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LWVCCA OPENING MESSAGE

President's Message

The whirlwind of activity continues! October brings a Special Election in Barnstable. Precincts One and Thirteen are impacted. Precinct One was due to a resignation for health reasons and Precinct Thirteen due to the passing of Felicia Penn. Please vote if you live in either precinct. These two seats along with a bunch of others will be on next year's November ballot.

A few of our members signed up for the tour of Camp Edwards. I will be attending the tour on the 23rd and am looking forward to it.

Speaking of a tour – member Kalliope Chute and her husband – provided a great one on October 1st. It was wonderful being out on the water and learning about the aquaculture in raising the oysters – one of my favorite food groups!

SAVE THE DATE!!!! Tuesday, October 20th starting at 6:30 pm. We are very fortunate that Jen Muroff, Co-President of the MA League will speak about all the ballot questions we will encounter. I

hope you can attend and I sincerely hope you bring your friends and neighbors. Please spread the word!!!!

I want to give you a heads up as you will be sent two email blasts on SWOT and the Strategic Planning session on November 11th which you are invited to attend. The first one will be the early part of the month and the second one in mid-month. The reason for the two blasts is that I really want to know your opinion on SWOT. What is SWOT you ask? Well: S = strengths, W = weaknesses, O = opportunities and T= threats. Your Board of Directors are basically caretakers of this League. All members need to let us know what **YOU** think are this Leagues strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Based upon the replies we will then know how to move forward.

October 15th is a day of yummy as you will be able to pick up the fudge you purchased for the Educational Trust's "fudgeraiser." Mary Lancot, President of the ED Trust told me that she greatly appreciates the efforts made in supporting the ED Trust in this tasty fundraiser.

I hope you get outside and enjoy this wonderful October weather. It's perfect for eating apples and looking forward to the next two months – ones that will be filled with memories of family adventures and on my wish list a successful and non-eventful Election Day.

Yours in solidarity!

Lynne Pleffner



DID YOU KNOW...?

...that, on Sept. 14, the Supreme Court halted the White House's efforts to require the U.S. Postal Service to enact new mail-in voting restrictions for the midterm elections? This decision means the USPS is expected to continue delivering ballots as usual. Earlier in September, a federal judge in Boston issued a preliminary injunction against the USPS's new ballot rules, deeming those requirements illegal. The LWVMA was the lead plaintiff in that suit, joined by LWVUS, and others. According to the [Center for Election Innovation and Research](#) (CEIR), 97 percent of eligible American voters will be able to cast their ballots before Election Day. The [Brennan Center for Justice](#) at NYU—who represented the LWVMA—advises voters to vote as early as possible—early in person, using drop boxes, or by mail if necessary. LWVMA Executive Director Celia Canavan states, “...We will continue to press forward to ensure that every eligible voter is able to cast their ballot however they choose this election season — and have that vote counted.”

...that an anti-abortion group has enacted plans to overturn Massachusetts' recently passed abortion rights law from going into effect? The new law leaves pregnancy termination decisions—after 24 weeks gestation—up to the patient and her physician. The LWVMA supported the passage of this law and submitted testimony, representing all 44 local LWV chapters, stating “*The League of Women Voters believes that public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.*” The anti-abortion group plans to collect petition signatures this October to place a question for voters on the 2028 ballot.

...that Barnstable County voters will see an additional ballot question on their November 3 ballot? “Shall a charter study commission be created to study the present governmental structure of Barnstable County to consider and make findings concerning the form of government and make recommendations thereon?” Voters will also have the chance to vote for a candidate from their town to serve on the charter study

commission, if the question passes. See the County's [website](#) for background information on the Charter Study Commission question.

...that LWVMA Co-President **Jen Muroff** will be the guest speaker at the LWVCCA's program at the Cape Cod Community College on October 20 at 6:30 pm at the Tilden Arts Center? **Save the Date** and join us for information on the 9 statewide ballot questions facing voters on the November 3 election. The program is free and open to the public, including students, friends, and members.

...that Elon Musk's website, “votesafe.org” is not the same as “vote.gov” or “vote411.org”? Some maintain that it's **not** safe. It gathers personal information and shares it—along with “inferences” about your voting history, attitudes, and behaviors—with his America PAC. Boston College professor Heather Cox Richardson discusses it [here](#) in *Letters from an American*.

VICE-PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Fall Membership Meeting Highlights



Vedna Lacombe-Heywood, LWVUS VP

We were honored to welcome LWVUS Vice President Vedna Lacombe-Heywood to our fall

membership meeting on September 9th. In her national role, she has contributed to program planning for several years. The League's program shapes its reputation as a national leader in protecting election integrity and encouraging active voter participation. She offered valuable insight into how the League establishes its program and legislative priorities.

The programs adopted by LWVUS guide our local education and advocacy work and reflect the League's core mission. Members adopt these programs every other June at the National Convention.

Each January, the LWVUS Board establishes legislative priorities. Important priorities may be renewed from previous years to maintain momentum. At the start of each congressional term, the Board sets priorities based on what can realistically advance.

LWVUS gathers input from local Leagues nationwide. This year, local Leagues submitted 256 Program Planning Surveys, with participation from 38 states and the District of Columbia. Ninety-six percent of respondents supported the proposed program, **Defending a Democracy Under Siege**. LWVUS has also responded to feedback about using the word "women" in the proposal. Bylaw XII, Program and Principles, outlines the convention debate process and deadlines.

In response, LWVUS recommends replacing "Making Democracy Work" with a new program that addresses today's challenges: **Defending a Democracy Under Siege**. Its pillars will include:

- Voting Rights
- Protecting Elections
- Redistricting
- Immigration
- Individual Rights
- The Presidency

Convention decisions reflect input from local League representatives nationwide—democracy in action. We thank Ms. Lacombe-Heywood for

joining our fall membership meeting and explaining how decisions are made, local concerns are represented, and those concerns shape the LWVUS Program and Legislative Priorities.

Thank you to everyone who joined us. We appreciate your participation!

Warm regards,
Patricia Burke and Carol Woodbury
Your Vice Presidents

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Board Meeting

TUESDAY October 6 | 9:30—11:30 am
Zoom conference by invitation

Fudge Pick Up Day

THURSDAY October 15 | 12 noon to 2:30 pm
Cape Media Center, 465 Main Street,
Dennis Port, MA

Ballot Question Presentation

TUESDAY October 20 | 6:30 pm
Jen Muroff, Co-President of LWVMA

NOVEMBER:

Board Meeting

TUESDAY November 3 | 9:30—11:30 am
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.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

The LWVCCA Health Committee continues its planning for the 2027 Forum - date not yet specified. The Forum will address the challenges of the Cape's high school students in accessing health care services. The Committee's November article will provide enhanced information on the planned Forum.

If you are interested in joining the Committee, do contact its Chairperson, Eileen Elias at eileen.elias@comcast.net. *[Email address doesn't work? Try copying the email address into the To: portion of an email you compose in your email software.]*

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Members....

Legislatively speaking things are relatively quiet at the state level. Many legislators are home in their districts campaigning if they have someone to run against and are theoretically available to see constituents if you know when their office hours are. Diane Turco, Jeanne Morrison and myself are meeting with Kip Diggs on the 21st to discuss the Governor's energy bill with the hopes that a few changes can be made.

While a few bills may be floating around at the State House, no action will occur on any of those unless they were in Committee before the session formally ended on Aug. 31 and unless the vote is unanimous which is pretty difficult with many legislators not there.

Moving on to the national scene, I hope all of you are reading the newsletters coming from the National League. While it may seem that things are silent on that front..... they are not. The LWVUS has been so involved in filing lawsuits, testifying in regard to lawsuits and filing amicus briefs in conjunction with many cases that have made it to the Supreme Court. For those of you that made it to our opening meeting last week, you would have been given a brief synopsis of LWVUS activities by our guest speaker, new Vice-President of the LWVUS Vedna Lacombe-Heywood.

The November 3 election is fast approaching. It remains to be seen whether our election process that has held relatively fast for 250 years, will remain so. Whatever the outcome, there are major changes that need doing at the national level to solidify equal voting rights for all going forward. Legislatively, it seems that we continually fight the same battles over the years. Voters need to speak loudly that it is the people who are responsible for legislators taking on their jobs and it is the people they are working for. It seems that many of them have forgotten that important detail. Remind them all on November 3. It is our right, our duty, and our responsibility as citizens to do so. See you at the polls!

Democratically Yours,

Sue Brock – Legislative Chair

P.S. Members interested in joining the Legislative Committee please contact me:

sailinsue22@gmail.com 774-212-6121

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VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

Notes from the Voter Service Committee: Judy Kelleher, Chair; Rosemary Shields as Acting Co-Chair.

The Forum season continued into August and potentially September. On the 18th of August, the LWVCCA held a Forum for the 1st Barnstable District State Representative Democratic Primary that was held on September 1st. Our two candidates, Christopher Lambdon and Steven Leibowitz, spent nearly an hour answering audience questions at the Dennis Public Library.

Though there were only about 20 people in the room, the Forum was covered by Cape Cod Times and recorded by Cape Media and shown on Local Access website. Though both candidates appeared knowledgeable and personable, Christopher Lambdon ended up winning the primary. We had plenty of volunteers from the Voter Service Committee with Rosemary Shields as moderator,

and Lynne Carlson, Julie Kennie, and Judy Kelleher helping to collect questions and keep time.



State Representative Democratic Primary Candidates Christopher Lambdon and Steven Leibowitz. August 18, 2026

Two events occurred on the same Saturday, the 19th of September. One event occurred at the Hyannis Green for the 8th International Festival put on by Independence House. Quite a few people crossed through the park on that day. Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Judy Kelleher, and new member Mona Miller spoke to everyone that went by about registering and the upcoming elections with the nine State and one Barnstable ballot questions. As we have found along the way everyone is registered and anxious to learn more about the ballot questions. As you can see in the photo it was a beautiful fall day.



Carole Young-Kleinfeld and Judy Kelleher by the LWVCCA table at the International Festival in Hyannis on September 19, 2026.

Across the Cape, Rosemary Shields set up a LWVCCA table at Democracy Day held at the First Parish in Brewster. This event from 10-2pm was well advertised within the parish and people were anxious to learn more about the upcoming elections. As at other events all the Parishioners were registered, but wanted to learn more about candidates and ballot measures. Rosemary Shields and Karen McPherson handed out postcards with the 411.org QR code, so the community could gain more information on candidates and the ballot measures.

All the information on the table was well received. The LWVMA is supporting a Yes vote on four of the ballot questions and Rosemary suggested that you could remember those questions using the single number 1479. The LWVMA does not take a stand on questions that do not involve voting rights or civil rights.

Youth Service Committee

Helping to support the voter education and civic engagement of youth is one of the most important things that we can do as League members to safeguard our democracy. It is critical, especially now, to communicate how important voting is to the future of our young adults.

To this end we are starting our year hosting a formal voter education/registration station at four Credit for Life events at local high schools:

- **Sandwich High School**
- Thursday, October 1
- **Dennis/Yarmouth Regional High School**
- Thursday, October 29
- **Monomoy Regional High School**
- Friday, November 6
- **Nauset Regional High School**
- Wednesday, December 9

Youth Service and Voter Service Committee members provide voter registration and education

information at each high school's Credit for Life Fair. Other League members are welcome to observe one of these exhilarating events. Anyone interested should contact Patricia Anderson, committee co-chair at andersonpla@snet.net.

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Submitted by Patricia Anderson

LWVCCA Board & Contact information

LWVCCA DIRECTORS 2026-2027

Officers	
President	Lynne Pleffner
Vice Presidents	
Programs	Patricia Burke
Operations	Carol Woodbury
Treasurer	Sue Cameron
Secretary	Debbie Winnick
Committee Chairs:	
Legislation	Suzanne Brock *
Membership	Elizabeth Harder * Amy Harris
Voter Service	Judith Kelleher-Andersson
Youth Service	Patricia Anderson Carol Woodbury
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Jeanne Morrison
Health	Eileen Elias *
Communications	Richard Utt
Newsletter/Website	Mary O'Connor
Florence Seldin Speaker Series	Board Supported
Member At Large:	
	Lynne Carlson Nancy Skinner
* = Off-Board	

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Facebook:
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Contact Information for Cape Legislators**Governor Maura Healey**

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

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Senator Dylan Fernandes

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Representative Christopher Flanagan

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Representative Kip Diggs

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Senator Elizabeth Warren

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Senator Edward Markey

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Congressman Bill Keating

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Info.keating@mail.house.gov

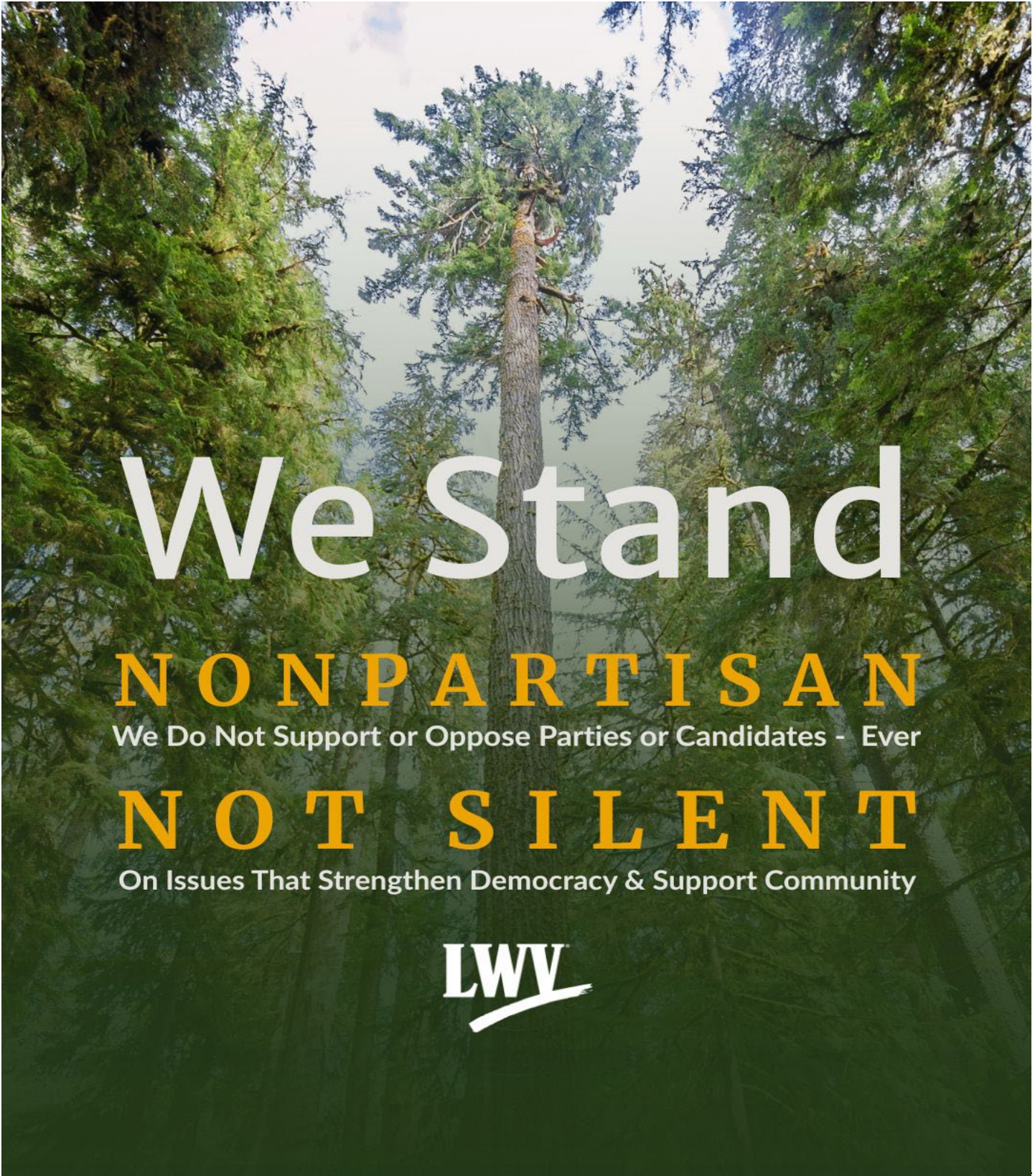
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For more contact information, go to our

Directory of Elected Officials page at

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

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We Stand

NONPARTISAN

We Do Not Support or Oppose Parties or Candidates - Ever

NOT SILENT

On Issues That Strengthen Democracy & Support Community

LWV