

# Member Newsletter

## August 2024

### For Your Calendar: LWWellesley's Upcoming Events

Sat. Aug 24 Voter Registration Deadline for MA State Primary

Mon. Aug 26 Vote-by-Mail Registration Deadline for MA State Primary

Tues. Sept 3 MA State Primary

Tues. Sept 10 LWW Board Meeting (All Welcome!) 12:30-2:30pm, Warren Building

Thurs. Sept 19 Voter Registration @ Waterstone at Wellesley

Fri. Sept 20 LWW Brown-Bag Lunch Discussion

Sun. Sept 22 Members' Fall Social Event. -stay tuned!

For all scheduled events, please visit our website [calendar](#) .

This newsletter is all about the **Vote**.

When to vote, where to vote and how to find the information you need to vote.

So many great resources thanks to the League of Women Voters.

The September 3rd MA State Primary Elections will be here before we know it.

There are so many ways to join us in our continuing mission  
of empowering voters and defending democracy.

Everyone is welcome!

**VOTE411**, the League of Women Voters' online voters' guide is now officially live! You can view our guide [HERE](#). Users can now enter their address on the "Find What's on Your Ballot" tool to view what races and candidates will be on their ballot.

Massachusetts candidates running in the state primary were asked to fill out questionnaires designed by LWWMA's Voter Engagement Committee as a way of educating voters on where they stand on the issues. You can view their responses to our questions by using the "Find What's on Your Ballot" tool.

### General Election Information:

Go to: [How to Vote in your State Primary](#)

For information about the candidates in these races, go to Vote411  
<https://www.vote411.org/>

**LWW Voter Services:**

**Voter Registration Day** is September 17! In our continued efforts to get as many people registered to vote for the upcoming presidential election in November, we will be setting up a voter registration table on September 17 at Wellesley High School, 50 Rice St, Wellesley, during lunch shifts, and on September 19 at Waterstone, 23 Washington St., Wellesley, for a 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. shift. If you are interested in assisting at either of these events, please contact Diane Hemond at [dianerrh@gmail.com](mailto:dianerrh@gmail.com).

## **LWVW Upcoming Programming:** **Brown Bag Lunch 9/20/24**

Join us for our first Brown Bag Lunch on **Friday, Sept. 20th from Noon to 1:30 pm** at Barbara McMahon's home, 7 Amherst Road. As is appropriate for September, we will be meeting with two members of the School Committee and the topic will be the school calendar, specifically which days should be no school days for various holidays/religious days. Bring a sandwich or salad bar favorite; desserts and beverages will be provided. New members are especially encouraged to participate and meet other League members.

## **LWVW Program Planning 2024-2025**

### **What Interests You?**

The LWVW Program Team is looking for programming ideas! Is there something interesting happening in Wellesley that you'd like to learn more about? What topic or format would entice you to attend a meeting? Have you read an interesting book that you'd like to discuss with other League members? Do you know someone who would be an interesting speaker for the membership? How do we better engage our student members? Send us an [email](#) or [call](#) with your suggestions. Make sure to add "LWVW Program Idea" in the subject line.

## **LWVW Legislative Envoys** **Help Wanted**

Would you like to learn more about what the League of Women Voters does on Beacon Hill? Consider becoming a Legislative Envoy. Training and support for anyone interested in trying this will be provided by our State League. There are so many ways to get involved. The Legislative Action Committee of LWVMA advocates for the bills we are promoting in such areas as

- affordable housing,
- basic human needs,
- children and family issues,
- criminal legal system,
- education policy K-12,
- elder affairs,
- election and voting,
- environment/climate change/energy,
- fiscal policy,
- gun violence prevention,
- healthcare,
- immigration,
- racial justice,
- transportation,
- women's issues.

Here on the local level, we help them by contacting our state legislators Alice Peisch, Assistant Minority leader of the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Cindy Creem, Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. On the national level, we help by contacting Jake Auchincloss, U.S. representative for Massachusetts's 4th congressional

district and Katherine Clark, U.S. representative for Massachusetts's 5th congressional district and U.S. House Minority Whip.

LWVW legislative envoys also have the opportunity to keep the LWVW board up to date on state and national initiatives. Our present envoy will be leaving the position as of October 1, 2024. Please contact Bonny Nothern by [email](#) or [phone](#) if you would like to learn more about this interesting role.

## New positions to guide our advocacy moving forward.

One of the great things about the LWV is the breadth of interests that our members have and this often shows up in the issues they want to know more about. This coming League year in Wellesley there may be opportunities to be part of **three** studies.

Our local one, about the pros and cons of lowering the voting age to 16 or 17 for municipal elections in Wellesley, is looking for a few more members so we can start up in September. The LWVMA is putting the final touches on a Study on Black Reparations so we should know more details about that by mid-September. The third study we could take part in is on the Federal Judiciary and it will be done by the LWVUS. We will have a better idea of that one in a few months.

Being part of a study committee is a chance to work with other League members and learn how a study is done and adopted by our membership. Some people say the less you know about the subject, the more you'll learn and that's the best reason to join one!

Right now we are recruiting for our local Minimum Voting Age Study which I will be chairing so email me if you have questions or want to be part of this committee please reach out to me, Irene Flint @ my [email](#). More information about the other 2 study possibilities will be shared later in the Fall.

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## **VOTER EDUCATION:**

Here's some vital information for our upcoming state primary elections on Sept 3. Pass it on to all your friends.

## **Video: GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL Explained:**

### ***Who Governs the Governor's Council?***

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA), in partnership with the advocacy organization Who Governs the Governor's Council ([WGGC](#)), hosted the Zoom event, "Who Governs the Governor's Council?" to educate voters on what the Governor's Council is and does, and how it affects the legal system. Watch the recording [here](#). View the presentation slides [here](#).

Panelists were David Harris, Emeritus Managing Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School; Jean Trounstein, author, activist and professor who writes about the Governor's Council and Parole for the Boston Institute of Nonprofit Journalism; and Nancy Bettinger, LWVMA criminal legal system legislative specialist.

## **Video: REGISTRY OF DEEDS CANDIDATES' FORUM:**

Meet the candidates running for the Norfolk County Register of Deeds in the September 3, 2024 State Primary in a Zoom Forum co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of

Needham, Brookline, Dover-Sherborn, Norwood, Sharon-Stoughton, Wellesley, Westwood-Walpole-Dedham. See the August 15 recording [here](#).

To find out more about the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds, click on <https://www.norfolkdeeds.org/>.

### **NORFOLK COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS Democratic Primary:**

The candidates for County Clerk of Courts did not accept our invitation to participate in a candidate forum, nor did they reply to the VOTE411 request for question answers. They are Democratic primary candidates and their names are Robert L. Jubinville (click [HERE](#) for his website) and Walter F. Timilty (click [HERE](#) for his website).

### **US SENATE REPUBLICAN PRIMARY:**

There are three candidates in the Republican Primary, vying to challenge Elizabeth Warren for her seat as U.S. Senator from Massachusetts. Click [HERE](#) to watch their NBC debate on YouTube.

## **COMMUNITY NOTICES:**

### **Town of Wellesley's Ongoing DEI Audit**

Please help our town develop an accurate profile of our community by taking 5 minutes to complete a community survey. Share your experiences and ideas on how Wellesley can be a more welcoming and inclusive community. The link to the survey is on the Town's website (can be accessed [here](#)). Hard copies of the survey are available at the library branches and the Tolles Parsons Center.

This community survey will remain open until Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM. If you have any questions, please reach out to **Corey B. Testa**, Assistant Executive Director, Town of Wellesley [ctesta@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:ctesta@wellesleyma.gov)



#### League of Women Voters of Wellesley Executive Board

Bonny Nothern, President  
Marguerite Chatelier, VP Voter Services  
Diane Hemond, VP Voter Services  
Irene Flint, VP Programs  
Ann-Mara Lanza, VP Programs  
Ellie Perkins, Secretary  
Debra Codispoti, Treasurer

#### League of Women Voters of Wellesley Elected Directors

Rama K. Ramaswamy, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging  
Rekha Sampath, Membership  
Laura Brown-MacKinnon, Newsletter/Website  
Marlene O'Brien, At Large

For more information, visit us at <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/wellesley>



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