



BULLETIN
lwva.com

October 2022

Calendar

Tuesday October 4 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Carolyn Parsons' home, 23 Brewster Road, on her screen porch. All members welcome. Directions on page 2.
Saturday, October 22 through Friday, November 4	Early voting 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 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.

Calendar Note

We had hoped to hold our rescheduled Annual Meeting on October 25, with Dr. Elizabeth Homan, Superintendent of Schools, as our guest speaker. However, we have learned that she must attend a professional conference all that week; she sends her regrets. We hope to have Dr. Homan as a speaker in the future.

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

Dear League Members,

Fall is my favorite time of the year. I am writing this message from our seasonal home on Cape Cod. The ospreys that were screaming at me last weekend have left for a warmer climate; the monarch butterflies are still dancing about the yard. A very large monarch caterpillar, creamy-white with a black stripe, which was eating its way through an area covered in milkweed, has presumably transformed into one of the butterflies.

This year, fall ushered in the Town Day festivities. The LWVA had a booth to register citizens of Arlington, provide contact information for our representatives and senators at both the federal and state levels, and provide a listing of the legislative priorities of the LWVMA. An updated, large precinct map was also displayed. To provide some visual interest at the booth, Phyllis Maddox loaned the league a quilt, with the saying "IT'S A MAN'S WORLD UNLESS WOMEN VOTE & RUN FOR OFFICE". Having a booth at Town Day requires the efforts of several league members and a few family members as well. Thank you to Janice Bakey, Liz Blumenthal, Samantha Dutra, Ann FitzGerald, Nancy Gray, Kim Haase, Joan Martin, Pat McTiernan, Patti Muldoon, Juan and Janet Ramos, and Meredith and Joseph Zona.

If you would be willing to post in the front of your home an "Arlington Votes" sign with the appropriate date, please contact me at carolynmparsons@msn.com. I have a few extra signs in my basement. Unfortunately, we cannot place the signs at prominent intersections as a number of signs were removed before the primary election.

Happy fall!

Carolyn Parsons

Directions to Carolyn Parsons' home, 23 Brewster Road, Arlmont:

At St. Camillus, the large Catholic church adjacent to the access road for Route 2, go under the overpass, stop at the stop sign, cross the access road on the other side, and proceed straight ahead onto Sagamore Rd., which curves to your right.

Go the end of Sagamore, turn left. The house, on your right, has natural cedar shingles and black shutters.

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
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.

Town Day Returns!

Fine weather and a big turnout made the first Town Day since 2019 a great success. We provided information about the ballot questions and registration procedures. Just one voter registered on paper, but we pointed many to the online site.



Phyllis Maddox's new quilt (above) provided the backing for our new precinct map (left). Patti Muldoon and Liz Blumenthal provided information on Vote411.org to a voter.

Photos by Phyllis Maddox (quilt) and Kim Haase


Town Clerk Juli Brazile with Patti and Liz.

Photo by Kim Haase





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State League Updates Ballot Question Positions, Supports Yes on 4

From the State League

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts endorses Yes on 4 for Safer Roads – Ballot Question 4 – and is “taking no position” on Ballot Questions 1-3 for the November 8, 2022 election. This means that League members may participate in Yes or No campaigns for Ballot Questions 1-3 as individuals but should not do anything to make the public think that LWVMA or a Local League has endorsed a Yes or No campaign.



[Editor's Note: The State League is in the process of organizing a series of online ballot question forums in October. Watch your email for more information.]

How Does The Board Decide?

The LWVMA Board votes to support, oppose, or take no position on specific ballot questions based on positions or goals previously researched and adopted by the League, which are described in Impact on Issues (LWVUS, at <https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues>) or Where We Stand (LWVMA, at <https://lwvma.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Where-We-Stand..pdf>).

Constitutional Amendment Ballot Question

Question 1: Additional Tax on Income Over One Million Dollars

The LWVMA Board voted to take no position on the “Additional Tax on Income Over One Million Dollars,” nicknamed the “Fair Share Amendment” and the “Millionaires Tax.” If approved by the voters, it would create an additional 4% tax on the portion of income above \$1 million and earmark that income tax revenue for public schools, colleges, and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges and public transportation.

The Board has voted to take no position on this constitutional amendment because its earmarking (opposed by the League) is partially countered by the move toward a graduated income tax (supported by the League).

- The League is unequivocally opposed to the earmarking of revenues, especially through a constitutional amendment with no mechanism for periodic review and with no “sunset” clause.
 - ◆ The League firmly believes that the Legislature should set government program priorities through the budgetary process and annual appropriations.
 - ◆ The League’s opposition to earmarking applies even when the earmarks would support other goals of the League, like equitable education funding or bolstering public transportation to meet societal needs and to combat climate change.
- On the other hand, both the LWVUS and LWVMA support a graduated income tax, and this amendment would be a step in that direction, because it would add one new graduated tax bracket.

(Continued on page 7)



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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



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LWVMA Ballot Question Positions (Continued)

Citizen-Initiated Ballot Questions

Question 2: Regulation of Dental Insurance

Ballot Question 2 gives the Commonwealth's insurance commissioner power to require dental insurers to partially refund premiums to patients if a plan spent more than 17 percent on administrative expenses (as opposed to patient care and quality improvement). The League's stated goal for health care is: "An affordable health care system that provides equal access to quality health care for all." With no clear answer as to whether a 17 percent cutoff would be the most appropriate route to achieving that goal, LWVMA takes no position on this ballot question.

Question 3: Expanded Availability of Licenses for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages

Question 3 proposes a new law to raise the number of licenses a single alcohol retailer can own. The League has no positions on this topic, so the LWVMA takes no position on this question.

Question 4: Eligibility for Driver's Licenses

LWVMA supports a YES vote on Question 4. A YES vote keeps the Work and Family Mobility Act as law in Massachusetts.

The Work and Family Mobility Act ensures that all qualified state residents, regardless of immigration status, can apply for a standard Massachusetts driver's license starting on July 1, 2023. The law was enacted on June 9, 2022. Massachusetts became the 17th state to pass such a law, joining our neighbors New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Vermont. LWVMA supported this bill during the 2019-20 session and is an active member of the coalition, Yes on 4 For Safer Roads.

Review our League position to support the law in *Where We Stand*, p. 49-50: "The Commonwealth of Massachusetts should provide driving certificates, or some other form of proof of driving validation to undocumented drivers, allowing those drivers to drive legally and ensuring that they would have passed a state driving test. The Commonwealth should permit and encourage auto insurance providers to issue insurance coverage to holders of such driving certificates."

Allowing all drivers to comply with testing and insurance rules will make everyone safer on the roads. Everyone needs a driver's license to drive to their workplace to support themselves and their family members; and to drive their children to school and to medical appointments. Endorsed by 60+ law enforcement officials, the law is projected to generate \$5M in taxes and \$6M from fees, inspections, and other services within three years.

The law does not allow non-citizens to vote and does not automatically register non-citizens to vote. The RMV already issues licenses to people who are not eligible to vote—non-citizens with green cards and people under 18, for example—with no voting problems.

Read more about the Ballot Questions at the Secretary of State's website (https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/ele22/information-for-voters-22/quest_1.htm).

VOTE411 Is Live!

From the State League

[VOTE411.org](https://vote411.org), our online voters' guide for the 2022 Massachusetts elections, is now live!

The guide covers all candidate races from U.S. Congress down through statewide races as well as all contested county races. The guide also covers the Massachusetts Governor's Council races. We will be adding information about the general election ballot questions soon.

We worked diligently to encourage candidates to respond to the questionnaire. We plan to continue our outreach to urge those who haven't responded to do so as soon as possible.

VOTE411.org also includes all of the up-to-date information and deadlines for the recently enacted "VOTES Act" law so that you can plan how and when to vote.

In order to promote informed and active participation by all Massachusetts voters in this election cycle, LWVMA is reaching out to influential libraries, schools, and nonprofits across the state for help publicizing our guide.

This nonpartisan voters' guide is a unique and vital tool to educate and engage voters, but it's powerless unless people know about it.

As always, the election information provided by the League is nonpartisan; we never endorse or support parties or candidates. We hope you will help us share this valuable tool to encourage voters in your community to make informed choices as they go to the polls this fall.

Please also check out our Election 2022 Toolkit at <https://lwwma.org/election-2022-toolkit/>. The toolkit contains a handy voting info sheet, downloadable yard signs for VOTE411.org, and sample social media graphics and posts.

For more information about the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, visit www.lwwma.org.



A New Source of Election Information

The Massachusetts Secretary of State's office has consolidated a number of election resources onto a single web page:

<http://voteinma.com/>

This link takes you to a page with links to a dozen things you can do — register to vote, update your voter information, find your polling place, find a ballot drop box, view upcoming elections, and many more.

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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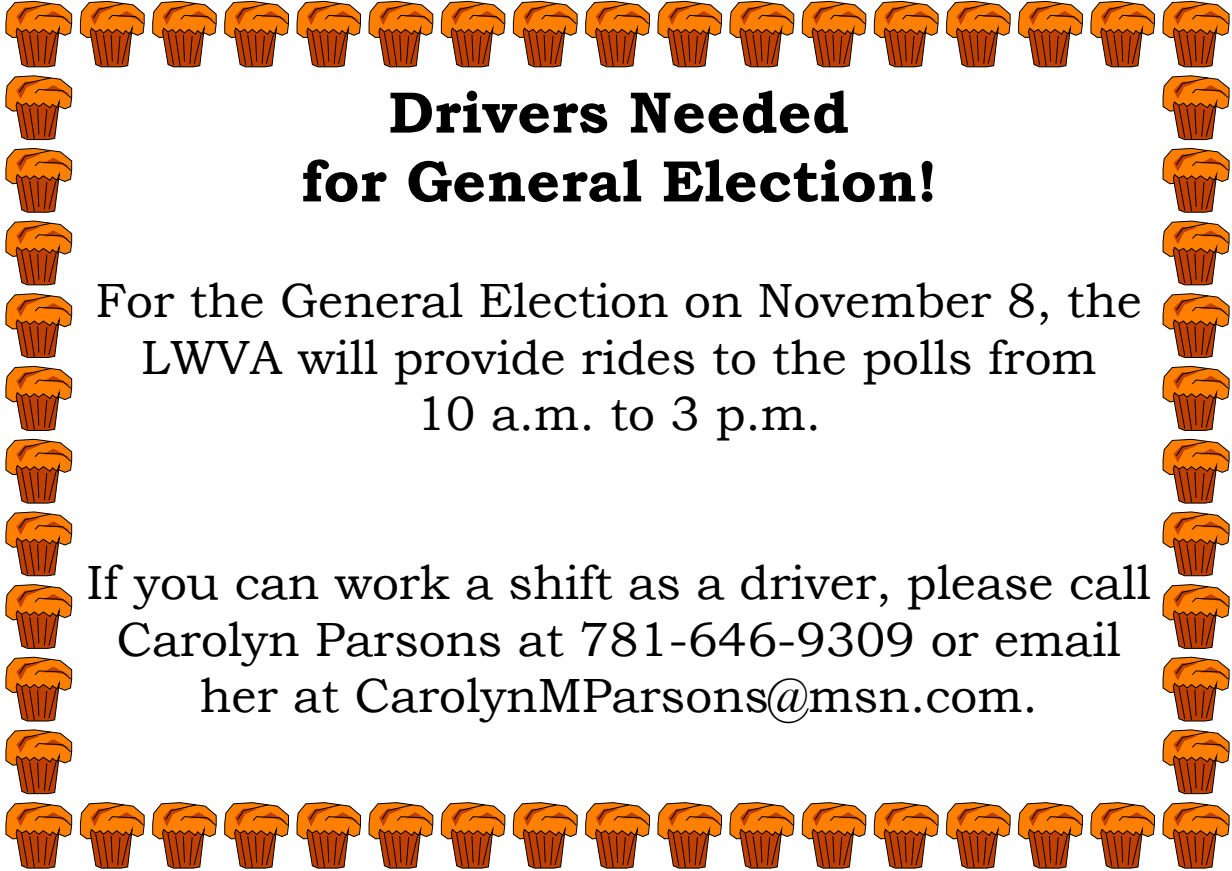
SKILLS LEAGUE COULD DRAW ON

- 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.

October 2022

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

