



## **BULLETIN** */lwva.com*

### **October 2026**

#### **Calendar**

|                        |        |                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday<br>October 7 | 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.  |
| Thursday<br>October 8  | 8 a.m. | LWVA table at Arlington High School's Voter Registration Day. Volunteer for a morning session or possible afternoon session. See below for details. |

#### **Registration of Students at Arlington High School**

Elliot Lane, a senior at Arlington High School, has asked the LWVA to participate in the Civics Workshop Day on October 8. Elliot wrote that the Social Studies Director, Michael Kozuch, would like to create an opportunity for students to register to vote. "We would be honored to have representatives from the League of Women Voters attend and help encourage students who aren't registered yet to do so. As a student who values our right to vote, I believe this would be a great opportunity to increase political awareness in our school".

We have been asked to register students from 8:00 - 10:45 a.m. and possibly also from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. If you are interested in helping, please email Carolyn Parsons at [carolynmparsons@msn.com](mailto:carolynmparsons@msn.com).

**Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski:** Co-Presidents  
[CarolynMParsons@msn.com](mailto:CarolynMParsons@msn.com), [amolszewski@gmail.com](mailto:amolszewski@gmail.com)  
**Ann FitzGerald:** Membership [AnnFitz@rcn.com](mailto:AnnFitz@rcn.com)

**Kim Haase:** Bulletin Editor [c.haase@comcast.net](mailto:c.haase@comcast.net)  
**Margaret Reiners:** Bulletin Mailing [mlreiners@gmail.com](mailto:mlreiners@gmail.com)

## Co-President's Message

At last! We had beautiful weather for Town Day. Thank you to everyone who helped with the League's booth. The event was very well attended.

We are now looking forward to autumn entering with colorful foliage and an active election season. We have state races locally and closely watched Congressional races on the national level. There will also be several ballot questions. It will be very important for every voice to be heard in November. Please encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to exercise their right to vote.

The board is also beginning to look to another season ahead. We have begun planning our annual holiday party. This will be a great opportunity for us to gather over good conversation and food. Please watch the next bulletin and upcoming email announcements for more information.

*Angela Olszewski*

We extend a warm welcome to our newest member, Laura Gerson.

### Editor's Note

You may notice that the Bulletin looks a bit different this month. Microsoft is withdrawing support from our longtime publishing tool, Microsoft Publisher, as of October 1. We have switched to Microsoft Word.

### LWVA LEADERSHIP 2026–2027

|                                     |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 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 |
| 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.

## League Informs Voters on Town Day, September 19

*By Carolyn Parsons*

How many people does it take to put up a tent? Evidently, five! Needed are one person on each corner post and Marina Popova conducting everyone from the center. A table and three chairs, banners and table covering come next. The material for registering to vote, information on the nine ballot questions, membership in the league, and some lobbying information on ballot questions 4 and 9 were gathered, generated, and/or reproduced for distribution. Elisabeth Carr-Jones and Kim Haase helped with these tasks.

Sometime during the afternoon, we ran out of membership flyers and information on ballot questions 4 and 9. Ann FitzGerald made extra copies at the Robbins Library. A lot of material was given out! The packing up is a pill because the tent is heavy and awkward, and Mass Ave is chaotic. Meredith and Joseph Zona finally got everything into the back of their car to be returned for storage until next year. In addition to those mentioned, Carolyn Parsons, Angela Olszewski, Judie Jackson, Phyllis Maddox, Colleen Kirby, Pamela Meister, and Sue Fish greeted the public and gave out material.

On a funny note, Phyllis Maddox had made a quilt that hangs from the back of the tent. The lettering on the quilt says "It's A Man's World Unless Women Vote & Run For Office". Several people came by to take a picture of the quilt and kindly asked that anyone blocking the view of the quilt move out of the way. Phyllis does appear in front of the quilt in the photograph below. Hurray!

Meredith Zona took the photo, which shows member Judie Jackson as well as Phyllis at our table. Phyllis also made the little red sacks that hold our rock paperweights -- quite a few people always want to buy them.







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## **US Supreme Court Blocks Postal Service from Restricting Mail Ballots**

*From the State League*

In a major win for voting rights, election integrity, and democracy, on September 14 the U.S. Supreme Court left in place a preliminary injunction that blocks the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) from enforcing key parts of a new rule that would have significantly restricted mail voting and disenfranchised voters who rely on mail ballots. The preliminary injunction will remain in place through the Nov. 3 election.

The decision means that all 50 states can continue to use their existing processes for mail voting, which have proven for decades to be safe, secure, and reliable. Hundreds of thousands of mail ballots are already being delivered to eligible voters, with millions more to follow this month. Many Americans rely on mail voting because disability, distance, or work or caregiving schedules make it difficult or impossible to get to their polling site in person.

With the injunction in place, USPS cannot refuse to deliver mail ballots for the November election. Nor can it require states to upload personal voter information into its new and untested online portal.

The USPS rule that has been blocked by the courts would have operationalized President Trump's March 31 executive order to restrict mail voting.

The injunction stems from a lawsuit filed by a coalition of nonpartisan voter service and civic organizations: the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, League of Women Voters, Association of Americans Resident Overseas, U.S. Vote Foundation, OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. They are represented by the American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU of Massachusetts, Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law, Legal Defense Fund (LDF), Asian Americans Advancing Justice – AAJC (Advancing Justice – AAJC), and LatinoJustice PRLDEF.

LWVMA Executive Director Celia Canavan issued the following statement:

“The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is pleased to see democracy prevail in today's ruling. Access to a free and fair election is critical to voter participation — and protecting access to mail ballots and the vote-by-mail process is crucial to ensuring voter participation, and most importantly, voter confidence. We will continue to press forward to ensure that every eligible voter is able to cast their ballot however they choose this election season — and have that vote counted.”

Celina Stewart, Esq., CEO, League of Women Voters, issued the following statement:

“Today, the Supreme Court refused to allow the federal government to throw our elections into chaos just weeks before Election Day. The Postal Service exists to deliver Americans' mail — not to rewrite election rules, demand voters' personal information, or decide which ballots make it through the system. This was an extraordinary attempt to interfere with voting in all 50 states, and voters should never have been put in this position. Voters should never be caught in the middle of a political power warfare. The League fought back, and we will keep fighting because the fundamental right to vote cannot depend on the whims of any president or federal agency. Voters decide elections. Period.”

## 2026 Ballot Question Guidance for Local Leagues

### *From the State League*

A record-tying nine measures will appear on November 3 ballot:

- Question 1: Expanding the Public Records Law
- Question 2: Collective Bargaining for CPCS Employees
- Question 3: State Primary Elections
- Question 4: Election Day Registration
- Question 5: State Revenue Limit & Rebate
- Question 6: Natural Resource Conservation Fund
- Question 7: Single Family Homes
- Question 8: Prohibit Retail Sale of Adult Recreational Use Marijuana
- Question 9: Firearms Regulation

### **LWVMA Stances**

How did the League reach their stands? Review how the LWVMA Board voted:

<https://lwvma.org/lwvma-statement-on-2026-ballot-questions/>.

### **LWVMA Supports**

#### Question 1: Expanding the Public Records Law

This proposed law would make most records held by the Legislature and the Office of the Governor public records under the Massachusetts Public Records Law. LWVMA supports this question. The League believes that governmental bodies must protect the citizens' right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings, and making public records accessible.

#### Question 4: Election Day Registration

This proposed law would permit eligible individuals to register to vote or update their voter registration information on Election Day; the current registration cutoff is 10 days before an election. LWVMA supports this question. The right to vote for every eligible American has been a fundamental League principle since its origin.

#### Question 7: Zoning of Single Family Homes

This proposed law would allow single-family homes to be built on smaller lots in a residentially zoned area according to specific guidelines. It allows municipalities to regulate certain aspects of those single-family homes.

LWVMA supports this question. The League believes government at all levels should develop policies that will assure sufficient land at reasonable cost on which to develop housing and that will assure fulfillment of other goals such as access to employment, preservation of open space, environmental cleanliness and beauty, and other aspects of a suitable living environment. Zoning practices and procedures that will counteract racial and economic isolation should be promoted. Government, industry, and labor should encourage innovative building techniques to reduce the cost of housing production.

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**Ballot Questions (Continued)**

Question 9: Firearms Regulation: Vote YES to uphold the current law

LWVMA is participating in the Vote Yes for a Safe Massachusetts campaign (<https://www.yesforasafema.com/>) to defeat the Massachusetts Firearm Regulations Referendum. This is a veto referendum to repeal An Act Modernizing Firearms Laws. LWVMA supported the passage of this law during the previous legislative session. A YES vote upholds the law as is. A NO vote repeals the law. Learn more and take action via the Yes campaign website.

**LWVMA Focuses on Yes on 4 and Yes on 9**

LWVMA is dedicating resources to **Yes on 4: Election Day Registration** and **Yes on 9: Firearms Regulation**. View the recording of Yes for a Safe MA: Defend the 2024 Gun Law virtual event at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYBcA98qDAc&t=306s>. Stay tuned for more details, and visit <https://www.yesforasafema.com/>.

**LWVMA Opposes**

Question 5: State Revenue Limit & Rebate

This proposed law would change the limit on how much revenue the state can collect in a given year. If revenues exceed that limit, the law triggers a refund to taxpayers. LWVMA opposes this question. The League supports the use of certain commonly-accepted criteria in judging taxes, particularly equitability, economic effect, flexibility, ease and cost of collection, and adequacy of yield: Taxes should provide adequate resources for government programs while allowing flexibility for financing future program changes. The League also supports a greater reliance on state-collected taxes to reduce the dependence on the property tax.

**LWVMA Takes No Position**

Question 2: Collective Bargaining for CPCS Employees

This proposed law would permit employees of the Committee for Public Counsel Services to engage in collective bargaining. LWVMA has no position on collective bargaining and therefore takes no position on this question.

Question 3: State Primary Elections

Implementing All Party State Primaries or Top 2 would eliminate political party primaries for state elections and instead establish a system where there would be a single primary in which all candidates, regardless of their party affiliation, would be listed on one ballot, and voters could vote for any candidate on the ballot. The two candidates receiving the most votes for each office in the primary would advance to the general election ballot. This proposed law would require candidates for governor and lieutenant governor to run and be listed jointly on the ballot in the primary.

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**Ballot Questions (Continued)**

LWVMA takes no position on this question. The LWV voting systems position can be interpreted to both support and oppose this question. Due to the ambiguity of the LWV voting systems position, the Board decided to focus on educating voters on the proposal. LWVMA hosted a voter service education event for members and the public on Question 3 September 23. See the next story, "LWVMA Provides Info on Ballot Questions" for details on how to access it.

**Question 6: Natural Resource Conservation Fund**

This proposed law would establish a Nature for All Fund that would designate state taxes collected from the sale and use of sporting goods, recreational vehicles, and golf courses for natural resources conservation.

LWVMA takes no position on this question. Despite LWV's overwhelming number of positions supporting protections for the environment and natural resources, the crux of this question lies with earmarking sales tax revenue for a specific purpose. The League opposes earmarking specific revenues for specific purposes. If an earmarking measure were proposed, the League would support that it be statutory instead of constitutional, be subject to periodic review and "sunset" provisions that limit the duration of such designation as well as allow the reversion of the earmarked revenues to the general fund.

**Question 8: Prohibit Retail Sale of Adult Recreational Use Marijuana**

This proposed law would recriminalize recreational marijuana sales and use. LWVMA has no position on this topic and therefore takes no position on this question.

**LWVMA Provides Info on Ballot Questions**

*By Celia Canavan*

On September 23, the LWVMA held our long-awaited Question 3: All Party Primary Ballot Question Forum, featuring Dr. Danielle Allen from the Yes on 3 Campaign, and Brian Muldoon of the No on 3 campaign. We are grateful for Dr. Allen and Mr. Muldoon's participation, and we encourage you to watch the recording at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=TeAlC4PzK-4&feature=youtu.be>.

As we get closer to election season, we continue to receive questions regarding the Ballot Question process for the League. I wanted to take some space here to address some of those questions, provide links to our guidance, and have a real conversation about what this election represents for the League.

First: let's remember that this ballot question season has been a year of firsts. We have never seen so many ballot questions proposed, nor the legal battles they faced, and now, we're facing a record-tying number of ballot questions – with some local ballots including over 10 questions! This year

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## **LWVMA Provides Help on Ballot Questions (Continued)**

was also unique given the nature of the questions: while many years, the League may take one or two positions on ballot questions, our League positions (<https://lwvma.org/league-positions/>) allowed us to take 5 positions out of the 9 ballot questions – a herculean effort by our Board, volunteers, and staff. I want to underline this because we know this disrupts what we have “always done” for many Leagues - what once could always be voter service, now includes advocacy elements. We appreciate all of you for continuing to push forward despite this unprecedented advocacy push.

If you haven't seen it yet, LWVMA created a Ballot Questions webpage (accessible via the LWVMA homepage), which includes the list of questions, our stances, Vote with the League flyer and postcard, as well as a sample PowerPoint presentation for BQ presentations, and more! Please feel free to use these resources for your own activities, or share them with the public. Go to <https://lwvma.org/ballot-questions-2026/>. [*Editor's note: Some of this information is in the previous Bulletin article.*]

I want to thank you all for hanging in with us this ballot question season: we know the break from our norm can be frustrating, uncomfortable, and difficult to convey to our communities. But this election is a reflection of what we already know to be true: that as political tensions and threats to democratic institutions rise, the League must be proactive in our response to these threats, and utilize all available resources and every avenue possible to uphold, institute, and protect our civil liberties, democratic institutions, and policies that allow us to build a stronger democracy; including at the ballot box.

Our approaches have always been unique: as a nonpartisan organization, we exist outside of the idea that one candidate or one party is the answer to our problems. But this is why action on our ballot questions is important: because these questions represent 9 different ways that voters can use their voice to reflect their vision for the Commonwealth, rather than placing their trust that a candidate or party will reflect those values.

## 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

**October 2026**

**League of Women Voters of Arlington**  
**P. O. Box 461**  
**Arlington, MA 02476**

