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**LWVCCA OPENING MESSAGE**

Spring is coming and there’s lots to look forward to. Many of us have been tracking events at the federal level and our national League has gone on the record with a letter to Congressional Leadership reminding them of the need to exert their constitutional responsibilities. We strongly urge you to read the letter, if you haven’t already done so: <https://www.lwv.org/lwv-urges-congress-exercise-its-authority>

The League firmly states our 105-year-old non-profit, non-partisan organizational mission is to ensure that every voice is heard and the letter is signed by the presidents of all 50 state and DC LWV affiliates. More important, however, it clearly articulates three areas of concern—Executive overreach through Executive Actions; Actions of “Department of Government Efficiency;” and Improper Removal of the Inspectors General—supporting each area with clear, well-sourced and well-thought-out rationale. The letter puts Congressional leadership on notice that our membership insists on seeing governmental

checks and balances exercised, exhorting them not to abdicate their Congressional duty and authority.

Although our Massachusetts Senators and Representatives have spoken out against inaction, supporting them at this time is important, so let them know. Further, the national and state Leagues are continuing to maintain the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion despite the Administration’s attacks on DEI. One way to demonstrate our commitment is attendance at the annual Cape Cod National Women’s Day Breakfast on March 11 (We hope to see many of you there!

Your Vice Presidents:  
Susan Cameron—Operations,  
Pat Burke—Programs

**DID YOU KNOW...?**

...that, according to the Cape Cod Times, area school officials have been updating their websites in response to questions from concerned parents and educators about the changes in U.S. deportation policies and about how these could affect Cape Cod schools and students. Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell has provided a document that describes school officials’ obligations to ensure that appropriate steps are taken to support the rights of all children to access a free public education regardless of immigration or citizenship status. The AG’s guidance also contains suggestions for school officials’ response to requests by ICE agents for student information and for reviewing—and possibly reconsidering—what student enrollment data they currently collect when they verify age and residence of students. The guidance includes responding to ICE requests to interview students, the need for written consent by parents for such interviews, and suggestions for consulting school

district and private legal counsel. The AG's Guidelines also suggest that schools share plan ahead resources with parents for emergency situations. See Mass.gov's [Emergency Planning Guide for Families](#). Read the AG's guidance for schools [HERE](#). For further questions or assistance, contact the Civil Rights Division of the Office of the Attorney General at (617) 963-2917.

Finally, the LWVMA recently sponsored a program featuring Elizabeth Sweet, the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Immigration and Refugee Advocacy Coalition—MIRA—which provides an extensive network of resources and programs for citizenship services and immigration-related help. Unfortunately, early in February, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) suddenly froze \$300,000 of MIRA's federal funding that was awarded to help immigrants complete lengthy, expensive, and complex citizenship procedures. See the [MIRA website](#) for more information on MIRA and what the freeze means for MIRA's services.

--Carole Young-Kleinfeld

## VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

On March 5<sup>th</sup> we are participating again at the Barnstable Youth Commission. This is a really great event for kids 14 and up (along with their parents and/or guardians) to interview, in a safe place, for the first summer job.

We will be there to help pre-register 16- and 17-year-old students. We also look forward to interacting with the parents. We had many great conversations with their parents last year!

We participated in one Credit for Life event last month. Cape Cod 5 Cents Savings Bank created this special program. Once the school is notified of the event, the kids have an opportunity to find out the salary of their ideal job and then based upon the necessities of life (food, rent, utilities, etc.) learn how to budget. Voter Service has been participating, and we share voting information to these young voters. We reminded Barnstable High School students that indeed, another election is on

the horizon. For Barnstable, it is the November election for City Council. Six members of the 13-member City Council will be up for re-election and we will continue to monitor to see if any of those races are contested. We probably talked to about 50 seniors and asked if they have their driver's license.



Rosemary Shields at the Credit for Life event  
Barnstable High School 2025

They look puzzled at the question. We then explain that they are automatically registered to vote through the Registry of Motor Vehicles. In some places it is referred to as "motor voter." We then hand them the QR code cards where they can double check their registration status. It was fun to watch their faces light up when the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website confirmed that they were "active," or "pre-registered" (for those not yet 18 years old). Three students did not have licenses, but they did know the last 4 digits of their social security number. With that info at hand, we signed them up the old-fashioned way – with a mail-in registration card. One student told us she voted for the very first time this past Presidential election. We asked her - how did it go? She said when she told the poll workers this was her first time voting they all broke out in applause. She said it was a wonderful experience.

That was good to hear because other students in the past have told us the first-time voting can be intimidating. That is why we were glad to see this video by Harwich town clerk Emily Mitchell. It's a "How to Vote on Voting Day" presentation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVxNam2BnCM&t=1s>

In January, the Harwich Community Center held a Volunteer Fair. Elaine Dickinson and Rosemary Shields worked at the LWVCCA table. The room was filled with local organizations and community groups highlighting their work and the opportunities for joining their volunteer efforts.



Elaine Dickenson at the Volunteer Fair

We must have talked to at least 40 people and waved and nodded at least 60 more. With the ones who stopped at our table we pointed out the upcoming Town Meeting and Spring election. Having a community presence is vital if the League is to continue as a resource people can depend on. It is amazing how many people are just vaguely aware of the League – as someone said, it's like the Kiwanis, Rotary and Lions Clubs. We know you do good work in the community; we just can't put our finger on exactly what you do. Of course, it would appear there is some indication of what we do just from our name, but it is the non-partisan nature of our work that some people are unclear about. We give out information that the

voter can use to make informed decisions in the voting booth. The people we talked to were appreciative that we reminded them that there is indeed another election on the horizon that they need to pay attention to. If our property taxes and how the town uses our money is important, it's incumbent on voters to attend Town Meeting and get out and vote!



*(Editor's Note:  
See Spring Town Election Dates at the end of  
this Voter!)*

Looking forward to the International Women's Day Breakfast on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Our table will be out front filled with information so that we can educate all attendees!

Lynne Pleffner  
Chair

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### LWVCCA continues to grow

Our membership now stands at 135, with 11 new members since the beginning of the year!

Welcome to all new members. Thank you for joining the League of Women Voters Cape Cod Area. We've had a record year of new members and we are excited to connect to all of your interests. We look forward to getting to know more about the interests and passion each of you brings to the league. We hope you engage in our membership activities and meetings, in ways that are meaningful to you. For example, join a committee, help advocate for legislation, join voter services or other committee to plan education forums or other civic engagement programs or engage in general membership initiatives.

Leaving a very busy 2024 election year, the LWVCCA continues to educate and engage voters on issues relative to new administration changes, advocacy for bills filed this legislative session and following the implementation of new laws we advocated for.

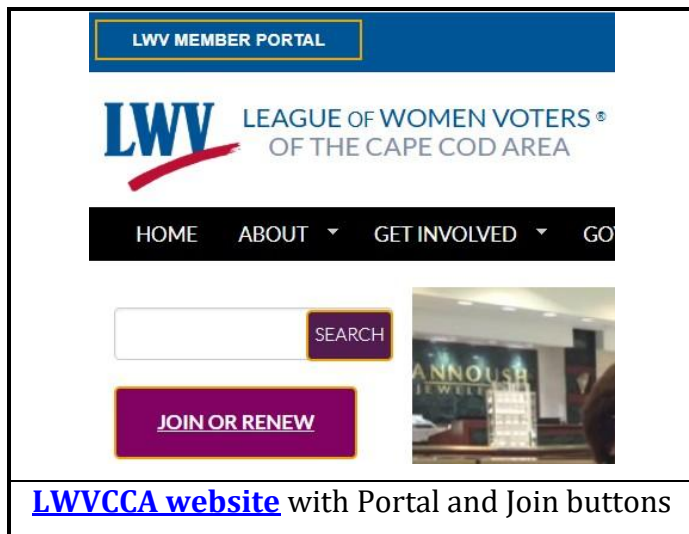
There are ample opportunities to engage during this time of change. More details coming!

Jeanne Morrison, LWVCCA President

**New Membership Procedures**

Beginning Feb. 1, anyone who joins the LWV, or renews their membership online will do so through a new nationwide membership portal, called ChapterSpot; you will be able to renew your membership online and update your own information (e.g., phone, email, mailing address) as needed.

The image below shows the new “Portal button on the LWVCCA home page, and the new “Join or Renew” button



[LWVCCA website](#) with Portal and Join buttons

There will no longer be household or student memberships. You can add another person when you renew or join, but the dues amount options are the same for each member. Life members, who have been LWV members 50 years or more are exempt from paying dues.

- Dues will be pay-what-you-can, with a minimum dues amount of \$20. The recommended dues amount for all members

will be \$75. However, you may opt to pay a higher or lower amount.

- Dues amounts will benefit local, state, and national LWV, with local Leagues receiving 20%, state Leagues 47%, and the LWVUS 33%.

LWVUS has also created a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document available by [clicking this link](#).

**CALENDAR**

MARCH

**Board Meeting**

TUESDAY MAR 4 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.  
Zoom conference by invitation

**International Womens’ Day Breakfast**

TUESDAY MAR 11

Read more [HERE](#)

**Register by March 6:**

<https://tinyurl.com/2025-IWDB-Cape-Cod>

UPCOMING

**Board Meeting**

TUESDAY APR 1 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.  
Zoom conference by invitation

**To see our entire Google calendar, go to**

<http://lwvcapecod.org/lwvcca-calendar>.

**NOTE:** Click on "Agenda" to see a list of all events. Click on any calendar listing to see more detail.

**HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT**

**The MA Maternal Health Law:  
February 25, 2025|**

The Leagues of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area (LWVCCA) and Massachusetts (LWVMA) presented the virtual forum “The Massachusetts Maternal Health “Momnibus” Law: What It means

for the Cape and Commonwealth” on Tuesday, February 25.

Those who attended know what an excellent, informative event it was. But if you missed it, you can see more information at our website [HERE](#)

And view the recording: [HERE](#).

Reactions and comments from Jeanne Morrison, LWVCCA President:

*First, Congratulations to Eileen Elias, Suzanne Brock and the LWVCCA Health Committee for presenting a well-organized and highly informative maternal health forum. The presentation was excellent. The LWVCCA advocacy for the passing of the Momnibus bill shone through. Well done!*

*Thank you to Senator Julian Cyr for his opening comments and Senator Liz Miranda for her passionate and compelling case supporting and implementing the new law.*

*Second, it's exciting for the LWVCCA to be part of MA leading the nation in expanding maternal health law. In addition, we now have an opportunity to follow the law as it is actually implemented, already seeing positive results. This extends the value of our advocacy work to result in increased transparency and accountability. We're at new tables and it's all good. The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area and our collaborators should be proud for listening to voters and advocating for the passing the Mommibus bill into law.*

And comments from LWVCCA Health Committee Chair Eileen Elias:

*The February 25 Maternal Healthcare Forum was a success. Besides my assessment, the received email messages and Chat comments support this. This outcome is based on the terrific partnership and work that supported the Forum's planning and management*

*This partnership is what is so key about the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts and of Cape Cod in accomplishing all of our work  
It is an honor working with each of you*

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

On February 24th, Jen Muroff, Chair of the LWVMA Legislative Action Committee (LAC), shared her presentation: LWVMA and the MA Legislature. We met for a potluck lunch at Renate Sands' home, followed by a lively and informative overview of how the MA Legislature works and how the LWVMA LAC works with it to follow and support legislation.

A short version of the slideshow is available [HERE](#)

In the meantime, please respond to all national and state Calls to Action. The “DOGE” team is working on decimating our democracy. We, the voters, are all that stand in the way. Thank you,

Sue Brock - Legislative Chair.

**LWVCCA Board & Contact information**

**LWVCCA DIRECTORS 2024-2025**

**Officers for 2024-2025**

**President**                      Jeanne Morrison

**Vice Presidents**

**Programs**                      Patricia Burke

**Operations**                      Sue Cameron

**Administrator**                  Karen Mazza

**Treasurer**                      Tova Soyt

**Secretary**                      Debbie Winnick

**Committee Chairs:**

**Voter Service**                  Lynne Pleffner

**Youth Service**                  Karen Mazza

**Diversity, Equity,  
and Inclusion**                      (Open)

**Communications,  
Newsletter**                      Richard Utt

**Member At Large:**

Mary Hunter Utt

**Off-Board Committee Chairs**

**Legislation**                      Suzanne Brock \*

**Membership**                      Elizabeth Harder \*

**Florence Seldin  
Lecture Series**                  Karen Mazza \*

**Health**                              Eileen Elias \*

\* = Off-Board

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Website: <http://www.lwvcapecod.org>

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

**BUSINESS SUPPORTERS of LWVCCA**

**Support these businesses who have supported LWVCCA**



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SPRING ELECTION DATES 2025

TOWN	CANDIDATES LAST DAY to FILE	LAST DAY to REGISTER to VOTE	TOWN MEETING	TOWN ELECTION	LAST DAY to SEND MAIL IN BALLOT
<b>Barnstable</b>	*	*	*	*	
<b>Bourne</b>		10-May	5-May	20-May	28-May
<b>Brewster</b>	1-Apr	25-Apr	5-May	20-May	28-May
<b>Chatham</b>	25-Mar	30-Apr	10-May	15-May	TBD
<b>Dennis</b>	25-Mar	25-Apr	6-May	13-May	13-May
<b>Eastham</b>	2-Apr	25-Apr	5-May	20-May	13-May
<b>Falmouth</b>	29-Mar	9-May	7-Apr	20-May	21-May
<b>Harwich</b>	2-Apr	25-Apr	5-May	20-May	21-May
<b>Mashpee</b>	22-Mar	25-Apr	5-May	10-May	10-May
<b>Orleans</b>	1-Apr	9-May	12-May	20-May	20-May
<b>Provincetown</b>	26-Mar	5-May	7-May	13-May	7-May
<b>Sandwich</b>	21-Mar	25-Apr	5-May	8-May	9-May
<b>Truro</b>	26-Mar	TBD	3-May	TBD	TBD
<b>Wellfleet</b>	11-Mar	30-Apr	5-May	10-May	10-May
<b>Yarmouth</b>	19-Apr	10-May	29-Apr	20-May	21-May

NOTE: Barnstable, considered a city, holds Municipal Elections every other year in November. There will be an election in November 2025.  
 Eastham opted out of mail-in ballot, absentee only  
 Harwich will have a Special Election for the Select Board on April 9th  
 Truro Select Board is still deciding upon dates