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LWVCCA OPENING MESSAGE

President’s Message

I write this as the winds and the snow swirl. Sounds like a good analogy for what is going on in the country! I hope all of you made it though okay and if you lost power had it returned quickly!

We had a very productive Program Planning meeting last month. I appreciate all the members that attended. One of the topics we discussed is July 4th. Several towns have parades on that day, and we are looking to put together a list of all the towns. **Can you help?** If so let me know! I need to know the date, the time, how to register and I guess more.

I would like to give a big shout to Kalliope Chute! She and her husband were featured in the Winter issue of Edible Cape Cod! They have an oyster farm in Provincetown and participated in a special dinner this past summer.

In December Voter Service held a forum that dealt with County Governance. Yes, we do have a county government in addition to our town government! Every year that ends in 0 or 5 dictates that the County Charter should be reviewed. In the past years this has gone on without any review. Many folks feel that now is the time to review the Charter. This November the question will be: Do you want an Independent Charter Review Committee? If the answer is yes, then you choose who you want to represent you to in your town. If you choose no and it is defeated, then it will go back to the County Commissioners and the Assembly of Delegates for review/discussion. So in order to educate our population we held the Forum. I have reached out to all 15 Town TV Stations to make certain they have the link and that they can run the Forum throughout the year.

The County Commissioners will be meeting monthly in each town. I understand that the Assembly of Delegates is planning to do the same thing. This is the schedule for the County Commissioners who usually meet at 10 am however that time depends on available rooms so this is the meeting schedule:

- March 2026 Eastham
- April 2026 Wellfleet
- May 2026 Yarmouth
- June 2026 Bourne
- July 2026 Harwich
- August 2026 Truro
- September 2026 Mashpee
- October 2026 Dennis
- November 2026 Orleans
- December 2026 Provincetown
- January 2027 Sandwich
- February 2027 Brewster
- March 2027 Chatham
- Falmouth and Barnstable meetings were held in January and February.

I will provide you with the schedule of meetings being held by the Assembly of Delegates once I receive it.

One of the most important steps we, as a League, need to take is to strike up strategic partnerships with organizations that share our objectives. Considering that goal – a group of wonderful volunteers have been reaching out to their local Libraries to see if we can post flyers or perhaps speak. Did you know that even though there are 15 towns on the Cape we have over 24 libraries?

I hope you will enjoy March; after all we have St. Patrick's Day where everyone is Irish plus the FIRST DAY of Spring on the 20th!!!!

Lynne Pleffner

DID YOU KNOW...?

...that research from the [Brennan Center for Justice](#) finds that more than one in three local election officials have experienced threats, harassment, or abuse because of their job, and more than half have reported concerns about the safety of their colleagues?

The Committee for Safe and Secure Elections (CSSE) is a national organization whose mission is to foster trusting and collaborative relationships between local law enforcement and election officials in order to protect our nation's voters and election workers from threats and intimidation. Its members include those with elections expertise from state and local elections offices, academia, private organizations, and law enforcement agencies.

According to the CSSE's [website](#), their principles include:

- Ensure adequate resources, security, and training to address emerging threats to election workers
- Protect the privacy of election workers and their families as a defense against threats.
- Promote meaningful accountability for perpetrators of threats.

- Increase access to data about threats against election workers to support policy solutions.

The CSSE publishes a pocket reference guide to elections laws in all 50 states, an idea originally championed by a California police officer who later became a County Registrar of Voters. He realized that, just like using a guidebook for motor vehicle violations, a similar pocket guide to California elections laws would be useful for law enforcement personnel. The CSSE notes:...

"Since then, the guides have expanded to cover every state and the District of Columbia. The 2025 guides reflect new statutes and amendments in each state, ensuring officers have the most current and accurate information as they prepare for this year's elections." The Committee also publishes a security assessment checklist and a bomb threat resource guide to help elections workers prepare for Election Day. The pocket guide to [Massachusetts elections laws](#) covers items such as interfering with voters and workers, tampering with voting machines, electioneering within 150 feet from the entrances to polling places, and prohibiting firearms within polling places except by law enforcement officials.

Among others, members of the CSSE include representatives from the State Police of Maine, Colorado, and California, the Brennan Center for Law at NYU, the US Elections Assistance Commission, various County Directors/Supervisors of Elections, City/County Clerks, and state-level Directors of Elections from Massachusetts and Washington (state).

Safe and secure elections are the bedrock of our democracy. Strong, trusting, and well-informed relationships among elections workers, law enforcement officials, and voters make secure elections possible in our communities.

--Carole Young-Kleinfeld

CALENDAR

MARCH

Board Meeting

TUESDAY MAR 3 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.
Zoom conference by invitation

APRIL

Board Meeting

MONDAY APRIL 6 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.
Zoom conference by invitation

International Women’s Day Breakfast

TUESDAY APRIL 7 | Save the Date
Details to Follow

Health Committee Virtual Forum:

“We Can Help - Domestic Abuse Resources and Legislation”

TUESDAY APRIL 14 | 7:00 p.m.
Register at

<https://tinyurl.com/We-Can-Help-Forum>

UPCOMING:

Board Meeting

TUESDAY MAY 5 | 9:30—11:30 a.m.
Zoom conference by invitation

LWVCCA Annual Meeting

TBD: Watch for Details!

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.

HELP STILL WANTED

Our Nominating Committee is still seeking a Website Administrator to manage and maintain our website. We’d love to speak with you about the details and scope of this job if you’re interested, or if you know someone who might be.

Questions? Contact any of us. We’re in your 2025-2026 Members Directory and Handbook or by email below.

Carole Young-Kleinfeld
caroletyk@gmail.com

Judy Kelleher-Andersson
jkelleher@neuronascent.com

Debra Dagwan
Frustrat@aol.com

Eileen Elias
eileen.elias@comcast.net

HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Health Committee partnership-based virtual forum titled: ***"We Can Help - Domestic Abuse Resources and Legislation"*** is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/We-Can-Help-Forum>. If interested in joining the Health Committee, contact Eileen Elias, Committee Chair at eileen.elias@comcast.net.

Presented By:



We Can Help

Let's Talk About Domestic Violence

Join us for Resources, Legislation, Support & Anonymous Q&A



Alex Mariah, Facilitator
 Dr. Alex Mariah is a former national education speaker, writer, educator, and domestic abuse survivor. She is dedicated to inspiring and assisting women around the world.



Lysetta Hurge-Putnam, Panelist
 Lysetta Hurge Putnam has been the Executive Director of Independence House since 1999. She is an advocate for families experiencing domestic abuse. Her organization helps up to 10,000 Cape Codders per year.



Annie Catalano, Panelist
 In 2018 Annie became the first civilian Victim Advocate at the Yarmouth Police Department where she helped to build their Special Victims Unit. She assists victims of violence with safety planning and refers them to support services in the community.



Margie Palladino, Panelist
 Margie Palladino is executive director of Mass Family Advocacy Coalition (MFAC), a non-profit dedicated to improving the Massachusetts family law system on behalf of women and children through advocacy, collaboration, and education.

[Register Here](#)



April 14, 2026
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Free Webinar via Zoom
(designed for privacy)

Scan QR Code

*There is no registration deadline

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Members.....

Time marches forward and while we hope that all is well, we know that there are definitely issues floating around that will need addressing. Let's first look at the state of the State. Currently, the legislature is dealing with a huge energy restructuring bill. After multiple revisions, H.5151 was supposed to reach the floor for a vote Feb 27; however, after much lobbying of legislators by our League we were able to get an amendment filed, amendment #31 which would remove Sec. 55. This section would repeal a 1982 law which gave voters the last say regarding the building of new nuclear facilities in MA. The Governor is in favor of keeping that section since she is pushing to create small nuclear energy facilities withing MA. Diane Turco, a strong member of the Legislative Committee has been working diligently with the Cape Downwinders to have this section removed. At this writing, I do not know whether the vote was actually taken. To all of you that answered the call to action, thank you.

In terms of moving forward with other legislation, the Medicare for All for bill is dead again.... Sent to study. We had a brief interaction with Senator Cyr who has been a supporter of the bill for years. He said there just isn't enough money or enough support throughout the state to get it passed. I would guess that we will refile again next session. Perhaps it will pass someday. Remember, it took 70 years for women to get the right to vote, so anything is possible. And, for those that live in Orleans, another bill that is dead, Sent to Study as of today, 2/27, is the attempt for the town to adopt a pesticide reduction policy. I am sorry for that one.... Guess

environmental protection in falling on the list of priorities.

I just received notice today that the bill focusing on controlling and abusive litigation has been extended until 4/2/26. That means they have until then to act on it. Not sure if they will get to it because after the energy bill, the next item on the agenda for the legislators will be the immigration package and then the budget. Until all that is dealt with, nothing else will be addressed. As it is we have 18 bills in either the House or Senate Ways and Means because there is either financial issues or issues with the MA State Laws. Until those issues are delt with, those bills are in limbo. Since the formal legislative session technically ends July 31, bills not dealt with by then have very little chance of moving further. Sometimes things can happen in informal session after the 31st of July, but those votes have to be unanimous without amendments.

As far as the national scene is concerned, those of you who have been keeping up with the news know things are not great. A new version of the SAVE Act is trying to move through the national legislature... not a good move. If you have time check out the information here:

<https://campaignlegal.org/update/what-you-need-know-about-save-act>.

The LWVUS has addressed legislators at the national level pushing back on this bill.

Other work that the LWVUS has been involved in is filing numerous amicus briefs before the Supreme Court dealing with the many attempts by the Trump administration to break further laws. You can follow and read many of those briefs on the LWVUS website:

<https://www.lwv.org/legal-center-search> We all need to be on the alert for calls to action by

the national League. Our strength is in our numbers and our voice.

For all of you that lost power during this hum dinger of a storm.... I feel your pain. Mine didn't return until Wednesday, 2/25 at 4 pm. No generator..... got down to 41 in the house. We were cooking on our camping stove! Certainly, made me appreciate central heating and also made me much more prayerful for those whose regular existence includes very little or no heat.

Courage Over Fear: Immigrants Day at the State House, March 18

Join us for the 30th annual Immigrants at the State House on Wednesday, March 18, at 9:30 AM, sponsored by the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA). Register [HERE](#). Together, we will help shape policies that reflect the needs, dignity, and humanity of our immigrant communities. Legislators need to hear from their own constituents and advocates—now more than ever—about the issues that matter most and the bills required to address them.

With hope for peace,
Suzanne Brock – Legislative Chair

Civic Learning Week is March 9 - 13

Civic Learning Week offers national programming and programming across Massachusetts in a wide range of civic topics aimed to inform and engage students and the general public through virtual programs. Registration is open and can be accessed at this link, [Civic Learning Week Registration](#). Please review the schedule and register for sessions that interest you. The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is offering a session entitled, "Learn the Skills of Advocacy: Understanding and Influencing Your Government. Jennifer Muroff, Chair of the Legislative Action Committee for LWVMA will be presenting. We'd love to see

League members who would like to know more about the legislative advocacy process attend.

Here is a list of sessions of interest to the general public.

Sessions for the General Public

- [Civic Learning Week National Forum Welcome Remarks & Keynote Address](#)
- [Democracy Renovation on the MA Ballot in 2026](#)
- [Ensuring the Right to Vote Past and Present](#)
- [Folderol, Frippery & Frivolity: Trivia and Storytelling \(In Person, Old South Meeting House, Boston\)](#)
- [Learn the Skills of Advocacy: Understanding and Influencing Your Government](#)
- [Legislative Advocacy Panel: Setting the Civics Learning Agenda for MA \(In Person, MA State House\)](#)
- [Power at 16: Young People Rewriting Democracy](#)
- [Voting for Seniors: What Students Need to Know to Cast a Counted Ballot](#)

I hope you find something you would enjoy.

Karen Mazza

Youth Service Chair for LWVCCA and
LWVMA Representative to the MCLC

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

Get out and vote in the most important elections on the Cape – your Spring town elections. Find your town below:

It's Spring Election time – tra-la-la-la-la-lah, tra-la-la-la-la-lah, tra la-la-la-la-la-la-LAH



2026

<u>TOWN</u>	<u>TOWN MEETING DATE</u>	<u>LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE TOWN MTG</u>	<u>SPRING ELECTION DATE</u>	<u>LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE ELECTION</u>	<u>LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR MAIL-IN BALLOT</u>
Barnstable	**	***	***	***	***
Boume	May 4	Apr 24	May 19	Apr 24	May 12
Brewster	May 4	Apr 24	May 19	May 8	May 12
Chatham	May 11	May 1	May 14	May 1	May 7
Dennis	May 5	Apr 24	May 12	Apr 24	May 5
Eastham	May 4	Apr 24	May 19	Apr 24	May 12
Falmouth	Apr 6	*	May 19	May 8	May 13
Harwich	May 4	Apr 24	May 19	Apr 24	May 12
Mashpee	May 4	Apr 24	May 9	Apr 29	Apr 29
Orleans	May 11	Apr 27	May 19	May 5	May 12
Provincetown	Apr 6	Mar 27	May 12	May 2	May 5
Sandwich	May 4	Apr 30	May 7	Apr 30	Apr 30
Truro	May 16	May 6	May 19	May 8	May 12
Wellfleet	May 11	May 1	May 19	May 1	May 14
Yarmouth	Apr 28	May 9	May 19	May 9	May 12

Mail-in ballots are due to arrive at your town hall on election day at 5 p.m.

Mail back your ballots at least a week ahead.

*Falmouth town meeting has 243 representative electors, who vote in town meeting.



Spring elections are the most important elections you participate in. Spring election and town meeting have more effect on your pocketbook and on the quality of your life than any other – midterms and Presidential elections don't even come close. Local governments determine operating budgets, school budgets, affordable housing, waste water mitigation, property taxes and much, much more. We gotta' get the right

people in and support the right solutions. We gotta' get out the VOTE.

We have this succinct graphic (above) researched by League members. We are unaware of any other group that does this. The question to all of you is how do we get this information out and inspire people to VOTE. We need volunteers to get this out on social media – anybody know how to do that? Rosemary Shields edits our Facebook/LWVCCA page but that is the extent of her paltry (her word, not ours) technological knowledge. Is there a way to put this on community calendars? And how about our coalition partners? We could send this graphic to our partners in women's rights, gun legislation, childcare, health and disability rights, etc. Let us know who is out there in the community and how we can contact them. Finally, the old fashioned way, who has a favorite coffee shop, library, supermarket, etc. with physical community bulletin boards. Would you print up the above graphic and tack it up? Let the Voter Service Committee know how to get this information out to the community?

BTW: 14 out of 15 Cape towns hold Spring elections. Barnstable is a city council with 13 representative districts. They hold their elections in November. We will have more on Barnstable elections as we get closer to November.

Next month we'll have suggestions for voting, such as getting a Specimen or Sample ballot so you know exactly who and what you're voting for.

Submitted by

Judy Kelleher, jkelleher@neuronascent.com,
240-876-7496 (for texting)

Rosemary Shields,
shields_rosemary@yahoo.com, 202-222-5309 (for
texting)

LWVCCA Board & Contact information

LWVCCA DIRECTORS 2025-2026	
Officers for 2025-2026	
President	Lynne Pleffner
Vice Presidents	
Programs	Patricia Burke
Operations	Carol Woodbury
Treasurer	Sue Cameron
Secretary	Debbie Winnick
Committee Chairs:	
Legislation	Suzanne Brock *
Membership	Jeanne Morrison Elizabeth Harder *
Voter Service	Judith Kelleher-Andersson
Youth Service	Karen Mazza
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Jeanne Morrison
Health	Eileen Elias *
Communications	Richard Utt
Newsletter	Richard Utt
Florence Seldin Speaker Series	Karen Mazza *
Member At Large:	
Gail Spink	
* = Off-Board	

Contact LWVCCA:
LWVCCA P. O. Box 2347 Orleans, MA 02653
Phone: 508-945-0511
Email: lwvcca@gmail.com
Website: http://lwvcapecod.org/
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/LWVCCA/

Contact Information for Your Legislators**Governor Maura Healey**

(617) 725-4005

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/email-the-governors-office>

Senator Julian Cyr

(617) 722-1570

julian.cyr@masenate.gov

Senator Dylan Fernandes

(617) 722-1330

dylan.fernandes@masenate.gov

Representative Christopher Flanagan

(617) 2080 Ext. 7300

christopher.flanagan@mahouse.gov

Representative Kip Diggs

(617) 722-2080

kip.diggs@mahouse.gov

Representative David Vieira

(617) 722-2230 and press 5

David.Vieira@mahouse.gov

Representative Hadley Luddy

617-722-2800 Ext, 7313

Hadley.Luddy@mahouse.gov

Representative Steven Xiarhos

(617) 722-2488

steven.xiarhos@mahouse.gov

Representative Thomas Moakley

(617) 722-2800 x7302

Thomas.Moakley@mahouse.gov

Senator Elizabeth Warren

(202) 224-4543

<https://www.warren.senate.gov/contact/shareyouropinion>

Senator Edward Markey

(202) 224-2742

<https://www.markey.senate.gov/contact/share-your-opinion>

Congressman Bill Keating

(508) 771-6868

Info.keating@mail.house.gov

For more contact information, go to our

Directory of Elected Officials page at

<http://lwvcapecod.org/government/directory-elected-officials>

BUSINESS SUPPORTERS of LWVCCA

Support these businesses who have supported LWVCCA

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