



BULLETIN
lwva.com

November/December 2022

Calendar

Saturday, October 22 through Friday, November 4	Early voting continues in Town Hall. For hours, see www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/elections-voting .
Saturday October 29	Deadline to register for the November 8 general election.
Tuesday November 1 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.
Thursday November 3 7 p.m.	“How Long Must We Wait,” film about the women’s suffrage movement, Capitol Theatre, 204 Mass. Ave. Panel discussion including LWVMA Exec. Director follows. Details on page 7.
Tuesday November 8 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	General Election. If you can give rides to the polls, please let Carolyn Parsons know. Details on last page.
Monday December 5 6 p.m.	LWVA Holiday Party at Joan and Jim Robbio’s home, 4 Bradley Rd. Details on page 3. Friends and family welcome!

Thanks to Our Sign Hosts!

The LWVA thanks all our members and friends who have agreed to put an “Arlington Votes” sign on their lawn for the September and November elections. Thanks also to the Robbins and Fox Libraries for putting up signs.

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

The leaves are turning the distinctive red and orange colors of autumn as I write this. Election season is upon us. Holiday planning is taking place. League members have been busy this fall disseminating information regarding ballot questions, updating and placing election reminder signs, and preparing for an in-person holiday party. We look forward to meeting the new Arlington Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Liz Homan, on December 5th. Thanks go to Meredith Zona for securing our speaker and to Joan and Jim Robbio, who will be our hosts. I hope many of you can attend. Please see this bulletin for more information on the event.

We will resume holding board meetings on Zoom this winter. All are welcome. Please do not hesitate to contact Carolyn Parsons or me if you would like to attend. No need to go out in the cold or snow --- you can join from the comfort of your own home! It's an easy way to get more involved with the LWVA.

I wish you all a happy, healthy holiday season!

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
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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 to LWVA's Holiday Party!

**Monday, December 5, 2022
6:00 - 9:00 PM
Joan Robbio's Home**

Mark your calendars now for the Arlington League's holiday potluck party, in person for the first time since 2019!

Appetizers and drinks will be served at 6:00.
Main course will start at 6:30.

**Our featured guest speaker this year will be
Dr. Elizabeth Homan.**

Dr. Elizabeth Homan is Superintendent of Arlington Public Schools. Originally from the Midwest, Dr. Homan began her career as an 8th grade English and Communications teacher while also teaching college writing and rhetoric. She went on to earn her PhD at the University of Michigan, where her dissertation focused on how secondary teachers' relationships with colleagues impact their adoption of rigorous and innovative teaching practices. During her doctoral work, she supervised and taught teachers in the Detroit Public Schools and surrounding areas. She moved to Massachusetts with her family in 2014, where she worked in the Boston Public Schools and Waltham Public Schools as a K-12 administrator. She began as Superintendent of Arlington Public Schools in July 2021. She and her husband live in Newton and are the parents of two young children.

Friends and family members are welcome.


Directions to Joan Robbio's house, 4 Bradley Road:

Leaving Arlington Center via Mystic Street (Route 3), take a left onto Ridge St. Bear right at the island rotary. Take the third right after the rotary onto Winchester Rd., then the fourth right onto Bradley Rd. Joan's home is the third house on the right.

Please let Meredith Zona know by **Thursday, December 1**, if you can attend and what dish you would like to bring. If you need a ride, please tell Meredith and we'll make arrangements. Call her at 781-648-2753 or e-mail meredith.zona@stantec.com. Looking forward to seeing you there!



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State League Supports a Yes Vote on Question 4

From the LWVMA

Yes on 4 for Safer Roads is a campaign to uphold the commonsense law known as the Work and Family Mobility Act, which allows qualified residents, regardless of immigration status, to obtain a standard driver's license if they provide proof of identity, date of birth, and Massachusetts residency, as well as pass the required driver's test.

Ensuring that all drivers in Massachusetts are tested, licensed and insured will lead to safer roads for all of us and give law enforcement more tools to do their jobs efficiently and effectively. That is why YES ON 4 would preserve a driver's license law that has been endorsed by Massachusetts city police chiefs, sheriffs, and district attorneys from across the Commonwealth, including the Massachusetts Major City Chiefs of Police Association.

By voting YES ON 4, Massachusetts voters will support public safety in our communities, allowing workers and families to safely make essential trips like dropping off kids at school and getting to work, medical appointments, and the grocery store. A YES vote does all this while upholding the regulatory framework that ensures all drivers have passed a road test, bought insurance, and have a form of verified identification.

Voting YES ON 4 would allow Massachusetts to experience both safety and revenue benefits many states with similar laws have enjoyed. The 17 states with similar laws include most of our neighbors, and some that have had a law in place for decades. States from California to Connecticut have seen significantly fewer hit-and-run crashes. Utah and New Mexico have seen uninsured driving drop 80 and 60 percent. In the Commonwealth, voting YES ON 4 is projected to bring an additional \$5 million in taxes and \$6 million from fees, inspections and other services within the first three years.

Voting YES ON 4 would keep in place safeguards against non-citizen voting. The law preserved by YES on 4 does NOT allow non-citizens to vote and does NOT automatically register non-citizens to vote. It also provides no public benefits to license holders. It also does not allow the driver to use this license for federal purposes such as plane travel. It is not evidence of the holder's citizenship, nationality, or immigration status.

Learn more by visiting <https://SaferRoadsMA.com>.

[Editor's Note: The LWVMA has taken no positions on the other three ballot questions.]





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

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Initial consultation is free for LWVA members

Film Festival to Present Women's Rights Films November 3

Opening night of the Arlington International Film Festival (AIFF), Thursday, Nov. 3, at 7 p.m., presents two films and a panel discussion on the theme "Honoring the Strength of Women." It features a screening of director Jaclyn O'Laughlin's one-hour historical documentary, "How Long Must We Wait," chronicling the 72-year battle that women fought to attain the right to vote in the United States. The film has won AIFF's 2022 award for Best Documentary Feature.

The program will be shown at the Capitol Theatre, 204 Massachusetts Ave. Tickets (\$12) will be available at the door. Festival passes are available at <https://aiffest.org>.

Opening night is sponsored by the Network for Social Justice of Winchester. TV journalist Crystal Haynes of Arlington will serve as master of ceremonies. The panel will include Patricia Comfort, executive director of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts.

Before the feature, the festival presents a fictional 26-minute short film "The Scapegoat," by Tathagata Ghosh, on human rights in contemporary India.

"How Long Must We Wait" is a historical documentary about the 72-year battle that women fought to achieve the right to vote in the United States. "How Long Must We Wait" focuses on the events in 1917 that led to the imprisonment and brutal treatment of suffragists in a prison in Lorton, Virginia. This was considered a turning point in the suffrage campaign, which helped turn the public tide and ultimately led to the passage of the 19th amendment in 1920. While that was a huge victory, the film also focuses on the fact that there is still much work left to be done in the fight for women's equal rights.

Following the films, a panel discussion, moderated by Crystal Haynes, will include the following speakers. Reflecting on the struggle to attain voting rights, it hopes to identify how women can organize and work together to achieve greater freedoms.

Crystal Haynes is an Emmy award winning journalist and weekend anchor for Boston 25 News. Her *Priced Out* and *Equity in Education* series won Northeast Regional Emmy and Salute to Excellence Awards from the National Association of Black Journalists. Crystal is the creator, producer, and host of the award-winning *Boston's Black History: Inspiring Our Future* series. Ms. Haynes is the events working group lead on the Arlington Human Rights Commission, a member of the Boston Association of Black Journalists, NAACP member, and a part-time lecturer at Northeastern University. Crystal holds a B.S. in broadcast journalism from Emerson College and a master's degree in media advocacy from Northeastern University's College of Arts, Media and Design.

Jaclyn O'Laughlin, an award-winning documentary filmmaker with a passion for filmmaking, photography, and writing, has used those skills at a variety of newspapers and publications in Virginia and Washington, D.C. As a photojournalist and reporter for international news organizations, she covered stories that ranged from foreign affairs to general U.S. news, receiving awards from the Virginia Press Association. She currently holds the position of creative director for the ALS Association. Jaclyn is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University, where she earned her master's degree in multimedia journalism. In 2018, she served as a film fellow with Docs In Progress. Her fellowship project focused on women who are breaking barriers by pursuing careers traditionally held by men in both white-collar and blue-collar professions. "How Long Must We Wait" shows Jaclyn's continued use of her reporting and filmmaking skills to create documentaries that focus on the advancement of women's rights.

(Continued on next page)

Women's Rights Films (Continued)

Patricia Comfort, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, has spent her career working in the public interest, most recently serving as Executive Director of the Women's Bar Association and Women's Bar Foundation of Massachusetts. Along with an interest in a broad range of membership and advocacy issues, Pattye brings insight and expertise to women's issues. She has worked throughout her career to empower underserved constituencies. In addition to her most recent position with the Women's Bar, she has worked with the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation and The Fund for the Public Interest. Pattye holds a B.A. in political science from Boston College and a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law.

Celia Johnson Blue is President/CEO, visionary and founding member of the Massachusetts Women of Color Coalition, an organization that strongly advocates for and addresses the inequities of women of color. Blue is a seasoned executive leader with over 25 years of leadership experience in the private, public and nonprofit sectors. Blue holds a B.S. from Worcester State University and an M.B.A. from Anna Maria College. She has received numerous awards for her leadership and commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion and was recently named in the Power 50, Class of 2021 by Worcester Business Journal. Blue also sits on the boards of a number of civic and community organizations in Central and Eastern Massachusetts.

Sheila Marielis Ramirez is the Director of Health Policy and Government Relations at Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund of Massachusetts. Originally from Lawrence, MA, she is a recent graduate of the If/When/How Federal Policy Reproductive Justice Fellowship. She received her law degree at Western New England School of Law. Currently her work involves implementing legislative policies focused on sexual and reproductive health.

"Rides to the Polls Rules!"

Giving rides to the polls can be a rewarding and illuminating experience. Colleen Kirby reports that she gave a ride to a woman in a wheelchair going to the primary election September 6: she "was lovely and so excited to be able to vote. I am so glad I had the opportunity to assist her. In our short time together she told me of the work she had done in Vietnam and Thailand with portable rural libraries, working with Le Ly Hayslip, an activist featured in Oliver Stone's documentary *Heaven and Earth*. Her wheelchair was small and so easy to fold up and fit in my trunk. Rides to the Polls rules!"

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, Address, Telephone, Zip, Precinct, Occupation, Date, 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

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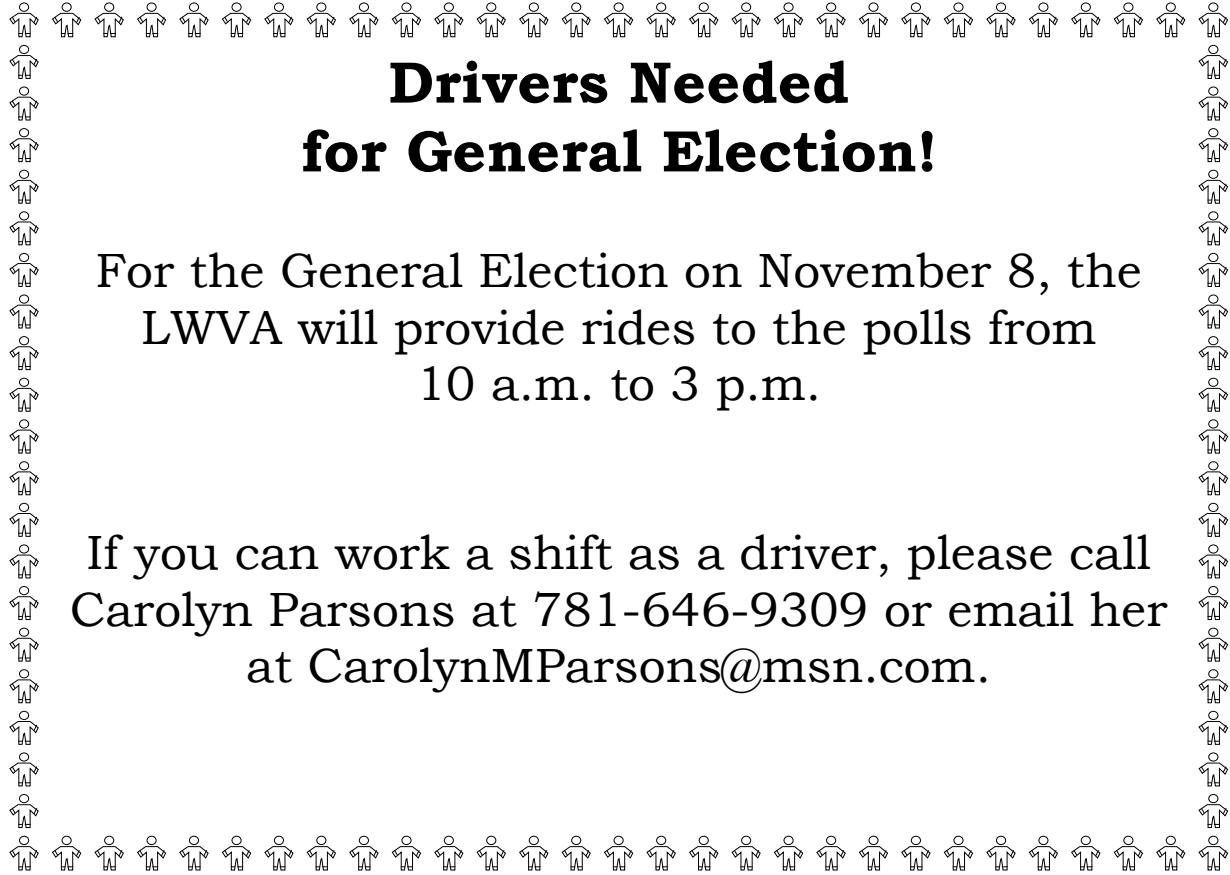
SKILLS LEAGUE COULD DRAW ON

- 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)



Drivers Needed for General Election!

For the General Election on November 8, the
LWVA will provide rides to the polls from
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If you can work a shift as a driver, please call
Carolyn Parsons at 781-646-9309 or email her
at CarolynMParsons@msn.com.

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Post Office Box 461
Arlington, MA 02476

