



BULLETIN
lwva.com

May 2021

Calendar

May 11	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.
May 27	Thursday 7 p.m.	Robbins Library virtual panel discussion co-sponsored by the LWVA, "The State of Voting: Expanding Access and Addressing Barriers." See page 3 for details.
June 15	Tuesday 7 p.m.	Annual meeting for business items only. All members invited! Watch for information in your email.
June 26	Saturday	LWVMA Convention, via Zoom conference. See page 7 for details.

**League of Women Voters of Arlington
Warrant Article Positions**

At the April 6 meeting of the LWVA Board, members voted to support two warrant articles to be voted on in the Spring 2021 Arlington Town Meeting.

Article 24 asks Town Meeting "to authorize and request the Select Board to file Home Rule Legislation to elect Town offices by Ranked Choice Voting." Ranked Choice Voting is supported by the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, which endorsed the recent ballot question to use ranked choice voting in state and federal elections, and which supports a local option to use ranked choice voting in municipal elections (see <https://lwvma.org/advocacy/league-supported-legislation/>). If the Legislature passes the Home Rule Legislation, the proposal would be presented to Arlington voters in a local ballot question. The Select Board voted 4-1 to support this article, which was recommended by the Election Modernization Committee. Details of the article are available on the Town website.

Article 70 asks that "the sum of \$10,000 be and hereby is appropriated for the purpose of conducting a study of the options for conversion of the Town Clerk position from an elected to an appointed office; said sum to be raised by general tax and expended under the direction of the Town Clerk." Since the mid-1970s, the LWVA has held the position "that the Town Clerk should be appointed and/or removed by the Town Manager with the approval of the Select Board." (See our Local Program, reachable from <http://lwva.com/about.html>.)

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


When sponsoring a Candidates Night for the local election, the LWVA follows guidelines set forth by the LWVUS and LWVMA. Specifically, when there is a contested election, at least two candidates must be present for the forum to take place for that office. In the past election the forum for the Arlington Housing Authority was off, then on, and at the last moment off. I am looking forward to a more ordered Candidates Night at Town Hall next year.

The LWVA is co-sponsoring a panel discussion addressing voting access, barriers, and lessons learned over the past year. See page 3 for details.

There will be a very abbreviated Annual Meeting on June 15. League members need to approve a budget and a slate of officers. An Annual Meeting Workbook will be mailed to all League members. Maybe in the fall the LWVA will be able to have an in-person gathering rather than looking at screens via Zoom.

Happy Spring!

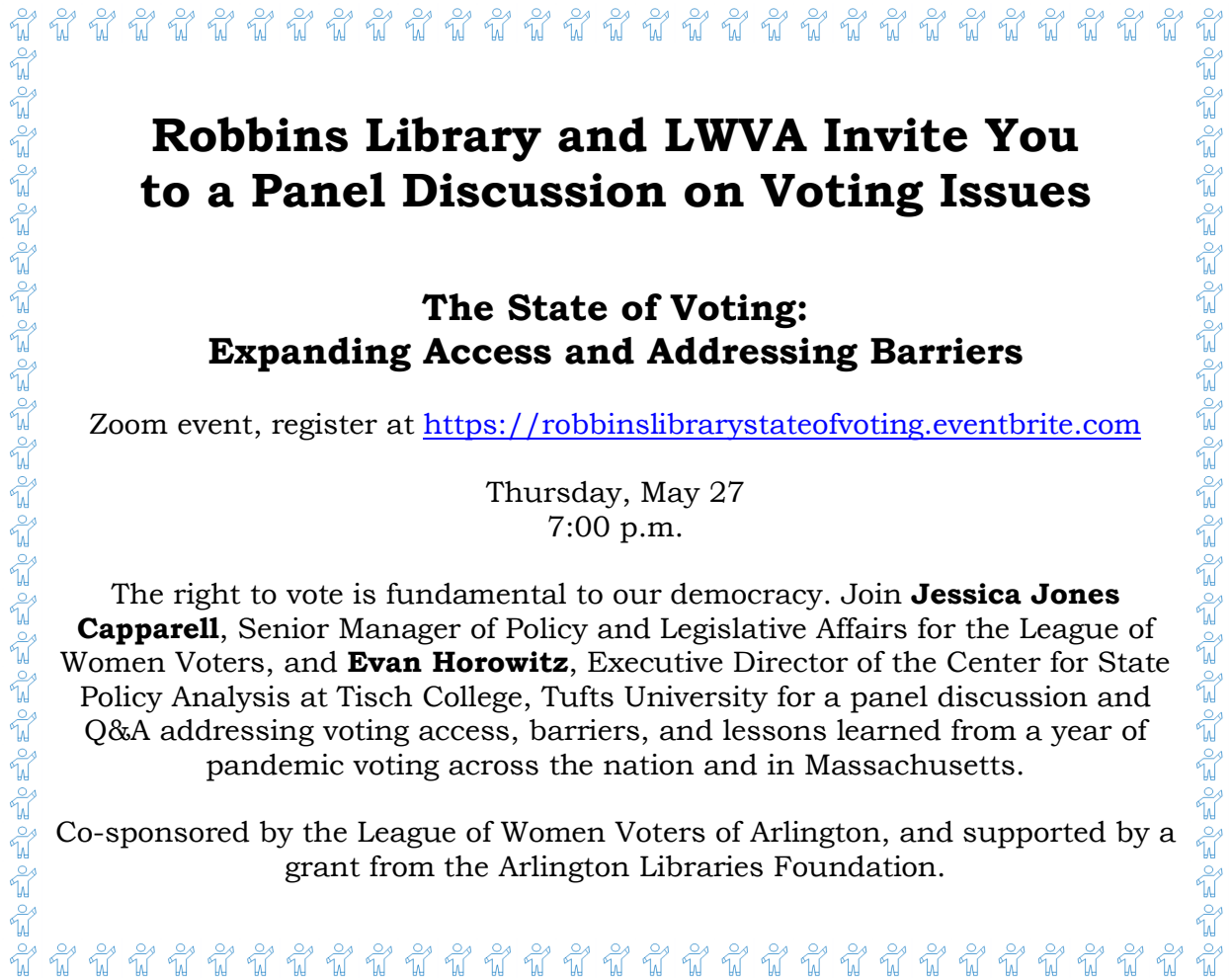
Carolyn Parsons



LWVA LEADERSHIP 2020–2021

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
Katharine Fennelly, Voters' Guide	781-648-1794
Kim Haase, Bulletin Editor/Ads	781-643-3429
Margaret Reiners, Bulletin Mailing	781-646-9611
Janice Bakey, Email Coordinator	781-643-4345
Phyllis Maddox, Co-Webmistress	781-646-4362

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.



Robbins Library and LWVA Invite You to a Panel Discussion on Voting Issues

The State of Voting: Expanding Access and Addressing Barriers

Zoom event, register at <https://robbinslibrarystateofvoting.eventbrite.com>

Thursday, May 27
7:00 p.m.

The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy. Join **Jessica Jones Capparell**, Senior Manager of Policy and Legislative Affairs for the League of Women Voters, and **Evan Horowitz**, Executive Director of the Center for State Policy Analysis at Tisch College, Tufts University for a panel discussion and Q&A addressing voting access, barriers, and lessons learned from a year of pandemic voting across the nation and in Massachusetts.

Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Arlington, and supported by a grant from the Arlington Libraries Foundation.

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Initial consultation is free for LWVA members

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LWV ARLINGTON NEEDS YOU! WE'RE LOOKING TO INCREASE MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

The League of Women Voters of Arlington (LWVA) is busier than ever, and we're looking to get more members involved. New Board members are always welcome, with or without extensive League experience. We'd be thrilled to fill Board positions for Voters' Service and Publicity. It would also be a great help to have one or more folks take on a Board member-at-large position, with no specific portfolio, but a willingness to attend a monthly Board meeting (now virtual) and provide input to various Board activities.

Other tasks where we need a helping hand include:

- Assembling the Voters' Guide for Candidates, which may be broken down into several parts
- Providing rides to the polls
- Social media posting
- Observing town boards
- New member recruitment

If you're interested in any of the above or other opportunities, or would like to discuss them further, please contact either Carolyn Parsons (carolynmparsons@msn.com), or Angela Olszewski (amolszewski@gmail.com), LWVA co-presidents.

Phyllis Maddox, longtime Board member with extensive involvement in just about everything LWVA-related, is also looking for assistance in the following areas:

- **Most Important** - Take over Phyllis's role as webmistress of LWVA's website – some knowledge of HTML or a web editor required (see note below)
- Print and deliver address labels to Peg Reiners for members receiving mailed Bulletins (about 24)
- Coordinate rides to the polls (all done by phone or email)
- Respond to emails sent to LWVA's website
- Coordinate "voter reminder" signs – printing dates, assembling, finding posting spots, posting, retrieving, and storing

If you can help with any of the items immediately above, please contact Phyllis for more information: PhyllisMaddox@rcn.com

LWVA truly appreciates your assistance, big or small!

Note: Since this notice was sent in email to our members, Diana Eastman, who previously served as webmistress, has volunteered to take this task on again. We are very grateful!



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League of Women Voters
for its contribution to
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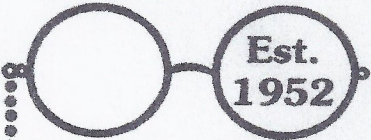


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Register Now for State League Convention June 26

The 2021 LWVMA Convention "Expanding the Table: Making Democracy Work for Everyone" will be held Saturday, June 26 on Zoom. Convention brings local League delegates together to hear distinguished speakers, approve program for the next biennium, elect a new board of directors, approve the budget, and network with leaders from across the state. Make plans now to have your League well represented — there will be no charge for this event!

To register and to learn more, go to <https://lwvma.org/2021-lwvma-convention/>.



As of April 29, the schedule of events (in process) was

8:30 a.m.	Local League showcase video
9 a.m.- 11 a.m.	Session 1 (details coming soon)
11 a.m.- 12 pm	Break for lunch
12 pm- 2pm	Session 2 (details coming soon)

All LWV members are welcome to attend Convention, but only delegates can vote. The League of Women Voters of Arlington is allowed three voting delegates. If you're interested in serving as a delegate, please let Carolyn Parsons (carolynmparsons@msn.com), or Angela Olszewski (amolszewski@gmail.com) know before May 11, the date of the next LWVMA Board meeting.

LWVMA Supports the VOTES Act

The VOTES Act — HD.1536/SD.1002 An Act fostering voting opportunities, trust, equity, and security — was drafted by LWVMA and the other members of the Election Modernization Coalition to make the temporary elections reforms in place for the 2020 elections permanent. The bill was filed by Rep. John Lawn and Sen. Cynthia Creem.

Arlington's legislators all support the VOTES Act. Please thank them for their support!

The bill covers reforms including expanded in-person early voting, and expanded access to voting by mail. Voters will be able to ask that mail ballots be sent to them permanently (until they cancel) without further application. It provides for drop boxes, an online portal for mail ballot application and prepaid postage for applications and ballots. It also continues the practices at election officials' offices that make the process more efficient, including processing mailed ballots ahead of Election Day.

Other provisions:

- Same-day voter registration
- Requirement that corrections officials facilitate voting for those being held who are eligible to vote
- Risk-limiting post-election audits every two years
- Adjust automatic voter registration practice to comply with original law to permit opt-out when voter is notified of registration rather than at point of contact
- Require Secretary of State to join Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) by June 30, 2022. The AVR law passed in 2018 required Massachusetts to join ERIC.

A note about terminology: Last session we supported Election Day voter registration. We are changing the term to same-day voter registration (SDR) because our bill would allow people to register and vote on early voting days as well as Election Day itself.



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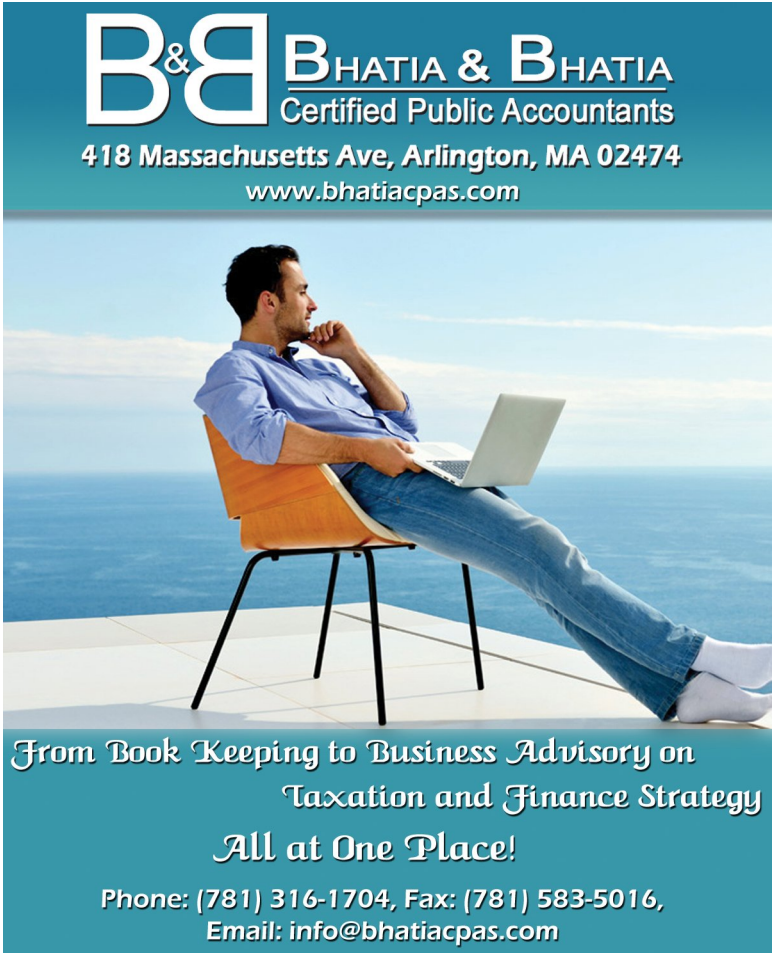
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Our fiscal year began April 1, so now is the time to renew!
Thank you!

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**
- Join the Board. Position: _____
 - Action: phone calls _____ letters _____
 - Bulletin: mailing _____ soliciting ads _____
 - Membership
 - Nominating Committee
 - Publicity Writer
 - Voter Service: Rides to the polls _____
 - Candidates Night
 - 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
 - Taxation/Budgets/Deficits
 - Transportation/Urban Policy
 - Voting Rights
 - Warrant Articles Review
 - Welfare Policies/Basic Human Needs
 - Women's Issues
 - Zoning/Community Development/Land Use

- OBSERVE AT TOWN BOARD MEETINGS***
- Select Board (Mondays)
 - Redevelopment Board (Mondays)
 - School Committee (2nd & 4th Thursdays)
 - Conservation Commission (1st & 3rd Thurs.)
 - Housing Authority

- SKILLS LEAGUE COULD DRAW ON**
- Computer database
 - Graphic design
 - Desktop publishing
 - Web site maintenance
 - Membership development
 - Moderating meetings
 - Fundraising
 - Writing articles
 - Other

BEST TIME TO CALL YOU:
(for phone tree reminders) Call before _____ o'clock

*Some of these can be seen on cable TV

May 2021

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

