



BULLETIN
lwva.com

September 2022

Calendar

<p>Tuesday August 30</p> <p>6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>LWVA Board Meeting at Anne Linn’s home, 7 Linden Street, outside in her back yard. Note the earlier than usual time. All members welcome. Directions on page 2.</p>
<p>Tuesday September 6</p> <p>7 a.m. to 8 p.m.</p>	<p>State Primary. Vote in person if you haven’t done so by mail or early!</p>
<p>Saturday September 17</p> <p>9:30 to 3</p>	<p>Town Day is finally happening! Visit our booth and/or volunteer!</p>
<p>Tuesday October 25</p> <p>6 p.m.</p>	<p>Save the date for our postponed Annual Meeting potluck and talk with Liz Homans, Superintendent of Schools.</p>
<p>Saturday October 29</p>	<p>Deadline to register for the November 8 general election. Early voting is Oct. 22 to November 4.</p>

**COME AND HELP OUT!
LEAGUE TOWN DAY BOOTH
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2022**

After two years, Arlington's Town Day is finally taking place, for the first time since 2019. LWV Arlington will once again have a booth at this event that will be packed with a new precinct map along with information about voter registration, proposed legislation, League membership, policies, and activities, and other voter service literature. We are looking for volunteers to work in 1- or 2-hour increments from 9 AM to 4 PM.

This is a great, fast-paced event, with two to three people at the booth at all times, so both seasoned and new League members are welcome to participate. If you can help out, please call Meredith Zona at 781-648-2753, or send an email to Meredith at Meredith.Zona@stantec.com. We look forward to seeing you on Town Day!

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

I hope you all had a wonderful summer.

League members have been busy getting ready for fall activities. This bulletin is chock full of news! Here is a brief summary of some of our coming attractions:

The LWVA is a co-sponsor for Democratic Primary Virtual Candidate Forum for Governor's Council District 3 Councilor being held on August 30th. It is being recorded and will be available for viewing on ACMi. Thank you to Jo Anne Preston and Pamela Meister for formatting a number of questions for this forum.

Welcome back Town Day! The event will be held on Saturday, September 17th. Please consider volunteering at our booth.

We are organizing rides to the polls for the primary day on September 6th and election day on November 8th. Many thanks to our members who have already volunteered to give rides on primary day: Victoria Ford, Colleen Kirby, Phyllis Maddox. Barbara Thornton, and Meredith Zona.

Let's hope that COVID is manageable so that we can safely plan some indoor events. Please remember to vote!

Angela Olszewski

Directions to Anne Linn's home:

7 Linden Street is just off Park Avenue in Arlington Heights. If you are coming from Massachusetts Avenue, it is a left turn, just after Florence Avenue and before Oakland Avenue. If you are coming from Route 2, of course, it is a right turn just after Oakland Avenue.

It is the first house on Linden Street, on the right.

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.

Candidates' Forum for Governor's Council 3rd District Available for Broadcast on August 31, 2022

NewTV and the League of Women Voters of the Acton area, Arlington, Bedford, Belmont, Boston-Cambridge, Brookline, Chelmsford, Concord-Carlisle, Harvard, Lexington, Newton, Sudbury, Waltham, Watertown, Wayland, Wellesley, and Weston are co-sponsoring a forum with the candidates for the Governor's Council (3rd District). This virtual forum is being recorded by NewTV and will be made available at 5:00pm, Wednesday, August 31st at www.newtv.org.



The forum will be available on ACMi.tv for Arlington viewers. As Angela noted in her message on page 2, we thank Pamela Meister and Jo Anne Preston for submitting questions for the forum.

This forum is a collaboration between NewTV and all the local Leagues of Women Voters of the Governor's Council 3rd District. For more information, please email GCd3questions@gmail.com.


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.



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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.





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League of Women Voters
for its contribution to
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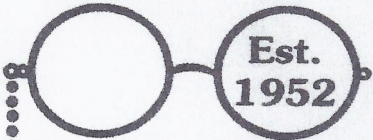
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LWVMA Council 2022

Patti Muldoon and Kim Haase attended the League of Women Voters Of Massachusetts Council June 11. Kim edited this report from Patti's notes.

The Council consisted of a business meeting followed by a fascinating panel discussion.

BUSINESS MEETING

The LWVMA Strategic Plan, set in 2021, aims to empower voters and defend democracy. The following projects will help implement these goals:

- Building a culture of philanthropy (a part-time fundraiser has been hired)
- Gateway Cities pilot: programs in Lynn, Brockton, and New Bedford should help with diversity goals
- School Civics celebration project: a civics curriculum is now required for students in grades 8 through 12, thanks in part to League efforts; we'll celebrate what students are doing statewide, and 5 local leagues are showcasing their towns' work
- Advocacy: to increase access to ballot for all and evolve as a coalition partner with communities of color, we advocated for and won the VOTES Act, which includes permanent voting by mail, a later voter registration deadline, jail-based voting — all we wanted except same day voter registration. We will file a bill for same day voter registration in January 2023.
- Building a culture of collecting, measuring and evaluating data to assess impact

Karen Price of the Data Collection Committee reported that starting in 2022, the LWVMA has begun collecting information on local League activities. As of June 1, 97 activities have been recorded by 24 local Leagues (including Arlington).

Sharyn Roberts, Chair Nominating Committee, reported that half of the officers and directors are elected each year for a two-year term. She presented the 2022 slate, which was elected.

PANEL DISCUSSION

After the business meeting, we had a panel of two speakers, hosts of the podcast “What Works: The Future of Local News” — Ellen Clegg, a former Boston Globe Editor, and Dan Kennedy, both on the faculty at Northeastern.

The Facts

Gannett Publishing announced that they would be regionalizing all but 3 of the local newspapers they publish. (The *Arlington Advocate* has merged with the *Winchester Star*.)

2100 local newspapers have closed in the last 15 years. Many more are “ghost papers” with little reporting capacity. 600 journalists have lost their jobs in the last year alone.

Craigslist destroyed classified ads, taking away 40% of newspaper revenues. Facebook and Google, which charge tiny amounts for advertising, severely damaged both digital and print advertising. Corporate chains and hedge funds cut deeply into ownership.

(Continued on page 9)



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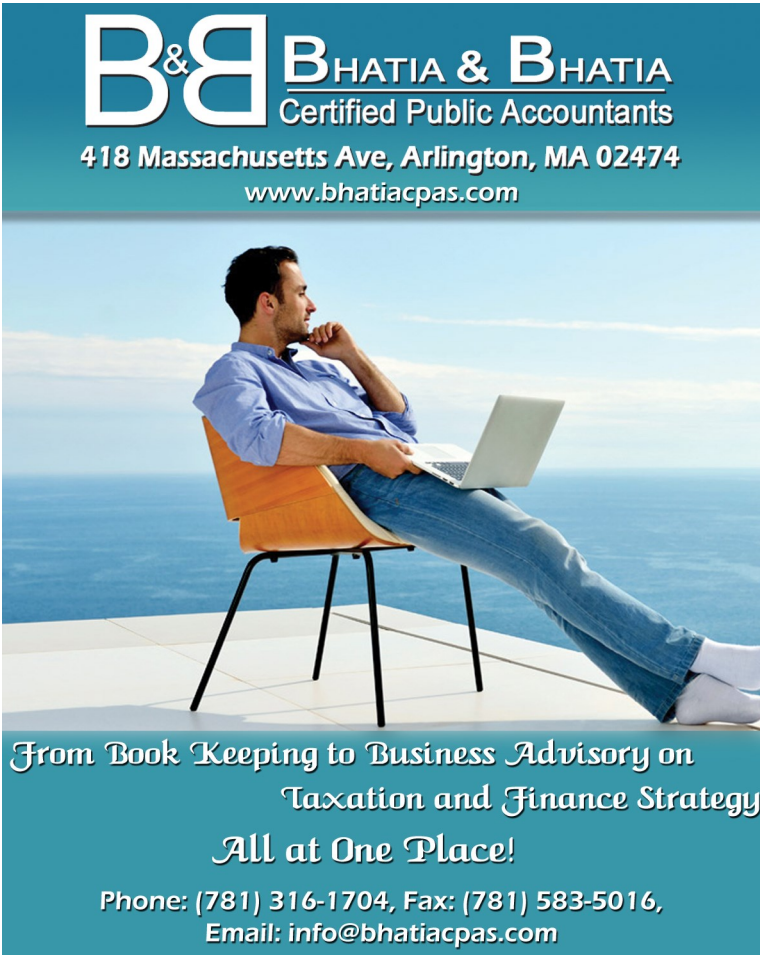
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LWVMA Council (Continued)

Why This Matters

The First Amendment mentions freedom of the press free of government interference. Thomas Jefferson said that if he had to choose between democracy and a free press, he'd choose a free press. Studies show that local news is more trusted in a time of polarization. Trust is essential. A lack of news coverage has been shown to lead to more corruption. Democracy begins at the local level, but not without an informed citizenry. Local news reduces polarization. We now have news deserts, though news organizations are essential to community identity.

Not Making It In Massachusetts

Gannett has closed its local newspapers and isn't putting local news online. In the first half of 2022, information has deteriorated radically. Some municipalities have independent online resources. Dan Kennedy is on a state committee on local news, which had just started meeting. They will see what state government can do.

Independent news organizations, producing public interest journalism, are succeeding in some towns.

The *Bedford Citizen* was founded as a volunteer project by three LWV members who were unhappy with Gatehouse/Gannett coverage of their community. Now the editor and a halftime reporter are being paid competitive salaries.

The Patch, originally owned by AOL, is now owned by a hedge fund. In its model, one full-time journalist is responsible for 8-10 communities. Now it often is the only thing a community has. It would need a much higher level of staffing to meet our needs. MassLive.com also needs more staff. TapInto.net (in four states) could be a franchise model.

Media Literacy

We have an ongoing need for education on how to evaluate media stories. Objectivity is under attack today. Methodology should not be biased; it should take a snapshot of the best version of the truth. Objectivity is a fair-minded search for the truth. It doesn't mean balance: if someone says the sun rises in the east, you don't need someone else to say it rises in the west. Assisted living facilities need media literacy. Older people are often the ones sharing fake stories.

Resources

<https://whatworks.news/>, with links to Mass. Indy News and info about their upcoming book

Podcast: <https://whatworks.news/podcast>

Twitter: @whatworks_nu

dan.kennedy@northeastern.edu

ellenclegg@gmail.com

Kathy Colwell and ACMi

Kathy Colwell's family held a celebration of her life June 12, which was facilitated by Patti Muldoon. Several LWVA members attended, and some spoke fondly about their memories of Kathy, who died in March (see the April *Bulletin* for some members' recollections).

Jeff Munro, operations manager of Arlington Community Media, Inc. (ACMi), was unable to attend but sent his recollections of her work with ACMi, of which she was a founder and tireless advocate.

As Manager of ACMi, and working for Arlington Cable Access prior to incorporating, I had so much respect for Kathy's legacy with our organization in town. I learned so much about the Town and about the people, the dynamics, and navigating the politics. As a town meeting member and active producer in town, she knew everybody, and it really helped with keeping the local TV content fresh.

Kathy was so important to my understanding of Arlington's version of community television and its impact on the participating members and on the viewers at home. There were parents, students, artists, and elected officials, all trying to communicate from both sides of the camera. Kathy exemplified community action, telling her story of dragging large cameras and record decks to community meetings, long before it was expected, all to provide the sense of transparency, reminding elected officials their responsibility was to the public who elected them. This story and others taught me that this community cares about action, cares about the responsibility of what we do here at ACMi. Kathy was our best cheerleader for our cause and sent countless citizens with a story to share to ACMi, sent even more to the channels to watch the programming.

Kathy was part of so many firsts at our station. She started our first website, helped purchase our first digital camcorder and laptops, and helped build and test-drive our first ever edit suites. I could go on, but I will say Kathy and Bill's constant support provided ACMi with the foundation on which all that stands today.

My longevity here at ACMi has a lot to do with the love and friendship of Kathy and the original founders of ACMi. Kathy was an active volunteer member for many years, and she continued to lug cameras around for years; thankfully, they were smaller and lighter. She eventually bought her own cameras and edit suite, so I saw her less and less; she would stop into my office to say hi before meetings. Kathy was always willing to share and support great ideas, but more impactful was her willingness to serve and provide the action where and when it was needed!

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 _____ 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

- _____ 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

OBSERVE AT TOWN BOARD MEETINGS*

- _____ Select Board (Mondays)
_____ Redevelopment Board (Mondays)
_____ School Committee (2nd & 4th Thursdays)
_____ Conservation Commission
_____ Housing Authority

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)

How to Contact Arlington's State Legislators

State Senator Cindy Friedman, 4th Middlesex (Arlington, Billerica, Burlington, Lexington (Precincts 1, 2, 4-7), Woburn: (617) 722-1432 Cindy.Friedman@masenate.gov

State Representative Sean Garballey, 23rd Middlesex (Arlington: Precincts 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 11, 13-21; Medford: Ward 3: Precinct 2, Ward 6: Precincts 1, 2): (617) 722-2090 Sean.Garballey@mahouse.gov

State Representative David Rogers, 24th Middlesex (Arlington: Precincts 2, 4, 8, 10, 12; Belmont; Cambridge: Ward 11: Precincts 1, 3): (617) 722-2263 Dave.Rogers@mahouse.gov

September 2022

League of Women Voters of Arlington
Post Office Box 461
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