

CALENDAR

NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 virus we conduct LWVCCA meetings via Zoom sessions. Invitations will be sent to members via email.

BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY February 9 | 9:30 a.m.

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING I

SATURDAY February 13th | 10:00 a.m.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

MONDAY February 1ST to
MONDAY March 1st

PRESIDENTS' DAY

MONDAY February 15th

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING II

THURSDAY February 18th | 7:00 p.m.

RACISM on CAPE COD PART II

THURSDAY February 25th | 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

UPCOMING

BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY March 2 | 9:30 a.m.

MEETING with CAPE LEGISLATORS

FRIDAY March 26, 2021 | 12:30 p.m.

Details will follow!

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

League Members,

Each month I attempt to share information and direction that is pertinent and uplifting. Unfortunately, this month, I may fall short. There is no way that I can begin to understand the tragedy that unfolded at our Nation's Capital on January 6th. By the time that you read this, there will be a new administration in office moving in a new direction. My hope is that our direction will be towards a more unified, just, and inclusive nation. There continues to be a terrific amount of work to do to make that happen and we, as members of the League of Women Voters, must continue to focus on those efforts that we can positively influence. Your continued willingness to participate as often as you can is the key to making change happen.

I feel a responsibility to address the request made by Dr. Deborah Turner, President of the LWVUS regarding the issue of impeachment of now former President Trump. I do this to hopefully put some of our members' minds at rest. I received a few call regarding Dr. Turner's request to contact our representatives and senators to vote in favor of impeachment. For those members and for our newer members who may have been confused, the League of Women Voters is certainly a non-partisan organization. That means that we do not, as a group, support parties or particular candidates. We do, however, act in favor of or against public policies that may be connected with issues that the League has studied and taken a position on. There have been times when the League has been wrongly pictured as being biased because we support a particular cause, such as reproductive freedom, that might appear to be linked to a liberal platform. All we can do is continue to hold the line when it comes to parties

and candidates and to be very clear on our positions for advocacy.

Members were asked to speak out on the issue of impeachment, not in a partisan way, but because the League of Women Voters US felt that the actions of President Trump had endangered our democracy. The National League holds a position on Representative Government. A part of this position opposes major threats to constitutional rights and supports responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability, effective performance, and transparency. After deliberation, the National Board felt that it was imperative to respond to the questionable actions of former President Trump. There will always be difficulties in determining where the line is. We must act responsibly, however difficult that may be and be mindful of our guiding principles.

May 2021 be filled with Peace and Justice.
Suzanne Brock

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JANUARY 5 BOARD MEETING

- Our budget was put together pre-pandemic. Many expenses we had planned are non-existent; however, we are looking at higher general meeting costs due to Zoom pricing. The electronic meeting format would require an additional ~\$50 to increase participants to 500. It would cost ~\$140 per month to present webinars.
- A Budget Committee will meet in February. If anyone is interested, it isn't a big time commitment: review the budget at home, meet on Zoom to go over line by line, then follow up with a few emails among the committee. The Budget then gets reviewed and voted at the March or April Board meeting so it will be included in the Call for the Annual Meeting. The Budget Committee is a great way to see how the League operates! Richard Utt and Suzanne Brock have volunteered for this committee.
- We opted to do fundraising only for the Helen S. Aaron Educational Trust this year. Richard Utt, Treasurer for the Ed Trust, reports that \$1,920.00 was raised. (*Update: we have a final total of \$2,220.00.*)
- A follow-on to the December 7 DEI even is planned for February.
- The Board voted unanimously to create a DEI committee.
- The Barnstable County Human Rights Advisory Commission awarded an Unsung Hero Award to the Voter Service group for their 2020 get-out-the-vote initiatives.

LWVUS LETTER to INCOMING PRESIDENT BIDEN

In a letter sent by Virginia Kase, LWVUS CEO and Dr. Deborah Turner, LWVUS president, dated Jan. 4 they offered the League’s congratulations to both Joe Biden and Kamala Harris and set forth the League’s priorities as together we begin the “hard work of repairing our democracy.”

They listed and explained the League’s priorities:

1. PROTECT DEMOCRACY BY PASSING THE FOR THE PEOPLE ACT (H.R. 1)
2. RESTORE THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT – passage of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act
3. IMPLEMENT FAIR REDISTRICTING
4. ENSURE EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL – push the Equal Rights Amendment over the finish line.
5. COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM
6. ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE CRISIS
7. ENSURE QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS
8. END GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA
9. SECURE PEACE AND CLIMATE JUSTICE ABROAD

And they conclude: “We desire and can lend support to examine the impact of systemic racism and its impact on how the government serves the American people. We should state that our membership recently affirmed our commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion ...”

To read the entire letter go to the LWVUS website [HERE](#).

Florence Seldin

**RACISM on CAPE COD PART II:
HOW CAN THE CAPE COD
COMMUNITY COLLABORATE TO
ELIMINATE RACISM?**

On December 7, LWVCCA hosted a panel discussion, "[How is Racism Experienced on Cape Cod and What Can We Do About It?](#)" The program was recorded and is available on our YouTube channel at [this link](#). This is a huge topic and we barely scratched the surface on the discussion of “what can we do about it.” To delve deeper into the discussion of response strategies and solutions we will welcome our panelists from the December program back for this Part II discussion that will focus more on solutions.

Each panelist will discuss actions that their organizations are taking to address some of the problems associated with racism. Our own League will also take part in the discussion by explaining some of the actions being taken by all levels of the League, including our own LWVCCA. We will conclude the discussion by exploring how we can create a coalition of like-minded groups committed to the goal of eliminating racism. Please join us for this discussion and explore with us the challenge presented by young inauguration poet, Amanda Gorman, quoted here.

*When day comes we step out of the shade,
aflame and unafraid,
the new dawn blooms as we free it.
For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it.
If only we're brave enough to be it.*

Panelists

Dr. Debra Dagwan	Barnstable Town Council and LWVCCA member
Ms. Eileen Elias	Chair of Barnstable No Place for Hate
Mr. Paul Thompson	Executive Board, Community Liaison Director
Rev. Wesley Williams	MLK Group of the Nauset Interfaith Association
Ms. Muska Yousuf	Law Office of Muska Yousuf, Board Member of Amplify POC

DEI COMMITTEE

The LWVUS has a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) policy that states the League’s “commitment to diversity in principle and practice by making DEI central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individual's, households, communities and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.” To assist all members with this commitment, the League has launched a national campaign to educate, enlighten, and provoke discussion of this topic.

An introduction guide with training modules, definitions and continued learning materials is available at <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/dei-guide/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-guide-intro>.

Last fall the LWVCCA adopted a DEI policy, which is included on our website [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Cape Cod](#). We strive to be a welcoming and inclusive organization, growing a membership that is representative of the rich diversity of Cape Cod. Our 2020 program planning survey, members identified DEI as an important issue. Throughout 2020, we have written several position statements about the impact of events and legislation on diversity and equal rights, amplifying the voices of all voters and defending democracy.

The Vice Presidents of Programs in collaboration with committee Chairs, have incorporated DEI goals and initiatives into many League activities. In addition, we hosted two DEI specific events in 2020 (Sept. 24 open meeting discussion on our DEI Lens and a celebration of Black women who were influential in the suffrage movement in Massachusetts and Dec. 7 part one of a two part panel discussion "[How is Racism Experienced on Cape Cod and What Can We Do About It?](#)" You can view this program on our YouTube channel at [this link](#). We will be planning more events through 2021.

In January 2021, the Board of Directors unanimously voted to create a LWVCCA diversity committee. It is our hope that the committee will continue to help us to advance our DEI work. The committee will be led by 2 co-chairs and volunteers from the board of directors, other committees, and the general membership. The role of the committee is to help promote the LWVCCA DEI policies, vision, and mission. The DEI committee will make recommendations for initiatives and help to set goals for advancing our League's commitment to diversity. These efforts may include but are not limited to raising awareness to membership of issues surrounding DEI, program planning, collaboration, and outreach to diverse communities and like-minded organizations and the use of LWVUS/MA learning

materials and community resources to educate League members. In addition, the committee will work with the Vice President (s) of Programs and the Membership Committee to assess needs and seek opportunities for membership growth through inclusion of underrepresented groups like youth and people of color.

On a personal note, I am excited about this committee. My experience with the LWVCCA has been a rewarding one. Since joining the League, I have been given the opportunity to learn new ways to civically engage in my community. The League has welcomed my input and I feel included and valued as a member whose personal and professional experiences are utilized to help the organizational reach its goals. That validation is empowering and I love being a part of this team.

Jeanne Morrison, Vice President of Programs and DEI Committee Chair

At this time, we are inviting interested members to join the DEI committee. Please contact Jeanne Morrison at (774) 487-0287 or jeanne137@verizon.net.

2021-2022 PROGRAM PLANNING

Members, it is that time again when we need to put our heads together to plan for the League's new year. The constraints of the Covid-19 virus force us to conduct these planning sessions virtually, but we can accomplish much as long as we get good attendance. We are offering two options. The first one will take place on Saturday, February 13th at 10:00 a.m. and the second on Thursday, February 18th at 7:00 p.m. Both will include some discussion regarding suggestions for State and local LWVCCA program planning items. More information will be forthcoming when we will ask for your RSVP as to which meeting you wish to attend.

Remember, the directions that we move in each year are based on the suggestions that you, the members, make at these planning sessions. Please plan on joining us at one of these events and make your voices heard. Afterwards, get ready to roll up your sleeves and make things happen in the future! See you on the 13th or the 18th!

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

"It has become a lifelong commitment to educate myself and others about white privilege and systemic racism."

Margot Critchfield

Margot Critchfield rejoined The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area in 2020. She had initially joined in 2017, however, her super-busy schedule of activities prevented Margot from participating in LWVCCA as she had hoped when she joined. Her civic and community activities include her work with Cape Cod Women for Change; Upper Cape Women's Coalition; and Advisory Committee on Diversity Equity and Inclusion to the Sandwich School Board. She is also serving as an elected member of the Sandwich Democratic Town Committee. Margot returns to the League bringing her years of experience in the Episcopal priesthood. She graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary and was ordained at The National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. in 2001. Immediately after her graduation and ordination she started her service as Associate Rector at St. Albans Episcopal Church. By 2008 she was Rector at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Cohasset, Massachusetts. Her retirement from the ministry has given Margot the time and opportunity to pursue her advocacy work with an anti-racism focus. She is among the increasing numbers of white Americans who are expressing their concerns regarding the deadly shootings of African Americans in the United States and other manifestations of systemic racism in this country.

Margot is a talented and gifted artist who has blended her ceramic creations with her passion for social justice. Noteworthy indeed among her works is a memorial vase dedicated to the victims who were murdered in their synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania during a mass shooting. Her works have been on display in both the Cape Cod Museum of Art in Dennis and the Falmouth Art Center. In September 2020 Margot's work won first place in a juried show at the Falmouth Art Center.

Margot Critchfield was born in Huntington,

Connecticut. Her mother was a devoted homemaker. Her father worked in television and broadcasting for Westinghouse Broadcasting Company. His career caused his family to relocate frequently. Margot attended thirteen schools in eleven years. In her freshman year at George Washington University she studied in Paris as an art major. She changed her major to journalism and political science during her three subsequent years before her graduation from GWU. She and her husband of thirty-four years met at NBC News where they both worked. Their adult daughter Grace aspires to be a writer. She currently works in television and film as a script coordinator.

Margot Critchfield

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A belated welcome to members who joined in the first part of last year.

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Diane Turco joined in February of 2020.

"I was always joyous whenever our ballot questions were passed by the voters of Cape Cod confirming that voting is crucial. It is time for me to join the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area."

Diane Turco

Since 1983 **Diane Turco's** name has been connected with peaceful protests against nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants. Diane grew up in Southborough, Massachusetts and was first introduced to summers on Cape Cod when she was eleven years old. Today she and her husband Tom have established their home on land they purchased in Harwich nearly forty years ago. They have two adult children. Tom and Diane's careers were rooted in working with students with special needs. Diane earned her graduate degree in

Special Education in 1981. In retrospect she looks at her 35 years of professional progress with helping students who have special needs and their families. During those 35 years she and her husband addressed human rights issues of students with special needs. According to Diane Turco, there remains much more work to be done for those students.

As an exceptionally active civic-minded citizen and long-term resident of Cape Cod, Diane's advocacy for students with special needs involved one of her major concerns. She currently continues her high level of involvement with her other major concern: the anti nuclear protest movement in the United States. She contends that problems were escalated in Massachusetts during Gov. Dukakis' administration in 1988. The governor's and other elected officials' demands for safety were ignored by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC permitted the reopening of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant in Plymouth without having full emergency safety plans in place (1988). Diane Turco has spent dedicated time attending Massachusetts legislative hearings and offering informative presentations to Cape Cod's community organizations. In her current public presentations she focuses on the absolute need for initiatives regarding the lack of community safety plans in the event of a nuclear crisis at the nuclear plant in Plymouth. Even though she was in the forefront of the successful struggle to close the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant, she continues to indicate that the shutdown of the nuclear reactor was merely a partial solution to a more pervasive problem: What is to be done with the nuclear waste that remains at the site of the power plant? Diane is still in the struggle that involves the need for appropriate local, state and federal agencies to collaborate. A collaborative effort may yield safe yet viable solutions to the serious nuclear waste disposal/storage issues.

During her many years of selfless community service as an anti-nuclear activist Diane became one of the founders of Downwinders an organization whose current mission is to "... investigate, educate and agitate for safe storage of nuclear waste." There is at least one member of the Downwinders from every town on Cape Cod.

Diane Turco credits her friend and member in the Downwinders Elaine Dickinson for inviting her to join the League. It was Elaine Dickinson who also encouraged Diane to offer educational presentations and legislative updates at LWVCCA meetings prior to Diane's decision to join.

"With the nuclear reactor shutdown, the Pilgrim site is now a nuclear waste dump that continues to threaten our communities on the Cape and communities as far north as Nova Scotia."

Diane Turco

Diane Turco

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Janet Weatherbe joined in February 2020.

"I joined The League of Women Voters in February 2020. I feel that the work of The League is important in supporting the democratic process."

Janet Weatherbe

Janet Weatherbe

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We will continue to introduce new members in coming issues of the *Voter*.

VOTER SERVICE

You, too, can be a Voter expert.

Anita Rogers and I have been Voter Service Committee Co-Chairs for about three years. And we've certainly learned a lot along the way at the Voter Registration and Voter Information tables we've set up and the events we've attended all over the Cape. But what I recently discovered is all our "hard earned" knowledge is actually contained on the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website. So, from day one, everything you wanted to know about voting (but were afraid to ask) is available

online at your fingertips.

So, check out the link to the Secretary of the Commonwealth of MA:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/>



As you can see there is an “Elections and Voting” icon on the top left. Click on that and (see below) behold all the riches of information on voting. You can find Online Voter Registration; Am I Registered to Vote?: Vote by Mail; Where Do I Vote?

And further down you can find much, much more: Voter Resources; Recent Updates; Research & Statistics.



With your computer or smartphone, you can check if you or a neighbor are already registered. If you're not registered, as long as you have a MA driver's license or ID, you can register on line. No license? You can still register by requesting a mail-

in registration form. So, everyone can be part of the community's Voter Service immediately, without really trying.

Submitted by Rosemary Shields



KNOW YOUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Barnstable County is one of only five of the Commonwealth's 14 counties that has retained a county government structure. The structure of the County was determined by a Charter adopted in 1988 and periodically revised, usually in minor ways.

“The 15 communities of Cape Cod are connected by more than geography. Together we celebrate a shared history, culture and vision. Barnstable County is a special place requiring special protection and services managed cooperatively for the benefit of each community and the region as a whole.”

“This home rule charter for Barnstable County places the power and responsibility to deal with unique problems of Barnstable County in a county government directly responsible to the people of Barnstable County.” –Barnstable County Home Rule Charter adopted by voters November 1988

From

<https://www.barnstablecounty.org/regional-government/>

THE BARNSTABLE COUNTY HOME RULE CHARTER

<https://www.barnstablecounty.org/regional-government/assembly-of-delegates/home-rule-charter/>

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The fifteen-member Assembly of Delegates is now led by Barnstable delegate Patrick Princi who is Speaker. The Deputy Speaker is Mary Chaffee of Brewster who is also a member of the LWVCCA. Delegates are elected every two years, most often in (unfortunately) uncontested elections

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The three-member Board of Commissions, elected on a partisan basis, is led by chair Ron Bergstrom, vice chair Sheila Lyons. Mark Forrest is the third commissioner. The three commissioners represent all 15 towns. Commissioners serve for four years and are elected on a rotating basis, in even numbered years - two in one election cycle, then one in the following election cycle.

The county has 15 towns, each with its own local government, but each receives numerous services of the county, as can individuals.

More than 60 services are available, many of which can be found on the County website at

<https://www.barnstablecounty.org/find-a-service/>



Many are also described in the excellent “Wicked Local Orleans” article “County Government – The Nuts and Bolts” , on our website https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/county_gov_ernment_the_nuts_and_bolts.pdf

THE COUNTY WEBSITE

The [Barnstable County Home page \(www.barnstablecounty.org\)](http://www.barnstablecounty.org) is loaded with links to county information providing links to many topics of interest including:

Covid-19 vaccine rollout

- The [Meeting Center](#) with agendas, minutes, a calendar of Barnstable County meetings, and more.

The Our County drop-down menu at the top of the home page includes links to the:

- [Assembly of Delegates](#)
This page answers questions such as what is the Assembly of Delegates? How long has it existed? Who are its members? What is the Home Rule Charter? [Meeting Notices and Agendas](#), and more.
- [Cape Cod Commission](#)
This page links to the commission’s calendar and areas of focus, including the Cape Cod Climate Initiative, land use, transportation, economic development, GIS (geographic information system), natural resources, and more.
- [Commissioners' Office](#)
This page provides details about the commissioners, their contact information and responsibilities. It also lists the members of the County Administration, with their contact information.

You can watch meetings of the County Commissioners, Assembly of Delegates, Cape Cod Commission, and more, both live, and archived at <https://www.youtube.com/user/BarnstableCounty>

Submitted by Judy Thomas



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Transparency in the Legislature

Many citizens and legislators are interested in improving the transparency in the legislature. The time to do this is at the beginning of the legislative session. Below is more information but according to Judy Zaunbrecher, Co-President, “We (LWVMA) are not in a position to advocate with our local legislators and ask local Leagues and members to not do so as League representatives until LWVMA’s Legislative Action Committee has an opportunity to review any proposed rules changes for the 2021/22 legislative session.”

Some frustrations are that the Legislature remains exempt from the state’s public records

law. Also, a legislator can co-sponsor a bill but not vote for it because the votes do not have to be reported. Some legislators even lobby in secret against bills they have co-sponsored. Another obstacle to getting bills passed is that a roll call vote on bills and amendments can be extremely hard to get.

Changes that may be proposed for this year are:

- Make all committee votes public on the Mass.gov website.
- Make all written testimony submitted to committees available on the website.
- Require 72 hours between the time a bill is released until the time it can be voted on.

Legislation

S2995 – Net Zero Emissions by 2050 was not signed by Governor Baker. Both the Speaker of the House and the Senate President have stated that they will resubmit the bill to the Governor as quickly as possible after the House and Senate vote on it with a veto-proof majority, as happened in the last legislative session.

S2861 – An Act relative to justice, equity and accountability in law enforcement in the Commonwealth. This police reform bill went to the Governor who sent it back to the legislature with some major changes. The bill did pass in the legislature with the changes but many feel that more needs to be done, that this bill is only a first step.

H3320/S1209 – An Act to remove obstacles and expand abortion access, known as the ROE Act, was enacted over the Governor's veto as part of the budget.

H3573/S1401 – The Safe Communities Act did not pass. There is some discussion that it will be resubmitted next year with more emphasis on eliminating the 287 program which allows county sheriffs to have their officers trained to act as ICE agents at taxpayer's expense.

Machine Gun Range at Joint Base Cape Cod

The following coalition of groups are acting on this issue: Sierra Club Cape Cod, 350 Cape Cod, Coalition for Social Justice, Association to Protect

Cape Cod, the Faith Communities Environmental Network and the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative.

The Association to Protect Cape Cod has filed a public records request to the MA Army National Guard to obtain public comments received during the 30-day comment period. The comments of approximately 900 individuals have not been released for public view.

The organizations feel that the proposal to build the range ignores promises made to the Cape to end toxic pollution on Joint Base Cape Cod. The estimated cost for building the range is **\$11.2 Million**. Taxpayers have already paid **\$1.2 Billion** to clean up the Base since the 1980's.

Two Responses to Governor Baker's changes to the police reform bill:

Jeanne Morrison writes:

My general concern is that the latest bill already compromises meaningful reform and police accountability that could positively impact women and people of color (POC). Watered down even more, I cannot understand how the bill will result in effective reform. It will result in police policing and training themselves with no assurance of accountability and with several loopholes for officers to get a pass unless convicted of a crime. A civil rights violation is not considered by itself a crime. This bill does not seriously address the concerns of POC that were the catalyst for last summer's demands for change. My hope is not to condemn police or disable them. They are part of the community too. We all want to be respected, feel safe, valued and trusted. I'd like to see a bill that will improve community policing bringing honor to the profession by increasing expectations of qualified officers who provide fair treatment and equal justice so that we all feel safe. Likewise, I'd like to see a community unified in support of police officers where all communities assist them, making their jobs safer and less stressful. I believe that trust and respect build unity. Trust and respect can be gained through open dialogue in a safe space where we listen to each other's needs. I believe we can work together across differences to build a stronger community if confront our biases honestly.

We all want the same basic rights and can find common ground to ensure those rights.

George Floyd’s killer and other rogue officers are not exceptions to the rule as much as they are a part of the system. That is what needs to change, the system. For POC it is not new. It is a system that has always been aversive and harmful. Over the past few decades police have had numerous societal stressors added to their jobs of community policing (increased domestic violence, mental illness, drug use, overdoses, homelessness, human trafficking, illegal immigration, school violence, etc.) These stressors in part, intersect with age, race, gender and class. With increases in these societal problems, risks for harm to police officers have increased raising their stress levels and tensions. It’s a very bad cycle. Part of daily survival for police officers is to compartmentalize people and situations. Part of survival for people of color is to fear and avoid the police, criminal or not. Neither situation is healthy. It should be clear that policing as it is, does not work effectively and the impact of that ineffectiveness is lethal to some on both sides. For the wellbeing of communities something substantially needs to change.”

A Dec. 29 letter from State Senator Julian Cyr has a good summary of the newly passed police reform law (lightly edited for clarity):

After much negotiation between the Senate, House, and Governor Baker, we finished work on a compromise amendment to the Governor’s proposed amendment to police reform. I voted in favor of the final compromise legislation last week (Dec 21, 2020) and I expect the Governor will sign the final bill. I know this bill isn’t everything I wanted. Still I believe it represents one of the most, if not the most, comprehensive approaches to police reform in the nation, one that relies on and lifts up policing expertise while providing civilian accountability over policing.

The final bill creates an independent, civilian-led commission to standardize the certification, training and decertification of police officers, bans the use of chokeholds, limits the use of deadly force, creates a duty to intervene for police officers when witnessing another officer using force beyond what is necessary or reasonable under the circumstances, and takes steps to break the school-to-prison pipeline. As part of

the compromise with Governor Baker, the final bill provides that police training will be conducted by law enforcement, however the Commonwealth will regulate the use of facial recognition technology, a significant win. The final compromise amendment to the bill does not change the balance of civilian control of the POST Commission (a change I would not have supported). This is a far preferable outcome from what the Governor proposed in his amendments.

While this bill isn’t perfect, I’m hopeful about the final amended bill. I want to be clear that we have so much work left to do on racial justice and police reform; this bill is just a start. I also believe we cannot blame our national sin of racism and white supremacy solely at the feet of law enforcement. I have said often that we need to do better in policing, but if we confine our reforms to policing, we’re missing the mark and not seeing how structural racism pervades so many of our institutions across the Commonwealth and right here on Cape Cod and the Islands. I believe this bill will make policing in Massachusetts better. There’s always room for improvement in any legislation, but broadly I was proud to vote for this final legislation.

As I look back on an extremely challenging year and think about all the things we couldn’t do, I am filled with pride at the incredible work we *were* able to accomplish to help the Commonwealth, police reform chief among those accomplishments.

Here’s to a bright 2021!

Julian

Julian Cyr
State Senator
Cape and Islands
District

State House, Room 309
Boston, MA 02133
617-722-1570
www.SenatorCyr.com

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**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING**

**Friday, February 5, 2021 at 10 a.m.**

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Submitted by Renate Sands, Committee Chair



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Climate Collaboration Matters: Addressing Climate Mitigation on Cape & Islands:

Getting to Net Zero – LWVCCA and the [Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative](#) (CCCCC) partnered on Jan. 23 to present a program on the climate crisis on Cape Cod and beyond. Mon Cochran, vice-president of the Collaborative's Board of Directors, was interviewed by Susan Starkey, co-chair of the Collaborative's [Faith Communities Environmental Network](#) and a League member, and Launa Zammaro, LWVMA Specialist for Environment: Climate Change and Energy, spoke about major climate change legislation.

Dr. Cochran's PowerPoint provided viewers with an excellent overview of the current situation and future direction and actions. The entire program was recorded, and is available on our [YouTube channel](#) at [this link](#).

One interesting fact from the [Cape Cod Commission](#)'s most recent inventory of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions on the Cape is that more than 50% comes from transportation with another 40% residential followed by solid waste, industrial processes and agriculture. He said that the [Cape Cod Commission](#) has taken a major role in the effort to reach Net Zero as has the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority which is gearing up for electrification of their buses. They have 20 charging stations at the Transportation Center in Hyannis, but more are needed all over the Cape. Martha's Vineyard has already electrified their bus fleet.

The Collaborative was established in 2016 and is a coalition of organizations, businesses, and citizens committed to fighting the climate crisis on the Cape and Islands. Their mission is to reach carbon neutrality of Net Zero (capecodclimate.org)

At the beginning of her presentation Launa Zammaro disclosed that both the State Senate and the House leadership are committed to passage of the climate bill which Gov. Baker vetoed (S. 2995).

It has been renumbered as S. 9 and the legislature will most likely vote on it on Thurs., Jan. 28 and send it back to the governor. There is enough support in the legislature to override a possible veto.

There were many comments and questions in the chat - enough for other programs on this important issue.

Environment Committee
Florence Seldin, chair
Jan Hively
Susan Starkey.
Richard Utt

Submitted by Committee Chair Florence Seldin.

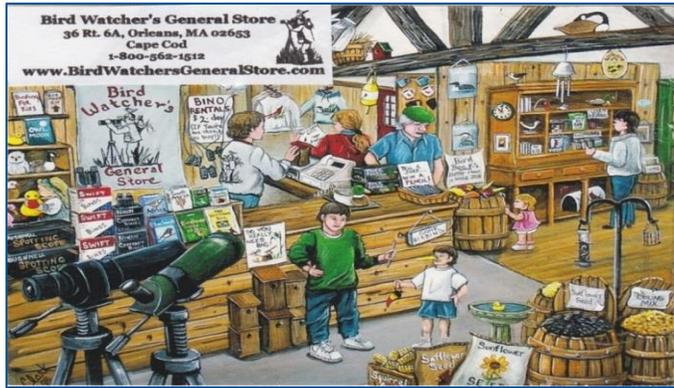


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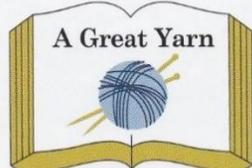


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