



# BULLETIN

League of Women Voters  
Arlington, Massachusetts  
[www.lwva.com](http://www.lwva.com)

## May 2020

### Calendar

Wednesday April 1	LWVA Fiscal Year began. If you haven't yet, please send in your dues using the form on page 9. Thank you!
5/12 Tuesday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board meeting via Zoom audioconference. The meeting URL will be sent to attendees.
6/13? Saturday 10 a.m.	LWVMA Council, expected to be a virtual event.
Thu.-Sun. 6/25-6/27	LWVUS National Convention, to be held as a virtual event. See <a href="https://www.lwv.org/2020convention">https://www.lwv.org/2020convention</a> for details.
Fall 2020	Art exhibition celebrating the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters, co-sponsored with the Arlington Center for the Arts. See page 5 for details.

### Town Election Calendar

5/27 Wednesday 4 p.m.	Voter registration deadline for the rescheduled Town Election.
6/6 Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Town Election. See page 3 for more information on vote-by-mail options and other changes.
After 6/6	Town Meeting. This TM will include financial articles only, required for Town budgeting, and is likely to be held outdoors. See "Town Meeting Extension and Planning Amid COVID-19" on <a href="https://www.arlingtonma.gov/">https://www.arlingtonma.gov/</a> .

Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski: Co-Presidents  
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## Co-President's Message

Last year I wrote that the political scene in Arlington is quite busy. This year the political scene is quite different. The Town Election and Town Meeting have been postponed. Registered voters will be able to apply easily for a mail-in ballot, and discussions are ongoing as to how to conduct Town Meeting such that social distancing is maintained. I have heard a rumor that Peirce Field is being considered as a venue and that only monetary articles will be considered. Town Meeting would then adjourn to the fall. Lots of stuff seems to be happening in the fall. Hopefully, we can return to some sort of normalcy. League members will put up signs announcing the Town Election, will not provide rides to the polls, and will organize an introduction to Town Meeting via Zoom.

It has been decided to postpone our Annual Meeting to the fall. The budget and the slate of officers will need to be sent out to members for approval in May/June, however. What a pill!

If you have not already done so, please fill out the federal census form and encourage your neighbors to do so as well. I have been told that only 66% of Arlington residents have filled out the form. Go to <https://2020census.gov/> to complete the census.

Plans are being made to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the League of Women Voters with an exhibit and talk at the Arlington Center for the Arts. (See page 5 for details.)

Happy Spring!

*Carolyn Parsons*

*Editor's Note:*

This is the last Bulletin till September.

Normally we'd send you the Annual Meeting Workbook at the end of May, but in this unusual year, please look for an email with a proposed 2020-2021 budget and slate of officers.

We hope to send the Local Program for consideration in the fall.

**LWVA LEADERSHIP 2019–2020**

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
Samantha Dutra, Local Action VP	857-266-9570
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Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director	781-646-9711
Katharine Fennelly, Voters' Guide	781-648-1794
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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.

## You Can Vote By Mail in the June 6 Town Election

*By Kim Haase*

A forum and listening session on April 29 provided information on the Town's planning process for the Town election, now rescheduled to June 6. The LWVA was a co-sponsor, and Action VP Patti Muldoon provided remarks. The forum will be posted on the [ACMi website](#).

All registered voters in Arlington will be sent a postcard, probably the first week of May, with a form to request an absentee ballot. Fill in the postcard, be sure to sign it, and then return it to the Town Clerk's office as soon as possible. Ballots will be mailed out starting on May 15.

You may request an absentee ballot for the rescheduled Town election with no reason given. Normally, to vote absentee, you have to provide an excuse, but a new state law has waived that requirement until June 30.

There will be fewer polling places than in previous years, probably about five. Voters will be sent a notification of their new polling place.

More decisions about the Town Election and Town Meeting are still in progress. If you aren't already receiving town notices by email, keep up to date by registering at <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/communications-center>.

Although we couldn't hold Candidates' Night this year, information about candidates is available. Go to <http://lwva.com/> for links to our Voters Guide, to candidate forums held by ACMi, and to Town Meeting candidate statements.

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## LWVA, ACA to Present *Created Equal* Exhibition

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment and the successes of the Suffrage movement, the Arlington Center for the Arts is seeking submissions for its upcoming exhibition *Created Equal*. The exhibition will take place from September 25 through November 6, 2020. A public reception is planned for October 8, and an exhibition talk is also in the works.

In partnership with the League of Women Voters of Arlington, the ACA presents *Created Equal* to showcase artwork that exemplifies the mosaic of voices that contribute to our society and the equal weight all voices carry.

This exhibit honors the Suffrage movement and the passing of the 19th Amendment, but it is not limited to this historic moment. It serves as a reminder that these rights are hard won and need to be protected and not taken for granted. The Suffrage fighters give us inspiration, courage and hope to move forward and face the struggles we see in our community, our country, and our world today.

The ACA seeks artwork in all forms and mediums that address concepts of fundamental rights and freedoms in our society. This includes, but is not limited to women's rights, civil rights, reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights, veteran's rights, disability rights, freedom of speech, voter rights, criminal justice reform, and environmental protection.

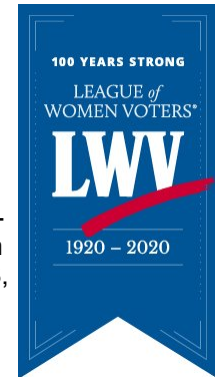
The Arlington Center for the Arts is pleased to welcome **Jill Harvey**, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator for the Town of Arlington and artist **Liz Shepherd** as our jurors for this exhibition.

**About Jill Harvey:** A Framingham native, Harvey has a bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a master's degree in public affairs from Brown University's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs. While pursuing her master's degree at Brown, Harvey focused on U.S. public policy and assisted in advancing the program's diversity and inclusion initiatives by researching best practices, creating cultural competency activities and developing diversity programming and training. Prior to pursuing her master's degree, Harvey worked in the Autism Spectrum Center at the Boston Children's Hospital and as a youth leader at the Brookline Teen Center where she ran a weekly art night for kids exploring mediums and materials, while discovering different artists and their methods. In her personal time, she enjoys making art of all kinds including drawing and painting.

**About Liz Shepherd:** Liz Shepherd is an artist living and working in Jamaica Plain, MA. Liz produces small print editions as well as large-scale sculptural installations. Frequent themes are the difficulties inherent in being part of an American family, illness and loss, and immigration. Recent solo shows have also been at Georgetown College, Georgetown KY, Artpace, San Antonio, Texas, at the Scuola Di Graphica in Venice, Italy and at the Boston Sculptors Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts. Her work is the permanent collection at Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Edinburgh (Scotland) College of Art, Syracuse University, Boston Children's Hospital, Hanoi (Vietnam) Contemporary Art Center and numerous private collections. [www.lizshepherd.com](http://www.lizshepherd.com)

### Additional Programming:

- Our Opening Reception on October 8th will feature Juror Awards presented to up to three (3) exhibiting artists, as well as a Voter Registration table available for all visitors who would like to register before the October 14 deadline.
- An exhibition in the ACA Hallway Gallery will feature a collection of prints of political cartoons created by artist and suffragette Blanche Ames. These cartoons, created between 1915 and 1920, depict a variety of political statements related to the suffrage movement and at the time, were published in *Women's Journal*. This exhibit will be on view for the duration of *Created Equal*.





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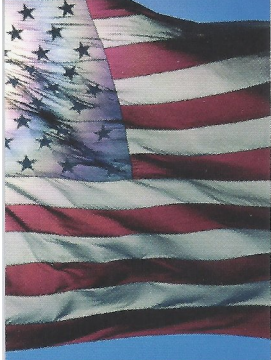
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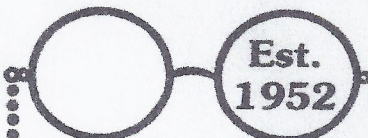


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## News about Criminal Justice and COVID-19

*By Kim Haase*

Colleen Kirby, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Legislative Specialist on Criminal Justice and the Courts, has provided some updates on these issues.

Our cable station, ACMi, has been putting together a great series on COVID-19 and our jails and prisons. Go here to view the first: <https://acmi.tv/videos/justice-in-the-balance-lois-ahrens-real-cost-of-prisons-project/>. Sara Alfaro-Franco of ACMi is putting the shows together, with James Milan as host interviewer.

ACMi got recommendations from Colleen for some of the interviewees. DA Marian Ryan is our DA in Middlesex County. Lois Ahrens is a remarkable grassroots advocate, and Susan Sered is an academic with a long history in restorative justice.

**Criminal justice reform bills:** The visitation bill for families and friends of people in jail and prison that the State League is supporting, S.1379, has recently been sent to Senate Ways and Means with some improvements in wording and is now called [S.2662](#). The bill LWVMA is supporting to reform parole so they can get through their backlog, [H.4607](#), is in House Ways and Means. So there is still a possibility of seeing these bills get votes. The other two live bills are in the Judiciary committee, and a decision on their fate has been extended to May 12. And, hot off the press, the LWVMA is supporting Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa's emergency Bill to decarcerate individuals who are not a public safety threat in order to increase our public health during the COVID-19 pandemic. The League is supporting [H.4652](#), which will have a public hearing on May 5, and Colleen will be submitting testimony for the League in support.

Also, a number of [letters](#) appeared in the April 29 Boston Globe calling for testing and release of people in jail and prison due to COVID-19.



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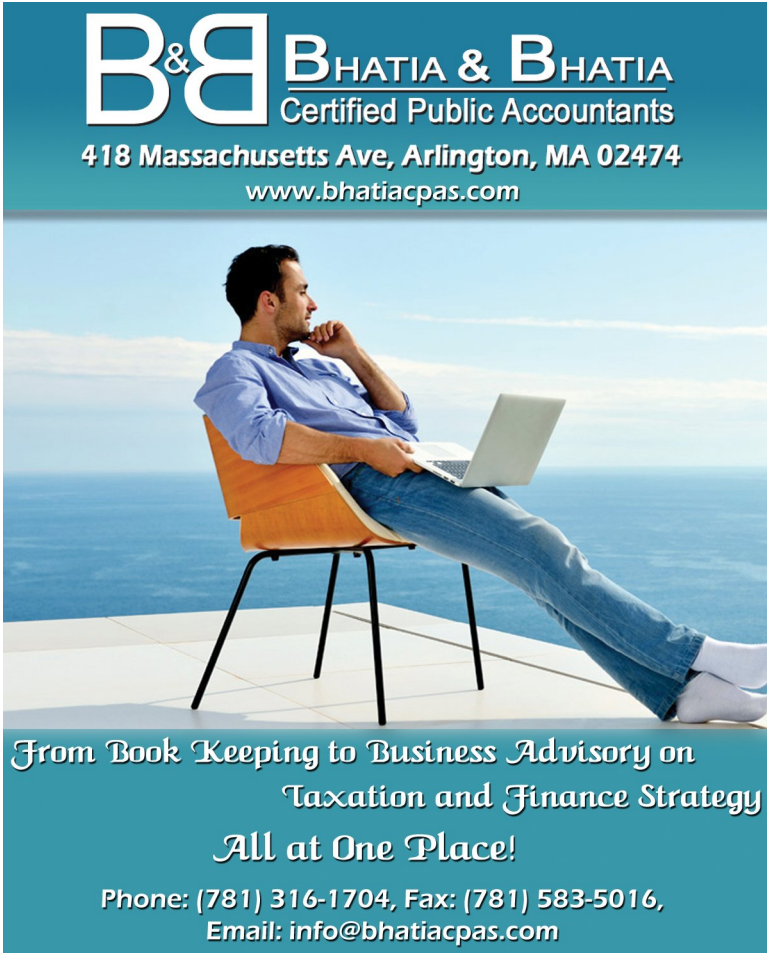
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Our fiscal year began April 1. We thank you!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ARLINGTON
Membership Application/Renewal Form

\*\*Fiscal Year runs from April 1 to March 31\*\*

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\_\_\_\_\_ Basic Membership Dues..... \$60
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\_\_\_\_\_ Student (full-time) ..... \$20
\_\_\_\_\_ Contribution to help the LWV in Arlington, add \$ \_\_\_\_\_
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Please check areas of interest and activity even if you can't be actively involved THIS year.

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Voters' Guide
Attend State League's Phonathon
Be a discussion leader at local meetings
Fundraising activities
Offer meeting refreshments
Post fliers and deliver brochures
Host a meeting in my home
Monitor elections for nonprofit organizations

FOLLOW ISSUES, KEEP LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY INFORMED

- Congress/Presidency/Election Process
Discrimination/Equal Employment/Civil Rights
Education/Child Care
Environment/Recycling
Health Care
Justice/Courts/Prisons
Land Use
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Women's Issues
Zoning/Community Development/Land Use

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SKILLS LEAGUE COULD DRAW ON

- Computer database
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Membership development
Moderating meetings
Fundraising
Writing articles
Other

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\*Some of these can be seen on cable TV

# Town Election Plans

At this time, we aren't planning to provide rides for the rescheduled Town Election June 6, because those who usually ask for rides are most likely to vote by mail-in ballot. See page 5 for information about requesting a mail-in ballot.

**May 2020**

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

