10

We've settled on Saturday, June 10, 2023 for the LWVMA Convention. The location is yet to be determined, but people will be able to attend either in person or online.



Recruiting Legislative Specialists and Envoys for the New Session

Are you frustrated by the lack of affordable housing in your town? Impact state policy on this and other mission-critical issues by serving as a legislative specialist. We have opportunities on the Legislative Action Committee to work on housing, criminal justice reform, higher education, and more. As a specialist, you would collaborate on identifying priority bills, plan and conduct educational events/webinars, become familiar with the legislative process, provide written and oral testimony for legislative hearings, work with advocacy coalitions and develop relationships with legislators. Read more:

<https://lwmva.org/advocacy/legislative-action-committee-2020-21/>

<https://lwmva.org/recruiting-legislative-specialists-and-envoys-for-the-new-session/>

Represent LWVMA at MassCare

Are you willing to work for equitable health care for Massachusetts? The Legislative Action Committee needs a member to step forward and assume the LWVMA Board seat on the MassCare Coalition. You would attend, participate, and give input for MassCare Board meetings held every other month as well as monthly LWVMA Legislative Action Committee meetings. Read more:

<https://lwmva.org/represent-lwmva-at-masscare/>

State League Urges New Administration to Act on Justice and Climate

From the State League

In January, the LWVMA sent a letter to Gov. Maura Healey urging her to reduce the use of solitary confinement in Department of Corrections facilities. Major points include :

The League is particularly concerned about the persistent overuse of solitary confinement, which is employed at different Massachusetts correctional facilities under different names. Conditions in solitary confinement are harsh and inhumane, and time spent in those units disrupts educational programming and can derail a person's preparation for reintegration into society. Faced with mounting criticism of the way solitary confinement is used in the Commonwealth, in June of 2021, DOC announced their intention to end restrictive housing, defined as being held in a cell for more than 22 hours a day. However, there was no commitment to a firm time line for reforms and no promise to eliminate other categories of segregated housing that have been established under different names with in-cell time limits slightly lower than 22 hours per day. People who are or have been incarcerated along with those who regularly visit correctional facilities continue to report that solitary confinement remains prevalent throughout the system.

We urge you to do the following:

- Undertake a comprehensive review of management practices and living conditions at DOC's correctional facilities
- Eliminate the systemic defects that have led to reliance on excessive punishment
- Refocus operations on education and rehabilitation

For the full letter, see https://lwmva.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Healey-Solitary-Confinement-Letter-2023.FINAL_.pdf.

The League also sent a letter to the newly appointed Climate Chief, Melissa Hoffer, urging a public awareness campaign to educate all residents on the state and federal financial incentives to electrify. Major points include:

Implementation of *An Act driving clean energy and offshore wind* and Governor Healey's stated climate plan is key to transforming our energy system, and multi-stakeholder adoption is an essential ingredient for getting to scale and accelerating adoption. As details about state and national climate plans continue to roll out, information is being disseminated in an uncoordinated manner, and in bits and pieces by a range of media and organizational sources. Our work at the local League level reveals both a general lack of awareness of stated goals and electrification options available, as well as widespread confusion on the part of installers, agencies, town administrators, and the general public about what resources are available for what, when and for whom.

We concur with the recommendation for a professionally developed, statewide public awareness and outreach campaign made in the final report from the Commission for Clean Heat. We encourage your administration's development and promulgation of a broader based, state-wide public outreach and awareness campaign that will help all Commonwealth stakeholders better understand the content and opportunities provided by recent federal and state legislation promoting the conversion to—and adoption of—electrification across all sectors – buildings, transportation, residential heating/cooling, home, lawn and other appliances. A centerpiece website should be user-friendly, factually correct and current, and propelled forward into public awareness through a robust, and ongoing statewide outreach campaign.

For the full letter, see https://lwmva.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/LWVMA-Letter-to-Climate-Chief-Hoffer.FINAL_.pdf.

We welcome new members at any time. Thank you!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ARLINGTON Membership Application/Renewal Form

Fiscal Year runs from April 1 to March 31

Name _____ Precinct _____ Date _____
Address _____ Zip _____ Occupation _____
Telephone _____ Email _____

_____ Please indicate if you do NOT want your contact information sent to Arlington League members

_____ Basic Membership Dues..... \$60
_____ 2nd member in household \$23
_____ Student (full-time) \$20
_____ Contribution to help the LWV in Arlington, add \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

If \$60 is a hardship, please pay what you can and let us know that this is your dues payment.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: League of Women Voters of Arlington
MAIL TO: Ann FitzGerald, 162 Summer St., Unit 1, Arlington, MA 02474

Please check areas of interest and activity even if you can't be actively involved THIS year.

SPECIAL LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

- _____ Action: phone calls _____ letters _____
_____ Bulletin: mailing _____ soliciting ads _____
_____ Membership
_____ Nominating Committee
_____ Publicity
_____ Voter Service: Rides to the polls _____
_____ Candidates Night
_____ Voters' Guide
_____ Host a meeting in my home

FOLLOW ISSUES, KEEP LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY INFORMED

- _____ Congress/Presidency/Election Process
_____ Discrimination/Equal Employment/Civil Rights
_____ Education
_____ Environment/Climate Change
_____ Health Care
_____ Justice/Courts/Prisons
_____ Housing/Zoning/Community Development
_____ Taxation/Budgets/Deficits
_____ Transportation/Urban Policy
_____ Voting Rights
_____ Basic Human Needs
_____ Women's Issues/Gender Issues
_____ Housing/Zoning/Community Development
_____ Other

OBSERVE AT TOWN BOARD MEETINGS*

- _____ Select Board (Mondays)
_____ Redevelopment Board (Mondays)
_____ School Committee (2nd & 4th Thursdays)
_____ Conservation Commission
_____ Housing Authority

SKILLS LEAGUE COULD DRAW ON

- _____ Writing articles
_____ Computer spreadsheet
_____ Desktop publishing
_____ Website management
_____ Moderating meetings
_____ Membership development

*Some of these can be seen on cable TV

Please add my name, street address, phone number, and email address to the LWVA mailing list: _____ Yes _____ No

(Note: This information will not be sent to anyone outside the LWVA)

February 2023

League of Women Voters of Arlington
Post Office Box 461
Arlington, MA 02476

