

**CALENDAR**

**BOARD MEETING**

TUESDAY March 2 | 9:30 a.m.  
Zoom conference by invitation

**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

MONDAY March 1<sup>ST</sup> to  
WEDNESDAY March 31st

**Forum: Effective School Committees**

WEDNESDAY March 3 | 700 P.m.  
Webinar: [Registration required](#)

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

MONDAY March 8

**BEGIN DAYLIGHT  
SAVING TIME**

SUNDAY March 14th | 2:00 a.m.



**St. Patrick's Day**  
WEDNESDAY March 17TH

**MEETING with CAPE LEGISLATORS**

FRIDAY March 26, 2021 | 12:30 p.m.  
Location: [Your computer, tablet, or phone](#)

**UPCOMING**

**BOARD MEETING**

TUESDAY April 6 | 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,

Another month has passed and another tragedy in terms of the American democracy has taken place. I made the mistake of turning on the final hours of the impeachment trial after a terrific Program Planning meeting on Saturday morning. As a longtime member of the League and an eternal optimist I need to believe that our democracy will prevail after this incredibly demoralizing display. However, the reality of the performance of many of our Senators leaves me wondering how we can, as a national organization, move our legislators towards a more moral high ground. Without a doubt, the country has had many issues that need addressing, many of which have been ongoing for decades. As a non-partisan organization we need to begin to brainstorm ways to advocate loudly and continuously for a return to bi-partisan discussions. Working across the aisle is necessary for our country to make progress and that process requires the people to become much more vocal towards that end at the national, state and local levels.

Moving forward in our communities, with the results of our program planning meetings, we must roll up our sleeves and get ready to once again engage in citizen education and advocacy. By the time you read this, Part II of "Racism on Cape Cod" will have already taken place. I am optimistic that we will be able to network with other organizations on the Cape in order to begin a process by which to address the issue of inequity in our society, both local as well as in the national community. Unfortunately, one major result that stands out from the past month's occurrences is the ongoing premise that the law is not applied equally to all. A large part of our citizenry has been aware of this for decades. I for one believe that organizations such as ours need to continue to work for criminal justice for all and stand up

against bigotry and for a moral and ethical democratic government. We cannot assume that this will happen without public input and oversight. We are the public!

Suzanne Brock, LWVCCA President

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**FEBRUARY 2 BOARD MEETING**

- Minutes of the January 5 Board meeting were approved.
- The Budget Committee will meet. Input from Program Planning Meetings will be used.
- Following the Racism on Cape Cod Part II, we will be looking into potential future programs related to DEI .
- Final, approved minutes will be posted on the Members Only portion of the website.

**DEI COMMITTEE:  
Do You Know ERIC?**

As a League member, you’ve probably been troubled by baseless voter fraud allegations throughout the past year. Let us introduce you to ERIC (Electronic Registration Information Center)—a 30-state coalition that, since 2012, has helped election officials refute those unfounded claims. You can view the 30 states

(plus DC) that belong to this coalition at the ERIC website [www.ericstates.org](http://www.ericstates.org). Unfortunately, the State of Massachusetts has not yet joined ERIC, even though the MA legislature passed a bill in 2018 requiring the Commonwealth to join but without a specific timetable to do so.

ERIC is a non-profit membership organization, originally assisted by the Pew Charitable Trusts, governed by its member states and their top elections officials. Its advisors include some of the best-known names in election research and security, such as Charles Stewart III of MIT’s Election Lab. ERIC’s mission is two-fold-to keep state and local voter registration records updated and accurate, and to promote outreach to eligible, but unregistered, U.S. citizens.

Here’s how it works. Member states share motor vehicle, Social Security Death Index, and encrypted statewide voter registration data to ERIC. In turn, ERIC staff uses sophisticated data-matching techniques to identify deceased voters and to flag potential duplicate registrations, whether in- or out-of-state. ERIC reports also compare motor vehicle data from member states, enabling local or county elections officials to identify potential new voters and assess the effectiveness of their voter registration efforts. Even states that perform annual canvasses of voters find that the ERIC reports provide additional data for matched individuals, such as out-of-state contact information and the date an individual voter last voted.

Users of ERIC’s data say that the reports are critical to keeping a “clean” voter list for town meetings, primaries, and elections. Too often young, college-bound voters re-register in their college towns without mentioning their previous registration back home. ERIC resolves that problem. Retirees change residence and workers relocate, assuming that local elections officials are notified. ERIC to the rescue.

Massachusetts’ newly filed bill, the VOTES Act, contains a section requiring the state to join ERIC by June 30, 2022. The Act also establishes Same Day Registration, makes permanent the mail-in voting reforms from last year, mandates risk-limiting election audits,

and provides a permanent online portal for voters to track their registration status. The LWV of Massachusetts, as a member of the Election Modernization Coalition, endorses this legislation. View their news release here:

<https://lwvma.org/>

Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Voter Service Team  
February 12, 2021



The League’s position on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is clearly spelled out in detail in the article [Defining Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion | League of Women Voters](#)



**MARCH 3 FORUM :**  
**SCHOOL COMMITTEES**

**Join Us for Our March 3 Forum:  
“KEYS TO SUCCESS FOR EFFECTIVE SCHOOL COMMITTEES”**

Submitted by Karen Mazza

This forum is designed to inform prospective candidates for school committee and community members who would like their communities to be well served by effective school committees. Both groups need good background information about the roles and responsibilities of school committee members and the kinds of laws, policies, support resources and training that help school committees to function effectively.

Whether you have an interest in running for school committee or are a community member who is sometimes concerned about the way your school committee is operating this is good information for you. Community members can make a big difference in the functioning of their school committees when they show up, pay attention, and communicate their expectations for civility and effectiveness. Please see the flyer in this newsletter for more information and registration.

**2021-2022 PROGRAM**  
**PLANNING**

Two Local Planning Meetings were held, on February 13 and February 18. In all, 22 members participated. We reviewed and discussed the previous years’ LWVCCA Programs, and how successful we were at meeting those goals. Then we discussed how to continue or revise those goals for 2021-2022. We also reviewed LWVMA proposed State Program Planning Guide. The Board will review this material at their March 2 Board meeting, and propose Program planning goals for members to vote on at the Annual Meeting.

**LWVCCA FORUM :**  
**RACISM on CAPE COD PART II**

**REPORT ON FEBRUARY 25 FORUM:  
HOW CAN THE CAPE COD COMMUNITY  
COLLABORATE TO ELIMINATE RACISM?**

Submitted by Karen Mazza

Our second forum on racism on Cape Cod and strategies for addressing it was very successful. We had a good size audience of 119 participants. Our panelists gave specific examples that the organizations they represent are taking to counter racism and support people of color on Cape Cod. Judging by comments from the chat function of this webinar, the audience found it very informative and they were impressed by the actions being taken. Our Co-Vice President for Program, Jeanne Morrison was also a panelist and reported on the actions that the League of Women Voters at the US, state and local level are taking to educate ourselves and the community, and to advocate for change through legislative action.

The outcome for this forum is a growing relationship between the participating organizations to initiate a coalition that will work together to create an action plan to eliminate racism on Cape Cod. Jeanne concluded the program by introducing the concept of a coalition and inviting participants in the forum

to contact us with their interest in being a part of it. Our next step to form the coalition is to develop a proposal outlining what the coalition would do and how it might function. Jeanne is taking the lead on working with other organizations to develop this proposal.

If you missed the forum and would like to view the recording you will find it on our website or on our You Tube Channel via this link: <https://tinyurl.com/LWVCCA-Racism-on-Cape-Cod-II>.

**WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS**

*"I have a great respect for the process The League of Women Voters embraces in developing its decisions."*

*Karen Boujoukos*

**Karen Boujoukos** joins LWVCCA as an experienced Leaguer from within the Pittsburgh LWV. Karen along with most of the other 31 new members of The Class of 2020 brings years of dedicated volunteer community service into the LWVCCA.

Before moving to Cape Cod three and a half years ago, Karen had a super-busy life in a suburb of Pittsburgh. The Melrose Massachusetts native became an elected school board member in North Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. She was Board President of a non-profit organization that networked with sixty agencies that assisted the less fortunate and disadvantaged. She served as a strong supporter of public education and public libraries in the Pennsylvania county where she resided with her two sons and her husband. Karen volunteered with the management of a clothing store that provided recycled clothing for women in crisis. With a gift certificate, women who needed clothing could obtain garments free of charge. Karen was also affiliated with agencies that worked with women who were ex-offenders, recovering addicts, single mothers, the homeless, and abused women.

Now that her adult sons are "all grown up" and pursuing their own life interests in software

engineering and organic farming, Karen has joined the League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area! She has already started working with the Youth Service and Voter Services committees. Karen expresses her desire to help with Youth Service Committee's plans for students to organize a directory of their student-produced projects.

Karen is a graduate of Tufts University where she majored in Spanish Language and History. She and her husband Dr. Arthur Boujoukos currently reside in Harwich and have been married thirty-two years.

**Karen Boujoukos**  
39 Rainbow Way  
Harwich, MA 02645  
412-979-1534  
[boujoukosk@gmail.com](mailto:boujoukosk@gmail.com)



Welcome also to Mary Johnson:

**Mary Johnson**  
30 Wild Rose Terrace  
South Yarmouth, MA 02664  
413-531-1846  
[mrj9922@msn.com](mailto:mrj9922@msn.com)



Welcome also to Kari Hoffmann:

**Kari Hoffmann**  
111 Old Bog Rd  
Brewster, MA 02631  
United States  
978-505-5486  
[Karishoff@aol.com](mailto:Karishoff@aol.com)

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



**NEW MEMBERS "TEA"**

The New Members' "Tea", organized by Judy Thomas and Membership Chair Mati Ligon, was an opportunity for us to get to know our newest members, and to introduce the LWVCCA to them.

Since we couldn't meet in person, the 2020-2021 new members - 32 in all - were invited to join this Zoom meeting, on January 26. An invitation card (and a tea bag!) went to every new member.

It was a great success! We got to meet and learn a little about 19 new members. Mati was a warm and friendly host, and the group that Mati introduced as the "Class of 2020" will be a great asset to the LWVCCA going forward.



**Welcome to all!**

**VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT**

We just received the final report from 2020's National Voter Registration Day showing that 1.5 million people across the country registered that day, previewing last year's historic voter turnout!

The League of Women Voters has been a major partner in this annual event since its inception, and last year was no exception. Our Cape Cod Area chapter had 8 hardy and spirited volunteers passing out voting information to passers-by on Main St. in Hyannis and the Cape Cod Mall. We say 'hardy' because there were winds up to 60 mph that day! The winds and COVID-19 precautions combined such that no one stayed in place long enough to complete a registration form, but it was an opportunity to answer questions about primary dates, ballot questions, voting by mail, absentee ballots, etc. Another reason we haven't registered many voters lately is that (thanks in part to the League's efforts) MA now has Automatic Voter Registration and we've found that people are more interested in information about the voting process and local issues & candidates. Stay tuned ... in late summer we'll send information about this year's National Voter Registration Day planned for September 28.

Submitted by Rosemary Shields and Anita Rogers



**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**SAVE THE DATE:**

MEET YOUR LEGISLATORS  
FRIDAY, MARCH 26 AT 12:30PM

**LEGISLATION THAT HAS BEEN RESUBMITTED**

**Climate Bill**

Gov. Baker did not sign the original bill that landed on his desk at the end of the last legislative session in early Jan. Lawmakers refiled the bill at the end of January with no changes. Now, Gov

Baker has sent the bill back to the legislators with amendments regarding emission reductions.

According to a study done by the Institute of Brown for Environment and Society, although the analysis showed that despite overwhelming public support of climate and clean energy bills (90% favorable testimony), their advancement is undermined by behind closed doors lobbying. Electricity and natural gas utilities are the most powerful, other key groups are the real estate industry, fossil fuels and power generators. These organizations outspend clean energy advocates by more than 3.5 to one.

**Voting**

A group of lawmakers are working on extending COVID-19-era election reforms so they can cover this spring's municipal election as well as working on a permanent overhaul to the state's voting system.

HD1536/SD1002 The VOTES ACT allows all eligible voters to request a mail ballot, expands early voting options, establishes same-day voter registration, ensures the eligible voters who are incarcerated can request a ballot and creates a risk limiting audit system. The draft bill also includes a section to mandate joining ERIC, Electronic Registration Information Center, no later than 60 days after passage of the act. (More information on ERIC is in the article written by Carole Young-Kleinfeld, on Page 2.)

**Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant**

Last year we obtained permission to advocate for the Pilgrim bills from the Legislative Action Committee (LAC). This year the following bills have been filed.

SD964 An Act relative to monitoring dry casks of spent nuclear fuel

HD1620 An Act incorporating the public health lessons learned from the Fukushima nuclear disaster

SD1081 An Act relative to the prompt decommissioning of nuclear power station (includes monitoring the \$25 million post closure decommissioning fund)

SD1080 An Act relative to responsible emergency planning 10 mi Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ)

A request has been made by the Downwinders and concerned citizens to Sen Cyr and Rep Peake to extend the EPZ to 50 miles. The storage of tons of high-level radioactive waste in dry casks on a concrete pad for an indefinite time remains a threat to Cape Cod.

**Massachusetts Safe Communities Act**

HD1165/SD532 An Act to protect the civil rights and safety of all MA residents

This bill protects immigrant rights and prevent contracts with ICE that allow county sheriffs’ officers to act as federal immigration agents. This legislation is endorsed by over 200 organizations, Sen. Moran and Rep. Fernandes are co-sponsors of this bill.

**Parity on Board**

Last year we were introduced to this bill by Jeanne Morrison. We requested permission from the LAC to advocate for this bill using the League’s name. Unfortunately, we were too late in the legislative process to make that possible. This year we are advocating for the LAC to adopt the bill so all the state Leagues can participate in the process of advocacy.

SD 521 An Act to insure gender parity on public boards and commissions.

The bill would ensure that all MA public boards and commissions “broadly reflect the general public of the Commonwealth.” These bodies will include “persons of different backgrounds, abilities, interest and opinions including ethnic minorities and women and shall have not less than 50% women board members or commissioners.”

**INTERESTING INFORMATION THAT HAS WASHED ASHORE**

**Transparency in the Legislature**

The speaker has announced that the vote on rules for the session, typically voted on in early February, will be delayed to July. The Committee on Rules will investigate the House’s policies and rules and

produce a report by July 1, with recommended changes.

**Housing**

H5250 An Act Enabling Partnerships for Growth was signed into law on Jan 14, 2021. The lack of affordable housing on Cape Cod has become a social and economic issue. The law changes the vote needed to approve affordable housing to a majority vote of the relevant town boards rather than the two-thirds now required. (From Sen. Moran)

**Recycling - EPR Extended Producer Responsibility**

EPR has become a hot topic for packaging, printed paper and consumer products. Packaging and paper products comprise about half of our combined trash and recycling. Bills for paper/packaging, paint and mattresses will be filed in Mass this month. Our League voted to include a statement regarding this subject in the State Program Planning Action Priorities and Goals for 2021-2023.

**Machine Gun Range**

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod filed an appeal to the Secretary of the Commonwealth in response to a denial of a state public records request to the Army National Guard. The request was for copies of all the public comments submitted to the Guard and was initially denied because the project was to be paid for with federal funds.

After the appeal, the APCC received copies of 367 comments which are posted on their website. Of the 367 received, 330 opposed, 9 supported and 28 asked for more information regarding the machine gun range.

Next Legislative Committee Meeting is Friday, March 12 at 11AM via Zoom.

Submitted by Renate Sands and Elaine Dickinson



## **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Answers to Questions raised during the League Session on Climate Change Feb 1, 2021**

1. Does CCCCC collaborate with similar organization on Martha's Vineyard? If yes, to what extent?

*Yes, we have good working relationships with colleagues on Martha's Vineyard. One primary contact is Vineyard Power, a community-owned non-profit electrical cooperative. For more information go to <http://vineyardpower.com/>. Another contact is with the Vineyard Regional transport authority, which is doing groundbreaking work at electrifying public transport on the Island. Our informant there is Angie Grant, at [angie@vineyardtransit.com](mailto:angie@vineyardtransit.com).*

2. What kinds of land are already protected by law? How can average folk contribute to protection of carbon-absorbing areas?

*On Cape Cod the lands protected by law are owned by the federal government (Cape Cod National Seashore), individual towns (often to protect water sources), or the various town Conservation Trusts. The best way for individual citizens to get involved is by working with the local Land Trust. For more information on the land trusts go to <http://www.thecompact.net/>.*

3. Electric cars are great but how does average person deal with that if they have to drive further than an electric car allows?

*The limit on range is the biggest limitation with an electric car. This range with a full charge is 200+ miles. If the trip is longer than that a stop for charging will be required. If the vehicle can use a Level Three charger, then 120 more miles can be added in an hour...a long cup of coffee. With a Level 2 charger the stop will need to be overnight for a full charge. Charging stations are now popping up readily, and the network will continue to expand.*

*Because electric engines are so much less complicated than internal combustion (gas) engines, and the price of electricity continues to*

*drop, electric cars cost less over the life of the car than do gas-powered engines. They can be charged slowly using a standard 110 volt outlet. If most of your driving is local (within 100 miles) then an electric vehicle is absolutely the way to go. For the occasional long trip a gas-powered car can be rented.*

4. Someone thinks methane is undercounted. Is this a problem?

*Most methane released into the atmosphere comes from fracking for natural gas, the transport of that gas, and the extraction and transport of coal. Methane is also release through the off-gassing of landfills.*

*Until quite recently documentation of methane escaping during the fracking process was undercounted, but that measurement is now improving. Most method from landfills is now being captured as fuel to power heating plants or trucks. Farm digesters are also capturing methane from animal waste and using it as tractor fuel.*

*There is no fracking on Cape Cod, but natural gas is transported to residences and leakage can occur during that transport. Several Cape landfills are capturing off-gassing methane for use primarily as a fuel. No coal-fired power plants remain in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, but the power plant on the Cape Cod Canal in Bourne burns natural gas.*



**LWVCCA Letter to Barnstable County  
Assembly of Delegates:**

To: Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates  
From: League of Women Voter Cape Cod  
Area(LWVCCA)  
Re: Changes to RPP  
Date: February 15, 2021

The LWVCCA supports the amendments to the 2018 Regional policy Plan (RPP) that will promote clean energy, carbon sequestration and greener alternatives in the building and transportation sectors. The revisions will contribute to the state’s greenhouse gas reduction goals and initiatives and the net zero carbon target. We also applaud the Commission’s involvement of multiple stakeholders, community members and officials in the process.

The League of Women Voters at the national and state levels has been at the forefront of the environmental protection movement for decades. We have consistently supported legislation to preserve our nation’s natural resources and protect our public health. We advocate for legislation to protect our country from the physical, economic and public health effects of climate change.

At the state level we collaborated with many groups for the passage of S. 2995 (renumbered as S.9)” An Act Creating a Next Generation Roadmap for MA Climate Policy, which is now being reconsidered by the Legislature after Gov. Baker’s veto.

Last year, LWVUS updated its long-held position on the environment to say that “climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and the planet .....Individuals, communities and governments must continue to address the issue while considering the ramifications of their decisions at all levels – local, state, regional, national and global.”

In keeping with these positions articulated at state and national levels, LWVCCA reiterates its support for the amendments and urges the Assembly to approve them in the best interests of Cape Cod.

Sincerely,  
LWVCCA Board of Directors  
President: Suzanne Brock  
Environmental Committee chairperson:  
Florence Seldin

Submitted by Committee Chair Florence Seldin.


NOTE:In February, the Assembly of Delegates unanimously approved those amendments to the Regional Policy Plan!





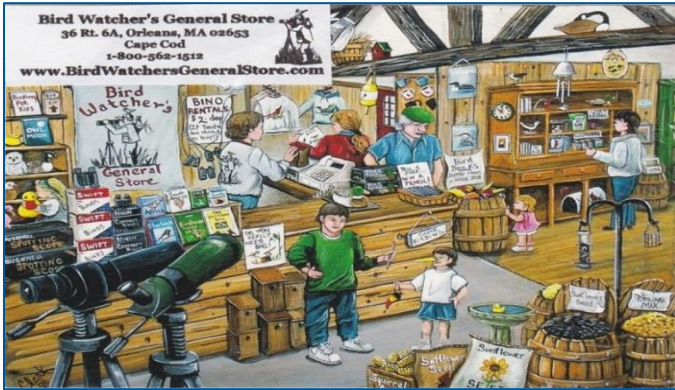
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## **Keys to Success for Effective School Committees**

**A Program for Future Candidates and Interested Community Members**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021**

**7:00 PM – 8:30 PM by Zoom**

This forum is designed to inform prospective candidates for school committee and community members who would like their communities to be well served by effective school committees. Both groups need good background information about the roles and responsibilities of school committee members and the kinds of laws, policies, support resources and training that help school committees to function effectively.

Our panelists will present this information and discuss specific strategies and guidelines for working as a school committee member and working together as a committee. They will also discuss how to prepare for being a school committee candidate. There will be time for questions from the audience via chat.

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### **Keynote Speaker:**

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<b>Glenn Koocher</b>	Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of School Committees
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### **Panelists:**

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<b>Tina Games</b>	Chair of the Monomoy Regional School District
<b>Jeni Landers</b>	Chair of the Dennis Yarmouth Regional School District
<b>Mike Gradone</b>	Retired Superintendent of the Nauset Regional School District and current Superintendent of the Truro School District

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### **Moderator:**

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<b>Florence Seldin</b>	League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area and retired School Superintendent
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**Registration is required:** Please register via this link:

**<https://tinyurl.com/LWVCCA-School-Committees>**

Once you have registered, you will see a confirmation message with the link for joining the meeting: you can copy and save this link. You will also be sent an email with the necessary information to join the meeting. The link is intended only for the registrant: don't share it. Anyone else who wants to join should register separately, using their own email

This forum will be recorded, and will be available on our **YouTube channel**.