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LWVCCA OPENING MESSAGE

President's Message

Welcome to the second month of our Second Summer! Hopefully this month will be as beautiful as September! I hope you got a chance to take a walk, sit in the sun and have a laugh or two.

This has been another busy month for our League. Voter Service attended the Back to Business Bash presented by the Cape Cod Young Professionals and also was at Cape Cod Community College for National Voter Registration. See their comments for more information. The Legislative Committee was busy as well as they had their "Day on the Hill". See their comments for more information.

I attended the 11th annual OneCape presented by the Cape Cod Commission. It was held at the Wychmere Beach Club in Harwich. Approximately 400 hundred showed up for the first day and it featured wonderful speakers. Joe Minicozzi from

Urban3 started it off with a great sense of humor and made sense of a municipal budget with graphs. Do you know how your town treats pipes in the ground? Are they considered assets or hard costs? Certainly a great question because frankly how can you rip out the pipes and re-sell them? The next speaker was Secretary Edward Augustus, MA Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, Katie Theoharides from The Trustees, Chloe Schaefer from the Cape Cod Commission discussing the updated Cape Cod Regional Plan and finished off by Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. She pointed out that Massachusetts is the #1 State for Women (Yea!!!!) however we are very low for the number in housing. She emphasized that every community needs a Housing Production Plan that includes different types of housing to reflect the age cycle: singles starting out, beginning a family, downsizing for example.

I attended several Breakout Sessions: Implementing The regional Housing Strategy: Incentivizing Year-Round Housing, The Cape Cod Regional Policy Plan: Planning For Our Future and the Redevelopment And Reuse: Reimagining Historic Structures.

Key points from the sessions: understand your current year-round housing and create a plan and then work the plan; explore deed restrictions; convert short-term rentals to long-term with a payment incentive; explore a Lease To Locals program. To learn more check out the Town of Provincetown's website [Housing Office | Town of Provincetown, MA - Official Website](https://www.provincetownma.gov/housing-office) and also Nantucket which is truly grappling with a big housing problem [Nantucket, MA: Housing](https://www.nantucketma.gov/housing). Also check out the Cape Cod Commission [Home | Cape Cod Commission](https://www.cape-cod.commission/home).

I think it is worth your time to investigate the links and use that knowledge to ask your town

officials questions. Housing is one of our critical needs!

One more topic: October 18th will be another "No Kings Day" peaceful demonstration. This is not a League approved; however I know that some of you would like to participate and felt you should be aware of the date.

Take care of yourselves and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Lynne Pleffner, LWVCCA President

MEMBERS OPENING MEETING

We had a great response to our membership meeting on September 18, with an inspirational presentation by Rufus Jones. His organization can be found at <https://myacce.org> for those who want to know more or donate.

The videos on voting issues that sparked our table discussions can be found below:

Know your voting rights

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjoMBheA7pE>

Rank Choice Voting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7P6aYbUo19U>

If everyone voted

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FABvXpUpd8E>

Racial gap in voter turnout

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gtcWH67gtLs>

How come states look at redistricting (VRA)

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/VWO6lpBJXR4>

FYI—The outcome of the appeals in Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians v. Howe is complex and currently under review by the [U.S. Supreme Court](#). The [Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals](#) ruled that private citizens and tribes cannot sue under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act through 42 U.S.C. § 1983, overturning a lower court's finding that North Dakota's 2021

redistricting map diluted Native American voting power. The Supreme Court has stayed the Eighth Circuit's mandate, preventing the decision from immediately taking effect, and is considering the appeal, which could significantly impact voters' rights across seven states

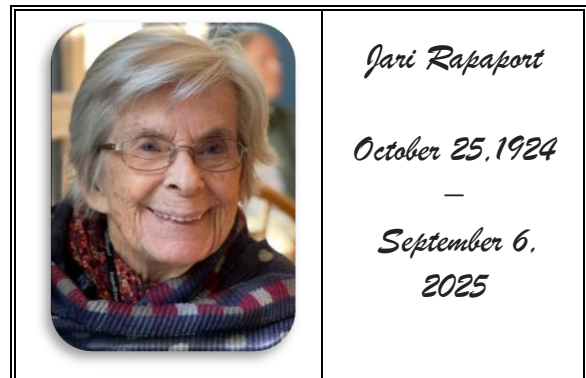
Thanks to all the attendees for a successful fall kickoff.

Regards,

Carole Woodbury and Pat Burke

Your Vice Presidents

In MEMORY of JARI RAPAPORT



Jari Rapaport died peacefully on September 6, 2025 at The Terraces Orleans, after 100 richly fulfilling years of life, beloved by everyone who knew her.

Karen Mazza:

"Those of us old timers who had the pleasure of working with Jari know what a wonderful human being she was and what a gift to the world she was. As fellow Board members working with her, we were inspired by her and we loved her."

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/orleans-ma/jari-rapaport-12512192>

In lieu of flowers or gifts, the family requests contributions in memory of Jari Rapaport be made to the Homeless Prevention Council, PO Box 828 Orleans, MA 02653 (<https://www.hpccapecod.org/>).

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Board Meeting

TUESDAY OCT 7 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.
Zoom conference by invitation

“No Kings Day” peaceful demonstration

SATURDAY OCT 18 | ALL DAY
Various locations.

NOVEMBER

ELECTION DAY

TUESDAY NOV 4 | ALL DAY

TOWN OF BARNSTABLE 2025 TOWN ELECTION

TUESDAY NOV 4 | 7:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.

Board Meeting

TUESDAY NOV 4 | 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 “Schedule” to see a list of all events. Click on any calendar listing to see more detail.

infant mortality, high poverty and/or high elderly population. These include Barnstable and Dukes Counties.

In addition, five Massachusetts regions are designated by the federal government as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) due to a shortage of healthcare professionals—in primary care, dental, and mental health—practicing in either a geographic area or serving specific populations. The five regions in Massachusetts include our own Dukes County and Nantucket County, along with other areas in the middle of the state.

Further complicating access to healthcare in Massachusetts, MassLive.com [reports](#) that 27 pharmacies have closed in the Commonwealth so far this year, increasing the number of closures to 282 in the last 15 years.

A bright spot for the Commonwealth? In January, Gov. Maura Healey signed a healthcare bill that established a 25-member Primary Care Access, Delivery and Payment Task Force to recommend steps to strengthen primary care statewide. The group will continue to meet throughout 2026. Commonwealth Beacon reports that, in her [State of the State address](#), Governor Healey stated her support for expanding primary care, “I want a whole army of primary care providers out there, so when you call for an appointment, you’ll get one.”

--Carole Young-Kleinfeld

DID YOU KNOW...?

...that many government programs, such as the National Health Service Corps and the Massachusetts Loan Repayment Program for Health Professionals, use shortage designations as one way to increase the number of physicians and other health professionals practicing in those designated areas?

The MA Department of Public Health reports that the Commonwealth has 46 MUAs—Medically Underserved Areas/Populations—areas or populations designated by the federal government as having too few primary care providers, high

HOW CAN YOU TAKE ACTION on IMMIGRATION ISSUES?

1. LWVMA has shared [Know Your Rights: ICE Enforcement for Immigrant Families and Communities](#) from the Attorney General; feel free to re-share.
2. Partner/share information from the A) [LUCE](#) Immigrant Justice Network that informs of ICE activity B) Chelsea’s [La Colaborativa](#) program to help families file legal paperwork if they are

separated and C) Sign up for updates from the [MA Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy \(MIRA\)](#).

3. **Volunteer** The Massachusetts Office of Refugees and Immigrants (ORI) is organizing meetings on Zoom to try to match the needs of immigrant organizations with potential volunteers. **The next meeting will be on Monday, September 29, at 5:00 p.m.** The meetings are designed to inform you about volunteer opportunities with non-profit organizations that need help assisting immigrants in the Commonwealth. Each non-profit will show a slide outlining their volunteer opportunities, and there will be a sign-up sheet in the chat. Depending on the organization, further training or background checks may be required. Register for the meeting on September 26th [here](#). Register for the meeting on September 29th [here](#).

4. **Educate yourself/host a local education event**

- a. Watch the [Immigration Detention in the Commonwealth](#) education event September 8 in Plymouth
- b. Attend LWVUS Immigration Discussion Group Event October 15

5. **Advocate for immigrants' rights legislation** so the Commonwealth does not contribute to the federal deportation machine. (We missed you at Day on the Hill 9/18 or at the Due Process Office Hour 8/19) Does your state representative and state senator support the Protecting Our Immigrant Communities POIC Campaign? Contact them using this [Action Alert](#). LWVMA also sent letters to the Legislature and Governor Healey urging due process protections. Read the letter to Senators [HERE](#), Representatives [HERE](#) and Governor Healey [HERE](#).

6. **Attend demonstrations to apply public pressure**

- a. Join us for **Witness Wednesdays** every Wednesday from 1-2 PM at Plymouth County Correctional Facility, 26 Long Pond Road, Plymouth, where we peacefully protest against

due process violations and show support for ICE detainees.

- b. **Bearing Witness** stands in solidarity outside the ICE Operations Office in Burlington every Wednesday from 11 AM - 1PM. The League is not an official sponsor of this event but encourages attendance.

LWVCCA Legislative Committee

LWVCCA and REDISTRICTING

After the Census—and now Mid-Decade?

There has been a lot of conversation about gerrymandering and the redistricting process. The LWV has been fighting gerrymandering for decades, submitting amicus briefs and litigating in states where unfair districts abound. The LWV is objecting to the Texas gerrymandering but also the 12 other states that might gerrymander in kind – Democrats against Republican and Republicans against Democrats. The LWVUS CEO, Celina Stewart, explains the League's position: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/596233883420151>

Members of the LWVCCA might like to know – we monitored the redistricting process in MA back in 2021. Below is our report of the work done. We want to thank Suzanne Brock, who as president at the time, produced an educational video. Suzanne also led us to question the dividing of Hyannis into 3 State Representative districts. I believe because so few citizens testified at the 9th Congressional District meeting, our LWVCCA testimony was instrumental in reducing the division of Hyannis from 3 to 2 State Representative districts. Below is our report from all the work we did after the Census in 2020 –

The Voter, January 2022: Redistricting Finalized –For the Next Ten Years

During the summer, members of the LWVCCA Voter Service Committee attended every one of

the Joint Committee on Redistricting's Zoom meetings held for all 9 of MA Congressional Districts. There were also meetings held in Portuguese, Spanish, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Haitian Creole, among other languages. It was a very complete and transparent process. There were thousands of participants and many of them drew their own neighborhood district maps -- all of which the Joint Committee appreciated and took under consideration. Witnessing these meetings, Joint Chairs Senator William Brownsberger and Representative Michael Moran did an outstanding job.

On July 29, Suzanne Brock and Rosemary Shields testified during Congressional District 9's hearing. We asked the the Joint Committee to look at the town of Barnstable which was divided into 3 State Representative districts and asked if the community could be more consolidated into 2 State Representative districts. The Joint Committee heard us and Barnstable is now represented by 2 districts.

Another bonus to the process was when the Joint Committee released its initial maps, there was some pushback that the State Senate districts were drawn using voter registration numbers rather than Census numbers. When the Drawing Democracy Coalition questioned this tactic, the Joint Committee re-considered and presented new State Senate maps based on the Census numbers. The LWVMA and the coalition Drawing Democracy applauded the statehouse effort. When we look around the country at the gerrymandering that is taking place in other states, we should be proud of what our state legislators accomplished.

The Congressional District maps were also not without controversy. Though the city of Fall River will no longer be divided into two Congressional Districts, it will now be represented entirely in Congressional District 4, rather than Congressional District 9. The Drawing Democracy Coalition is extremely disappointed that Fall River and New Bedford in the Ninth Congressional District were not united in the same Southcoast community. This was a once-in-a-decade opportunity to unify a community anchored by its two Gateway Cities, Fall River and New Bedford, that have shared economic interests and cultural identities. According to the Boston Globe (November 19) there were competing arguments seemingly ping-ponged

between speakers over 5 1/2 hours, dominating a legislative hearing that was ostensibly designed to take feedback about all nine proposed districts. The question was should the two cities share a representative and potentially strengthen their shared political hand or whether they would be best served as the largest city in their own districts. "I don't know if it's 50-50, but it's pretty close," state Representative Michael J. Moran, a Brighton Democrat and the House chairman of the redistricting committee, said of those testifying for or against the South Coast proposal. The Congressional District map remained as drawn.

All three redistricting bills that redrew maps for the Massachusetts State House, Massachusetts State Senate and U.S. Congressional districts based on the 2020 census have been signed by Governor Baker. The Redistricting process was going to be complicated and arduous but on the whole, the state's Joint Committee on Redistricting did a superlative job, thoughtfully considering thousands of testimonies and being transparent in the process.

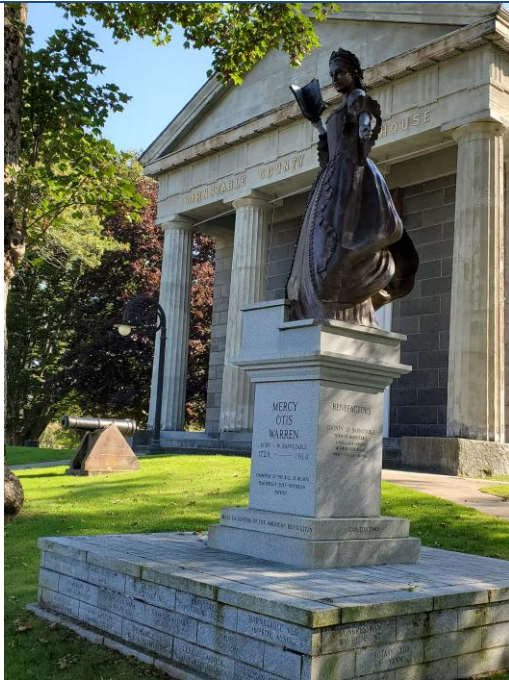
(January 2022 Voter, by Anita Rogers and Rosemary Shields, Co-chairs, LWVCCA Voter Service Committee)

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Amplify People of Color (POC) event on August 30th at the Hyannis Village Green took place on a beautiful late summer day and was very well attended. The atmosphere was friendly and many people stopped by the LWVCCA table and spoke with our many volunteers -- Carol Young-Kleinfeld, Bonnie Lilienfeld, Lynn Carlson, Judy Kelleher and Carol Sheingold. People were certainly eager to show support for voting in their local and national elections, and you could feel also a sense of urgency for activism in the community to ensure the country does not backtrack on voting rights and democracy in general. Without an exact count I would guess that more than 50 people came by to say hello, thank us and ask for more information about the LWVCCA.



Volunteers Lynn Carlson, Carol Shiengold and Bonnie Lilienfeld in front of the Voter Service Table at Amplify POC



Barnstable County Person of the Year, Mercy Otis Warren

I attended the County of Barnstable Open House on September 10th, at the Barnstable County Complex. It was very interesting, especially for those of us who wanted to better understand what the County does, and learn about its remarkable history as one of the first Counties founded in 1685. Phineas Fiske, who has written about Barnstable County, provided a video and talk on the Barnstable County history specifically how its citizens countered the “Intolerable Acts” throwing the British out. A second speaker, Nancy Rubin Stewart (reporter and writer of women’s history) described the storied life of Mercy

Otis Warren and her importance not only for the County but for the writings that were later adapted for the Bill of Rights. A statue of Warren in front of the Barnstable County Courthouse commemorates her writings and life.

Meanwhile there were numerous tables covering every department that had an office at the county complex, including Children’s Cove, the child advocacy center, the Department of Human Services, Registry of Deeds and Emergency Planning Departments among others. Often these departments are the go-between the towns/citizens on the Cape and State and even Federal responders. A number of these departments actually are paid through State and Federal grants. If you wish to learn more about the County activities and history you can find it at www.capecod.gov.

The Bash at Cape Cod Community College on the 12th of September celebrated entrepreneurs and education. The Bash was its usual party with tremendous food, music and prizes. LWVCCA Voter Service table was located at one of the entrances by the radio station DJ, a Photo Booth and the “toilet of the future,” a restroom. Attended by Rosemary Shields and Judy Kelleher, who probably spoke with at least 100 people (mostly Rosemary), plus lots of people who looked at our display and ate our Werther’s caramels. Our big emphasis was Spring Election participation (or lack thereof) and why these local elections are so important. If they were from the Town of Barnstable we emphasized the upcoming Nov 4 election, the offices that were up for election and encouraged them to get a sample ballot next month. We handed out stickers and buttons to those who stopped by. We talked to CCCC President Cox, Rep. Kip Diggs and Dennis’ Selectman Paul McCormick. We spoke with two women from Cape Cod Life Magazine, so we might get a story about LWV voter services from them in a 2026 edition.

Judy Kelleher Voter Service Committee Chair

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Our League President, members of the Legislative Committee including myself and a new League member, Kalliope Chute, from Provincetown traveled to Boston's State House to participate in the LWVMA's Day on the Hill. This included our possible opportunity to meet with Cape Cod's delegation—State Senators, State Representatives, or their staff—and to advocate for several priority bills pending in the MA Legislature:

- Same Day Voter Registration.
- Safe Community Act, Dignity not Deportation, and Immigrant Legal Defense Fund.
- Healthcare—specifically reproductive healthcare accessibility
- Location Shield Act updates

Our League members also advocate for passage of the PFAS bill to target clean water on the Cape as well one of the bills dealing with Holtec. This bill, H.4144, an Act Relative to Energy Affordability, Independence and Innovation was filed by Governor Healy. Our League is opposing Sec. 45 of that bill and is asking that that Section be removed from the bill. Sec. 45 repeals Chapter 503 of the Acts of 1982 that was approved by 67.5% of voters in the state in 1982 and requires the Legislature to issue a report on a proposed nuclear power plant or low-level radioactive waste storage or disposal facility and requires the approval of voters at a statewide election before construction of a new facility could begin.

The LWVMA Legislative Action Committee, headed by Jennifer Muroff, organized the day's program, including setting up appointments with State Senators and Representatives from throughout the Commonwealth or all League members who attended. In our case, the only members of our legislative body that were present in the building for us to meet with were Senator Cyr, his staff, and State Rep. Thomas Moakley. We expressed our appreciation for the time that they spent with us.

The Day on the Hill's plenary session featured updates on elections proposals, good governance, and privacy protections from League specialists and a keynote address from Sen. Joan Lovely, Assistant Majority Leader and a seventh-term senator from the Second Essex District. Senator Lovely sits on a number of committees including Climate Change, Aging, Agriculture and Fisheries and is a member of her local LWV. See news coverage of the event here:

<https://www.wvlp.com/news/massachusetts/league-of-women-voters-advocates-for-election-day-registration/> with comments from Nell Forgacs, Elections Co-Specialist for the LWVMA.

Special thanks to Cape Cod Area members Rosemary Shields, Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Penny Holeman (especially for driving one of the transporting vehicles along with me), Kalliope Chute, Diane Turco, and our LWVCCA President Lynne Pleffner for taking the day to participate in our democratic process. "This is what Democracy looks like!"



Our League President and members of the Legislative Committee traveled to Boston's State House to participate in the LWVMA's Day on the Hill.

Sue Brock, LWVCCA Legislative Chair

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* = Off-Board

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