LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE CAPE COD AREA

THE CAPE COD VOTER

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LWVCCA OPENING MESSAGE



President's Message

I am writing this to you without the benefit of a crystal ball. I have no idea, when you read this, if everything went smoothly on Election Day. I am somewhat optimistic and I will believe that all went well.

Ok, now to bring you up to date!

Saturday, October 17th was No Kings Vote Early Rally across the country. We joined Outer Cape Indivisible at Salt Pond Visitor Center in Eastham. Thanks to Mary O'Connor and Debbie Winnick!

I hope you all had an opportunity to attend the Forum on Ballot Questions that was headlined by our MA League Co-President Jen Muroff. I also hope that you read the Question A booklet that we put out. We emailed it to each one of you and dropped off copies at all the Libraries and Senior Centers.



Early Voting Rally with Mary O'Connor and Debbie Winnick

I went on a tour of Cape Edwards. It was quite something. Glad I went and if the opportunity comes up again, I suggest that you sign up. It was free.

We participated in one of the biggest events of the year – Cape Cod Young Professionals "Back to Business Bash." This event draws many hundreds of people of all ages with various business skills. A great networking event. Voter Service and Membership handled our presence there with a table and spoke to hundreds! Everyone was happy to see us and had questions on the ballot questions.

Now for November!

An email has gone out about this, but I do want you to be aware and attend. We will be having a Strategic Planning Session on **Wednesday,**

November 11th. We will review our Strengthens, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats and then develop a plan of action. The Session will run from 10 am to 2 pm. It will be held at Cape Space – Mashpee Commons (13 Steeple Street). Lunch will be served so if you want to attend and haven't replied NOW IS THE TIME!

In April of this year the International Women's Day Breakfast had two panels. One dealt with Health Equity. That prompted a conversation with Cape Cod Healthcare. They have decided to make Mental Health a priority. On Wednesday, November 18th they will hold a forum with invited professionals that will explore solutions.

Then comes one of my favorite holidays! Thanksgiving. I have a lot to be thankful for this year from a family perspective. I also have a lot to be thankful for with you! Your willingness to participate whether at a dinner meeting, an email conversation or attending any of the voter service, youth service and/or legislative committee meetings makes us stronger. If anything, this past election season has shown me an eagerness to learn what the League does and how it helps to educate. We all should feel proud and thankful.

Looking forward – we have a fun holiday event coming up in December. I look forward to seeing you there!

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving!

Lynne

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Wednesday, November 11, 2026
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 pm.
Cape Space
Mashpee Commons
13 Steeple Street
Luncheon served.

DID YOU KNOW…?

…that, November 3 is Election Day in Massachusetts? 😉 Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm. More information here.



LWVCCA Members at Vote YES on 9 Rally at Hyannis Airport Rotary

…that, in addition to the 9 statewide **binding** ballot questions on the November 3 ballot, Barnstable County's ballot will include a *Question A* on a proposed County Charter Study? See the Barnstable County website for information. The LWVMA—and the LWVCCA—support a **YES** vote on Questions 1,4,7, and 9, oppose Question 5, and take no position on the others.

…that some districts such as the Barnstable (portions of Falmouth), Dukes, and Nantucket district will include an additional **non-binding** question on stipend reform in the MA Legislature. According to the MA Secretary of the State's website, a non-binding ballot question seeks voters' opinions on specific issues and provides direction to their legislators about related legislation. The non-binding ballot question for this district reads:

Shall the representative from this district be instructed to vote in favor of legislation or rules to reduce the House Speaker's and Senate President's control over state legislators' stipends (extra pay) and to provide stipends only to legislators who do significant extra work that is transparent and accountable to the public?"

Act on Mass executive director **Scotia Hille** explains that the question about stipend reform reminds the MA Legislature that the public is still interested in reviewing –and possibly changing—changing the current stipend system. Seven other districts across Massachusetts will include this question on voters' ballots.

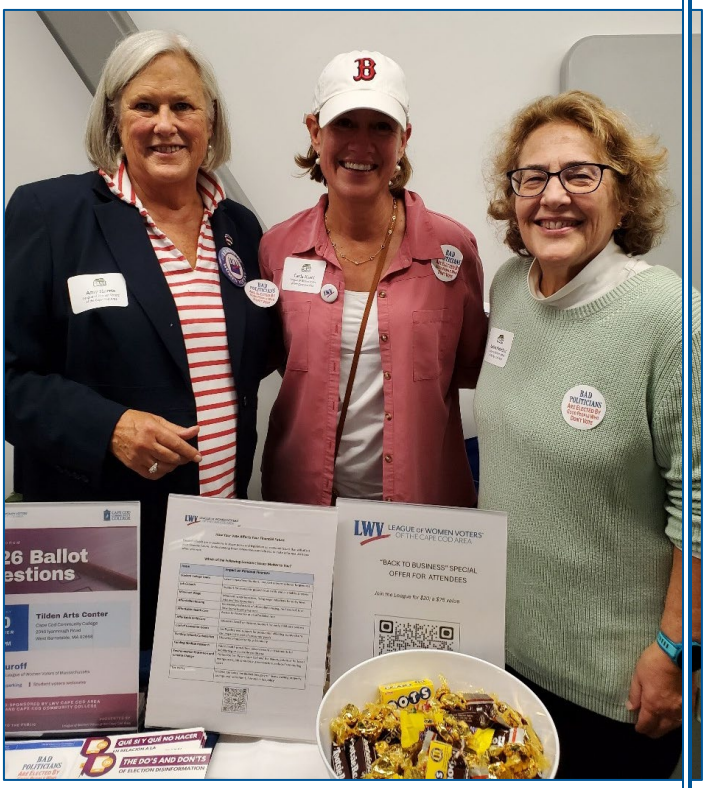
...that 2 new Town Councilors were elected by Barnstable's Precincts 1 and 13 voters in an October 13 special election to fill the empty seats recently vacated in those precincts? The new councilors are **Adam Feltham** for Precinct 13 and **Cindy Martin**, Precinct 1. A third special election to fill Barnstable's Precinct 5 Town Council seat will be held on December 22.

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

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

Rosemary Shields has been helping drive the Credit for Life program at Sandwich High School on October 1st and at the Dennis-Yarmouth High School on October 29th. With her vast experience with this civics/voting information program for High School seniors she and just one or two volunteers from the Youth Services Committee are able to handle the numbers of students in an orderly fashion. A few volunteers from the Voter Services Committee will be helping in the coming months at two further high schools.

We celebrated National Voters Day on September 22nd at the Cape Cod Community College, which both Rosemary Shields and Judy Kelleher handled. This took place in the gym over lunch hour to hopefully entice students to come by numerous tables to learn about programs in their communities and of course voting. There were not many students, but they did want to hear about the Ballot questions. Cape Cod 5 sponsored the event.



Amy Harris, Carla Koehl and Judy Kelleher at the Business Bash – October 18th.

A second event at CCCC took place the evening of October 16th. This large event, the Business Bash, pulls together the Cape Cod business community and students to meet for an evening of music, food, and comradery. Held on a Friday night, the League got lots of exposure and certainly a lot of interest in the upcoming election. It was well attended and one person actually needed information to sign up and vote. People were interested in talking about the ballot questions and Amy Harris had printed copies of the flyer for the Tilden Event the following Tuesday, sponsored by the LWVMA and Chaired by Jen Muroff. Amy met the President of the college – who regretted not being able to attend the Ballot event at Tilden. We were also equipped with flyers and info and plenty of candy to give away, plus clever stickers. Of course, Carla Koehl knew half the people there and if she didn't know them, they knew her!

We had two people wondering if they were registered having just moved to the Cape and not sure where they could vote. We used the little QR code business cards to check on their registration.

We did hand out a number of membership brochures, also with a QR code for ease of use.

If we do this next year, Amy and Carla asked for different "real estate." We were in probably the noisiest section. Also, it would be preferable to have our own table, as we shared with the Samaritans and I think there was confusion as to being separate groups. Thankfully, we were next to a bar selling "mocktails," which contributed to our traffic.



Kathy Borofsky-LWVCCA table on October 21st at the Yarmouth Community Center

On October 21st we set up a table at the Yarmouth Community Center for the Newcomers Group. Kathy Borofsky (a member) and Judy Kelleher set this up once a year to provide voting registration and membership information to new and old residents alike. We provided information about the Ballot measures from flyers Kathy had obtained from the Tilden Auditorium CCCC LWV event, the previous night. Everyone was registered to vote, but had lingering questions about Ballot measure A. The flyer we provided hopefully helped with their choice.

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Election Day

TUESDAY November 3

All polling places will be open on Election Day from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Your city or town may choose to open the polls as early as 5:45 a.m. Check with your local election office to find out if your community opens before 7 a.m. on Election Day.

Board Meeting

WEDNESDAY November 4 | 9:30-11:30 am
Zoom conference by invitation

Strategic Planning Session

WEDNESDAY November 11 | 10 am—2 pm
Cape Space, Mashpee

DECEMBER:

Board Meeting

TUESDAY December 1 | 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.

Youth Service Committee

The first Fall 2026 Credit for Life event, at Sandwich High School on October 1st, was staffed by Rosemary Shields from Voter Services and Patricia Anderson/Carol Woodbury from Youth Services. Over 50 seniors stopped by the LWV table and we had more registered 18-year-olds than in previous high school events who were very excited to be able to vote this November. They were most interested in seeing the Sample Ballot

and looking at the information about the 9 ballot questions and Question A for Barnstable County.

The next Credit for Life session will be at Dennis/Yarmouth Regional High School on October 29th; followed by a session at Monomoy Regional High School on November 6th. At the request of League member Cheri Armstrong, the Career Education and Community Service Learning Coordinator at Monomoy, Sue Cameron provided a voter registration postcard writing session to a group of seniors. The students were so interested in the process that Cheri has invited League members to provide a 15–20-minute presentation to all of the seniors after the Credit for Life session in November on the importance and logistics of voting.

In the spring, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in collaboration with Generation Citizen will host four Statewide Civics Project Showcases across the Commonwealth in 2027! League members can serve as Community Advisors to authentically engage with 100s of MA students and provide them asset-based feedback on their student-led civic projects. The event will feature a dynamic "science fair-style" presentation format for 8th - 12th grade students to promote deeper learning and provide real-world, authentic learning experiences. Showcases will be held:

- **Thursday, May 27th at DCU Center in Worcester**
- **Tuesday, June 1st at MassMutual Center in Springfield**
- **Friday, June 4th May at UMass Dartmouth [Most Cape schools attend here]**
- **Tuesday, June 8th at Edward M. Kennedy Institute in Boston**

More to come on these Showcases that support MA students in their required Civics Education classes. If you are interested in participating or learning more, contact Youth Service Committee co-chairs: Patricia Anderson or Carol Woodbury.

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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Contact Information for Cape Legislators

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(617) 725-4005
https://www.mass.gov/info-details/ email-the-governors-office

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Senator Dylan Fernandes
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Senator Edward Markey
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Congressman Bill Keating
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