



**BULLETIN**  
*lwva.com*

**October 2021**

**Calendar**

Wednesday October 6          noon	Virtual Lobby Day for VOTES Act, S. 459. See page 5 for details.
Tuesday October 19          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.
Wednesday October 27          10 a.m.	Virtual Day on the Hill to lobby our state legislators for League-supported legislation. See page 5 for details.

**Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski:** Co-Presidents  
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**Margaret Reiners:** Bulletin Mailing [mlreiners@gmail.com](mailto:mlreiners@gmail.com)

## Co-President's Message

Dear League Members,

As I write this message, it is a glorious day in the neighborhood. I do not have to water outside, as it rained overnight, when it should rain.

The weather gods also smiled on the day that the LWVA conducted an election for the tenants of Menotomy Manor. Menotomy Manor has not had an elected tenants association in about ten years. After a decision was made on a date, eight league members volunteered to facilitate the election. One twist was that the LWVA was given a list of addresses with each individual line corresponding to an eligible voter at each address. No names were given. People came in to vote and signed their name at their address. At the end of the voting period the Interim Housing Director of the Arlington Housing Authority, Jack Nagle, verified each name.

The vote count was conducted with Jennifer Susse calling out each vote and Kim Haase and myself recording the result, essentially verifying each other. All went well with the final total counts for each office being exactly the same from both of us.

I thank Joan Martin, Sue Fish, Nancy Gray, Meredith Zona, Victoria Ford, Jennifer Susse and Kim Haase for a job well done. Jack Cooper, Director of the Massachusetts Union of Public Housing Tenants, oversaw the entire process from getting the ballot printed to addressing various concerns of the tenants.

Part of being in the League is that you may travel down a street that you have not been on before. To my knowledge, I had never seen the Thompson School. It is quite impressive.

Happy fall!

*Carolyn Parsons*

### LWVA LEADERSHIP 2021–2022

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
Kim Haase, Bulletin Editor/Ads	781-643-3429
Margaret Reiners, Bulletin Mailing	781-646-9611
Janice Bakey, Email Coordinator	781-643-4345
Diana Eastman, 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.

## First and Only Reprecincting Public Forum a Success

*By Patti Muldoon*

Arlington has finally opened up the process of redefining our precincts that we must go through after every ten-year census. Will we have 21 precincts or 16? Will we have 252 Town Meeting Members (TMMs) or 240? Will all the TMMs have to be elected together in April, 2022, or just a large proportion of them? The Select Board must decide by the end of this month, but for the first time (that we know of) the residents of Arlington are being fully invited into the process.

The League of Women Voters of Arlington and the Election Modernization Committee (EMC) jointly sponsored the only public forum on redesigning the Town's precincts, on September 22. Bringing the two groups together to plan and "staff" the forum and manage the outreach worked really well.

Because I suggested the idea at an EMC meeting, I got the job of leading the forum. Thanks to Carolyn Parsons for joining our cosponsor planning team, which also included Jennifer Susse, Len Diggins, and myself. Jennifer, Len and I are members of the Election Modernization Committee.

The flurry of last minute outreach efforts worked. Thanks to Susan Born, Kim Haase, Jennifer Susse (and myself), who handed out flyers in advance at the farmers market, the popular beer garden, and a Menotomy Rocks neighborhood party. Some flyers were left at the UU Church. Emails went out to TMMs, school e-lists, the Arlington e-list and elsewhere. Articles were posted in the Arlington Advocate, Arlington Patch, and YourArlington. Because of the controversy about the potential change from 21 to 16 precincts, other groups, such as Arlington Fights Racism, also did outreach.

ACMI was a huge help. Jeff Munro led us through a rehearsal, which we needed. They agreed to stream the program live, and they will continue to rebroadcast it for a while. The recorded program is on the Town website as well.

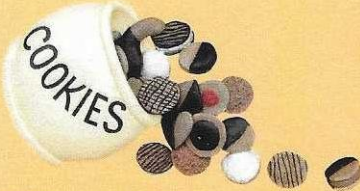
Over 100 registered; around 80 attended, and about 60 stayed through the small group discussions. I had only hoped for 50 to attend, so I was pleased by the numbers.

The forum went quite well. First we had two videos created by members of the Reprecincting Working Group, Juli Brazile (Town Clerk) and Kelly Lynema, about the process of redesigning precincts. Next, I gave a 15 minute presentation putting our election maps into the state and national picture. After that, Kelly and Juli smoothly handled Q&A from the chat, with answers to be added to the factsheet on the Town website. Then we broke into small groups for discussion. After half an hour, participants signed off and the facilitators had a quick debrief. The whole program fit exactly into the two hour time slot we planned.

We had seven small group facilitators to lead discussions. Thanks to our League facilitators: Jennifer Susse (also EMC), Joan Martin, and Liz Blumenthal. Our other wonderful facilitators included Alex Bagnall, Envision Arlington; Jill Harvey, Dir. of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion; and Walter Horn, Election Modernization Committee. (I also facilitated, representing LWVA and EMC.)

*(Continued on page 7)*



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## Reprecincting Forum (Continued)

Comments are being taken via an online survey, email to the Town Clerk, and by in-person review of precinct maps. League Co-President Carolyn Parsons volunteered to help with the special evening map viewing at Town Hall set up for the day after the forum.

To watch a rebroadcast of the forum, go to <https://acmi.tv/>. To learn more and to give your feedback, go to [ArlingtonMA.gov/Elections](https://ArlingtonMA.gov/Elections).

### State League Sponsors Two Lobby Days in October

Join LWVMA and our partners in the Election Modernization Coalition on **October 6** at noon to lobby for the VOTES Act, S.459.

We need you to help push this legislation over the goal post to ensure that the temporary elections reforms passed into law during the pandemic are made permanent. The VOTES Act also includes some other needed reforms, particularly same day voter registration – please add your voice on October 6th!

Also, we are planning Day on the Hill, our lobby day for League members to advocate for League bills with their own legislators. The event will be virtual this year on **October 27** from 10 am until 12 noon. More details and registration will be coming soon. Featured bills will be:

- Elections and Voting: The Votes Act H.805/S.459
- Environment and Climate Change: H.3302/S.2155 (Promotes offshore wind)
- Education: Affordable Early Education and Childcare H.605/S.362 (The Common Start bill)
- Healthcare: Medicare for All in Massachusetts H.1267/S.766

Visit <https://lwwma.org/news-for-members/> to register for the October 6 lobby day and to learn more about Day on the Hill as plans develop.





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## LWVMA “Meet the Specialists” Program on Gun Violence Prevention

By Kim Haase

On September 13 I attended a Zoom program on gun violence prevention sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA). Like the two programs in August on criminal justice reform and on elections and voting, this was a highly informative one-hour event that informed us about the bills to which LWVMA has given highest priority for the current legislative session.



League Specialist Jen Muroff noted that although Massachusetts has strict gun laws and the lowest rate of gun deaths in the nation, we can do more. For every gun death, an average of 9 more people suffer trauma. Jen described three bills that the League is particularly focused on passing:

- **Ghost Guns**, H.2491/S.1540, which would ban 3D printed guns and unserialized, untraceable guns (ghost guns). Ghost guns are commonly assembled from mail-order kits. Although our Attorney General is supporting a rule change from the Department of Justice that would ban ghost guns and take effect in December, court challenges are expected and state action is needed. Sponsors are Rep. David Linsky and Sen. Michael Barrett. Rep. David Rogers is a co-sponsor. The bill awaits a hearing.
- **Crime Gun Data Reporting and Analysis**, H.2437/S.1562, which would establish a formal mechanism to require the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to supply data to a local university researcher for analysis. Half the guns used in crimes here originate in the state. This data and analysis will offer a clear picture as to how and where crime guns originate and what the state can do to stem the tide of illegal guns used in crimes. Sponsors are Rep. Marjorie Decker and Sen. Cynthia Creem. Sen. Cindy Friedman is a co-sponsor. The bill awaits a hearing.
- **Creating Alternatives for Community Emergency Services (ACES)**, H.2519/S.1552, which would provide state oversight for the ACES grant program to increase the availability of non-law-enforcement, unarmed community-based response options for calls to 911. It would focus on areas with the highest levels of potentially violent interactions between police and community members. This bill falls under our Racial Justice category but is also related to gun violence. Sponsors are Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa and Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz. Rep. Sean Garballey is a co-sponsor. The League offered testimony at a hearing in July.

See <https://lwvma.org/advocacy/league-supported-legislation-2/> for a full list of the bills the League is taking positions on for the current session, along with links to the bills, summaries, and testimony.

The League encourages members to thank their legislators who support these bills and to ask their legislators who aren't yet co-sponsors to support them too.

Visit <https://lwvma.org/news-for-members/> to view the video of this event and all the others to date (there are some I didn't make it to, on women's issues and affordable housing).





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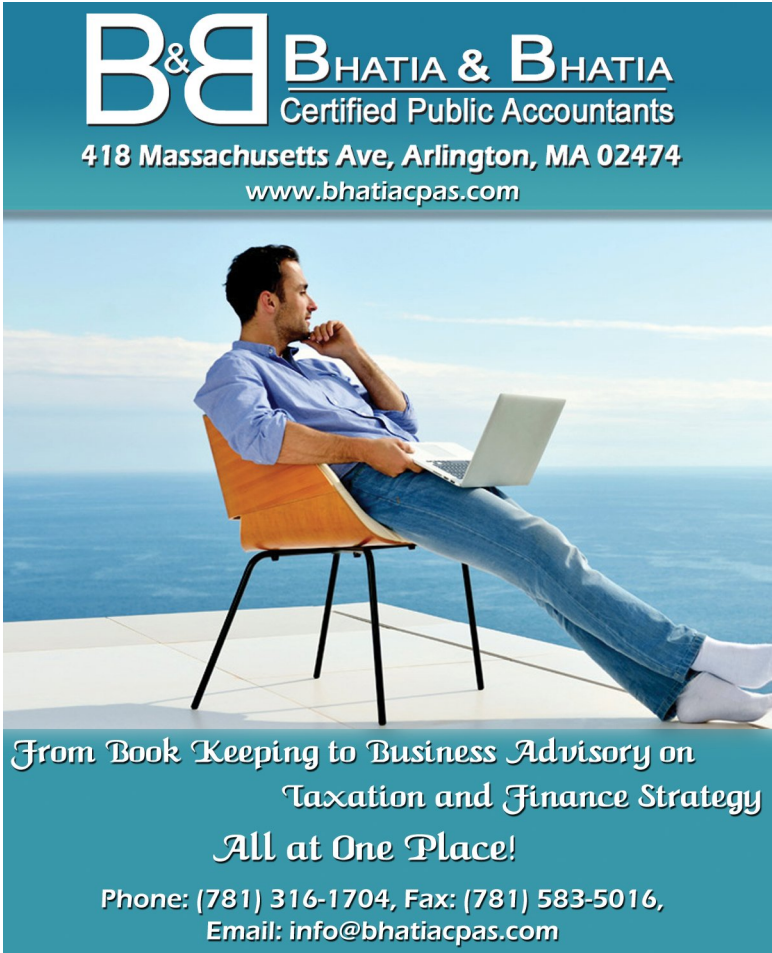
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Please check areas of interest and activity even if you can't be actively involved THIS year.

SPECIAL LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

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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

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\*Some of these can be seen on cable TV



## **Arlington Member to Coordinate State League Program**

The three-year-old LWVMA Legislative Envoy Program is “revving up” again this fall with a new coordinator, Mary Cummings of the Arlington League.

Volunteer envoys provide a direct link between the state League’s Legislative Action Committee and local Leagues, so that local Leagues can help influence the legislators who represent them. See the program description at <https://lwmma.org/advocacy/lwmma-legislative-envoy-program/>.

More information to come!

**October 2021**

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

