



# BULLETIN

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

## October 2020

### Calendar

10/2	Friday 7 to 9 p.m.	Treasurer Joan Martin speaks about the history and goals of the League of Women voters at the First Parish Unitarian Church's Women's Alliance meeting. See <a href="https://firstparish.info/ways-to-get-involved/womens-alliance/">https://firstparish.info/ways-to-get-involved/womens-alliance/</a> for details.
10/8	Thursday 7 p.m.	Virtual opening reception for <i>Created Equal</i> , an art exhibition running from September 25 to November 6, co-sponsored by the LWVA and the Arlington Center for the Arts. See page 3 for details.
10/13	Tuesday 6:30 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting via Zoom audioconference. The meeting URL will be sent to attendees. Note that we are meeting early because of the debate afterwards.
10/13	Tuesday 7:30 to 9 p.m.	Debate between candidates for the 5th Congressional District, Congresswoman Katherine Clark and Caroline Colarusso. Broadcast on Belmont Media and via Zoom. Watch your email for more information.
10/17 through 10/30	Saturday-Friday	Early voting at Town Hall, 730 Mass. Ave. For details on hours and other election information, see <a href="https://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/elections-voting">https://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/elections-voting</a> .
10/20	Tuesday 7 p.m.	Virtual screening of <i>Borderland</i> , a documentary about Blanche Ames, whose political cartoons are featured in the <i>Created Equal</i> exhibition. See page 9 for details.
10/24	Saturday 7 p.m.	Deadline to register to vote in the General Election.
10/28	Monday	Deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot for the General Election. The earlier the better, though!
11/3	Tuesday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	General Election. See page 9 for information about the ballot questions.
11/10	Tuesday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting via Zoom audioconference. The meeting URL will be sent to attendees.
11/16	Monday 8 p.m.	Virtual Special Town Meeting begins.

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

Dear League Members,

Looking over last year's message for this month, I noticed that I was looking forward to gathering apples for "backing". Of course it is baking and I'm hoping that Kim caught the error.

The Arlington League has accepted an invitation to join with other leagues in the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in sponsoring a virtual debate on October 13 at 7:30 p.m. between Katherine Clark and Caroline Colarusso. Details will be publicized soon. We're moving our Board meeting to 6:30 that evening so members can attend both events.

A Special Virtual Town Meeting has been scheduled to begin on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The plan is to have the ability to record votes electronically that will require pre-meeting training. Paraphrasing Town Moderator, John Leone, conducting the meeting virtually will require a fully digitized Town Meeting; all reports will be provided electronically. Video presentations of Committees, Commissions or Boards, and citizen article proponents will be made available on the Town website. Precinct Meetings are being planned. The timing is tight as reports from the various committees, etc., need to be made available so that there is something to discuss.

To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of woman suffrage, the LWV of Arlington is co-sponsoring an exhibit and art contest at the Arlington Center for the Arts. There will be a virtual tour of the exhibit and the ability to view the exhibit in person by filling out a timed entry request. Details are on page 3.

Happy fall!

Carolyn Parsons

### LWVA LEADERSHIP 2020-2021

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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.

## ACA and LWVA Celebrate 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment with Created Equal Exhibition

*From the Arlington Center for the Arts*

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, in partnership with the League of Women Voters of Arlington, present *Created Equal*, running September 25 – November 6, 2020. This exhibition, juried by Jill Harvey, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator for the Town of Arlington and Boston-area artist Liz Shepherd, showcases artwork that exemplifies the mosaic of voices that contribute to our society and the equal weight all voices carry. Artworks in this exhibit address concepts of fundamental rights and freedoms in our society through a variety of subjects and mediums.

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.

In conjunction with *Created Equal*, the ACA is also pleased to be presenting a selection of political cartoons created by artist and activist Blanche Ames. These large scale prints are reproductions of published cartoons Blanche created in 1915 to support the suffrage movement and to criticize oppressors and those who opposed women's right to vote.

ACA Executive Director Tom Formicola states, "This subject and dialogue are as important now as they have ever been and we welcome the opportunity to provide a platform of inclusion and equity to all artists in our Shaira Ali Gallery. Not only are we humbled to be presenting the work of Blanche Ames, a pioneer of advocacy through art, we are inspired by the broad lens through which these exhibiting artists are addressing concepts of inequality and empowerment."

On what motivated the League of Women Voters of Arlington to partner with the ACA on this exhibition, LWVA Board Secretary Anne Linn says, "Knowing that 100 years ago in Arlington, art works in the form of cartoons were used to both support and oppose giving women the right to vote, the League of Women Voters of Arlington contacted the Arlington Center for the Arts proposing that a juried art exhibition be held to commemorate this important anniversary of the 19th Amendment. When the ACA proposed that the scope of the exhibition be expanded to highlight other inequalities as well as women's suffrage, the LWVA was most receptive to this idea."

A virtual opening reception will be held on **Thursday, October 8 at 7 pm** and will feature a live tour of the exhibits as well as remarks from our *Created Equal* jurors, participating artists, and members of the League of Women Voters of Arlington. A free screening of the documentary film *Borderland, the Documentary: The Life and Times of Blanche Ames* will be held on **Wednesday, October 20 at 7 pm and is free and open to the public**. Information on the exhibition, how to view the exhibitions in person or virtually, and links to register for both free virtual events can be found at <https://www.acarts.org/current-shows>.

See page 9 for more information about the *Borderland* screening.

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## News on the Upcoming General Election

*By Patti Muldoon*

The voter registration deadline for the November 3 General Election is Saturday, October 24.

[Download a voter registration form or register online.](#)  
[Look up your voter registration status.](#)

VOTER OPTIONS for the November 3 General Election:

- Request a ballot by mail and return it by mail. Vote by mail applications must reach the Town Clerk's office by October 28 for the Nov. 3 Election, but the sooner the better.
- Request a ballot by mail and deliver it yourself to a drop box.
- Early voting in person at Town Hall from Saturday, October 17 to Friday, October 30.  
[See the Town website for details.](#)

### Drop boxes are in place to return your ballot safely

You can mail your ballot to the Clerk's Office (postage is paid) or use one of the three secure ballot return boxes. Before you put a ballot in a box, please be sure it is clearly marked for ballots.

- East Arlington - Outside the Fox Branch Library (175 Massachusetts Ave)
- Arlington Center - In front of Town Hall (on the lower plaza)
- Arlington Heights - Outside ACMI Studios (85 Park Avenue)

The [Elections Page](#) on the Town website has vote by mail forms and voter registration forms you can download.

VOTERS - DON'T WAIT! Please drop off ballots BEFORE Election Day so there is time to sort them into their correct precincts. Please help us avoid having to tally ballots late into the night.

### Track Your Ballot

When the Clerk's office starts mailing the ballots, you will also be able to see the date that the ballot is mailed to you and then the date your completed ballot is received using the Secretary of State's website tool [Track My Ballot](#). Please give the post office a few days before checking.



**Salutes the  
League of Women Voters  
for its contribution to  
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## LWVMA Stands on Ballot Questions

*From the State League*

Two ballot questions will be on the statewide ballot November 3. The LWVMA board has determined that LWVMA will support a yes vote on one of them, and local Leagues can advocate for that one. Below are the two questions, in the order they will appear on the ballot, and our stands.

### **Question 1: An Initiative Law to Enhance, Update and Protect the 2013 Motor Vehicle Right to Repair Law. (Right to Repair Law)**

LWVMA takes no stand on this ballot question.

Summary from Ballotpedia: Question 1 would require manufacturers that sell motor vehicles equipped with telematics systems to install a standardized open data platform beginning with model year 2022. Vehicle owners could then access telematics system data through a mobile device application and then give consent for independent repair facilities to access that data and send commands to the system for repair, maintenance, and diagnostic testing.

Currently, the 2013 "right to repair law" exempts telematics systems from wireless accessibility by vehicle owners and independent repair facilities.

The League does not have a position that covers this ballot question.

### **Question 2: Initiative petition for a Law to Implement Ranked-Choice Voting in Elections (Ranked-Choice Voting Initiative)**

LWVMA supports this question and urges a YES vote.

Summary from Ballotpedia: Question 2 would enact [ranked-choice voting](#) (RCV) for primary and general elections for state executive officials, state legislators, federal congressional representatives, and certain county offices. RCV is a voting method in which voters rank candidates according to their preferences. The candidate that receives a majority of first-preference votes is declared the winner. Currently, statewide elections in Massachusetts use a [plurality voting system](#).

In 2005, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts did a study of voting systems. The consensus of League members in the state was that: "Voting systems should be easy to use, administer and understand, encourage high voter turnout, encourage real discussion on issues, promote minority representation, and encourage candidates to run." The League also concluded that a voting system "should require the winner to obtain a majority of the votes." To achieve that majority outcome rather than a candidate winning by a plurality of votes cast, the Massachusetts League supported instant runoff voting, now better known as ranked choice voting. We concluded a ranked choice system is preferable to a two-round runoff system in terms of cost and voter participation. *Where We Stand*, p. 15.

See also [LWVMA testimony on RCV legislation](#) (November, 2019).

Detailed information on each of the ballot questions is available on the [Secretary of State's website](#).





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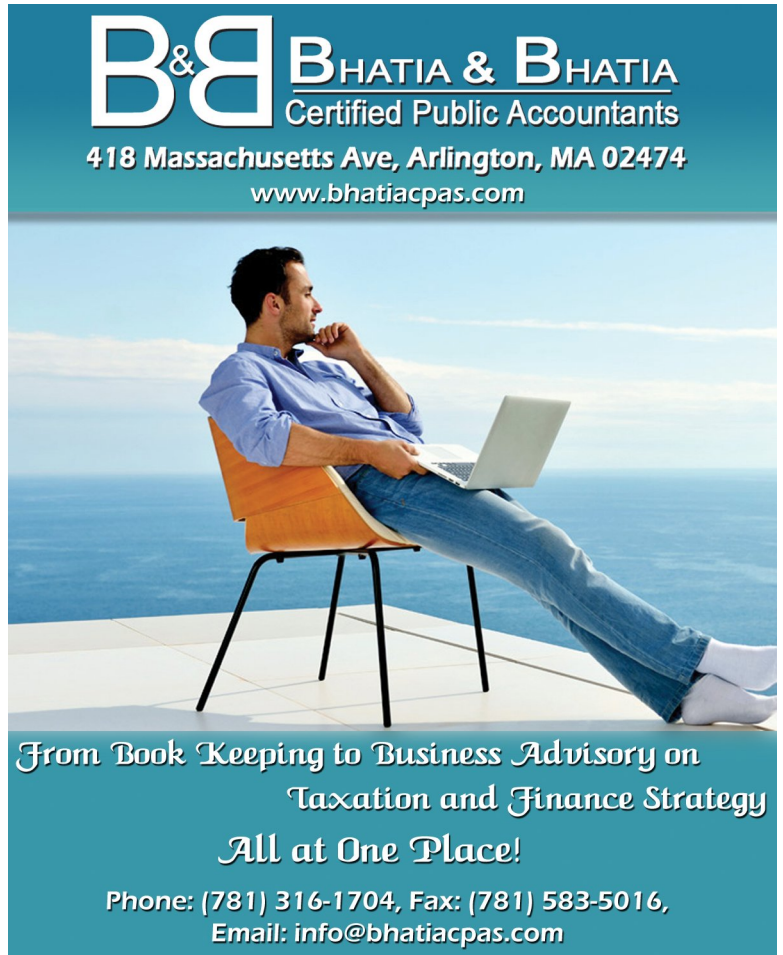
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## ***Borderland: The Life & Times of Blanche Ames Ames***

**Virtual screening followed by Q&A with the filmmaker, Kevin Friend  
Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 7 pm**

Sponsored by the Arlington Center for the Arts, League of Women Voters of Arlington, and the Smith College Club of Belmont

Blanche Ames Ames (1878-1969) was an artist, an activist, a builder, an inventor, a birth control maverick, and a leader of the woman suffrage movement in Massachusetts. She was a woman of privilege who was not afraid to shock polite society. Her name doesn't appear in most American history books. This, too, is part of her story.

"Borderland: The Life & Times of Blanche Ames Ames" is a 55-minute documentary that chronicles the life of a woman who was born in the 19th century, who worked to change the 20th century, and whose wisdom still resonates in the 21st century.

A selection of political cartoons created by Blanche Ames Ames will be on exhibit at the Arlington Center for the Arts. She is also the grandmother of Arlington resident Oakes Plympton.

An invitation to register for the screening will be sent soon via email.

## Updates on Criminal Justice Issues

*By Colleen Kirby*

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts has just joined the new Election Protection Behind Bars Coalition. Visit the webpage: <https://www.safeelectionsma.org/behindbars>

The Middlesex Sheriff's Office has publicized their work on this issue and mentions League involvement: <https://www.middlesexsheriff.org/press-releases/news/mso-promoting-civic-engagement-amongst-returning-citizens>

On a call with them in late August, the Sheriff's Office says they have incorporated teaching a Civics 101 class and helping with new voter registration as part of reentry. Perhaps they will be incorporating more voter information upon orientation moving forward.



75-80 Arlingtonians turned out in masked, socially distanced force on August 22 to support the United States Postal Service. The LWVA's Nancy Gray was among them.

*Photo by Colleen Kirby*

We welcome new members at all times.
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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\_\_\_\_\_ 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
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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
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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\*

- Selectmen (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



# General Election Plans

We aren't planning to provide rides for the General Election November 3, because those who usually ask for rides are most likely to vote by mail-in absentee ballot.

**October 2020**

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

