

In Memoriam: Ruth Bader Ginsburg



I don't say women's rights -

I say the constitutional principle of
the equal citizenship stature of men
and women.



"Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn't be that women are the exception."

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

OCTOBER FIRST FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2020, PRESENTS VOTING UPDATE

The 2020 federal election looms. Voters will select the United States President/Vice President, all of the House of Representatives, one-third of the United States Senate, and many state offices, including Lexington's State Senators and Representative. There are also two ballot questions. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in new voting regulations across the country. In July, Governor Baker signed into law new procedures passed by the Massachusetts legislature to facilitate safe voting, and they received their first test in the state primary contests in September.

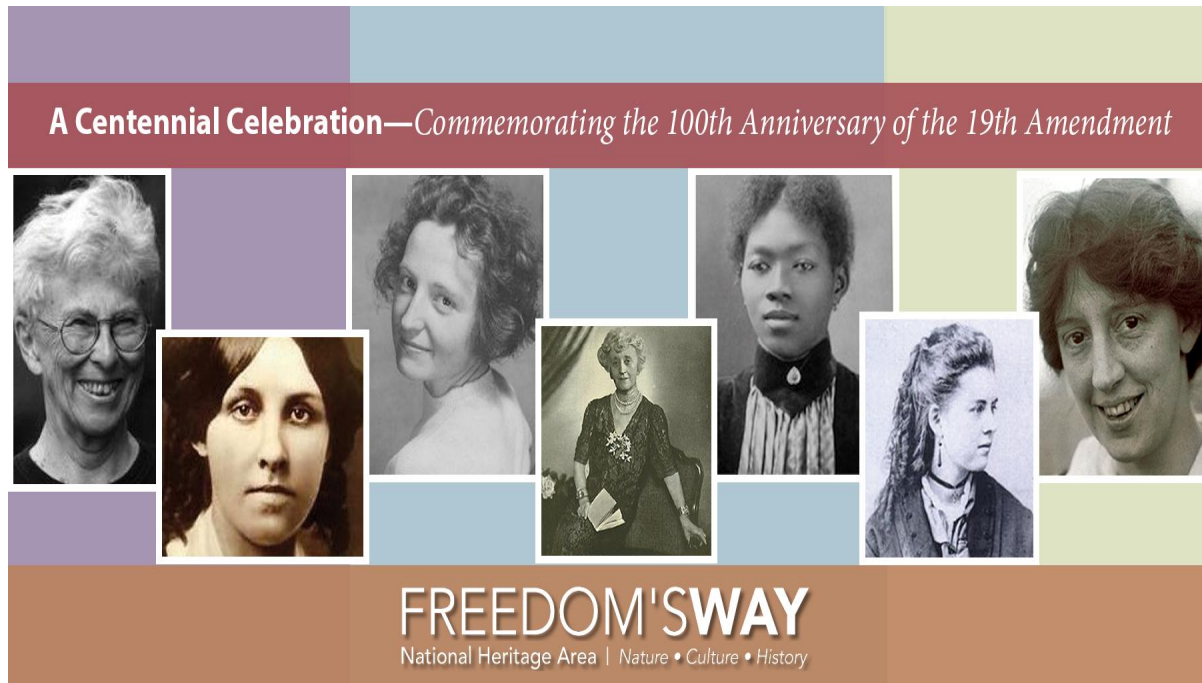
On October 2, 2020, at 9:30 am via Zoom, the LWV Lexington First Friday Forum will present a Voting 2020 Update. Town Clerk Nathalie Rice will provide up-to-date information about voting in Lexington, including (a) voting by mail; (b) early voting, available October 17-30; and (c) in-person voting. We'll hear about local voter turnout in the September 1 primary. (Spoiler Alert: it was high.) The program will emphasize lessons learned from the primary election, and how we can assure that each of our votes is counted in November. There will be a Q&A session after the program.

This program is the first in the 2020-2021 First Friday Forum series hosted by the League of Women Voters to promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues with local implications. The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization dedicated to the principles of self-government established in the Constitution of the United States. The League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. All League forums are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact League Convener Margaret Coppe at mecoppe@gmail.com, or go to <http://www.lwvlexington.org/FirstFriday.html>. For information in advance on how to use Zoom, contact Lisah Rhodes, lwvlexington@gmail.com.

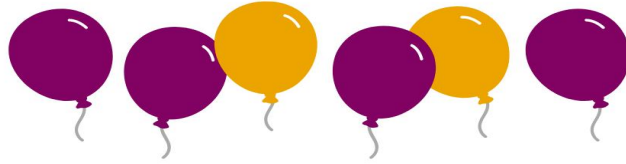
Of Note:

For a fascinating and informative spread, try freedomsway.org, which is currently featuring a Centennial Celebration commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment by highlighting distinguished women of Massachusetts.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS

LWVMA EVENTS



LWVMA 100TH VIRTUAL BIRTHDAY GALA

Save the Date

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020 1:00 P.M.

FEATURING DANIELLE ALLEN,
JAMES BRYANT CONANT UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR AT HARVARD

GO TO OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.LWVMA.ORG/LWVMA-100TH-BIRTHDAY-GALA/

December Virtual Gala

LWVMA will celebrate its 100th birthday virtually on Sunday, Dec. 13, at 1 pm. We are pleased to welcome Danielle Allen, James Bryant Conant University Professor at Harvard, as our featured speaker.

Widely known for her work on justice and citizenship in both ancient Athens and modern America, her publications include: *Talking to Strangers: Anxieties of Citizenship since Brown vs. the Board of Education* (2004), *Why Plato Wrote* (2010), *Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality* (2014), *Education and Equality* (2016), and *Cuz: The Life and Times of Michael A.* (2017). She is the co-editor of the award-winning *Education, Justice, and Democracy* (2013, with Robert Reich).

Check our website lwvma.org/lwvma-100th-birthday-gala/ for more information.

To Consider

As we continue to review the Suffragist Movement in this 100th year of the founding of the League and the passage of the 19th Amendment, the League encourages us to remember *all* of those who joined to effort. An account of the contributions of Jewish women, for example, can be found at: <https://www.hadassahmagazine.org/2020/07/01/jewish-suffragists-white-dresses-yellow-roses/>

LWVMA VOTER SERVICE

Voter Questions Answered. Do you have questions about voting under the new election law or anything else elections-related? LWVMA has created a voter email "hotline" to answer any questions you may have about voting options this fall. Please send questions to votehelp2020@lwwma.org and you will receive an answer promptly!

Help on the Web. Share these five helpful website addresses for voting information provided by the MA Secretary of the Commonwealth. Check them regularly for polling places and drop box locations since this information can change based on local election officials' decisions:

- www.MailMyBallotMA.com
- www.MassEarlyVote.com
- www.WhereDoIVoteMA.com
- www.RegisterToVoteMA.com
- www.TrackMyBallotMA.com

The "Red Book" of official voter information has been mailed to all voter households in Massachusetts. It can be accessed online at: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/>.

VOTE411 Updated for November Election!

Find Massachusetts' candidate and election information for the Nov. 3 general election at VOTE411.org, the League's national online voters' guide. The guide has been updated since the Sept. 1 primary. **VOTE411** covers all candidate races from U.S. Congress through state legislator and contested county races. Information on the two state ballot questions is also included.

The site can be accessed directly with this QR Code:



LWVMA has worked diligently to encourage Massachusetts candidates to respond to the questionnaire. If you find that any candidate in your district has not responded, please reach out and encourage them to complete the questionnaire; it is not too late. Contact tgrenga@lwwma.org for a questionnaire link that can be forwarded to a particular candidate.

LWVUS has partnered with the National Association of Broadcasters to launch a voter education campaign featuring public service announcements (PSAs) about voting and **VOTE411**. This campaign began airing on TV and radio stations nationwide in August and will run through Election Day.

Remember, early in-person voting is available in Massachusetts from October 13 -30.

> See the September LWV Lexington Bulletin for LWVMA stands on 2020 Ballot Questions

ELECTION PROTECTION WORK

LWVMA is partnering again this year with Lawyers for Civil Rights to make sure the November election runs smoothly and fairly. There are three options for volunteering this year:

- Statewide hotline: Troubleshoot election-day issues from your home
- Mobile field program: Independently observe multiple polling locations for outdoor violations
- Social media and news monitoring: Monitor news and social media platforms to report election-day issues
-

League members are always an important part of the election protection volunteer corps. Help support voters in real time. Paste this address into your browser to volunteer:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdC9ZVNEG3tb_xfqd2azluiv2Qe50n5YrzRZU4POGA2FYhOuQ/viewform?gxids=7757

REPORT ELECTION GLITCHES

The Election Modernization Coalition that includes LWVMA will be preparing a report on how the fall elections went. If you have confirmed knowledge of any significant glitches with either the primary or general elections in your town, please send the information to nancy.brumback@gmail.com to share it with the coalition.

POLL WORKERS NEEDED

Many cities and towns are in critical need of poll workers, especially those who are bilingual. The new elections law allows municipalities to hire poll workers regardless of where they live, their voter registration status, or political party affiliation.

If you are interested, contact town clerks/local election officials about their needs, especially in larger cities. Check the Secretary of State's website <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/> to see where poll workers are needed. Keep in mind that young people, including college students, are prime candidates to work at the polls, given their more flexible schedules this fall.

LWVMA NEWS

Central Berkshire is a League!

The League of Women Voters of Central Berkshire County has transitioned from a unit to a full-fledged League. Congratulations! This League is centered on Pittsfield and the surrounding communities. Central Berkshire brings the total number of local Leagues in Massachusetts to 48.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

LWWUS EVENTS

Facebook Discussion on Racism and Redistricting

On Thursday, October 8, at 7 pm, the League of Women Voters of the United States, along with LWVs of Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia, will host a discussion on the role systemic racism plays in silencing voters of color, and how it has shaped one of the most important processes for ensuring voters' voices are heard. Community leaders will discuss the work being done to end some of the most egregious racial gerrymandering in the country—and what is at stake in this year's election.

This is a live event that will broadcast on the LWWUS Facebook page. Paste this address into your browser to register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqd-upqj8jHNXPhmNzudSVXgBuXwCUWzEb>

Direct Voter Contact Training October 1

Contacting voters directly is the most effective way to get out the vote, but direct voter contact methods look different depending on your community. Join the LWWUS Organizing Team on Thursday, Oct. 1, at 3 p.m., as we outline how to build your direct voter contact muscle. Paste this address into your browser to register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqd-upqj8jHNXPhmNzudSVXgBuXwCUWzEb>

LWVUS ADVOCACY

LWVMA STATEMENT ON THE NOMINATION OF A NEW SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

The U.S. Senate must prioritize protecting the American People during the pandemic and securing our 2020 Elections.

WASHINGTON - League of Women Voters board president Deborah Turner and CEO Virginia Kase issued the following joint statement on rushing the Supreme Court appointment process:

"Four years ago, Senate leaders set a precedent for how the confirmation process for a Supreme Court justice appointee should occur during a presidential election year. In 2016, a Supreme Court seat sat vacant for more than 300 days, showing that there is no reason to rush this process in 2020. If it was too soon then, it's too soon now.

"The American people are in despair during this global pandemic: millions are out of work and more than 200,000 have lost their lives to this deadly virus. It is the duty of our elected officials to provide relief to the American people and ensure all voters can participate in our democracy by safely casting their votes this year.

"Supreme Court justices serve for life and make decisions that impact every American. They require a thorough vetting process that is transparent to the American people. Such a process would be undermined if rushed through.

"Now is not the time to rush a lifetime appointment to the United States Supreme Court."

CONTACT: Sarah Courtney | 202-263-1332 | scourtney@lww.org



SAVE THE DATE

October 1, 2020	Direct Voter Training (Zoom) 3:00 pm
October 8, 2020	Racism and Redistricting (Zoom) 7:00 pm
October 17, 2020	League Leader Lunch (Zoom) 9:00-11:00 am
November 3, 2020	National Presidential and Congressional Election
December 13, 2020	LWVMA 100th Birthday Gala (Zoom) 1:00-3:00 pm

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We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the October 2020 LWV LEXINGTON Bulletin, please send it to Wendy Manz at wendy_manz@yahoo.com prior October 23.

