

**CALENDAR**

**Labor Day**

**MONDAY September 5**

**BOARD MEETING**

TUESDAY September 7 | 9:30 a.m.  
[Zoom conference by invitation](#)

**MEMBERS MEETING**

SATURDAY September 11 | 10:30 a.m.  
[Zoom conference by invitation](#)

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF MASSACHUSETTS

**OUR NUCLEAR FUTURE**  
KEEPING MA SAFE FROM  
NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS

7:00 PM | SEPT 14 | ZOOM

HENRIETTA  
COSENTINO

ROSEMARY  
SHIELDS

**BOOK GROUP:**

**Uncomfortable Conversations  
with a Black Man**

Dates TBD: SEPT 20-29

**UPCOMING**

**BOARD MEETING**

TUESDAY October 5 | 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.....

I am sitting here watching the rain fall and pondering a multitude of topics..... climate change, shifting sands of Covid-19, political instability both at home and abroad, housing instability, health care access, the fate of our democracy, voter suppression..... to name just a few. I could probably create a list of at least 50 topics that require serious thought and hard core action. As we emerge from our summer hiatus (although many of you have been had at work for which I am ever grateful) I would like to have us reflect on ways that we can be active and useful in addressing some of those pressing areas of concern.

While I had hoped that some of us would be able to come together in person to have an opening conversation about ways to move forward at the September meeting, the universe has stepped in once more to change our plans. So, my first request to all of you is to join us on September 11<sup>th</sup>, alas virtually, at our opening meeting to listen to Jane Scarborough discuss her thoughts on saving democracy. While we did not choose this date on purpose, this day, unfortunately, serves as a 20<sup>th</sup> year reminder of how fast one action can change the course of history. Although we cannot yet come together in person, we can still participate in some serious discussion and brainstorming regarding ways to move forward this year through League activities. Please join in. We would love to see your thoughtful, smiling faces.

For those of you who have been focused on family and friends, I would just like to let you know that our Voter Service Committee has been engaged in following the redistricting process on

the state level all summer. With Jeanne Morrison’s help we were able to put together an informational forum for the public about the redistricting process just before the hearing for the 9<sup>th</sup> Barnstable District was scheduled at the end of August. With Rosemary Shields’ and Carole Young-Kleinfeld’s help our League was able to testify at the hearing. The link for viewing is here: <https://malegislature.gov/Events/Hearings/Details/3855/Video1>

We are now awaiting the draft of the new district map when we will again be able to address the Joint Committee with additional comments before the final district changes are made.

And, quietly, behind the scenes, the Legislative Committee has been sorting through the 100 bills that the state League has chosen for us to follow so that those bills most pertinent to the Cape will be highest on our radar. Both of those Committees have been “busy little bees” and my hat goes off to them. I am sure that they will have things to say within this *Voter* so please be sure to check out their ongoing work.

In the end, there is always a place for you, our members, to become engaged, to make waves in order to move the ball forward. While it is easy to become overwhelmed in all that seems to need doing, the best we can do is to choose our battles, make a plan and move forward towards our goal. We have learned that things will not always be accomplished as quickly as we would like, but without a start, there is no finish. Please choose an area that you feel comfortable with and help us get the job done. Begin with meeting us on September 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. Thanks and hope to see all of you there.

To New Beginnings,  
Suzanne

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**OPEN HOUSE IN HONOR OF PEGGY ROSE**

**JOIN THE HARWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD  
AND PEGGY’S CHILDREN**

at

**BROOKS ACADEMY MUSEUM**

**80 Parallel Street, Harwich 02645**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**

**12 TO 2 PM**

**RSVP BY August 30 to**

**[Membership@HarwichHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:Membership@HarwichHistoricalSociety.org)**

**JULY 27 BOARD MEETING**

- Minutes of the June 1 Board meeting were approved.
- Membership update: membership stands at 91. Eleven members have not responded to dues notices for 2021-22; seven others are not Renewing.
- Business fundraising: to date, we have collected only one check.

## YOUTH SERVICE COMMITTEE

### Youth Service Committee Discusses Action Steps for 2021-22

The Youth Service Committee met August 3 to identify action steps for the implementation of the goals that were approved at the LWVCCA Annual Meeting. Our committee members include Cindy Battis, Karen Boujoukos, Maureen Grandmont, Jan Hively, Florence Seldin and myself. Our focus is largely on supporting civic education in the schools, increasing the participation of youth in voting, adding racial and social justice educational resources to the website and improving outreach to a younger community. **We invite other members to review our proposed activities and if interested, join us by contacting Karen Mazza at [mazzak1623@gmail.com](mailto:mazzak1623@gmail.com).**

#### **Civic Education:**

- We will contact schools to offer our support for the required student-led civics projects for students from Grade 8 through high school.
- Our services include information about community resources, an offer to participate in helping students brainstorm the community issues they might like to research, and an offer to assist schools with showcasing student projects to celebrate their work.

#### **Voting:**

- Continue to share information about local elections to seniors
- Offer to serve as coaches for schools that select student voting outreach coordinators, an optional program that was part of the 2018 civics legislation.

#### **Racial and Social Justice Educational Resources**

We will identify racial and social justice curriculum resources that can be used by schools and add them to our website and information that we provide schools.

#### **Outreach to a younger community:**

- We are exploring ways that we can engage high school students and community college students in civic engagement and possibly League membership. Ideas that we are exploring are starting school clubs, making presentations to existing relevant clubs or courses, putting on workshops for youth or for a mother/daughter workshop, and learning from other models such as the United Nations Next Generation Politics program for intergenerational work with youth.

We invite your consideration of these activities and your participation in our work. Everything we do to help improve the civic engagement of youth, helps to strengthen our democracy.

Submitted by Karen Mazza, Chair

## DEI COMMITTEE

### DEI Committee Report

The committee polled the membership to gauge interest in the discussion of *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man* by Emmanuel Acho. Over 30 members expressed interest and a further poll about dates and times for discussion elicited 25 responses. The committee is now looking at forming 3-4 groups for discussions the weeks of September 20 and 27. Jeanne Morrison is also recruiting women of color to join the groups for balance and depth. For questions or to join the discussion, email [mary.h.utt@gmail.com](mailto:mary.h.utt@gmail.com).

The League's U.S. Constitution project is alive and doing well! The September 2021 shipment of 200 recently updated editions of *The United States Constitution and Fascinating Facts About It* will be sent by the publishers to Mashpee. The LWVCCA's Board of Directors voted in Spring 2021 to fund the project through the Helen S. Aaron Educational Trust for all eighth grade students who will be enrolled in state-mandated civics education classes at Mashpee Middle/High School. We anticipate that LWVCCA volunteers in Mashpee will process and deliver the books directly to the Mashpee Middle School/High School Social Sciences Department during the fall 2021

semester. Any questions regarding the "Hold On To Your United States Constitution Project" may be addressed to Mati Ligon, Mashpee Liaison LWVCCA (508-539-4233).

Mary Utt attended the LWVMA DEI Peer Group quarterly meeting August 15, which spotlighted the DEI work being done by the Amherst League. That segment was recorded and we will distribute the minutes of that meeting, and a link to the recording, as soon as they are available. Group members made two interesting recommendations:

1. Scene on Radio: Seeing White (<https://www.sceneonradio.org/seeing-white/>)
2. *Hood Feminism*, by Mikki Kendall (<https://www.npr.org/2020/02/26/808943234/hood-feminism-is-a-call-for-solidarity-in-a-less-than-inclusive-movement>)

In addition, LWV Boston member Pamela Taylor asked to join our first book discussions. She and Jeanne are already working together because the MA Women of Color Coalition (MAWOCC) is working with LWVMA and others to hold a Boston mayoral candidates forum. Pam is a welcome addition.

Submitted Mary Utt and Mati Ligon,  
*Co-chairs, DEI Committee*

### Parity on Board

The League of Women Voters MA with other community partners (co-sponsors, YW Boston/YW Eastern MA, Massachusetts Women of Color Coalition, League of Women Voters MA, MA Commission on the Status of Women) held the first or four regional forums about *An Act to ensure gender parity on public boards and commissions* <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/HD2082>

The League of Women Voters Cape Cod Area, who supports and advocates for this bill had several members in attendance. Jeanne Morrison, Co-Vice President was one of the presenters.

The regional forum for South Eastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod, and Islands was held on

Zoom, August 2nd. Participants learned about the research conducted by the Eos Foundation to identify the gender leadership gap in Massachusetts and the advantages of having greater racial and ethnic diversity serve our state. The research resulted in the launch of the [Parity on Board](#) coalition, which seeks to support the bill.

Massachusetts leads the nation in human talent, yet data shows a lack of representation of women and people of color on public boards and commissions. Women and people of color account for 51.5% and 28% respectively of the state's population, but remain underrepresented in positions of leadership among our public, taxpayer-funded boards and commissions. Our pipelines are replete with women and people of color ready to serve. Yet the data shows we have a long way to go in order to reach gender parity and increased representation of people of color in decision making positions. Attention to these gaps and advocacy for this bill over the past year has shown small increases for white women and men of color, but women of color have seen no progress. This is unacceptable and it's time we do better for our communities. Passing this bill would promote diversity in leadership and governance that broadly reflects the demographics of our Commonwealth. The forum ended with a "call to action" and steps we can take together to help ensure we close these gaps.

You can view the recorded event here:

[Parity on Boards Regional Forum: SEMA, Cape Cod, and Islands](#) or at [https://youtu.be/6u9T\\_JWYLTs](https://youtu.be/6u9T_JWYLTs)

Submitted Jeanne Morrison,  
*Co-Vice-President for Program*

### VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

#### Voter Services: Works in Progress

This August we've been in planning mode. Mati Ligon and we are working on ways to get out the vote among communities of color and disillusioned, disenfranchised voters. We're also planning an event at Cape Cod Community College

for National Voter Registration Day September 28. COVID restrictions continue to be a day-to-day guessing game and we don't know if we can do any in-person events. As a Plan B, we're developing handouts on voting requirements, ways to register and to vote, and timetables that organizations can put on their websites. If you want to be involved in these efforts, please contact Anita Rogers (508-255-6360, [earogers2@comcast.net](mailto:earogers2@comcast.net)) or Rosemary Shields (202-222-5309, [shields\\_rosemary@yahoo.com](mailto:shields_rosemary@yahoo.com)).

### **Redistricting is coming!** **Redistricting is coming!**

Around July 9 a small cadre of League policy-wonks wanted to get the information on redistricting out to as many in the community as possible. Redistricting happens every ten years after the U.S. Census is completed. The process determines the Federal Congressional districts and all the State Senate and State Representative districts for the next ten years. So Suzanne Brock, Jeanne Morrison, Carole Young-Kleinfeld and Rosemary Shields decided to hold a public forum on July 27<sup>th</sup> in preparation for the Congressional District 9 (CD 9) hearings. And we dragged Richard Utt into the mix, as our League technician extraordinaire. Days later it was announced that the public hearing for CD 9 would be held on July 29. We were just in the nick of time!

After sharing suggestions for speakers, topics and scripts – thank goodness for e-mail – we organized a program called “Redistricting 101” Check out our link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2yHSPmiSUK>

To keep the momentum going, Suzanne Brock, President of the LWVCCA and Rosemary Shields, Co-Chair of the Voter Service Committee appeared online at the July 29 public hearing to offer testimony on behalf of the League. View it here for yourself:

<https://malegislature.gov/Events/Hearings/Detail/3855/Video1>

(Suzanne Brock at 34 minutes, Rosemary Shields at 1:17 minutes)

And here is our Op-Ed article, appearing in the Cape Cod Times, July 17, 2021:

<https://www.capecodtimes.com/story/opinion/2021/07/17/cape-cod-redistricting-residents-can-weigh-public-hearing-on-congressional-electoral-districts/7993874002/>

### **Further Background on Redistricting**

The Special Joint Committee on Redistricting exceeded the League's wishes of 12 public hearings by holding 19 public hearings. One in each of the 9 Congressional Districts (CD) and additional hearings in Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish, Portuguese, Creole/Haitian, Creole/Cape Verde, Cambodian Khmer. A member of the LWVCCA attended every hearing of the 9 Congressional Districts and monitored the meetings in Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish and Portuguese.

After ALL the public hearings and community outreach, comes the hard part—the actual drawing of the Congressional, State Senate, and State House district maps. The initial census figures are being released by mid-August, giving communities the opportunity to start drafting precinct maps that reflect their neighborhood interests – their modes of transportation; their schools; the location of healthcare centers, and languages spoken in the area. Beth Huang of the Drawing Democracy Coalition is helping groups draw maps. There are several resources:

The volunteer organization [Dave's Redistricting](#) to look at [demographic info for current districts](#)

Submitting a community of interest map on [Representable](#)

The Donahue Institute, U Mass advises the legislature <https://donahue.umass.edu/#>

The final official data will be released September 30, giving the Legislature until November 8 to finish the maps.

Preliminary figures suggest that Cape Cod may have lost 1% of its population and Plymouth County many have gained 5% over the past 10 years, although the Cape's recent hot housing market makes this hard to believe. Take

Barnstable, the most populous and diverse Cape Cod town, as an example. This year, many owners of 2<sup>nd</sup> homes made those residences permanent, but may have missed the deadline for being counted here in the U.S. Census.

Barnstable town clerk Ann Quirk reported that her local, annual census shows over 600 residents more than the preliminary 2020 U.S. Census numbers. However, redistricting relies on official U.S. Census figures, not local data

Come mid-August we on Cape Cod will be taking a careful look at the map of the town of Barnstable. Nothing speaks louder to a community of interest than keeping its town as whole and compact as possible. We will be making more specific recommendations when we see the numbers and look over the neighborhoods. Chairman Moran was asked why Barnstable was divided into three state representative districts. Moran recalled "We looked at the numbers and it was either go into Yarmouth or go into Barnstable for additional population for Rep. Whelan 1<sup>st</sup> Barnstable District and they decided on Barnstable."

After the 2010 Census and the 2011 Redistricting, the LWVMA decided that the MA Legislature did a good job holding public hearings and drawing maps. Therefore, they decided not to call for an independent commission to draw up legislative districts. As Chairman Moran pointed out Massachusetts was one of only five states that was not sued for their map drawing. So far it appears that the MA Special Joint Committee on Redistricting is doing a good job getting public input on a challenging task. We applaud their commitment to the communities and residents of the Commonwealth.

It's imperative that we keep an eye on the redistricting process. As reported in 2019 by The New York Times, the Supreme Court has decided not to get involved in gerrymandering because it's a political problem, not a judicial one. It was a 5 to 4 Supreme Court decision in 2019 (Rucho v. Common Cause, No. 18-422, and Lamone v. Benisek, No. 18-726). Chief Justice John G. Roberts

Jr. writing for the majority, argued that the drafters of the Constitution understood that politics would play a role in drawing election districts when they gave the task to state legislatures. Judges, are not entitled to second-guess lawmakers' judgments. *"We conclude that partisan gerrymandering claims present political questions beyond the reach of the federal courts," the chief justice wrote.*

The dissent, written by Justice Elena Kagan, *"The practices challenged in these cases imperil our system of government,"* she said. *"Part of the court's role in that system is to defend its foundations. None is more important than free and fair elections."*

*"The only way to understand the majority's opinion,"* she wrote, *"is as follows: In the face of grievous harm to democratic governance and flagrant infringements on individuals' rights — in the face of escalating partisan manipulation whose compatibility with this nation's values and law no one defends — the majority declines to provide any remedy. For the first time in this nation's history, the majority declares that it can do nothing about an acknowledged constitutional violation because it has searched high and low and cannot find a workable legal standard to apply."*

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/27/us/politics/supreme-court-gerrymandering.html>

**Complete Cape Cod Spring Election  
Turnout 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	6/29/21	207 / 2044	10%
Wellfleet	6/30/21	900 / 3018	30%
Yarmouth	5/18/21	1,846 / 20,554	9%

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

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**U.N. CLIMATE REPORT**

There’s no downplaying the climate crisis. The most recent landmark U.N. report says that changes to the environment are “unprecedented”. According to the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s](#) (IPCC) latest paper, *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis*, the world has already undergone dramatic changes that are “irreversible”.

The report—which gathers the work of experts and peer-reviewed studies and represents the most up-to-date knowledge on the crisis—has been eight years in the making and is the IPCC’s starkest warning yet.

The main cause for the rapidly rising land and ocean temperature? Humans. The IPCC’s report is clear that human influence is “unequivocal”, with

the report serving as what António Guterres, the UN secretary-general, calls a “code red for humanity”.

“If this IPCC report doesn’t shock you into action, it should,” said Helen Mountford, vice president of climate and economics at the World Resources Institute. “The report paints a very sobering picture of the unforgiving, unimaginable world we have in store if our addiction to burning fossil fuels and destroying forests continues.”

And what can we do as individuals?

- Advocate for electric vehicles to replace gas driven vehicles as your town replaces its cars and trucks.
- Support your town’s efforts to convert to solar power for town and school buildings.
- Consider solar panels for your own home.
- Cut down on the amount of beef you consume.
- Support LWVMA state positions on achieving Net Zero.

**FILM: WHAT IS NET ZERO?**

**Targets that are easier set than done**

Companies, countries and even celebrities have started setting “net zero” targets to combat climate change. Theoretically, the concept is simple—balance greenhouse gas removal with greenhouse gas emissions, so that the overall net emissions are zero. Yet with no real global consensus as to who is responsible for emissions, and with new technologies to offset carbon in their infancy, achieving net zero will prove to be a Herculean task. [Watch the film here.](#)

**ELDERS CLIMATE ACTION**

Not that any of us need another organization but I have attended some of their workshops via Zoom this summer and they are an interesting group. Get to talk with people all over the country.

“ECA are elders, including grandparents, great aunts and great uncles who care about the future for all children. As Elders Climate Action members, we

*are determined to do all we can to leave a sustainable planet for future generations.*

***ECA is non-partisan, and we do not support, endorse, or advocate for any political party or candidate.***

*We work to inform, inspire, and engage others to take action on the climate crisis. We actively support the youth movements springing up in the United States and throughout the world.*

*The mission of Elders Climate Action is to mobilize elders throughout the United States to address climate change while there is still time to protect the well-being of our grandchildren and future generations. We are dedicated to using the power of our caring, our wisdom and our numbers to push for strong policies that will reduce greenhouse gases in our atmosphere to a level consistent with life thriving on our planet”.*

And finally, there is still no decision from the Environmental Management Commission of Joint Base Cape Cod on the Machine Gun Range. LWVCCA did send a letter voicing our opposition.

Submitted by Florence Seldin  
*Chair, Environment Committee*

## **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Not much is happening right now since the legislature, as far as formal sessions go, is in recess until after Labor Day. Below are updates for some of the bills the committee is following.

### **Votes Act**

The Votes Act has been reported favorably out of committee and referred to the Senate Ways and Means Committee. On August 26 at 4 PM a program on **Elections and Voting** will be presented by the LVWMA members Nancy Brumback and Linda Freeman. You can [register Here](#).

Lobby Day for the Votes Act will be Wed Oct 6 from 12 to 1:30 pm.

### **Parity on Board**

The Parity on Board Bill held its first regional meeting. If you were unable to watch the event when it occurred, a link to the attachment is below.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6u9T\\_JWYLTs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6u9T_JWYLTs)

### **Common Start**

The Health Committee is planning a forum on this bill in either October or November.

### **Pilgrim Bills**

The LWVMA, in conjunction with Plymouth and our League, is planning a webinar on the decommissioning of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant on Sept 14 at 7 PM. An emphasis will be placed on [H2264/S1507 An act Relative to Monitoring Dry Casks of Spent Nuclear Fuel](#). Rosemary Shields will be one of the speakers.

### **Legislative Committee Meeting Sept 13**

A meeting has been scheduled for Mon Sept 13. at 10 AM. Whether it will be Zoom or in person will be decided closer to the date.

Submitted by Renate Sands,  
*Chair, Legislative Committee*



**BUSINESS SUPPORTERS of LWVCCA**

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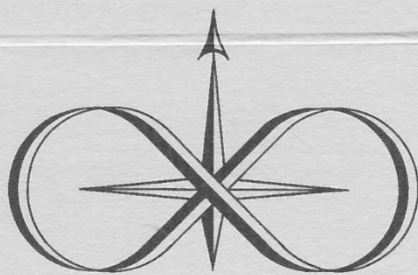


Terry Moore

253 Huckins Neck Rd.  
Centerville, MA 02632

508-771-0457  
cell; 508-274-7667  
mydvd@mooredvd.com  
www.mooredvd.com

Yankee Ingenuity  
525 Main St. Chatham, MA 02633  
(508) 945-1288  
coolstuff@yankee-ingenuity.com  
www.yankee-ingenuity.com



Jon Vaughan

A gallery with a different point of view