



BULLETIN */lwva.com*

September 2025

Calendar

Thursday September 18	Arlington 250 Untold Stories exhibit opens at the Arlington Center for the Arts, 20 Academy St. Watch the ACA website, https://www.acarts.org/ , for information.
Thursday September 18 11 a.m.	LWVMA's Day on the Hill lobby day. See page 6 for details.
Saturday September 20 10:30 to 4:30	Arlington's Town Day on Massachusetts Ave., Arlington Center. Volunteer for our booth (see below) or just stop by to visit!

COME AND HELP OUT! LEAGUE TOWN DAY BOOTH SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

The end of summer means it's time to get ready for Arlington's Town Day. LWV Arlington will have a booth at this event that will be packed with information about voter registration, precinct maps, proposed legislation, League membership, policies, and activities, and other voter service literature. We are looking for volunteers to work in 1- or 2-hour increments from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and to help with takedown at the end.

This is a great, fast-paced event, with two to three people at the booth at all times, so both seasoned and new League members are welcome to participate. If you can help out, please call Meredith Zona at 781-648-2753, or send an email to her at meredith.zona@stantec.com. We look forward to seeing you on Town Day!

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
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Co-President's Message

Sponsored by a collaboration of the LWVA, Arlington Friends of the Drama, and Cantilena, the program, Untold Stories of Women's Suffrage, was a huge success. The house was full! Seeing a photograph of suffragists standing on warm bricks outside the White House caused me to wonder how far outside of my comfort zone I would be willing to go in support of, or in opposition to, a particular piece of legislation. Probably not very far and certainly not involving warm bricks to keep my feet from freezing. The suffragists were certainly amazing women.

The League has reserved a booth at Town Day where citizens will have the opportunity to register to vote and to find out the location of their polling place. Many residents new to Arlington and New England have no idea how the local government works and think that everyone votes at Town Hall. Material will be available on how to contact our legislators and information on the League's legislative priorities. Please visit the booth to chat and consider volunteering for a time slot that day (Refer to article on page 1 for details.)

In collaboration with the Arlington Center for the Arts, the LWVA is sponsoring an Untold Stories exhibit as part of the Arlington 250th celebration. This exhibition will draw inspiration from historical and contemporary people, places, and things that are little known in Arlington. The show is scheduled to open on Thursday, September 18.

Happy fall!

Carolyn Parsons

LWVA Welcomes New Members

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members, Sybil Carey, Noelle Colant, and Martha Mary Hughes Donaghue.

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
Colleen Kirby, Action VP	339-222-3887
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
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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.

Images from “Untold Stories”

Our "Untold Stories" event in June was a great success, filling the Arlington Friends of the Drama theater. We showed the film "How Long Must We Wait," about the U.S. movement for women's suffrage, and Cantilena and Voices Rising performed "Lifting as We Climb," with music and speakers. Thanks to Patti Muldoon and Elisabeth Carr-Jones of LWVA for their great work organizing the event. We'll miss Patti, our longtime Action VP, who's now moved to New Hampshire.



The LWVA's Colleen Kirby as Quaker suffragist Lucretia Mott in "Lifting as We Climb." She is wearing a Quaker bonnet passed down from Carolyn Parsons' and Meredith Zona's great-great-grandmother.

Photo by Patti Muldoon

Elisabeth Carr-Jones and Patti Muldoon in suffragist garb.

Photo by Alan Jones



Conductor Elinor Armsby, speakers, and choruses.

Photo by Elisabeth Carr-Jones





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LWVA Supports Bills to Reduce CSOs and Support Local Cable

In July our new Action VP, Colleen Kirby, wrote letters on the LWVA's behalf to state legislatures: one in support of bills against combined sewage overflows (CSOs), and another for modernizing funding for local cable news stations.

Against CSOs, to Sen. Cindy Friedman

Dear Senator Cindy Friedman and staff,

I am writing to you as Action VP for the League of Women Voters of Arlington, taking over from Patti Muldoon who has moved out of town. I hope you are cosponsoring this bill! I didn't see a list of cosponsors on the government website. How can we get it favorably passed out of committee?

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts supports “repair and rehabilitation of water systems” and “since 1989, the League has supported state legislation to protect the MWRA watershed.”

The League of Women Voters of Arlington lies within the MWRA watershed and we support S608/H1031 (sponsored by Reps. Dave Rogers and Sean Garballey). The Alewife Brook has long been plagued by sewage outflows from the Combined Sewer Outfalls from the MWRA system in East Arlington. These identical bills, now in the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, would require all CSOs in the MWRA's sewer service area to end the dumping of untreated sewage during storms as large as a 25-year event, by 2035 at the latest. That is the effective elimination of CSOs, also referred to as “virtual CSO elimination.”

Our last big storm was the May 22, 2025 nor'easter. In the Alewife area, it produced 3.14 inches of rainfall in Cambridge. As a result of that rain, Cambridge's Alewife MBTA CSO dumped 1.35 million gallons of raw sewage pollution into Alewife Brook.

This legislation would require a solution so there is no sewage pollution for a storm that is twice as big as the 05/22/2025 nor'easter, OR construction of a CSO treatment facility to treat the sewage.


Please do what you can to get these bills released from the Joint Committee so they can be voted on.

Supporting Local Cable, to Rep. Tricia Farley-Bouvier and Sen. Michael Moore

Dear Members of the Joint Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity Committee,

At Town Meeting this year we learned that our local cable access station, Arlington Community Media Inc. is struggling to survive now that cable fee revenue has shrunk due to more people using streaming and internet services that do not contribute fees for local cable stations. Despite tightening their budget, our Finance Committee has let ACMI know that the Town cannot afford to fully subsidize their increasing needs, so they must find other ways to increase financing.

(Continued on page 7)



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MASSACHUSETTS

**PROTECT
DEMOCRACY**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
11:00 AM**

**MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE
ROOM 428**

DAY ON THE HILL

Day on the Hill September 18

From the State League

Wondering how you can use your worries about the state of our nation to create meaningful change? With your help, we can pass laws in the Commonwealth to defend against federal threats. Now more than ever, it is critical that advocates and activists focus their sights on state-level action.

Join us in person for our once-per-session lobby day, Day on the Hill, Thursday, September 18 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 428 at the State House, and turn it into something meaningful. Go to <https://lwwma.org/register-now-for-day-on-the-hill-september-18/> for details and to register.



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journalism alive in Arlington!

Letters to Legislators (Continued)

This is why the League of Women Voters of Arlington is strongly in support of H91/S41 to modernize funding for local cable news stations. Both Representatives Sean Garballey and Dave Rogers, who represent Arlington, are cosponsors of this legislation.

Community cable provides valuable services to our community. It broadcasts local government meetings, including Town Meeting, so our residents can know what their local officials and representatives are doing in their name. As our local print newspaper no longer serves Arlington with good coverage, cable coverage is often the only way to find out what local government is doing. And where would we have been without their valuable services during the nightmare of Covid 19 when we could not have in person meetings?

The League of Women Voters of Arlington runs a Candidates' Night every year which is open to the public, and it is recorded and accessible to voters to watch after the event. This is often the only way voters can assess who to vote for. We recently ran a musical event and documentary "Untold Stories of Women's Suffrage" as part of the celebration of 250 years since the start of the Revolutionary War. [*Editor's Note: ACMi volunteered to record this event.*]

ACMI has extended their reach by setting up a hyperlocal YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@ACMiNews>, so that our residents may tune in to local government meetings and other local shows at any time of day or night or no matter where they may be on vacation or on business trips. They have created playlists on local government, the history of Arlington, veterans' stories, all about the artist Cyrus Dallin, police department updates, and high school news run by students.

This resource not only informs our residents, but it teaches them how to use the equipment and make their own shows, and it trains people in how to be a reporter.

In this time of misinformation, disinformation, and media consolidation, we need to support hyperlocal information sources so we can know what is going on in our communities without being hijacked by algorithms or AI generated programming. Local government needs help to keep these resources financed. Please report this bill favorably out of committee.

Editor's Note: I'd like to reiterate the value of ACMi, and to note that we have an online news source, YourArlington.com, which has been covering local government, news, and events since 2006. Check it out!

State League Supports Burlington ICE Action

Bearing Witness stands in solidarity outside the ICE Operations Office in Burlington, MA, near the Burlington Mall, every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The League is not an official sponsor of this event but encourages attendance. Learn more and register at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqP-xjQOPK-dx_JgODsMCdWM-NdZR4mMXxXYBRf4yh5opNNQ/viewform.

Membership Dues Information

By Ann FitzGerald

LWVA members no longer receive written reminders of dues renewals on April 1. The League of Women Voters of the US (<https://www.lwv.org/>) should now send out a reminder to you. Dues are divided between the national, state, and local leagues.

You should have received a notice to register at the LWVUS portal. if you didn't receive it, you can go to the portal and register yourself. Go to <https://www.lwv.org/> and click Member Log In. 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 renew by check, you will be a member of the LWVA only, not the state or national League. 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.

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