



CALENDAR



Independence Day
SUNDAY July 4

BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY July 27 | 9:30 a.m.

[Zoom conference by invitation](#)

UPCOMING

BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY September 7 | 9:30 a.m.

[Zoom conference by invitation](#)

Go to
<https://tinyurl.com/LWVCCA-calendar>
to see our entire Google calendar. Click on any
calendar listing to see more detail.

LWVCCA PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS

Members:

While it appears that things slow down in the summer, there is always a steady beat that needs to continue. Those Committees that seem to never sleep; Membership, Voter's Service, Legislative, and Communications are constantly paying attention and acting, when necessary, to keep you informed.

As we move forward, I would like to remind you of a few important items to focus on over the

www.lwvCapecod.org

summer months. First and foremost, it is time to renew your commitment to the League through your membership. Dues notices have gone out and it would be great to see all of you returning along with a friend if that works. As Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." We start with building our membership and then we network with others of like mind and grow in strength. When you send in your dues, if you are able to add a bit extra, either to the local League or to the Ed Trust, that would be great.

Second, you have all received a copy of a letter that can be used to encourage new businesses to become sponsors. Please take the time to send out or deliver one or two to those businesses that you frequent. Your help win this endeavor will be greatly appreciated by your Board of Directors.

Finally, you should all have received the discussion book selections, "Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man" by Emmanuel Acho and "Waking Up White" by Debby Irving. Please pick up one or both and make them your beach time reading. As we continue our journey towards being more inclusive, these tools will help us deal with changes going on around us.

State Convention will be held a week from Saturday, June 26, virtually. Jeanne, Florence, Rosemary and myself will be your voting delegates. We actually are allowed 5, so there is room for one more if any of you are interested. Please just let me know. Anyone else is able to register and participate as an observer. Just check the State League website for info. In the September Voter I will be able to share with you how the State League priorities will impact us over the next two years.

<http://www.facebook.com/LWVCCA/>

In the meantime, enjoy your summer and this return to some sort of normalcy after a long, hard year. I appreciate all of your support over the past year and look forward to what is to come. *“Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.”* (William James)

My Best,
Suzanne

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JUNE 1 BOARD MEETING

- Minutes of the May 5 Board meeting were approved.
- The Board reviewed the business fund-raising letters and made some minor changes: the deadline for donations is August 1 to include the business cards in the Member Handbook and Directory.
- The Board voted (11 yeas, 1 abstention) to continue Board meetings as Zoom meetings until the end of the year.
- Discussed holding the September opening membership meeting and December membership meeting in person (at a restaurant). Decided to poll the membership to

determine willingness to meet in person and, if so, indoors or outdoors.

YOUTH SERVICE COMMITTEE

Our committee invited Cape Cod Area school districts to share student-led civics projects developed by students this year. These are the projects that are required by the 2018 Massachusetts legislation, Ch. 296, An Act to promote and enhance civic engagement. Monomoy Regional School District was the first district to accept our invitation. They have sent us two projects completed by students in US History II courses. We have posted the projects to our League website on the front page section titled, [Spotlight on Youth Civic Engagement](#).

The projects require students to select an issue they care about, research the factors involved in the issue, develop strategies and solutions that address the issue, and present what they learned and their action plan. One group decided to investigate the process of selecting courses that are offered and learn how to broaden the offerings at their school. Another group decided to investigate carbon emissions and what they could do to lower the carbon footprint at their school. Each group prepared a slide deck to share what they learned. We commend the students in the US History II classes at Monomoy for their work and thank them for sharing their projects. We sent letters of commendation to their teachers to share with them. As we move forward in the next school year, we hope to find additional ways to support and celebrate the work of schools and students in the development of student-led civics projects.

Please take a minute to view the projects on our website.

CRITICAL RACE THEORY

WHY ARE WE HEARING SO MUCH CONTROVERSY IN THE NEWS ABOUT “CRITICAL RACE THEORY”?

Submitted by Karen Mazza

You may have noticed in the news that several states with republican majority state legislatures have passed or are considering legislation to prevent schools and teachers from teaching “critical race theory”. According to a recent article in Education Week:

“Critical race theory is an academic concept that is more than 40 years old. The core idea is that racism is a social construct, and that it is not merely the product of individual bias or prejudice, but also something embedded in legal systems and policies.

The basic tenets of critical race theory, or CRT, emerged out of a framework for legal analysis in the late 1970s and early 1980s created by legal scholars Derrick Bell, Kimberlé Crenshaw, and Richard Delgado, among others.”¹

The laws that are passed or under consideration indicate that schools should not teach about racism or anything that would divide people based on race or make people feel uncomfortable. This controversy appears to have originated as another effort to fan the flames of cultural wars when former President Trump criticized the New York Time’s 1619 project and issued an executive order that government departments could not implement diversity training. President Biden nullified that executive order. Since that time, there has been a push in Republican majority state legislatures to ban critical race theory.

There has also been a coordinated effort to urge Republicans to take this battle to local school boards by arguing against diversity curriculum and running candidates for school committees. This coordinated effort is well documented in an article, “Held Hostage: How Critical Race Theory Moved From Fox News to

School Boards.”² Here on Cape Cod, some school committees that have passed anti-racism resolutions and who have formed Diversity and Inclusion Committees are encountering disagreement from some local citizens. Such a challenge from a few residents from the Dennis Yarmouth Regional School District was made at a recent meeting of the school committee’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee and at a meeting of the full school committee. Hearing through the grapevine that this had occurred I and about 10 other citizens also voiced their support for the committee’s anti-racism resolution and the formation of a Diversity and Inclusion Committee at the school committee meeting.

I think it is very important to speak up about these misguided attacks against efforts by school districts to address the legacy and perpetuation of racism in this country. My statement to the School Committee is listed below.

“As a Dennis resident and as a retired Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, I would like to voice my support for the Anti-Racism resolution adopted by the school committee and for the establishment of a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. Many organizations have recognized the need to step up and accept collective responsibility for eliminating racism. I see that in the resolutions of several leading professional educational organizations, including the American Association of School administrators, The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and the National Council for the Social Studies. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has issued guidelines to examine curriculum to make sure that it is a culturally sensitive and inclusive.

The politically divisive climate we live in nationally, has unfortunately created misunderstanding about teaching for diversity, equity and inclusion. Teaching that is guided by principles of diversity, equity and inclusion is not about attacking our country or making anyone feel guilty for past injustices. But it is about

everyone feeling a sense of collective responsibility for helping our country to live up to the ideals of our democracy: equality, justice, life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness. Diversity, equity and inclusion is a commitment to work together to become a more perfect union. I applaud the efforts of the Dennis Yarmouth Regional School District in moving forward on these essential goals."

Political restriction of the ability of teachers to teach history fully and accurately is an assault on academic freedom and on the ability of educators to play a role in eliminating racism. Teachers have begun to counter these efforts and stand up for the rightful place of discussing racism in the curriculum.³ Educators are not using the term, "critical race theory," as perpetuated by these conservative political efforts. It is more typical that educators talk about anti-racism curriculum. There is a more thoughtful approach to this issue, being sponsored in Massachusetts through a bill proposed by Senator Jason Lewis and Representatives Nika Elugardo and Erika Uytterhoeven, H. 584/S. 365, An Act relative to anti-racism, equity and justice in education. This law calls for the establishment of the Commission for Anti-Racism and Equity in education which would have a broad range of stake holders to develop guidelines and strategies for anti-racism education. It would also ensure that teachers and school counselors

would have access to professional development that fosters equitable, inclusive curriculum, pedagogy and practices that support racial justice. It would create grant funding to support this professional development. LWVMA is supporting this legislation and as Education Specialist for Education Policy, I will be following this bill through the legislative process.

As a retired Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, I find the creation of a commission to be a helpful, non-political approach to addressing how the issue of racism should be taught and included in the curriculum. The Commission will develop a report with resources that can be used as a foundation for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and local school districts in guiding their curriculum development. Because the commission will have a broad range of stakeholders, it will also have the opportunity to clear up misunderstandings, and develop consensus about recommendations going forward. Individual school districts should not have to individually battle assaults on their efforts to teach history accurately and responsibly. Hopefully this article, will give League members information needed to understand what is happening politically on this issue, and how we can all be engaged in supporting our local school committees and teachers.

¹ "What is Critical Race Theory and Why Is It Under Attack" by Stephen Sawchuk, Education Week, May 18 2021, <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/what-is-critical-race-theory-and-why-is-it-under-attack/2021/05>

² "Held Hostage: How Critical Race Theory Moved from Fox News to School Boards," Tyler Kingkade, Brandy Zadrozny and Ben Collins, NBS News, Apple News, <https://apple.news/ATMmhfWL2SnacHVJclFMQVA>

³ "Teachers Across the Country Protest Laws Restricting Lessons on Racism", Valerie Strauss, Washington Post, June 12, 2021, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2021/06/12/teachers-protest-laws-restricting-antiracism-lessons-in-school/>

PRONOUNS

League Members,

In keeping with our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) mission, the League is making a transition towards being more inclusive with our language beginning with the introduction of gender friendly pronouns. Pronouns are used in place of proper names and have traditionally included he/she, him/her and they/them. Our shift will allow members to self-identify instead of having people make assumptions about their gender identities. You will begin to see changes on our League brochures and will be given the option of specifying which pronoun you would be comfortable with.

Over time you will also see a shift away from binary language such as male and female, ladies and gentlemen, and guys and gals: possible changes may include League members, friends, folks, or all. The League is moving away from using binary language so that persons of all gender identities feel welcome.

As with all change, members will need to practice using gender neutral terms. The more practice we have the easier it will become. As we move forward and change our internal and external messaging, preferred pronouns will become more familiar and eventually, when we return to in person events, we can begin to use pronouns on our name tags for members and participants. Our aim is to make the League open to passionate individuals of all genders. With all of us working together, we can remove one more barrier to full inclusivity. If any of you have any questions or concerns regarding this transition, please do not hesitate to contact any Board member.

For more information, see this guide from LWV:
<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/dei-resources/pronoun-and-gender-guidance>

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Health Committee Article - 'Joining the Cape Cod LWV Health Committee'

Are you interested in shaping and carrying out legislative forums and panel discussions on health issues?

If you are, the Health Committee would love to have you join us as we plan and carry out membership and community informational sessions on legislative bills and needed advocacy actions, and on health issues on topics to be identified. Do contact Eileen Elias, Chair at eileen.elias@comcast.net.

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

Redistricting Part 3

During the week of June 7, the State House of Representatives passed legislation (H 3863) that would require cities and towns to wait until AFTER the Legislature finalizes new state and federal districts based on the 2020 Census to go through the reprecincting process, a change from the typical order of business for MA. The reform has been pitched as one that is necessary in response to delays in the release of information from the U.S. Census Bureau, usually delivered on April 1 but this year delivered on September 30 because of complications from Covid among other issues. This reform will put Massachusetts in line with the majority of other states and allow lawmakers to create more inclusive districts.

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin has been pressing to thwart this legislative effort to alter the traditional redistricting process for Massachusetts, Galvin has called the bill a "power grab" by the Legislature and one driven by House leaders who he said are most interested in "making districts that are as favorable to

themselves as they can.”

“I don’t believe the argument that this is just incumbency protection is true, given that our concerns are very much about the Voting Rights Act implementation,” said Beth Huang, executive director of the Massachusetts Voter Table.

Though Massachusetts Voter Table does not endorse candidates, Huang said the sooner the Legislature is able to finalize new district maps, the easier it will be for candidates, including potential challengers, to analyze the new districts, assess their chances and mount credible campaigns.

Due to pandemic-related delays in the 2020 Census, the federal government does not expect to release complete data until the end of September, though some local information could be available by early August. The Legislature must complete its work by November. Massachusetts House candidates are required by law to live in the district they hope to represent at least a full year prior to next November’s election.

Elizabeth Foster-Nolan, co-president of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, said the Census delay means cities and towns will be asked to do in a few weeks what might normally take several months, and at the same time many cities are preparing for fall elections. The consequences of making a mistake with reprecincting, Foster-Nolan said, includes exposure to litigation if a municipality inadvertently violates anyone’s voting rights in the rush to complete maps. “That is a tremendous burden to place on municipalities for such important work,” she said.

Massachusetts Municipal Association Executive Director Geoff Beckwith has argued that the change would create problems for municipalities with representative Town Meeting, and in other cities and towns with more than one precinct that elect local officials in districts based on wards and precincts.

While delays in the release of detailed local population data is one reason supporters are advocating for the bill, the reform was actually

one of many recommendations made by Moran and former Senate President Stan Rosenberg after they led the 2010 redistricting effort.

“One of the things they found in that process was that there were some additional constraints because of the order of reprecincting and redistricting,” said Rahsaan Hall, the racial justice director for the ACLU of Massachusetts. Hall said the bill was “imperative” because it would ensure that the Special Joint Committee on Redistricting “has the flexibility needed to increase political power in communities of color and immigrant communities.”

Without local precinct boundaries to help guide their map drawing efforts, the committee would instead refer to Census blocks and tracts. Advocates say that would allow for more precision when deciding how best to group communities with shared interests that tend to vote as a bloc. “In order to not dilute the voting strength of these communities, the committee will need to not be constrained by precincts,” Hall said.

While nothing in state law prevents the Committee on Redistricting from using Census blocks instead of precincts to redraw districts or from starting its process before reprecincting concludes, Huang said “clarity is very useful and that’s why we support this bill.”

The bill that passed the House had been redrafted by the Committee on Ways and Means based on a recommendation by Moran and Brownsberger that a clause be added to sunset the changes in 2022.

Advocates, however, say they would like to see the process permanently altered so that state and federal districts are redrawn before local precincts every 10 years.

“Ultimately we believe that this should be permanent,” Hall said. “There’s an aspect of it that requires us to deal with the very specific situation before us now and understanding the way the Legislature works it’s best to deal with the critical situation at hand and come back for the long-term approach, but ultimately it’s the belief of this coalition that this should be a permanent change.”

On June 8 the Special Joint Committee on Redistricting held its virtual meeting at 12 Noon. The spotlight was on the 8th Congressional District, Congressman Stephen Lynch's district. The district includes the cities of Boston, Brockton and Quincy and 21 towns in Southeastern Massachusetts including Randolph, Roxbury, Rosendale, Jamaica Plains. Highlights of the meeting: the Haitian Community Organization of Brockton asked for translators so more of their community could testify. Chairman Moran said there would be translators at a future meeting for constituents who feel more comfortable speaking in their native language. Major languages in the district included Creole, Arabic, Portuguese, Spanish and Vietnamese. A community doctor representing Boston / West Roxbury said the health centers were bifurcated – in the affluent areas newer health centers, in the poorer sections, not so much.

On June 21st the Committee held a virtual meeting for the 1st Congressional District, Congressman Richard Neal, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. The district includes Springfield, Pittsfield, the Berkshires, and the Blackstone Valley Corridor. There was a lot of discussion of the land size of the district (950 square miles) and the loss of population. The only way for the district to “grow” population in this space would be to move more southerly or eastward. There is no where else to go without “invading” neighboring states. Because the area is so rural the broadband coverage is spotty, as was evident by the in-and-out nature of the testimony during the zoom meeting. Because they are so far from Boston and the “seat of power,” there was a concern that the rural vote was being diluted. It was expressed that all Americans should be counted, every resident equal with fair representation, yet another concern was the high number of 2nd home residences which aren't counted as primary, voting residences.

Next meetings of the Special Joint Committee on Redistricting:

July 6, 6th Congressional District, 6 p.m.

July 8, 3rd Congressional District, 6 p.m.

July 12, 7th Congressional District, 10 a.m.

July 19, 4th Congressional District, 12 Noon

Check out the State House Districts using this link:

<https://malegislature.gov/StateHouse/MediaGallery/Image/Plan%20201%20House%20Final%2010-17-2011.jpg>

Put the “magnifying glass” cursor over Cape Cod and see your State Rep. District.

Cape Cod Spring Election Results 2021

Town	Election Date	Number Of Votes	% Reg. Voters
Brewster	5/25/21	2648 / 8499	31%
Chatham	6/17/21	1115 / 6098	18%
Dennis	5/11/21	581 / 12,927	4%
Eastham	5/18/21	894 / 4,556	20%
Harwich	5/18/21	1,427 / 11,445	12%
Mashpee	5/8/21	1709 / 12,072	14%
Orleans	5/25/21	1,546 / 5,503	28%
Provincetown	5/11/21	1,356 / 3,209	42%
Sandwich	5/6/21	224 / 16,746	1%
Truro	6/26/21	Not available at press time	
Wellfleet	6/30/21		
Yarmouth	5/18/21	1,846 / 20,554	9%

Submitted by Rosemary Shields,
Co-chair, Voter Service Committee

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Different members from our committee have selected bills for advocacy for the 2021-2022 Legislative Session. Below is a list of bills that we have selected that our state legislators are also supporting. **Please write to your local legislators and thank them for supporting these bills.** We have also selected other bills which have not caught the attention of our legislators.

The national government is not the only one that appears to be divided. None of our republican legislators support any legislation that we have selected from the bills the Legislative Action Committee (LAC) has approved for advocacy.

The only exception is Rep Whelan who is co-sponsoring a bill we are supporting regarding Pilgrim. Our committee had to receive permission from the LAC to advocate for any bill related to the decommissioning of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE BILLS CO-SPONSORED BY CAPE LEGISLATORS	
Senator Cyr (Cape and Islands District)	
H2418/S1579	Safe Community Act - protect civil rights and safety of all MA residents
H2437	An Act relative to crimes gun data analysis and reporting
H605/S362	Common Start - provide affordable and accessible high quality education and care
H805/S459	Votes Act
H3288/S2136	Transitioning MA to clean electricity, heating and transportation
H878/S610/517	To save recycling costs in the Commonwealth
H1267/S766	Establishing Medicare for all in MA
H2254/S1507	To monitor dry casks of spent nuclear fuel (re Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant)
Senator Moran (Plymouth and Barnstable District)	
H2418/S1579	Safe Community Act - protect civil rights and safety of all MA residents
H605/S362	Common Start - provide affordable and accessible high quality education and care
H805/S459	Votes Act
S2203	Relative to responsible emergency planning (for 10 mi re Pilgrim Power Plant)
H2254/S1507	To monitor dry casks of spent nuclear fuel (re Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant)
Rep Whelan (1st Barnstable District)	
Not a co-sponsor of any bills selected by the Legislative Committee	
S2203	Relative to responsible emergency planning (for 10 mi) re Pilgrim Power Plant
Rep Diggs (2cd Barnstable District)	
H2418/S1579	Safe Community Act - protect civil rights and safety of all MA residents
H605/S362	Common Start - provide affordable and accessible high quality education and care
H805/S459	Votes Act
H3157/S2077	Ensure Gender Parity and Racial and Ethnic Diversity on public boards and commissions
H1819/S1051	to amend definition of Hate Crimes Statutes

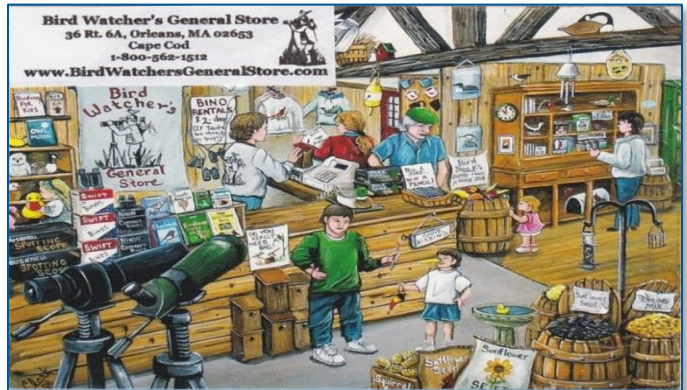
	Rep Vieira (3rd Barnstable District)
	Not a co-sponsor of any bills selected by the Legislative Committee
	Rep Peake (4th Barnstable District)
H2418/S1579	Safe Community Act - protect civil rights and safety of all MA residents
H605/S362	Common Start - provide affordable and accessible high quality education and care
H805/S459	Votes Act
H1477	relative to enforcing law (Halts Sheriffs' contracts with ICE)
S2203	Relative to responsible emergency planning (for 10 mi) re Pilgrim Power Plant
	Rep Xiarhos (5th Barnstable District)
	Not a co-sponsor of any bills selected by the Legislative Committee
	Rep Fernandes (Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket)
H2418/S1579	Safe Community Act - protect civil rights and safety of all MA residents
H605/S362	Common Start - provide affordable and accessible high quality education and care
H805/S459	Votes Act
H3157/S2077	Ensure Gender Parity and Racial and Ethnic Diversity on public boards and commissions
H3288/S2136	Transitioning MA to clean electricity, heating and transportation
H1428/S898	Codifying the MA rental voucher program
H1267/S766	Establishing Medicare for all in MA

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