



BULLETIN

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April 2025

Calendar

March 31	Monday 5 p.m.	Last day to apply to vote by mail in the Town Election. Early voting runs through April 2.
April 5	Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Town Election.
April 5	Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Hands Off! Rally on Boston Common, co-sponsored by the LWVUS. Details on page 5.
April 28	Monday 8 p.m.	Town Meeting begins in the Town Hall Auditorium, 730 Mass. Ave.
May 4	Sunday 11:30 to 2 p.m.	Mark your calendar for our annual Legislators' Brunch at the home of Kathy and Paul Fennelly, 97 Gray St. Details on page 3.

March 19 Candidates' Night Photos



Margaret Coppe, moderator from the LWV of Lexington, and Pamela Meister of the LWVA.

Photo by Kim Haase

See report
on page 5.



Jo Anne Preston, Michael Garrigan, and Timothy O'Leary, candidates for Housing Authority.

Photo by Kim Haase

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 am writing this on a sunny, cold day in March. Yesterday I was outside in a T-shirt, today in mittens. Mother Nature can't seem to decide whether it's winter or spring. I am grateful that we had good weather and a great turnout for Candidates' Night. Thank you to ACMi and all the volunteers with the LWVA and Envision Arlington who made it happen. Thanks, also, to the candidates, who take the event seriously and recognize its importance to voters.

April will be a busy month in town. We have the election on Saturday, April 5th. The Arlington 250 Committee is hosting a festive kick-off to the 250 celebration at the Capitol Theatre on April 6th. Bunting has already started appearing on business storefronts, and word is spreading about the event lineup for Patriots weekend, along with the community events that are happening and upcoming.

But, beyond the excitement and huzzahs, we must recognize that April 19, 1775 was the beginning of this country's first fight for voters' rights. Menotomy, now Arlington, played an important role in that day. We honor and acknowledge those who fought with words and weapons to gain our freedom and build our democracy. We should be proud that, as members of the League of Women Voters, we continue to stand for voters' education and rights. Thank you for your spirit and contributions.

Angela Olszewski

LWVA Welcomes New Members

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members: Leslie Bass, Kathleen Coughlin, and Linda Cundiff.

LWVA LEADERSHIP 2024–2025

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
Marina Popova, Secretary	339-707-0740
Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director	781-646-9711
Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Voter Service	781-648-9026
Jo Anne Preston, Voter Service	781-643-5431
Laura Ahner, Candidates Night	360-907-2056
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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR:

LWV ARLINGTON'S ANNUAL LEGISLATORS' BRUNCH

& BRING A SPOUSE, FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR!

Sunday, May 4, 2025, 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM
@ Kathy and Paul Fennelly's Home, 97 Gray St., Arlington

With so much change happening in our government today, we hope that you will make an extra effort to come to our annual brunch, where you will have an opportunity to meet and talk with our current State Legislators face-to-face – Senator Cindy Friedman and Representatives Sean Garballey and Dave Rogers. Here is your chance to make your voice heard, and to learn how our State Legislators are navigating recent changes and preparing for the future.

Please contact Meredith Zona, Meredith.Zona@stantec.com, or tel. 781-648-2753, if you can come and bring your favorite brunch food. Meredith will also arrange for a ride to and from the brunch if you need that.

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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Thanks to All Who Helped with Candidates' Night

The League of Women Voters of Arlington's March 19 Candidates' Night drew an audience of around 150 to Town Hall for the 8 p.m. event. Many Town Meeting candidates also met with voters from 7:30 to 8.



As always, the LWVA and Envision Arlington co-sponsored the event, which was broadcast live by Arlington Community Media Inc. (ACMi).

Anyone who missed the live event can watch it at <https://acmi.tv>, and it will be shown on cable several times before the April 5 election. You can find it on Comcast Channel 22, RCN Channels 15 and 614, and Verizon Channel 26.

Pamela Meister of the LWVA introduced and closed the event and thanked our moderator, Margaret Coppe of the Lexington League.

The first candidate on stage was Greg Christiana, candidate for re-election as Town Moderator. He was followed by William Zagata, candidate for re-election to the Board of Assessors, and then by Stephen DeCoursey, candidate for re-election to the Select Board. Next were Michael Garrigan, Timothy O'Leary, and Jo Anne Preston (incumbent), candidates for Housing Authority, followed by Leonard Kardon (incumbent) and Dmitry Vasilyev, candidates for School Committee. (Kirsi Allison-Ampe, the other incumbent, was unable to attend because of an emergency.) Each candidate gave an opening and closing statement and answered several questions submitted in advance by the public.

The League thanks all the volunteers who helped with the event: the script editor Sue Fish; the question screeners Pamela Meister, Marina Popova, and Michael Brownstein; the tent card producer and webmistress Elisabeth Carr-Jones; the timers Laura Ahner, Sue Fish, Colleen Kirby, and Meredith Zona; and the greeters Ann FitzGerald and Angela Olszewski. Carolyn Parsons and Kim Haase helped set up Town Hall before the event, and a number of volunteers helped with last-minute preparations and with take-down. Laura Ahner coordinated all the candidate communications. Town Clerk Juli Brazile deserves a special thank you for helping with the logistics of getting every candidate access to the stage at Town Hall. Did you know that there is a handicapped accessible ramp that can be utilized from the Town Hall annex?

League Co-Sponsors Hands Off! Rallies

LWVUS is one of 115 co-sponsors of the multiple Hands Off! Rallies happening throughout the country. The major local rally is in Boston Saturday, April 5 from 11 to 2 at the Parkman Bandstand on Boston Common; register at <https://www.mobilize.us/handsoff/event/764606/>. There is also a rally in Arlington the same day from 10 a.m. to noon; register at <https://www.mobilize.us/handsoff/event/768037/>.

These events fight back against federal threats to public education, Medicare, Social Security, and our democracy. Remember – Democracy is not a spectator sport!

See LWVUS CEO Celina Stewart's statement on page 7.

But don't forget to vote in Arlington's town election, also April 5. Early voting runs till April 2.



LWVA to Co-Sponsor June Event

The League of Women Voters of Arlington will co-sponsor an Untold Stories event Thursday, June 26, along with Cantilena and the Arlington Friends of the Drama (AFD).

The event will show the film "How Long Must We Wait," about the women's suffrage movement, previously seen at the Arlington International Film Festival in 2022. After the film, Cantilena will present "Lifting As We Climb," a musical piece by Joan Szymko that includes the voices of suffragists and other activists, previously presented in May 2023.

The event will be free, but donations will be welcomed. Watch for more details in the May Bulletin.

Planners for the June 26 event met at the AFD theater March 20. On stage is Judy Weinberg, president of the AFD board. In the front of the house are Elisabeth Carr-Jones of the LWVA and Janice Darling of Cantilena.

Photo by Patti Muldoon



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An Unprecedented, Breathtaking Assault on American Democracy: LWV Responds to Trump Administration's First 60 Days

On March 20, the League of Women Voters of the United States CEO Celina Stewart issued the following statement in reflection on the first 60 days of the Trump administration.

"If the past 60 days have made one thing clear, it's this: our democracy is facing a five-alarm fire.

"The first 60 days of the Trump administration have been nothing short of an unprecedented, breathtaking assault on American democracy. From the pardoning of January 6 perpetrators and the terrorizing of immigrant communities, to the dismantling of crucial government agencies and the blatant flouting of court rulings, to the erasing of contributions of people of color, the Trump administration is waging a full-scale attack on all Americans.

"But no matter what they throw at us, we will not back down. Americans have proven we can overcome the toughest of circumstances together. And for over a century, the League has remained steadfast in our commitment to empowering the American people and defending our democracy.

"That's why we are heartened that Americans across the country — of all ages, gender identities, races, and political persuasions — are stepping up, making their voices heard, and fighting back. With attacks on the rule of law and our democratic institutions staring us right in the face, it is going to take all of us — our collective voices and efforts — to protect our democracy.

"We the American people must loudly condemn this administration for the abuse of power we've witnessed over the last 60 days. We must also call out the inaction from Congress that continues to allow the executive overreach and blatant violation of our constitutional protections. As voters, we have the power to tell the President we will not be silent, and to turn up the heat on elected officials in Congress to remind them of their oath to the Constitution.

"Our democracy is too important to sit on the sidelines. We must continue to engage at all levels, including on the local level, to hold our elected leaders accountable and make our needs known. There are hundreds of consequential local elections across the country this year, including in Arizona, Florida, New York, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and other states. Be sure to visit the League's [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org/) to see if elections are happening in your state, make an election plan, and ensure at least 5 people you know are planning to vote. This is how to make your voice heard!"

<https://www.vote411.org/>

Learn how you can take action to protect our democracy here.

<https://www.lwv.org/blog/grassroots-activism-how-you-can-take-action>

Membership Dues Update

By Ann FitzGerald

LWVA members will no longer receive written reminders of dues renewals on April 1. The League of Women Voters of the US (<https://www.lwv.org/>) will now send out a reminder to you.

Dues are divided between the national, state, and local leagues.

You should receive a notice to register at the LWVUS portal. if you don't receive it, you can go to the portal and register yourself. Your name was sent to LWVUS for renewal purposes and is listed on the membership roster. The site is secure and has a verification process.

The LWVUS portal requests dues of \$75, but you can contribute any amount over \$20.

If you prefer to be a member of the LWVA only, please make out a check for \$60 to "League of Women Voters of Arlington" and send it to me:

Ann FitzGerald
162 Summer St Apt 1
Arlington, MA 02474

Call me at 781-646-9711 or email annfitz@rcn.com if you have questions.

April 2025

