



BULLETIN
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March 2025

Calendar

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| March 4 | Tuesday 8 p.m. | Light for Our Democracy action on the State House steps. Details on page 3. |
| March 5 | Wednesday 11 a.m. | Day of Action in solidarity with immigrant communities on Boston City Hall Plaza. Details on page 3. |
| March 5 | Wednesday 7 p.m. | LWVMA DEI Peer Group discussion on Zoom. All are welcome. Details on page 5. |
| March 13 | Thursday 6:30 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. |
| March 19 | Wednesday 8 p.m. | Candidates' Night for the Town Election, Town Hall Auditorium, 730 Mass. Ave. Town Meeting candidates can meet voters from 7:30 to 8. Details on page 3. |
| March 26 | Wednesday 5 p.m. | Last day to register to vote in the Town Election. |
| March 31 | Monday 5 p.m. | Last day to apply to vote by mail in the Town Election. |
| April 5 | Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. | Town Election. |
| April 28 | Monday 8 p.m. | Town Meeting begins in the Town Hall Auditorium, 7:30 Mass. Ave. |
| May 4 | Sunday 11:30 to 2 p.m. | Save the date for our annual Legislators' Brunch at the home of Kathy and Paul Fennelly, 97 Gray St. |

Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski: Co-Presidents
CarolynMParsons@msn.com, amolszewski@gmail.com
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Co-President's Message

Envision Arlington and the League are once again co-sponsoring Candidates' Night, which will be held on Wednesday, March 19 in the Town Hall auditorium. All offices have candidates for re-election and there are contested races for both the Arlington Housing Authority and the School Committee.

Would someone, maybe attending Candidates Night on March 19, be willing to be a timer? Holding up a yellow card to indicate a defined amount of time left or a red card to indicate it is time to stop is an easy task. 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 be a timer.


The consensus results of the Black Reparations Study have been approved by the LWVA board and sent to the LWVMA for consideration in developing policies for supporting Black Reparations. Those attending the study discussion meeting unanimously agreed that Black Reparations are needed. However, there was no agreement as to whom these reparations should go. The following question was discussed: If reparations are provided, which group should be provided reparations? We could choose from one of the following responses:

- Only those descended from Africans enslaved in the US from 1619 to 1869
- All Black/African Americans living in the US with a preference to those descendants of Africans enslaved in the US from 1619 to 1869

There was no consensus from those in attendance.

Our new Arlington Votes signs have arrived and will be distributed for the Town Election on April 5.

Happy Spring!
Carolyn Parsons



LWVA LEADERSHIP 2024–2025

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
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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 to Candidates' Night!

Mark your calendars: Arlington Candidates' Night is **Wednesday, March 19** 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, Housing Authority, and Town Moderator.

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 asked people to submit questions for the candidates in advance, to be selected by volunteers from the LWVA and Envision Arlington. (Questions were due February 28.)

From the State League:

Light for Our Democracy March 4 at 8 p.m. in Boston

From the abolition of slavery to the expansion of voting rights, collective action has always been the driving force of progress. Skip the President's message to Congress and stand with us in opposition to our developing constitutional crisis during our Light for Our Democracy action on Tuesday, March 4, from 8 to 9:30 p.m. on the State House steps. This is an in-person event that will be live-streamed on the LWVMA Facebook page. Bring a flashlight with you.

Can't make it in person? Amplify the event on social media using the hashtag #Light4Democracy. Be sure to tag @LWV and @LWVMA.

Day of Action in Solidarity with Immigrant Communities March 5

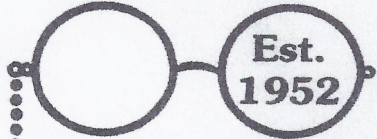
LWVMA will join MIRA, the MA Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, on Wednesday, March 5, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Boston City Hall Plaza to stand in solidarity with immigrant communities throughout the Commonwealth. Boston Mayor Michelle Wu has been called to testify before the House Oversight Committee in Washington at 10 a.m. View the MIRA blog for more information here:

<https://miracoalition.org/news/courage-and-resistance-join-us-to-support-mayor-wu-march-5/>



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

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c.haase@comcast.net,
617-510-6815

LWVMA's DEI Peer Group is back up and running in 2025!

From the State League

We invite you to join the group's next scheduled discussion, happening Wednesday, March 5th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom. Register at this URL:

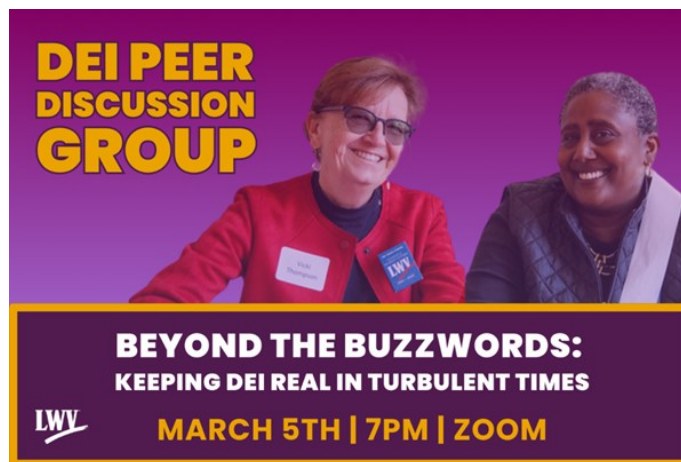
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/RbucMjRAT5u3NHzp8_73yw#/registration

All are welcome, whether you are new to the discussion group or previously participated.

This quarter's discussion topic is "Beyond the Buzzwords: Keeping DEI Real in Turbulent Times" and will be facilitated by LWVMA Executive Director Celia Canavan. This conversation will be a continuation of the dialogue created in February's DEI Corner article: "The Ripple Effect of Removing DEI: A Threat to Black History and Beyond."

<https://lwvma.org/diversity-equity-inclusion-corner/>

We hope that this discussion will be an opportunity to learn from one another about how to continue Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts in a rapidly changing and often challenging environment. Please bring your questions, comments, and reflections; we look forward to having a meaningful discussion.





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The graphic features a dark green rounded rectangle with a white border, set against a background of vertical stripes in shades of green, blue, purple, and red. The text is centered and uses a bold, sans-serif font. The word 'SCHEDULES' is underlined, and 'DONATE' is in a larger, yellow font.

State League Program Available for Viewing

From the State League

On February 11, LWVMA hosted **Elizabeth Sweet, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)**. You can find the recording at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3G80OfL1Alc> and the slides at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kMKyNLDiABtZs5_xyrG2fWEtyNEu1Mk5/view.

During the program, Liz discussed MIRA's Protecting Our Immigrant Communities campaign, and she highlighted two bills currently before the legislature: The Safe Communities Act and The Immigrant Defense Act. You can find more information at <https://miracoalition.org/protecting-our-immigrant-communities-campaign/>.

Liz also discussed the important Know Your Rights campaign. You can familiarize yourself with the details at <https://miracoalition.org/news/know-your-rights/>.

Lastly, save the date for MIRA's Immigrants Day at the State House, 2025 on March 18-19. Read more at <https://miracoalition.org/news/events-calendar/idsh2025/>.

Stay tuned for more information and action steps from LWVMA and feel free to contact us with any questions at lwwma@lwwma.org.

March 2025

League of Women Voters of Arlington
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