



BULLETIN
lwva.com

September 2023

Calendar

Friday September 8	Deadline to apply for the LWVMA Reparations Study Committee. Details on page 8.
Wednesday September 13 10:30 a.m.	Gun Violence Prevention Lobby Day at the Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St., Boston. Details on page 5.
Thursday September 14 4 p.m.	First of three webinars on offshore wind, co-sponsored by the LWVMA. Details on page 5.
Saturday September 23 10:30 to 4:30	Arlington’s Town Day. Volunteer for our booth, or just drop by! Note that the event begins and ends later than in the past.
Tuesday September 26 7 p.m.	Presentation on the MBTA Communities Act by Jennifer Susse, LWVA member, at Kathy Fennelly’s home, 97 Gray St. Details on page 3.
Tuesday October 3 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.
Any time	Please pay your annual dues if you haven’t already! You can use the form on page 11. Many thanks to those who’ve paid!

**COME AND HELP OUT!
LEAGUE TOWN DAY BOOTH
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023**

The end of summer means it’s time to get ready for Arlington’s Town Day. LWV Arlington will have a booth at this event that will be packed with information about voter registration, precinct maps, 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 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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 her 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 everyone had an enjoyable summer! As August transitions to September, the board has reconvened to begin planning events and activities for the coming season. We start off this month with two items on our calendar: Town Day and a presentation on Arlington's plan to address the MBTA Communities Act. Please consider volunteering at the League booth at Town Day and look for more information about both items in this bulletin.

I also want to report the exciting news that plans for a new LWVA website are well underway. Many thanks to Elisabeth Carr-Jones for leading this effort and other League members for volunteering to provide input and guidance. Thanks also to Phyllis Maddox, who was our webmistress for many years, and to Janice Bakey, who has been the longtime sender of our group emails. Pamela Meister has volunteered to take over for Janice, so look for the emails to start coming from her soon.

I wish you all a happy fall and look forward to seeing you at a League event soon!

Angela Olszewski

LWVA LEADERSHIP 2023–2024

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
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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.

You're Invited!
Learn About the MBTA Communities Law
From Jennifer Susse, LWVA Member

Tuesday, September 26
7 p.m.

Home of Kathy and Paul Fennelly
97 Gray Street, Arlington

Come join us as we discuss the MBTA Communities Law. This law requires cities and towns served by the MBTA to increase the supply and type of housing in order to address high regional housing costs. The type of housing incentivized is sometimes referred to as “missing middle housing.” These are the triplexes and small apartment buildings that Arlington used to build, before the last major zoning recodification in the 1970s.

There is a good introduction to the MBTA Communities Act on the Equitable Arlington website (<https://equitable-arlington.org/>), but very briefly the law requires 175 communities that are located near transit to create a district of reasonable size where multifamily housing is allowed by right. The final proposal is still being hashed out, but it will likely affect between 2 and 4 percent of Arlington’s buildable land.

The MBTA Working Group will soon conclude its work and send its recommended proposal to Arlington’s Redevelopment Board (ARB) for consideration. Then the ARB will have a series of meetings, both to refine the proposal and hear from the public. Finally, Town Meeting members will vote on a proposal at the special Town Meeting that starts on October 17th.



Directions: 97 Gray St. is at the intersection of Gray St. and Churchill Ave., which is the 4th right after you turn onto Gray St. from Pleasant St. (Route 60). If you’re traveling on Gray St. from Arlington Heights, Churchill Ave. is the 4th left after the lights at Highland Ave. The house is a large gray home on the right side if you’re traveling up from Pleasant Street. There is plenty of on-street parking.


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State League Encourages Participation in Lobby Day Against Gun Violence

By Arthur Desloges, LWVMA Legislative Specialist for Gun Violence Prevention

Join us on Wednesday, September 13th, at 10:30 am at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul at 138 Tremont Street in Boston for a Gun Violence Prevention Lobby Day. Led by the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence (of which LWVMA is a member), Stop Handgun Violence, Moms Demand Action, Giffords, and Brady, we will show the legislature how gun violence prevention has widespread support throughout the Commonwealth. [RSVP here](#).

LWVMA to Co-Sponsor Webinar Series on Offshore Wind

By Launa Zimmaro, LWVMA Environment Specialist

Massachusetts and other New England states are planning on offshore wind as a major factor in meeting renewable energy generation and emissions reduction goals as we transition off fossil fuels. Join us as we take a deep dive into the Northeast's offshore wind industry and learn about the value of critical offshore wind projects and threats to their timely deployment.

Each session has a separate Zoom registration. Sign up for one, two, or all three! See full descriptions and registration links for each session on the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA) website (<https://lwvma.org/whats-up-with-offshore-wind/>). This series is co-hosted by the LWVMA and New England for Offshore Wind (NE4OSW).

The title of the series is "What's Up with Offshore Wind? Current Status - Future Plans - Getting It Done."

Webinars are from 4 to 5 p.m. Eastern Time.

Webinar I, Sept. 14: Collaboration and Ambition: Where Offshore Wind Stands Now

Webinar II, Nov. 16: Opportunities and Obstacles: Costs and Benefits of Offshore Wind

Webinar III, Jan. 18: Conflicts and Solutions: Overcoming Offshore Wind Opposition



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In Memoriam: Elizabeth Thompson

By Kim Haase

We were saddened to learn from Julia Thompson that her mother, Elizabeth Thompson, died on July 19, 2023. She had been living at Brookhaven in Lexington. Julia and her sister Martha were with their mother when she passed away.

Elizabeth was a member of the LWVA from 1976 until just the last couple of years. Most recently, she served as Voter Service chair.

A memorial service at her church in Winchester will take place at a future date.

Carolyn Parsons remembers, "She was President when I was doing Voter Service decades ago. She spoke a number of times against the various incarnations of the Mugar development — at Town Hall and at the Hardy School. She was an ardent environmentalist long before it became fashionable. She publicized the danger of the emerald ash borer and another worm/moth doing damage to our trees."

Meredith Zona says, "When I joined the League, Elizabeth had already served on the Board for many years, but she still remained thoroughly entrenched in Arlington League activities, and indeed throughout her life, even while she lived in Lexington for a brief period ('I couldn't switch Leagues after all this time!'). Elizabeth was always ready to pitch in, and no one was better at presenting a League position — in writing or verbally — so eloquent! The Arlington League never had a better advocate, and we who knew her benefitted greatly from her wisdom and friendship, and will always be most grateful."

Ann FitzGerald comments, "I remember how well she spoke, especially for a sound bite on ACMI for a League related event. She was smart; she also spoke about the Arlington League's history. She gave much to our chapter."

LWVMA Invites Applications for Reparations Study Committee

From the State League

A study about reparations was recommended by the LWVMA board and adopted by delegates at the 2023 LWVMA Convention in June. The LWVMA board will appoint a Study Committee to focus on this issue with a goal to finish the work over the next two years. The Study Committee will be led by Jeanne Morrison, a member of the LWVMA board and Co-President of LWV Cape Cod Area, and Susan Millinger, a member of the LWV Amherst Steering Committee. If you are interested in being considered to serve on the LWVMA Reparations Study Committee, please complete and submit [THIS APPLICATION](#) (a Google form) by September 8. LWVMA is committed to ensuring that at least 50% of the Study Committee's members are people of color.

Reparations are a complex issue, evoking strong opinions pro and con by members of the League as well as in American society, generally. The study will consider:

- Why reparations?
- What is the history—and the present-day situation—which leads some to support reparations?
- What arguments support those who look at the same events and oppose reparations?
- Different reparations have been suggested: what are they, and what are the arguments for and against each type of reparation?
- Should the federal government provide reparations, as some argue, or should reparations be provided only by local governments or only by non-governmental bodies?
- How would a position either in favor or in opposition to reparations meet existing League positions?
- What can the work done by the Leagues of other states contribute to LWVMA's Reparations Study?

To be successful, the study must carefully consider the many pros and cons, before presenting the evidence and the arguments to the local Leagues for their consideration.

Again, if you are interested in applying to serve on the LWVMA Reparations Study Committee, please click [HERE](#). The application deadline is September 8, 2023.

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

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)

State Convention Report

By Kim Haase

Patti Muldoon and I served as delegates to the LWVMA State Convention in Worcester on June 10. We heard from League administrators: Pattye Comfort discussed initiatives to increase and diversify membership and to initiate Leagues in gateway cities such as Lynn, New Bedford, and Brockton. Delegates voted in favor of a study on reparations recommended by the LWVMA Board (see page 8).

The highlight of the convention was the keynote speech by Danielle Allen, James B. Conant Professor at Harvard University, who teaches public policy, politics, and ethics. Her initiative, Partners in Democracy (<https://partnersindemocracy.us/>), focuses on democracy renovation (not reform) on a nationwide basis. The growth of social media and decline of local news have knocked out the pillars of our democracy. Her talk was specific to Massachusetts, which has some of the least competitive elections in the country. She recommends moving from primaries to preliminary elections, like Boston's, which whittle a large candidate field down to two for the general election. This is more likely to result in positive campaigns that appeal to the whole electorate.

Allen also recommended greater transparency in the state legislature. The Massachusetts Platform for Legislative Engagement, MAPLE (<https://www.maplestestimony.org/>), makes it easy for anyone to view and submit testimony on legislative bills.

See <https://partnersindemocracy.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Partners-In-Democracy-Massachusetts-Democracy-Scorecard-2022.pdf> for eye-opening facts and recommendations on what to do. For instance, 42% of African Americans are registered to vote. This is the lowest voter registration rate for any ethnic group anywhere in the country.

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League of Women Voters of Arlington
Post Office Box 461
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