



BULLETIN

lwva.com

March 2024

Calendar

March 5	Tuesday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Presidential Primary election.
March 27	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	Candidates' Night for the Town Election, co-sponsored with Envision Arlington. See page 3 for more information.
April 1	Monday	The LWVA's fiscal year begins. Please renew in March! You can now renew online as well as by check; see below for instructions.
April 6	Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Town Election.
April 24	Wednesday 8 p.m.	Town Meeting begins.
April 28	Sunday 11:30 a.m.	Legislators' Brunch at Kathy Fennelly's home, 97 Gray St. Save the date!

Renew Your League Membership Online!

You can now use the League of Women Voters of Arlington website to renew your membership or join the League. Follow these steps:

1. Go to www.lwva.com and click **Join the Arlington League**.
2. On the Join page, click the **Join or Renew using PayPal, debit or credit card** button
3. On the Membership page, fill in the form and click the **Submit and Proceed to PayPal for Payment** button.
4. On the Payment page, click the option you want (Basic Membership, etc.).
5. Choose **Donate with PayPal** (if you have an account) or **Donate with your Debit or Credit Card**.
6. On the PayPal site, fill in the form and click **Donate Now**.

You can still renew by printing the form on page 9 and mailing it to the LWVA with your check.

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

Envision Arlington and the League are once again co-sponsoring Candidates' Night, which will be held on Wednesday, March 27 in the Town Hall auditorium. All offices have candidates for re-election, but there are no contested races. This may indicate that the citizens of Arlington are pleased with those currently in office, but the lack of contested races is a bit sad.

Questions for the candidates will be pre-screened and embedded in the script. No one wants to handle multiple pieces of paper and multiple pens. Embedding the questions in the script will really cut down on the confusion. **Please consider submitting a question that will be screened by two LWVA members and a representative from Envision Arlington. A notice from the Town should be coming out this week indicating how to submit questions.** A draft warrant for Town Meeting is available on the Town's website, which might give you an idea for a question. Click on Governance, and then click on Town Meeting.


Would someone have an hour on the afternoon of March 27 to help me set up Town Hall?

The "ARLINGTON VOTES" signs will be updated with the date for the presidential primary. One small sign that just has VOTE and the date is available for placement.

Please call me and leave a message at 781-646-9309 or e-mail me at carolynmparsons@msn.com if you would be willing to place a sign or help with set up at Town Hall.

Don't forget to vote!

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
Jo Anne Preston, Voter Service	781-643-5431
Kim Haase, Bulletin Editor/Ads	781-643-3429
Margaret Reiners, Bulletin Mailing	781-646-9611
Pamela Meister, Email Coordinator	781-646-8024
Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Webmistress	781-648-9026

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 7:30 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 informal sessions with candidates for Town Meeting from 7:30 to 8 p.m. Starting at 8 p.m., there will be question-and-answer sessions with the candidates for town-wide offices: Select Board, School Committee, Board of Assessors, and Housing Authority.

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. We expect the Town to provide information about how to submit questions soon.

We also 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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10% off for LWVA members and their families

Presidential Primary Information from the Secretary of the Commonwealth Website

Compiled by Karen Price for the State League

The 2024 Massachusetts Presidential Primaries will be held on **March 5, 2024**. In addition to candidates for President of the United States, the ballots will also include the party officers of state committee and ward or town committee.

State Committee (Man and Woman) (<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/getting-on-the-ballot/how-to-run-for-state-committee.htm>)

Each party's state committee is allowed to elect one man and one woman from each of the Commonwealth's 40 state senate districts. Members of the state committee work to:

- Promote the aims of the party
- Work in cooperation with the national party committee and with ward and town committees
- Organize and work for the nomination and election of party candidates

Ward or Town Committee (<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/getting-on-the-ballot/how-to-run-ward.htm>)

In Massachusetts, ward and town committees are the building blocks of political parties. In towns, party town committees are elected town-wide. In cities, party committees are elected by voters in each ward.

Ward and town committees range in size from 3 to 35 elected members. Their duties include:

- Representing their party at the local and neighborhood level
- Promoting the objectives of the party
- Working for the nomination and election of party candidates.

View Sample Presidential Ballots (<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA>) (or WhereDoIVoteMA.com)

How to Vote in the Primary

(<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/voting-information/vote-primary.htm>)

Editor's Note: For Arlington, you can find specimen ballots on the Town website at <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/elections-voting>: click **What's on the Ballot**.



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John D. Leone - Suzanne M. Leone

637 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, MA 02476

781-648-2345

john@leonelaw.com, www.leonelaw.com

Initial consultation is free for LWVA members



EXPLORE ACMi

Arlington Community Media, Inc.

Check out the

channels and schedules:

www.ACMi.tv/watch

781-777-1115

info@acmi.tv

Town and Federal Election Calendar

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

For more details about the elections, visit

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

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.

Local Environmental Group Reports Progress on CSO Bill

By Kim Haase

The environmental advocacy group Save the Alewife Brook, <https://savethealewifebrook.org/>, reports that a bill that would help alleviate sewage pollution in Arlington and elsewhere has been favorably reported out of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. The bill is H.886, An Act Relative to Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs), <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H886>.

The co-sponsors of the legislation are State Representatives Dave Rogers (D-24th Middlesex), who represents part of Arlington, and Adrian Madaro (D-1st Suffolk). Rep. Sean Garballey (D-23rd Middlesex), who represents the rest of Arlington, is also a supporter. The co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources are Sen. Rebecca Rausch (D-Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex) and Rep. Daniel Cahill (D-10th Essex).

The bill specifies that "by Jan. 1, 2035, in the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority sewer service areas ... there shall be no untreated Combined Sewer Overflow in any 25-year 24-hour storm event or smaller storm event." Also, "Within 18 months, the Department of Environmental Protection shall adopt regulations to implement this Section that shall include, but not be limited to, the definition of a 25-year 24-hour storm event ..."

The next step for the bill, the group says, will be a referral to another committee, most likely the House Ways and Means Committee.

Save the Alewife Brook's website notes that the Alewife Brook is a tiny water body in comparison to Boston Harbor and the Charles and Mystic rivers. But although most of the harbor and river sewage discharge is treated, none of the sewage discharged in the Alewife Brook by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), Cambridge, and Somerville is treated.

The group also states, "The current permitted limit for sewage pollution in the Alewife Brook is 7.29 million gallons per year. In 2021, 51 million gallons of untreated sewage pollution were dumped in the Alewife Brook."

Save the Alewife Brook is a grassroots environmental group with supporters in Cambridge, Arlington, Somerville, Belmont, and Medford.

H.886 is not one of the bills selected for advocacy by the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (see <https://lwvma.org/advocacy/league-supported-legislation-2-2/>), but it is obviously of interest to Arlington residents.

Our fiscal year starts April 1, so please renew in March, either online (see page 1 for instructions) or using this form. 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)

March 2024

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

