

CALENDAR

Independence Day

**FRIDAY, July 3 | (OBSERVED)
SATURDAY, July 4 |**



UPCOMING

BOARD MEETING

**TUESDAY September 1 | 9:30 a.m.
Teleconference by invitation**



**MASSACHUSETTS
PRIMARY ELECTIONS**

TUESDAY September 1 | All Day

LABOR DAY

MONDAY September 7 | All Day



**NATIONAL VOTER
REGISTRATION DAY**

TUESDAY September 22 | All Day

OPENING MEETING

**WEDNESDAY September 23 | 5:00 p.m.
Location TBD**

**STEERING COMMITTEE
GREETINGS**

We live in interesting times.

We started the League's year with big plans to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and of the League of Women Voters itself.

Those plans were derailed, first by the COVID-19 virus, and then by the events that have followed from the murder of George Floyd on May 25

We have learned a lot during the year.

In June, LWVMA adopted the LWVUS Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Policy

"The League of Women Voters is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy. "There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity."

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But without action, this policy is just words and gestures.

During the year, we learned – or relearned – about the women of color who were instrumental in the movement that led to the passage of the 19th Amendment and the creation of the League, but who have been left out of the official story.

And, from what has happened throughout the country in reactions both to the death of George Floyd and to the COVID-19 virus, we have learned the depth of the divide between the white majority establishment and our minority and immigrant communities, and how deep the racism is that still pervades the US.

In our Program Planning sessions, we adopted a program based on the LWVUS DEI policy, with the intent of incorporating it into the work of every committee. That decision has proven to be more timely than we could have known.

Our new Vice Presidents for Program, Jeanne Morrison and Karen Mazza, are working with each of our committees, and the board, to make sure that the DEI words are translated into action.

Both the country – and the League – have a lot of work to do to make those words and gestures into real action.

So, that’s our challenge, and opportunity for 2020-2021.

Richard Utt

For the 2019-2020 Steering Committee



JUNE 2 BOARD MEETING REPORT:

- Minutes of the May Board meeting were approved and have been made available on the members only webpage.
- Treasurer’s report: the 2020-2021 budget was submitted.
- Membership update: Membership stands at 83.
Amy Harris will be sending renewal forms to a targeted list of members whose memberships are up for renewal.
- Annual Meeting update: The Annual Meeting Workbook was sent to all members on May 9. An invitation email and meeting details will be emailed.
- A new website is being developed. MyLO update: In the next few weeks, Richard will archive the old (current) site and will no longer update it. New content will be added to the new MyLO site instead.
- **Voter Service Committee update:** Anita Rogers, Rosemary Shields
Candidates’ Forum – With the Provincetown Banner we are participating in a candidates’ forum on Zoom, June 9. Florence Seldin will moderate.
Ranked choice voting (RCV) – To put RCV on the November ballot Voter Choice MA (VCMA) needs to collect an additional 7,000 signatures while social distancing (to reach the total required of 18,000). We have posted notices on the League of Women Voters Facebook page with the link to the web-secure petition for voters to sign. And we are volunteering to get petitions signed by calling voters from lists that Voter Choice MA is supplying us. We are attending VCMA webinars to keep up with the latest information on how best to reach out to Massachusetts voters.

Along with the Legislative Committee we are following the legislation for voters: H.4737 An Act ensuring safe and participatory 2020 state elections in response to Covid-19.

- **Legislative Committee update:** Renate Sands, Elaine Dickinson.

Safe Communities Act - The LWVCCA has signed onto a letter sent by the MA Safe Communities Coalition to the Chairs of the Joint Committee on Public Safety. On May 7th, a virtual “Immigrants’ Day at the State House” took place in which the LWVCCA participated. Senator Cyr also spoke at this event. The last day for the Safe Communities Act to be voted favorably out of committee is **July 15, 2020.**

Rank Choice Voting has been extended to **June 26, 2020.**

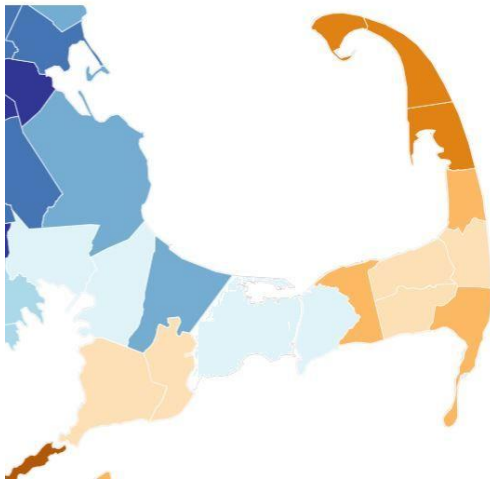
Higher Education - Funding for higher education has been extended to **Nov 20, 2020.**

- LWVMA Council and LWVUS Convention: Suzanne Brock
Both events have been cancelled; they will be held online.
- We discussed a proposal from to show our appreciation to caregivers at local long-term care facilities. The goal is to send gift “snack care package” baskets to thank unsung essential workers/caregivers for Covid-19 patients. One basket will be sent for each nursing home identified, but the actual number of baskets will depend on how much money is raised and on the list of nursing homes/care centers.
- Cape Cod census response: Suzanne Brock.
Suzanne reports that local census response has been poor. She contacted <https://2020census.gov/> who have paid staff tasked to work with towns and organizations to spread the word about the importance of the census.
- Subcommittee proposal for 2020-21 Program implementation: Karen Mazza, Jeanne Morrison
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) runs through all committees. Karen and Jeanne will hold discussions with all committee chairs about DEI and each committee’s goals, and aim for a July 7 special board meeting to decide how DEI will be implemented.

Complete minutes will be available next month on the members only web page.

Under normal circumstances members are welcome to attend Board meetings at any time – see the Calendar for dates. But for the June meeting, because of the Covid-29 crisis and concerns about group meetings, we will be conducting the meeting as a teleconference by invitation for Board members only. We will have to decide about how to handle future events as the situation develops.

2020 BARNSTABLE COUNTY CENSUS RESPONSE



Massachusetts’ response rate to the 2020 census is 63.9 % to date.

Barnstable County’s is 46.1%.

With such a low response rate, we stand to lose Federal funds for many things. When you respond to the **census**, you help your community gets its fair share of the more than **\$675 billion** per year in federal funds spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs. Businesses use **census** data to decide where to build factories, offices and stores, and this creates jobs. Plans for highways. Support for firefighters and families in need. Census results affect your community every day.

The 2020 Census will determine congressional representation, inform hundreds of billions in federal funding every year, and provide data that will impact communities for the next decade.



If you haven’t responded, please do so! Go to <https://my2020census.gov/> And contact friends and neighbors: let them know the importance of their response.

RESPONSE RATE BY TOWN

Barnstable	53.5 %	Brewster	45.11 %	Chatham	32.9 %
Dennis	33.5 %	Eastham	34.1 %	Harwich	45.9%
Mashpee	49.7 %	Orleans	41.9 %	Wellfleet	27.9%
Truro	23.5%	Provincetown	27.3%	Falmouth	48.4 %
Sandwich	66.1%	Yarmouth	51.3%	Bourne	53.5 %

INTRODUCING the 2020-2021 OFFICERS and BOARD of DIRECTORS

The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area would like to present the new slate of Officers and Board of Directors for the 2020-2021 operating year.

Officers:

President:

Suzanne Brock of Dennis

Vice Presidents for Program and Planning:

Karen Mazza of Dennis and Jeanne Morrison of Hyannis

Vice Presidents for Operations:

Ann Ryan of Chatham

Secretary:

Mary Utt of Orleans

Treasurer:

Amy Harris of Harwich

Board of Directors:

Legislation:

Elaine Dickinson of Harwich and Renate Sands of Sandwich

Membership:

Matti Ligon of Mashpee

Voter Service:

Anita Rogers of Orleans and Rosemary Shields of Harwich

Youth Service:

Karen Mazza of Dennis

Newsletter:

Phyllis Helfrich of Forestdale and Richard Utt of Orleans

Communications:

Richard Utt of Orleans

Environment:

Florence Seldin of Chatham

Director-at-Large:

Judy Thomas of Chatham

Off Board Directors:

Health:

Pat Ryle of Dennis and Sally Cahill of Cotuit

Nominating Committee:

Nancy Erskine of Chatham

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new member Wendy Bierwirth of Marstons Mills.

Wbierwirthusa@gmail.com

(301) 221-0591

377 Wheeler Rd

Marstons Mills, MA 02648-1134

Wendy was born in New Jersey, lived for 25 years in Maryland where she managed an aviation company, moved to the Cape in 2016 and officially retired last year. She quickly became involved in human rights issues, joining the NAACP and the Barnstable Human Rights Advisory Commission. She was also appointed to the Barnstable Airport Commission. She has joined the League, among other commitments, because she cares deeply about human rights and in keeping with the League's mission, the right to vote. She believes that recent police killings and protests against racism are revealing "a time when we're really ready for change," on a scale that we have not seen since the 1960s. She thinks that responsibility for these changes rest squarely on white people, and in keeping with that conviction, she recently traveled with a friend to visit the new Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC; the new Lynching Museum and Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama; and other sites of importance to the struggle for African-American rights.

Welcome to Pat Burke, our new LWVCCA member in West Yarmouth.

Patricia A Burke
strdcpat@aol.com
202-841-9135
5 Louise Ln
West Yarmouth, MA 02673-1431

Pat moved from Washington D.C. to her house at 5 Louise Lane (off of West Yarmouth Road) approximately two years ago. She and her ex-husband had bought the house in 1978, a couple of years after they first visited Cape Cod with a friend. She made the decision to move here and totally rebuilt and renovated the house before she moved in. It's like a new house and she has nice neighbors. For the three years prior to her move, she worked in D.C. for a Canadian software company with global sales. Before that, she worked for an IT integrator that helps U.S. federal agencies assess and improve components of their digital systems. Most of her career was spent working for U.S. Customs. Although Pat has worked with technology industries, she is not a technician herself. She earned an MA in English. Since moving here, she has been active with the DY Newcomers and is part of a book club. Pat is interested in changing the sequence of moving from one's own home to assisted living followed by health care, etc. She is interested in the use of technology to reduce isolation and expand access to emergency services and medical services and social interaction, etc. --- so that people can remain in their homes and use self-driving cars, telehealth, etc. She imagines a telecenter that will monitor the health and welfare of town/neighborhood/regional residents. We're sure there will be benefits for both our organization and for Pat through her membership.

APPRECIATION for CAREGIVERS:

To all LWVCCA Members,

Last month we asked for donation for Caregiver Appreciation, with the plan to send snack baskets to these facilities for the staff.

So far we've gotten \$445, and have compiled a list of 15 facilities where we will be sending gift baskets

If you would like to donate to this effort please send a check. We're suggesting \$25 in lieu of the payment for the annual meeting - or any other amount you choose.

Make your check out to LWVCCA, with the word "APPRECIATION" in the memo line.

Send it to:

LWVCCA
P. O. Box 2347
Orleans, MA
02653

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's that time again:

It's time to renew your membership. Receipt of dues by **JULY 1st** will ensure that you are included in the 2020-2021 Directory.

So far, we've gotten slightly more than 50 renewals, out of 83.

Dues are \$55 for a single membership and \$85 for two or more members residing in the same household. Another available single membership category is a \$30 reduced amount available to those who wish to be active in the LWVCCA but for whom the full amount would be an impediment to joining.

If you haven't yet renewed, make out your check in the appropriate amount to LWVCCA, and send it to:

LWVCCA
P.O Box 2347
Orleans MA
02653

Or

Use your credit card at:

<https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/cape-cod-area/join> (there is an additional fee)

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT JULY 2020

Voting

H4778/S2755 Voting Options in Response to Covid-19

The bill passed the House June 4 with 155-1 votes and passed the Senate June 17 unanimously. A conference committee has been formed to reconcile the differences between the two bills. Once it comes out of the conference committee it cannot be amended and must get an up or down vote in both chambers. The hope is that the conference committee will act quickly and that the governor will sign the bill.

Racial Justice Bills

The LWVMA commits to racial justice by supporting concepts presented in the following bills. Legislation will be filed by Speaker DeLeo and Governor Baker which may include some of these provisions. In the interim, please ask your legislators to support the following bills:

HD.5128/SD.2968, An Act Relative to Saving Black Lives and Transforming Public

Safety, bans chokeholds, no knock warrants, tear gas, and hiring abusive officers. (Sponsored by Senator Cyr and Representative Fernandes)

H.1440, An Act establishing a special commission on structural racism, creates a commission to identify, analyze, and propose solutions to eradicate systemic racism within all aspects of the criminal justice system in Massachusetts.

H.2146, Resolve providing for a "Special Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training" to study and make recommendations concerning the implementation of a Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) system establishes a commission to implement a statewide system to certify local police officers and enable de-certification for misconduct and abuse. (Sponsored by Representative Vieira and Representative Fernandes)

H.2292, An Act to reform civil service exams, examines testing, qualification and hiring processes for state and local police officers, and ensures implementation of community policing, procedural justice and cultural inclusivity. It creates a statewide Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity.

Immigration

H3573/S1401. Safe Communities Act: prevents sheriffs and police from being involved in deportations and deputizing local officers to act as ICE agents. The bill also guarantees basic rights to immigrants. The deadline to be voted out of committee has again been extended and is **July 15, 2020.**

S2659/HD503 Emergency ITIN bill would provide equal stimulus checks to immigrant taxpayers. Some 57,000 residents who paid state and federal income taxes in 2019 were denied a federal stimulus check because they used an ITIN number (Individual Taxpayer ID Number). The deadline for being voted out of committee is July 31, 2020.

H1312/S2061 Driving Families Forward: The bill would provide driving certificates or some form of proof of driving validation to undocumented drivers, allowing those drivers to drive legally and ensure they have passed a state driving test and hopefully obtain insurance. The bill was voted favorably out of committee but needs some energy to move it to the floor for a vote.

Pilgrim

Attorney General Maura Healey and the Baker-Polito administration announced the state has worked out a comprehensive agreement with Holtec, owner of Pilgrim, to provide financial, environmental and public safety protection as the plant is decommissioned. Organizations that have been following the whole decommissioning process for years have many concerns about the agreement. An article in the Cape Cod Times, written by Diane Turco, explains that voters across the Cape will have an opportunity to sign a non-binding public advisory question to call on Gov Baker and the state Legislature to ensure that dangerous nuclear fuel is secured in better quality casks and provide heightened security to protect our welfare..

Barnstable County Government

The Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates passed a resolution to curb the powers of Governor Baker caused by the closure of businesses on March 10 without legislative approval. According to the state constitution "you need an act of the legislature to bind the people,"

Patrick Princi has taken over the position of Deputy Speaker vacated by Susan Moran who is now a state Senator.

Each Delegate from the 15 towns that have a seat on the Assembly of Delegates are up for reelection. Suzanne McAuliffe, Speaker, will not be running.

Two of the three County Commissioners positions will need to be filled. Mary Pat Flynn is retiring and Ron Beaty's term ends in 2021. He will be running for re-election.

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT

Monday, June 15, Rosemary Shields, co-chair of the Voter Service Committee was asked to talk before the Barnstable County Human Rights Commission on voting.

Before her presentation on voting, Rosemary read a statement from the LWV:

"The League of Women Voters grieves the murders of George Floyd (and shock Rayshard Brooks in Atlanta on Friday night) and the countless other Black lives that have been tragically taken at the hands of rogue law enforcement officers, who are rarely held fully accountable for their actions.

"We also mourn those who have lost their lives or been harmed, mentally or physically, as a result of America's pervasive culture of anti-blackness. The systems of oppression that have perpetuated the myth of white supremacy in our country must be dismantled if we are ever to become the nation we pledge to be—indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

"As an organization whose mission is to empower voters and defend democracy, we stand in solidarity with all Black communities. The League shall do so not only by speaking out against racism in all forms, but by doing the work required of us to be anti-racist. We are committed to listening to and amplifying Black voices, and educating ourselves and our children on the historic and ongoing systemic racism that plagues this country.

"The League acknowledges, painfully, that America is a nation founded on racism. Therefore, all who live in this country must contribute to and participate in organizations actively working to achieve full liberation and inclusive freedom. We must all advocate for anti-racist policies at every level of government.

"We join the League of Women Voters of Minnesota in calling on law enforcement officials to provide transparency during this investigation, and to seek justice for George Floyd, his family, and his community.

"We echo the call of our partners at the NAACP: we must all vote in November – the road to change lies at the ballot box."

The League of Women Voters supports The Justice in Policing Act of 2020, a necessary FIRST step towards creating systems of accountability and begin the process of eliminating police brutality. It bans choke holds, no-knock warrant entry in drug cases and establishes a police misconduct registry and gives the Justice Dept. the authority to investigate and prosecute police misconduct.

Nationally the two hot topics for the League are voter suppression and gerrymandering.

VOTER SUPPRESSION

In 2013 the Supreme Court took on the case of Shelby vs Holder, which called into question the constitutionality the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Civil Rights Act required states and local governments, based on past histories of discrimination in voting, to obtain federal pre-clearance before implementing any changes to their voting laws and practices. The 5-4 decision looked at 40 years of data and determined that the law was no longer necessary to current needs and this decision gutted the Civil Rights law. The Court left open the possibility that Congress could enact a new Voting Rights Act to reflect the times, but Congress has been unable to do this. Since this 2013 decision, 1,000 polling places

have been closed in the U.S. in predominantly black counties. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, states most likely to enact voting restrictions were states with the highest African American turnout in the 2008 election.

The League is at the forefront of the most important federal and state voting rights cases around the country with dozens of voting rights cases in federal courts across the country. We actively oppose discriminatory voter photo ID laws; fight against attacks on the voter registration process; oppose aggressive and potentially unlawful purging of names from state rolls, especially during this time of Pandemic; and hold lawmakers accountable when they try to institute last-minute Election Day barriers, WI and GA being the latest examples of that.

GERRYMANDERING

The League opposes gerrymandering. Congressional districts and legislative bodies, that are re-drawn every 10 years after the Census, should be apportioned based on population. Based on history, the party in power in the State legislatures draw maps for themselves and their partisans into safe districts, where they are basically entrenched and hard to be voted out. Gerrymandering distorts and undermines representative democracy by allowing officials to select their voters rather than voters to elect their officials. Constituents have very little influence over such legislators. The League believes the responsibility for fair redistricting should be vested in each state by an independent special commission. The League works in states across the country to pass ballot initiatives to institute independent redistricting commissions. In the 2019 the Supreme Court in the Gill v Whitford case, WI residents challenged the 2011 state assembly redistricting as unconstitutional. The Court ruled that while excessive partisanship in districting leads to results that reasonably seem unjust, it is up to Congress and state legislative bodies to find ways to restrict it. This ruling basically gave the power back to the gerrymanderers, who benefit and control the process. In 21 states the Leagues are using ballot initiatives or referendums to protect fair redistricting in states where fair maps exist, to push for independent redistricting commissions, and to add fair redistricting provisions in states where there aren't any. To date, the League has had 13 ballot initiatives and referendums proposed. State Leagues in Arkansas, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Virginia have made progress toward achieving this goal.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY IN MA

The Legislative advocacy efforts of the LWVMA are led by the Legislative Action Committee composed of the League's volunteer legislative specialists. Each legislative specialist follows one or more focus areas. For those areas, the specialist researches the bills, recommends League action, writes testimony on the League's position to submit to the relevant committee of the legislature and follows the progress of the bill.

During the present legislative session of 2019 to 2020, the LWVMA advocated for 84 bills. The bills covered issues related to Affordable Housing, Health Care, Meeting Basic Human Needs, Women's Issues, Children and Family Issues, Education and Criminal Justice Reform. Some others are Environment, Good Governance and Transportation.

Our local Legislative Committee follows certain bills with strong focus and action on those important to our League's priorities and the Cape Cod region. Our focus during this legislative session has been on Elections and Voting, Immigration and bills related to the decommissioning of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant.

S 2755 An Act relative to voting options in response to COVID-19: see the Legislative Committee Report Election Day Registration, H 685 / S 396 (Reporting date extended to Friday, June 26, pending concurrence with the Senate Reporting date extended to Thursday December 31, 2020, pending concurrence)

Ranked Choice Voting / or instant runoff voting will be a ballot question on the November 3 ballot

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is a commonsense change that would give voters the choice to rank candidates for office in the order they prefer them. Ranked Choice Voting gives voters **more choice** by letting them pick who they like best, **without settling for the “lesser of two evils.”** It opens up the process to diverse voices, including women and people of color, by giving **all candidates** a chance to compete and win. This simple change will give Massachusetts voters a stronger voice when we cast our ballots, and guarantee that our elected leaders are supported by a true majority. Voter Choice for Massachusetts, RCV coalition needed 25,000 additional signatures and at last count they were very close to their goal. The signatures are due this Wednesday, June 17 to put RCV question on the ballot this November 3 and, if passed, will start in the 2022 elections.

Immigration

The Safe Communities Act, H 3573 / S 1401 (Reporting date extended to Wednesday, July 15, pending concurrence) if passed, would protect the basic rights of undocumented immigrants and would prevent contracts with ICE (immigration Custom Enforcement) that allow county sheriffs and the Department of Corrections to act as federal immigration agents, at taxpayers' expense.

- Sheriff Cummings participates in the 287 program which allows his officers to be trained and act as ICE agents
- ten towns on the Cape have passed safe community resolutions
- Senator Cyr, Rep. Peake and Rep. Fernandes support this bill
- the legislation has been extended to July 15, 2020, so it still can be acted upon

Parity on Board Bill, H 4153, An Act to ensure gender parity and racial and ethnic diversity on public boards and commissions. Thanks to Jeanne Morrison the LWVCCA became aware of this bill. Unfortunately, we were too late to get it on the LWVMA agenda for this legislative session.

LWVCCA New Website



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

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At the end of June, the LWVCCA website will be making a transition from the format you've all seen for many years. The software that supports our website ("LEW", or League EasyWeb") was developed many years ago, and there have been significant changes since then. We will be transitioning to a new platform, MYLO (My League Online) with many updated features.

The transition is complete, the old URL, <http://lwvcapecod.org/>, automatically takes you to the new site. There is a private Members Only page: login information will be provided.

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT LWVCCA!

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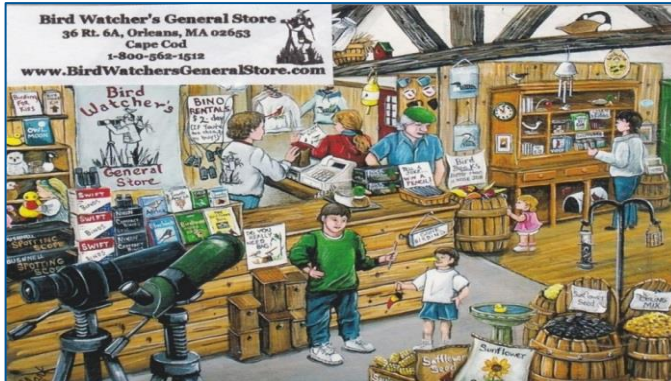
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