



BULLETIN
lwva.com

February 2024

Calendar

February 6	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.
February 8	Thursday noon	Lobby Day at the State House in Boston for four bills on women’s issues. See page 8 for details.
February 24	Saturday 5 p.m.	Last day to register to vote in the March 5 Presidential Primary election.
February 27	Tuesday 5 p.m.	Last day to apply to vote by mail in the March 5 Presidential Primary election.
March 5	Tuesday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Presidential Primary election.
March 27	Wednesday 8 p.m.	Candidates’ Night for the Town Election, co-sponsored with Envision Arlington. Save the date!

League Mourns Loss of LWVUS President Dr. Deborah Ann Turner

It is with profound sadness that the League of Women Voters announces the passing of our esteemed president, Dr. Deborah Ann Turner, who passed away on Sunday, January 28, 2024, from complications from a pulmonary embolism.

A fearless advocate for voting rights and women’s rights, Dr. Turner devoted her life’s work to impacting meaningful changes in the lives of voters across the nation. As the 20th president of the 103-year-old voting rights organization, Dr. Turner played a pivotal role in fighting for a more fair and representative union, while uplifting racial equity in the League’s mission work.

Dr. Turner first joined the League of Women Voters of Metro Des Moines in 2010 and later served as president until 2015. At the same time, she also served on the LWV of Iowa board as the state vice president from 2011 to 2015, becoming co-president in 2015.

“Dr. Turner was the consummate leader who poured her heart and soul for the preservation of our democracy,” said Virginia Kase Solomón, CEO of the League of Women Voters. “Her leadership exemplified grace, empathy, strength, and determination, and we will forever be grateful for her passion and dedication to this organization.”

For more information, visit <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/league-mourns-loss-lwvus-president-dr-deborah-ann-turner>.

Co-President's Message

The nation is preparing to celebrate its semiquincentennial – the 250th anniversary of its founding. While much of the country will be looking toward 2026, we in Massachusetts are focused on 2025, because the American Revolution began here in 1775. The town's Semiquincentennial Committee, also known as Arlington 250, has begun planning for the celebration.

Arlington 250 chose a broad theme to recognize that this anniversary is much more than just the story of what happened on April 19, 1775:

Arlington 250 is a multi-year commemoration, recognition, and celebration of our history from Colonial beginnings to the present and our challenges and hopes for the future.

It's about the history we know, the stories yet untold, and the stories to come of the battles for the rights and freedoms of everyone.

The committee invites the entire community to plan events and projects that will tell those stories. The LWVA board plans to join in this effort. We see a natural connection to voters' rights with topics like suffrage. We also think there are untold stories, such as those of who had rights and who did not in Menotomy in 1775. We look forward to planning events that follow the League's purpose and positions. We hope to collaborate with other community organizations to present them. We welcome your ideas and suggestions. Please send them to me at amolyszewski@gmail.com.

Angela Olszewski

Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski: Co-Presidents
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LWVA LEADERSHIP 2023–2024

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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.

Come Help with Candidates' Night!

Mark your calendars: Arlington Candidates' Night is Wednesday, March 27 at 8 p.m., in person in Town Hall. The event will also be broadcast live on ACMi and shown on cable several times before the election. As always, the LWVA and Envision Arlington co-sponsor the event.



There will be question-and-answer sessions with the candidates for town-wide offices: Select Board, School Committee, Board of Assessors, and Housing Authority. There will also be informal sessions with candidates for Town Meeting before the event, from 7:30 to 8. But it can't happen without you!


As we did last year, we will be asking people to submit questions for the candidates in advance, to be selected by volunteers from the LWVA and Envision Arlington. The March Bulletin will have details.

We need volunteers for the following positions:

- **Timers:** We need at least four volunteers to keep time during the question-and-answer session, and to hold up time cards to keep all candidates within time limits so everyone gets a fair chance to speak.
- **Greeters:** We need at least two volunteers to greet people arriving at Candidates' Night and provide information about the League.
- **Set-up/Take-down:** Help us to put up precinct signs and get other items organized for the event or take down and pack up when the event is over.

Thank you for your help! Contact Angela Olszewski (amolszewski@gmail.com, 781-648-8649) to sign up.



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Attorney General Campbell Posts Guidance on Candidate Forums and the Open Meeting Law

From the State League

Before November's municipal elections, the Waltham city solicitor issued an opinion that it would be "potentially problematic" for elected city officials to participate in discussions at political forums that relate to issues currently before the City Council or its committees," according to an editorial in the Boston *Globe*. That opinion put a damper on a candidate forum held by the Waltham LWV, as well as other forums. Waltham had many candidates, including incumbents, running for City Council.

In a *Globe* letter to the editor, LWVMA asked Attorney General Andrea Campbell to clarify the meaning of the open meeting law as it related to incumbent candidates discussing issues before the board or committee on which they served.

The Attorney General ruled the open meeting law does not prevent incumbent candidates from making comments to the general public:

May members of a public body participate in a candidate forum or otherwise share their views with the public on matters currently or likely to come before their public body?

The Open Meeting Law does not restrict an individual's right to make comments to the general public, particularly as a candidate for office. Rather, it restricts communication between or among a quorum of a public body outside of a meeting; thus, the intent of the public official is an important consideration. Therefore, a communication directed at the broader public is generally permissible even if a quorum of the speaker's own public body incidentally hears or reads the communication, as long as the other public body members do not respond. So, if a member of a public body participates in a candidate forum or a similar public event and other members of that body are attending the forum or event, the member may direct their comments to the public. In addition, even a quorum of members of a public body may participate in a candidate forum or similar public event, and each share their opinions on a matter that may fall within the public body's jurisdiction, as long as the members engage only with the public and not with each other. Therefore, public body members should not direct their comments to their colleagues nor respond to each other's comments.

For details, visit Frequently asked questions about the Open Meeting Law | Mass.gov (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/frequently-asked-questions-about-the-open-meeting-law>) and click the section on "deliberation and electronic communication."

Note that, if a candidate forum includes two or more incumbents on the same board or committee, these candidates could state their opinions on issues, but they could not debate or respond to each other about those issues.

It's an issue that might come up during town elections, so it's good to have this clarified well in advance.



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John D. Leone - Suzanne M. Leone

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Initial consultation is free for LWVA members



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Town and Federal Election Calendar

Nomination papers are currently available at the Town Clerk's office on the second floor of Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Ave.

Vote-by-mail postcards have been sent to all voters.

For more details about the election, visit

<https://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/elections-voting>.

February 9	Friday noon	Last day for incumbent Town Meeting Members to file notice of re-election.
February 14	Wednesday 5 p.m.	Last day for obtaining nomination papers.
February 16	Friday 5 p.m.	Last day for filing nomination papers with Board of Registrars at Town Clerk's office.
February 24	Saturday 5 p.m.	Last day to register to vote in the March 5 Presidential Primary election.
February 27	Tuesday 5 p.m.	Last day to apply to vote by mail in the March 5 Presidential Primary election.
March 5	Tuesday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Presidential Primary election.
March 12	Tuesday 5 p.m.	Last day to submit Town Meeting candidate statements.
March 27	Wednesday 5 p.m.	Last day to register to vote in the Town Election (10 days before the election).
April 1	Monday 5 p.m.	Last day to request a mailed ballot.
April 6	Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Town Election.

LWVMA Supports Lobby Day for Women's Issues Legislation

From the State League

Four bills supported by the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts will be the focus of a Lobby Day organized by NOW Massachusetts and IGNITE, a young women's advocacy organization, on Friday, February 8 at noon at the Massachusetts State House.

This is an excellent opportunity to let our legislators know that we want these bills passed this session. Please share with others. Mark your calendars.

Our bills:

- H.534/S.1382 No cost menstrual products in schools, shelters & prisons
- H.669/S.422 Campaign funds can be used for child care
- H.3095/S.2029 Gender and racial parity on public boards & commissions
- H.544/S.268 Ensures age appropriate, medically accurate sex education in schools

To learn more about the bills, go to <https://malegislature.gov> and enter the bill number in the search box.

State League Urges Support for Comprehensive PFAS Regulation Legislation

From the State League

The LWVMA is asking the members of the Joint Committee on Public Health to report H2197/S1356, An Act to protect Massachusetts public health from PFAS, favorably – without being watered down by industry inputs.

As we learned during the League Leaders lunch featuring Rep. Kate Hogan, lead sponsor of the House bill, the need to stop production of the more than 20,000 PFAS chemicals and their contamination of our waters, soils and consumer products gets more urgent daily. This comprehensive bill would implement the recommendations of a two-year special task force on this problem. Water contamination dominates the news, but that's the final destination of the chemicals. We need to stop the source. Read the League's testimony at https://lwwma.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/LWVMA-Testimony-H.2197_S.1356.pdf.

Arlington's legislators Sen. Cindy Friedman, Rep. Sean Garballey, and Rep. Dave Rogers are all co-sponsors of these bills, so please thank them.

**Our fiscal year starts April 1, so please plan to renew in March.
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)

February 2024

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

