



BULLETIN

lwva.com

October 2023

Calendar

October 3	Tuesday 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.
October 10	Wednesday 9:30 a.m.	Day on the Hill, LWVMA's lobby day at the State Legislature. Register by Oct. 4. Details on page 3.

LEAGUE CANCELS TOWN DAY BOOTH

By Kim Haase

Because of the dire weather forecast and a thin staff for the day, the League Co-Presidents decided to cancel our Town Day booth September 23.

If I'd had any imagination, I'd have taken a photo of our empty booth spot, in its usual location between the Rainbow Coalition and the Democrats, and across from Envision Arlington. But I didn't think of that.

As it turned out, we had just occasional brief sprinkles for most of the day, though it was chilly (maximum 60 degrees) and a bit breezy. The UU chili and pies, as well as the Library book sale, moved inside for the day. Most booths started breaking down around 3:30, when a steady drizzle began.

We were missed, a little: at one point a woman who'd just become a citizen the day before came by looking to register to vote. The Democrats didn't have voter registration forms either, so they sent her to the library in case they had some, and recommended she contact the Town Clerk's office during the week. She'd tried to do it online right away, but hadn't succeeded. But she was the only one — our sense that most people register online seems to be accurate.

Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski: Co-Presidents
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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. However, this year fall ushered in the Town Day activities on a rather cool and bleak day. The LWVA had reserved a booth to register citizens of Arlington (Did you know that the Libertarian Party is again an option?), 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. Preparations were all made, and then Angela and I agreed to cancel our presence. If the rain had started earlier in the day, there was not sufficient volunteer help to get the booth dismantled. 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, Janice Brodman, Jane Culbert, Ann FitzGerald, Kim Haase, Anne Linn and her grandson Cody, Phyllis Maddox, Patti Muldoon, and Meredith Zona. My husband, George, packed and unpacked the back of the station wagon. He was thrilled!

A Special Town Meeting consisting of several zoning articles, presented by the ARB, is scheduled for the middle of October. Some articles are "housekeeping"; some articles at first glance are straightforward; but the article addressing the Town's response to the MBTA Communities legislation is quite contentious. League member Jennifer Susse will be leading a discussion of this legislation at the home of Kathy and Paul Fennelly on Tuesday, September 26. Personally, I would like information on the potential economic impact, both beneficial and detrimental, on the Town's finances.

There will be a Town Election on Tuesday, November 7. On the ballot will be a question as to whether or not to support an override to address the structural deficit in the Town's finances. I have no further information. The LWVA has **Arlington Votes** signs, which announce the date of a coming election. If you would be willing to display a sign, please let me know at carolynmparsons@msn.com.

Happy fall!

Carolyn Parsons

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
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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.

Senate President Karen Spilka to Address LWVMA at Day on the Hill

From the State League

Exciting news: Senate President Karen Spilka will deliver the keynote address at our Day on the Hill, *Act for the Future: Voting, Maternal Health, Firearms, and PFAS*. Please join us on Wednesday, **October 11**, from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the Massachusetts State House.

Day on the Hill is the League's own lobby day each legislative session. Your advocacy to date has already led to victories for LWVMA policy priorities. Let's keep up the momentum by advocating for voting rights including same day registration, maternal health, gun violence prevention, and protection from forever chemicals known as PFAS. We will be briefed on the bills and then go to our legislators' offices to meet with them.

[Register by Wednesday, October 4](#) at 5:00 PM to allow time for LWVMA to schedule meetings with your legislators. Detailed agenda and advocacy packet will be provided.

We are excited to be back in person for the first time since 2019. A hybrid option will be available to participate in the general program. Hope you can join us.



Featuring
Senate President
Karen E. Spilka

LWV Day on the Hill

ACT FOR THE FUTURE: VOTING, WOMEN'S HEALTH, FIREARMS, AND PFAS



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Voting Rights Groups, Residents Overwhelmingly Support Voting ACCESS Act

From the State League

BOSTON – Advocates and directly impacted citizens testified before the Joint Committee on Election Laws recently in support of the Voting ACCESS Act, a comprehensive legislative proposal that would modernize Massachusetts' election administration and eliminate remaining barriers to the ballot box. (See <https://www.commoncause.org/massachusetts/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/02/VotingACCESSFactSheet2023-1.pdf> for information.)

“Our work to make democracy more accessible remains unfinished,” said **Geoff Foster, executive director of Common Cause Massachusetts**. “The Voting ACCESS Act will remove long-standing barriers to voting by enacting same day registration, disability voting oversight, and other reforms to make voting easier for Bay Staters. It is important that this bill be passed and implemented in time for the 2024 presidential election.”

“Same Day Voter Registration is a critical step towards eliminating barriers to voting, which disproportionately affect voters of color and low income voters,” said **Shanique Spalding, executive director of the MA Voter Table**. “By adopting the Voting ACCESS Act, our state will send a clear message that every eligible citizen’s voice matters and deserves to be heard.”

“The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts applauds the legislature for the steps taken a year ago to make voting easier and more accessible for registered voters. We urge the legislature to build on this progress by passing same-day voter registration and separating the municipal census from inactive voter status. These reforms will ensure eligible citizens can vote and will reduce problems at the polls on Election Day,” said **Patty Comfort, executive director**.

Sponsored by Senator Cindy Creem, this legislation contains four key elements:

- Same day voter registration, which is already in use in 22 states. (Also filed by Rep. Carmine Gentile)
- Decoupling voter registration from the municipal Census, which will ensure that not responding to the municipal census will no longer result in being dropped from the active voter rolls. (Also filed by Rep. Frank Moran)
- Uniform mail and absentee voting forms and ballots, which will reduce costs and workload for local election officials, and reduce confusion from voters. (Also filed by Rep. Shirley Arriaga)
- Strengthening accessible polling location oversight, which will require the Secretary of State to inspect all voting sites at least once every four years to ensure they comply with federal and state disability accessibility laws. (Also filed by Rep. Kay Khan)

Today’s panelists are available for further comment on this legislation. Please contact Geoff Foster (gfooster@commoncause.org / 978-930-9436) for more information.

The Massachusetts Election Modernization Coalition is a group of advocacy organizations working to modernize the Commonwealth’s election laws. The coalition is made up of Common Cause Massachusetts, ACLU of Massachusetts, League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, MassVOTE, the Massachusetts Voter Table, MASSPIRG, Lawyers for Civil Rights, the Disability Law Center, and the Jewish Community Relations Council.



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Initial consultation is free for LWVA members



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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)

October 2023

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

