



CAPE COD CIVIC RESOURCE DIRECTORY For Student-led Civics Projects

**Prepared by The League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area
Revised December 2022**

For excellent guidance on conducting student-led civics projects please see the [Civics Project Guidebook: Guidance to support implementation of S2631, An Act to promote and enhance civic engagement](#), prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. [Civics Project Guidebook](#)

For curriculum and professional development resources on civic education please see the new website managed by the Massachusetts Civic Learning Coalition in partnership with CIRCLE and The Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts university.
<https://k12civics.tufts.edu>

PREFACE

The purpose of the Cape Cod Civic Resource Directory is to assist teachers and students with the research they will need for their student-led civics projects. We have selected non-partisan organizations and resources for inclusion. The directory has two goals.

First, it is designed to help students identify important civic issues facing the Cape Cod region and beyond. Broad essential questions are posed as ways to identify issues. We hope that the questions will help to provide some direction for investigation that students may find interesting and personally meaningful. Any of these questions may serve as a starting point for students to develop narrower, more specific questions for their projects. Hopefully, this can be a helpful companion to classroom brainstorming activities.

Second, it is designed to provide non-partisan resource information that may be helpful sources of information for student research. We provide government offices at the local, state and national level relevant to various topics. We also identify local organizations that provide research, educational services, and in some cases advocacy for civic action.

CIVIC TOPICS INCLUDED IN THE DIRECTORY

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INVITATION

We offer this civic resource directory as a support to schools and in partnership with schools. We hope that you will consider this a directory that you and your students would like to add to over time and that together we might revise the directory so that it meets student needs. Please contact Karen Mazza, Youth Service Committee Chair for the LWVCCA to share your reactions and suggestions. Contact Karen at mazzak1623@gmail.com.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Civic Issues:

1. Conservation: How do we conserve land, vegetation and wildlife so that we protect our natural resources?
2. Water: How do we protect our drinking water and keep our ponds, rivers, estuaries and the ocean healthy?
3. Recycling: How do we safely and economically dispose of trash and unwanted items to protect our land and water?
4. Climate change: What can we do locally to contribute to the reduction of man-made factors that contribute to the negative consequences of climate change? What progress is being made in the use of alternative energy to help with this effort?
5. Decommissioning of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant: What kinds of protections and oversight are needed to ensure that the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant is decommissioned in a way that ensures the safety of the region affected by the plant?
6. The shark and seal population: What are the issues related to protecting the seal and shark population and how can they be balanced with the need to keep humans safe and protect Cape Cod tourism?

GOVERNMENT OFFICES THAT ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

TOWN GOVERNMENTS: Consult your town's website to find departments and committees that focus on the environment. Typical departments or committees are natural resources, water, solid waste and recycling, wastewater. Additionally, every town has a conservation trust organization. Conservation trusts have separate web sites from the town website.

BARNSTABLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT: See the information listed below for the Cape Cod Commission, Barnstable County Department of Health and the Environment, and Barnstable County Cooperative Extension.

STATE GOVERNMENT: Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-office-of-coastal-zone-management, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-environmental-protection

See www.recyclesmartma.org

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), <http://www.epa.gov>

CAPE COD ORGANIZATIONS THAT ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Title: Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) 482 Main Street, Dennis, MA 02638 (508) 619-3185, www.apcc.org
Description: From their website: "The mission of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, APCC, is to preserve, protect and enhance the natural resources of Cape Cod. APCC envisions a Cape Cod where growth respects the character of town centers and rural lands. The Association to Preserve Cape Cod is the region's leading nonprofit environmental organization, working for

the adoption of laws, policies and programs that protect and enhance Cape Cod's natural resources and quality of life."

Title: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), <https://www.whoi.edu> 86 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543, (508) 548-1400

Description: From their website: "The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution is dedicated to advancing knowledge of the ocean and its connection with the Earth system through a sustained commitment to excellence in science, engineering, and education, and to the application of this knowledge to problems facing society." WHOI provides resources for K-12 education on their website and maintains several programs in cooperation with schools.

Title: Woods Hole Sea Grant, <https://seagrant.whoi.edu>

Description: The goal of the Woods Hole Sea Grant Education Program is to increase ocean literacy.

Issues Addressed: "An understanding of the ocean's influence on you-and your influence on the ocean" so that all citizens young and old can make informed and sustainable decisions involving our coastal resources, communities, and economies.

Title: Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 131 Waquoit Highway, Waquoit (East Falmouth), MA 02536, PO Box 3092 Waquoit, MA 02536, www.waquoitbayreserve.org/

Description: From their website: "The mission of the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is to promote science-based decision-making that leads to healthy coastal ecosystems. Goals include:

- Improve the understanding of coastal ecosystems and human influences on them.
- Improve environmental literacy in our communities to enable environmentally sustainable decision-making.

Title: Cape Cod Commission, 3225 Main Street (Route 6A), Barnstable, Massachusetts 02630, <http://www.capecodcommission.org>, 508-744-1271

Description: From their website: "The Cape Cod Commission (CCC) is the regional land use planning, economic development, and regulatory agency created in 1990 to serve the citizens and 15 towns of Barnstable County, Massachusetts." It is a department of Barnstable County regional government.

"The Cape Cod Commission's mission is to...*keep a special place special*...to protect the unique values and quality of life on Cape Cod by coordinating a balanced relationship between environmental protection and economic progress. The Cape Cod Commission carries out this mission by leading, supporting, and enforcing the development of regional plans, policies, regulations, and infrastructure to guide and manage growth, and by supporting the 15 Cape Cod towns with professional and cost-effective planning and technical support services." It addresses wastewater treatment, housing and economic development planning that is environmentally sound.

Contact Person: Sarah Colvin, Communications Manager, sarah.colvin@capecodcommision.org, 508-744-1271

Title: Barnstable County Department of Health and the Environment, 3195 Main Street, PO Box 427, Barnstable, MA 02630, 508-375-6613, website: www.barnstablecountyhealth.org, e-mail: bch.infor@barnstablecounty.org

Description: Mission statement from their website: “Working together to protect and promote a healthy Cape Cod community through disease prevention and control, health and safety education, environmental protection, and emergency preparedness.” See the website for a listing of services related to the environment and health.

Title: Mass Audubon, website: www.massaudubon.org. See specifically the two nature centers on Cape Cod:

Long Pasture Sanctuary, 345 Bone Hill Road, Barnstable, MA 02635, 508-362-7475, <https://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/long-pasture>
Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary, [291 State Highway Route 6, South Wellfleet, MA 02663](https://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/wellfleet-bay)
508-349-2615, <https://www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/wildlife-sanctuaries/wellfleet-bay>

Description: The mission of Mass Audubon is to protect the nature of Massachusetts for people and for wildlife. Their programs include wildlife research and conservation, land conservation, ecological management, education and community outreach, climate change, and advocacy. The Wellfleet location has a climate change center. They will do programs for schools at the school or at their centers.

Title: Center for Coastal Studies, 5 Holway Avenue, Provincetown, MA 02657, Main telephone: (508) 487-3622, <https://coastalstudies.org>

Description: From their website: “**To understand and protect our coastal environment and marine ecosystems.** To conduct scientific research with emphasis on marine mammals of the western North Atlantic and on the coastal and marine habitats and resources of the Gulf of Maine; to promote stewardship of coastal and marine ecosystems; to conduct educational activities and to provide educational resources that encourage the responsible use and conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems; and to collaborate with other institutions and individuals whenever possible to advance the Center’s mission.”

Title: Atlantic White Shark Conservancy, 235 Orleans Road, North Chatham, MA 02650
Description: “Since 2013, The Atlantic White Shark Conservancy has worked in collaboration with shark scientists, community partners, public and government officials, researchers, donors, friends and followers to augment scientific research, improve and influence factors that affect public safety, and educate both the local and broader community to inspire a greater understanding of white sharks and conservation of the species.”
Contact: Atlantic White Shark Conservancy, (508) 348-5901, American Shark Conservancy

Title: Barnstable County Cooperative Extension, 3195 Main Street, Barnstable, MA, (508) 375-6690, http://capecodextension.org
Description: “Cape Cod Cooperative Extension is the education department for Barnstable County . CCCE is part of a national educational system, developed to convey research-based knowledge from Land Grant Universities (in CCCE’s case, UMASS Amherst), to the general public.
Issues Addressed: Educational programs focus on agriculture, marine resources, horticulture, aquaculture, natural resources, water quality, recycling, household hazardous waste, nutrition, food safety, youth development and environmental education issues facing the county. Extension programs are conducted in Barnstable County in cooperation with the staff at the University of Massachusetts , and Woods Hole Sea Grant Program at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution . Extension staff plan and conduct programs based on local needs and interests.

Title: Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, 869 Route 6A, Brewster, MA, 02631, (508) 896-3867, www.ccmnh.org
Description: “The mission of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History is to inspire appreciation, understanding and stewardship of our natural environment and wildlife through discovery and learning.”

Title: Cape Downwinders, www.capedownwinders.info , (508) 776-3132, Facebook: Cape Downwinders
Description and Issues Addressed: Cape Downwinders is a citizen activist group focused on protecting the region from a nuclear disaster related to the operation and decommissioning of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant. The organization acts to educate the public and advocate through all government channels for responsible decommissioning and safeguards for the region.
Contact Person: Diane Turco, Executive Director, (508) 776-3132, tturco@comcast.net

Title: Sustainable Practices: https://sustainablepracticesltd.org , (917) 496-0440
Description and Issues: “Sustainable Practices is a Barnstable County focused environmental action group. We work across all 15 towns in Barnstable County to facilitate a network to support environmental quality for our residents, visitors and fundamentally, the ecosystem on which we are dependent and of which we are all a part. The overarching mission of Sustainable Practices is to facilitate a culture of sustainability as defined by reducing the human-made impact to the planet and its ecosystems. The organization seeks to achieve its goal through the promotion of a global environment that supports the value of all life. To this end we specialize

in the integration of sustainability into business, non-profit, and government operations, curriculum and stakeholder communications:

Contact Person: contactus@sustainablepracticesltd.org,

Title: 350 Cape Cod, www.350capecod.org

Description and Issues: We are a group of concerned Cape Cod residents who have come together to form a climate action group, 350 Cape Cod. We stand united to protect Cape Cod and are dedicated to address the urgent challenges of climate change. We are focused on community education and action to confront the climate crisis, as we hold governing bodies accountable to support the growth of renewable energy while stopping new fossil fuel infrastructure. 350 Cape Cod is a local chapter of [350 Mass](#) and of 350.org, an international climate movement founded in 2008 by Bill McKibben and colleagues at Middlebury College in Vermont. 350 is named after 350 parts per million (ppm), which is the estimated safe concentration of carbon dioxide the atmosphere can sustain. We typically meet the first Thursday of the month at the [Sturgis Library](#) in Barnstable at 7pm. All are welcome.

Contact Person: capecod@350MA.ORG

Title: Humane Society of the United States, 1255 23rd Street NW, Suite 450, Washington D.C. 20037, 202-452-1100, www.humanesociety.org

Description: The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's most effective animal protection organization, fighting for all animals for more than 60 years.

Issues Addressed: Together with millions of supporters, the Humane Society of the United States takes on puppy mills, factory farms, the fur trade, trophy hunting, animal cosmetics testing and other cruel industries. Through our rescue, response and sanctuary work, as well as other hands-on animal care services, we help thousands of animals every year. We fight all forms of animal cruelty to achieve the vision behind our name: a humane society.

HEALTH

Health Civic Issues:

1. Vaping: What are the health risks of vaping? What should be done to protect youth and others from these risks?
2. Opioid abuse: What is currently being done to prevent opioid abuse? What further work needs to be done to eliminate opioid abuse? What treatment is available for drug addiction and what needs to be done to improve access to treatment?
3. Gun safety: Why is gun safety a health issue? What can be done to reduce gun violence in the United States?
4. Access to counseling and mental health services: Is the need for counseling and mental health services being met on Cape Cod? What can be done to improve the availability of these services?

GOVERNMENT OFFICES THAT ADDRESS HEALTH ISSUES

TOWN GOVERNMENTS: Many towns have Health Departments. See your town's website

BARNSTABLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT: <https://www.barnstablecounty.org>

See the Department of Human Services and the Department of Health and the Environment. The County also runs the Barnstable County Regional Substance Abuse Council and the My Choice Matters program, <https://www.mychoicematters.net>

STATE GOVERNMENT:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/departments-of-public-health>

Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-mental-health>

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, <https://www.hhs.gov/programs/index.html>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, <https://www.samhsa.gov>

National Institute on Drug Abuse, <https://www.drugabuse.gov>

ORGANIZATIONS THAT ADDRESS HEALTH ISSUES

Title: National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)/Cape Cod and the Islands,
<http://namicapecod.org>

Description: A grassroots nonprofit organization serving the families and friends of people with mental illness, as well as the individuals who have a mental illness themselves on Cape Cod and

The Islands. Programs and Services are provided through Support, Education and Advocacy. We are an affiliate of both [NAMI Massachusetts](#) and [NAMI National](#) in Washington D.C.

Title: Cape Cod Grandmothers Against Violence, www.capecodgag.org

Description: Grandmothers Against Gun Violence is a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots organization focusing on gun violence prevention and firearm safety. Our mission is to educate our members, collaborate with other groups who share our concerns, and advocate for public policy and legislation leading to reduced gun violence in all our communities.

Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, <https://www.mapreventgunviolence.org>

Description: The Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence was founded in 2013 after the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. As an umbrella organization, the Coalition brings together organizations and institutions across MA to address the epidemic of gun violence that plagues our communities and takes the lives of so many of our citizens, in suburbs, in rural areas, and certainly in cities. Through education, advocacy and holding those in power accountable, we will bring about change that will lessen the likelihood of someone you love becoming a victim of gun violence.

March for Our Lives, <https://marchforourlives.com>

Description: The mission of this organization is to harness the power of young people across the country to fight for sensible gun violence prevention policies that save lives.

CAPE COD RESOURCES FOR COUNSELING

We are not able to list all the service providers of counseling services. For a list of resources consult the Barnstable County Department of Human Services.

<https://www.capecod.gov/departments/human-services/>

For a list of resources for substance abuse counseling and treatment see the publication, “Cape Cod Substance Use Resource Guide,” available from the Barnstable County of Human Services.

[Substance Use resource Guide](#)

Title: Independence House, <https://independencehouse.org/contact/>

Description: Their mission is to help all domestic violence and sexual assault victims, survivors and their children by creating opportunities to find safety and become empowered through crisis intervention, advocacy, counseling, referral, outreach, prevention, education and inspiring change in our community.

HOUSING

Housing Civic Issues:

1. How can we expand the supply of **affordable** housing -- both owner-occupied and rental housing?
2. How can we assure housing that is **accessible** for people of all ages with disabilities – and their caregivers/visitors?
3. How can we encourage **resilient, sustainable** housing to cope with changing climate conditions?

GOVERNMENT OFFICES THAT ADDRESS HOUSING ISSUES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:

Title: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). 451 7th St, Washington DC 20410. 800-955-2232. <https://www.usa.gov/federal-agencies/u-s-department-of-housing-and-urban-development>

Description: The Department of Housing and Urban Development administers programs that provide housing and community development assistance. The Department also works to ensure fair and equal housing opportunity for all.

STATE GOVERNMENT:

Title: MA Department of Housing and Community Development. 100 Cambridge St, Suite 300, Boston MA 02114. <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/housing-and-community-development>

Description: The Department of Housing and Community Development, through its community and business partners, provides affordable housing options, financial assistance, and other support to Massachusetts communities.

BARNSTABLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

Title: Barnstable County HOME Consortium. Advisory Council, reporting to the Barnstable County Dept. of Human Services, HOME Investment Partnership Program established in 1992 to create affordable housing for low-income households.
<https://www.bchumanservices.net/events/home-consortium-advisory-council>

Description: In accord with HUD, the federal agency that provides funding, the Barnstable County HOME Consortium is developing a Five-Year Consolidated Plan (Program Years 2020 – 2024) for Cape Cod. Comments and views of residents, public agencies, community organizations reflect housing needs, and impediments to fair housing.

Title: Barnstable County Department of Human Services: Youth and Young Adult (YYA) Homelessness Community Needs Assessment

Description: The Department worked with Matthew Aronson Consulting to complete a study of YYA needs related to stable housing, education, employment, health and wellbeing, and permanent connections.

Title: Cape Cod Commission , 3225 Main St, Barnstable, MA 02630, 508-362-3828. www.capecodcommission.org .
Description: The Cape Cod Commission is the regional land use planning, housing and economic development, and regulatory agency created in 1990 to serve the citizens and 15 towns of Barnstable County, for which it is a department. The CCC guides and manages growth and supports the towns with planning and support services. This is the organization most involved with the third issue of coping with changing conditions due to climate change.
Contact Person w/email: Chloe Schaefer, Acting Chief Planner, Community Design; Sarah Korjeff, Historic Preservation Specialist

TOWN GOVERNMENTS: Every town has a Town Planner, a Zoning and Planning Board that reviews all new development, and a Housing Inspector who applies health and safety regulations. The primary town organizations that address affordable and accessible housing needs are the Town Housing Authorities.

TOWN HOUSING AUTHORITIES

The Town Housing Authorities manage several State and Federal rental assistance programs including the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program, Alternative Housing Voucher Program, Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, and Disabled Individual Alternative Living. They are also responsible for building, owning, and managing Public Housing for low-income and disabled people.

Barnstable Housing Authority, 146 South St, Hyannis MA 508-771-7222

Barnstablehousing.org The Barnstable Authority manages over 1,000 units

Bourne Housing Authority, 871 Shore Rd, Pocasset, MA 02559, 508-563-7485

Bournehousing.org

Chatham Housing Authority, 240 Crowell Rd, Chatham, MA 02633, 508-945-0478

Chathamha.org

Dennis Housing Authority, 167 Center St, South Dennis, MA 02660, 508-394-3120

Dennishousing.org

Falmouth Housing Authority, 115 Scranton Av, Falmouth, MA 02540, 508-548-1977

Falmouthhousing.org

Mashpee Housing Authority, 7 Jobs Fishing Rd, Mashpee, MA 02649, 508-477-6202

Mashpeehousing.org

Orleans Town Housing Authority, 94 Hopkins Ln, Orleans, MA 02653, 508-255-0064

Provincetown Housing Authority, 44 Harry Kemp Way, Provincetown, MA 02657, 508-487-0434 Provincetownhousingauthority.com

Sandwich Housing Authority, 20 Toms Way, Sandwich MA 02563, 508-833-4979

Sandwichhousingauthority.org

Yarmouth Housing Authority, 534 Winslow Gray Rd, South Yarmouth MA 02664, 508-398-2920

Yarmouthhousingauthority.com

ORGANIZATIONS THAT ADDRESS HOUSING ISSUES ON CAPE COD

Title: **Housing Assistance Corporation**, 460 West Main St, Hyannis, 508-771-5400
hac@haconcapecod.org

Description: Homelessness Prevention, Housing Stabilization (energy efficiency, Section 8 vouchers, multi-year mentoring, energy efficiency, 550 affordable housing units), Empowerment (Counseling and Education...for individuals who need housing, for municipal officials regarding affordable housing development, for community advocates promoting new affordable housing)

Title: **Habitat for Humanity Cape Cod**, 411 Main Street (Rt. 6A), Suite 6, Yarmouth Port, MA 02675 (with branch offices in South Yarmouth and Falmouth). Habitat ReStores are home improvement stores and donation centers providing low cost furniture, building materials, etc.
www.habitatcapecod.org

Description: Through this international non-profit organization, volunteers build houses that will be occupied by low-income families.

Title: **Housing for All Corporation**, 82 School St, Hyannis, MA 02601
www.Champhomes.org – CHAMP = Common Housing Application for Massachusetts Public Housing

Description: HUD Foreclosure Homes, 50% savings
Hudforeclosed.com

Title: **Homeless Prevention Council**, 14 Old Tote Rd, Orleans, MA 02653, 508-255-9667
Homelessonline.org

Description: At no cost to clients, the Council provides access to housing maintenance programs and funding, support for securing new housing, applications for fuel assistance, job training, and other community resources.

Title: **Falmouth Housing Trust**, 200 Main St, Falmouth, MA 02540, 508-540-2370
Falmouthhousingtrust.org

Description: The Falmouth Housing Trust is a Community Development Corporation that develops and maintains sustainable, affordable workforce housing.

Title: **Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Cape Cod, Inc.** 3 Patti Page Way, Centerville, MA 02632. <https://www.capecodbuilders.org/>

Description: Professional trade association with 300 company members– builders and remodelers, suppliers, sub-contractors and construction people. Assuring home ownership for all on Cape Cod as the goal.

Title: AARP MA Home Fit Program. <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/info-2014/aarp-home-fit-guide-aging-in-place.html>

Description: Developed to educate older adults (or people of any age with disabilities) about how to navigate all living spaces independently to allow them to remain in their own homes as they age. The free *AARP Home Fit Guide* shows how to evaluate your own home for “livability” and how homes can be modified to make your home safe and accessible.

Contact Person w/email: Kara Cohen, Community Outreach, or Antron Watson, Outreach Program Specialist, AARP MA, 1 Beacon St, Suite 2301, Boston MA 02108. 866-448-3621.

Title: Community Development Partnership/Cape CDP. 3 Main Street Mercantile Unit 7, Eastham MA 02642. 508-240-7873. www.capecdp.org

Description: Offers affordable housing, employment & economic opportunities, including small business assistance. Creates and manages affordable homes. Provides free training for elected and appointed town leaders and staff through the Lower Cape Housing Institute.

IMMIGRATION

Immigration Civic Issues:

1. Immigration policy: What are the current issues related to immigration policy at the state and federal levels?
2. Foreign Worker Policy: What are the policies for foreign workers needed for Cape Cod businesses?
3. Support Services for Immigrants: What support services are available to immigrants and refugees on Cape Cod?

GOVERNMENT OFFICES THAT ADDRESS IMMIGRATION ISSUES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, www.usa.gov/immigration-and-citizenship
Bureau of Consular Affairs, www.travel.state.gov

STATE GOVERNMENT:

Office for Refugees and Immigrants,
<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/office-for-refugees-and-immigrants>, 617-727-7888

ORGANIZATIONS THAT ADDRESS IMMIGRATION ISSUES

CAPE COD:

1. Immigration Resource Center at Community Action Committee of Cape Cod and the Islands, www.cacci.cc/immigration-support/html.
2. Cape Cod Coalition for Safe Communities: an organization committed to social justice, fairness, human rights and safety for all members of our communities regardless of citizenship status. Contact information: capesafecomm@gmail.com.
Also find them on Facebook.

STATE:

1. MIRA MA Immigration and Refugee Advocacy Coalition: **MIRA Coalition's mission** is to convene, serve, and organize together with our members, community leaders, and allies for the advancement of all immigrants across the Commonwealth and beyond. MIRA Coalition places immigrant and refugee voices at the forefront to advocate for the well-being of our communities. <https://miracoalition.org/>

NATIONAL:

1. Migration Policy Institute: A non-partisan institute that seeks to improve immigration and integration policies through authoritative research analysis. www.migrationpolicy.org
2. American Immigration Council: Non-profit advocates for immigrants, www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org

3. Cultural Vistas: Founded in 1963, Cultural Vistas is a nonprofit exchange organization promoting global understanding and collaboration among individuals and institutions. We develop international professional experiences that create more informed, skilled, and engaged citizens. Information can be found about the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program. <https://culturalvistas.org>
4. Council on Foreign Relations: A non-profit think tank specializing in US foreign policy and international affairs. <https://www.cfr.org>

ENCYCLOPEDIA INFORMATION

BALLOTPEDIA: A digital encyclopedia of American politics. Search the encyclopedia for federal policy on immigration 2017-2020. https://ballotpedia.org/Immigration_Policy

RACIAL and SOCIAL JUSTICE

MUNICIPAL AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS THAT ADDRESS RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

Racial Justice Resources:

Barnstable County Human Rights Advisory Commission

<https://www.barnstablecountyhrac.org>

The **Barnstable County Human Rights Advisory Commission (BCHRAC)** promotes equal opportunity in housing, employment, education, public accommodations, town and county services, insurance, banking, credit and health care for all persons in Barnstable County regardless of race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, age, ancestry, sexual or affection preference, marital, family or military status, source of income, neighborhood or disability.

Barnstable No Place For Hate

The Barnstable No Place For Hate (BNPFH) in Barnstable, Massachusetts values diversity and supports the civil rights of all people. We are a positive, loving response to hatred, intolerance, discrimination, and all other forms of bigotry. We strive to work with like-minded individuals and groups in serving the people of Barnstable by providing or supporting community services that will keep Barnstable a safe and welcoming place. We are a voice to create public awareness including:

- Providing educational services and resources;
- Advocating for legislation that benefits the lives of all people; and
- Creating public communication campaigns

Find them on Facebook.

Falmouth No Place for Hate, <http://www.npfhfalmouth.org>

No Place for Hate-Falmouth (NPFH) is a community organization whose purpose is to build bridges, combat bias based on race, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and religion, and to promote respect for all people through advocacy and education. We accomplish this through community events including lectures, film screenings, workshops, dialogues, and other educational offerings that provide opportunities for learning, conversation, and reflection. No Place for Hate was started by the Anti-Defamation League to battle bias and embrace diversity in communities. The Falmouth group welcomes people from all Upper Cape communities.

Find them on Facebook.

Mashpee Inclusion and Diversity Committee, <https://www.mashpee.ma.gov/mashpee-inclusion-and-diversity-committee>, E-Mail to MashpeeIDC@gmail.com

It is the purpose of the MIDC to:

1. Promote, embrace and support the cultural enrichment of Mashpee's diverse population as an important element of a healthy and vibrant community.

2. Provide a welcoming environment by encouraging cooperation and respect among and by all persons who come in contact with the town including residents, visitors and persons passing through.
3. Strive for a community characterized by the values of inclusion. Inclusion is defined as actively pursuing goals of including, integrating, engaging, and welcoming all persons regardless of their race, color, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, religion, creed, ancestry national origin, military or veteran status, marital status, family status, or receipt of public benefits.
4. Foster civic engagement of all residents with mutual respect for the contributions that every individual or group makes toward community goals.
5. Support or suggest programs or activities that promote a culture of respect for all persons.

Amplify POC Cape Cod: A Not for Profit initiative to amplify POC owned businesses on Cape Cod, <http://amplifypoccapecod.com/>, Email amplifypoccapecod@yahoo.com

Amplify POC Cape Cod promotes racial equity to POC-owned businesses by providing resources and education that enhance visibility, increase patronage, and highlight their successes and contributions in order to provide sustainability and reduce the wealth gap caused by systemic racism.

Cape Cod Voices: Mission: Cape Cod Voices is a community organization created by POC and allies seeking to bring black and brown voices into the center of the conversation on race, combat and educate about systemic and institutional racism, and advocate for students of color in local schools. As a nation, we've been struggling with an ongoing history of racism. Cape Cod isn't any different. At Cape Cod Voices, we are working to highlight the very real challenges facing marginalized and underserved communities on the Cape while promoting equal opportunity and strengthening our communities. Email: contact@capecodvoices.org, or view on Facebook and Instagram.

Daughters of Abraham, <http://daughtersofabraham.com>, The Daughters of Abraham Women's Interfaith Book Groups were first created in response to the events of September 11, 2001. It consists of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim women. Its mission is to overcome stereotypes and to foster mutual respect and understanding among Jewish, Christian, and Muslim women.

League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area, www.lwvcapecod.org, Email: lwvcca@gmail.com, The League has initiated a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and is producing community forums to educate people on issues and solutions related to racism. The LWVUS and LWVMA maintain resources on their website about diversity, equity and inclusion.

N.A.A.C.P., Cape Cod Branch, <http://www.capecodnaacp.com/>, (508) 790-9466
Founded in 1961, it is our mission to end racial discrimination and segregation in all public aspects of American life. Please join us.

MLK Action Team, the racial justice advocacy arm of the Nauset Interfaith Association, (www.nausetinterfaith.org) addresses racial justice inequities on Cape Cod through its 5 subcommittees which are listed below:

Conversations with Police Task Force is a monthly meeting with the police chiefs of Brewster, Chatham, Eastham, Harwich, Orleans and Wellfleet police chiefs to develop understanding of each other and to build trust and relationships.

Criminal Justice Reform Task Force this year focused on educating the community about the important roles the District Attorney and the Sheriff play in the justice system. Future task force work may include book drives for the incarcerated and/or advocacy on the high cost of prisoner phone calls.

Education Task Force organizes an anti-racism conference for educators every other summer (odd years) We also organize community book drives (on the alternate years) of books for third grade classrooms that feature authors and/or protagonists of color. We also created a database of retired educators of color to mentor newly hired educators of color coming to the Cape to work.

Health Equity Task Force hosted a film showing of “Who We Are: The Chronicle of Racism in America” followed by a panel discussion with activists sharing their thoughts and reflections on the film with the audience. They are also planning the MLK holiday breakfast event around this topic.

MLK Breakfast Event is the annual commemoration of the MLK Jr. holiday. It features a speaker or speakers, always on a topic related to racial justice.

Nauset Interfaith Association – MLK Racial Justice Action Team, <https://nausetinterfaith.org/>
The Martin Luther King Action Team is an interfaith group seeking to educate ourselves and our communities on the lower and outer cape about the reality of institutional, cultural and individual racism. Our goal is to build a relationship with each other, our local police and other community leadership, as well as community members, through educational programs, cultural events and citizen advocacy towards becoming a more just and peaceful society.

Zion Union Heritage Museum, 276 North Street Hyannis, MA 02601, www.zuhmi.org,
The Cape and Islands enjoy a rich history created by people of color from the region. Many journeyed from across the ocean and once here continued journeys of another kind. We see the extraordinary roles and contributions of people of color spanning the eras of the slave trade, abolitionism and more recently, the civil rights movement. 508-790-9466
Email: zuhmi@comcast.net

Resources for the LGBT+ Community:

CIGSYA – Cape & Islands Gay And Straight Youth Alliance – 56 Barnstable Road, Hyannis; 508-778-7744; https://cigsya.org/CIGSYA_House_-_English/Welcome.html; find on Facebook and Instagram.

CIGSYA is a community-based alliance of young people from 14-22 that exists to improve the lives of LGBT+ youth on Cape Cod and the Islands by addressing key risk factors such as the self-hate, isolation and fear, which are often prevalent in their lives. CIGSYA works toward eliminating all forms of discrimination based on differences through education and training and by providing a space where young people come together in an environment of respect, free from judgment and harassment. Programs involve youth leadership in decision making, program design and implementation.

PFLAG – Providing Support, Education and Advocacy to Parents, Families, Friends, of Lesbians and Gays and the LGBTQ+ Community. PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Find on Facebook and Instagram. The Cape Cod Chapter is <https://www.pflagcapecod.org/>

Fenway Health – Fenway’s Violence recovery Program (VRP) provides counseling, support groups, advocacy, and referrals to survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, hate violence, and police misconduct. We specialize in working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) individuals. Cape Cod office: Contact Ann Burke -Office (857)313-6681; Cell: 617-515-6679; <https://fenwayhealth.org/>

Resources for Age Advocacy:

Cape Cod Councils on Aging.

<https://capecodseniors.org/cape-cod-senior-care-and-elder-resource-directory/cape-cod-senior-centers/>

Each Cape Cod town has a Council on Aging (COA) that sponsors programs and advocates for seniors. From transportation to housing to health care and adult day care, the COA’s have been an outspoken voice for the needs of seniors. The website link shown above will take you to contact information for each of the towns on Cape Cod.

Age-Friendly Communities.

<https://mahealthyagingcollaborative.org/age-friendly/toolkit/1-learn-about-age-friendly-communities/>

The World Health Organization (WHO) initiated a survey process in 2007 for older adults to rate the “age friendliness” of their communities and use the results to develop action plans for improvement. “Age Friendly” ratings focused on eight functions: Transportation, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Community Support and Health Services, Communications, Civic Participation and Employment, Respect and Social Inclusion, Social Participation, and Housing. In 2014, Age Friendly Yarmouth was the second Massachusetts community to join WHO’s Age Friendly Communities Network, and now has a Town-appointed Action Team. Their second five-year progress plan includes intergenerational programs involving D-Y school students. Dennis and Barnstable are also active members of the WHO Network, while Sandwich, Orleans, Eastham, and Truro are emerging members.

Village-to-Village Network.

<https://vtvnnetwork.org/>

Originated in Boston, the Village Movement connects seniors aging in their homes with a full range of caring neighbors and practical support services to help with household tasks, transportation and other non-medical tasks. Villages are grassroots, community-based organizations that promote staying active by coordinating recreational, social, educational and cultural programs. On Cape Cod, the five villages include Barnstable Neighbor 2 Neighbor, Dennis-Yarmouth Bay to Sound Neighbors, Orleans Nauset Neighbors, Neighborhood Falmouth, and Vineyard Village at Home on Martha's Vineyard. Volunteers are active in each of these organizations.

Elder Services of Cape Cod & the Islands in South Dennis provides information and services on a range of assistance for older adults and those who care for them, including: mobility assistance and housing, counseling and support groups, caregiver training, respite care, and other supplemental services. <https://www.escci.org>

MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNMENT OFFICES THAT ADDRESS RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

[Attorney General's Office \(AGO\)](#) - Advocates consumer protection, combats fraud and corruption, protects civil rights, and promotes meaningful economic recovery.

[Asian American Commission \(AAC\)](#) - Recognizes the vital contributions of Asian Americans to the social, cultural, economic, and political life of the Commonwealth and addresses the needs and challenges facing residents of Asian ancestry.

[Department of Developmental Services \(DDS\)](#) - Supports individuals with intellectual disabilities with opportunities to help them live the way they choose.

[Department of Mental Health \(DMH\)](#) - Provides access to services and supports to meet the mental health needs of individuals of all ages, enabling them to live, work, and participate in their communities.

[Department of Public Health \(DPH\)](#) - Helps assure access to high quality public health and health care services, promotes wellness and health equity for all people in the Commonwealth to prevent illness, injury, and premature death.

[Department of Transitional Assistance \(DTA\)](#) - Assists and empower low-income individuals and families to meet their basic needs, achieve long-term economic self-sufficiency, and improve their quality of life.

[Disabled Persons Protection Commission \(DPPC\)](#) - Investigates and remediates instances of abuse and neglect committed against adults with disabilities.

[The Executive Office of Elder Affairs](#) - The Executive Office of Elder Affairs promotes the independence, empowerment, and well-being of older adults, individuals with disabilities, and their caregivers throughout the Commonwealth. EOEA oversees the Councils on Aging in every MA town and the Area Agencies on Aging including Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands that is located in South Dennis.

[Governor's Commission on Intellectual Disability](#) - Examines the quality and comprehensiveness of the Commonwealth's program of services designed to address the wide variety of needs of people with intellectual disability.

[Human Resources](#) - Recruits new employees, provides self-service HR-related support, delivers professional development opportunities for existing employees, administers workforce HR policy, employee benefits, and compensation, diversity programs, employee and labor relations, and public safety examination and promotional opportunities.

[Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination \(MCAD\)](#) - Works to eliminate discrimination on a variety of bases and areas, and strives to advance the civil rights of the people of the Commonwealth through law enforcement, outreach, and training.

[Massachusetts Commission on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning Youth \(LGBTQ\)](#) - Enhances and improves the ability of state agencies to provide services that protect and support the health and safety of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer and questioning youth in the schools and communities of Massachusetts, with a focus on suicide prevention and violence intervention policies regarding harassment and discrimination against LGBTQ youth.

[Massachusetts Commission on Indian Affairs \(MCIA\)](#) - Assists Native American individuals, tribes, and organizations in their relationship with state and local government agencies and advises the Commonwealth in matters pertaining to Native Americans.

[Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women \(MCSW\)](#) - Helps advance women toward full equality in all areas of life and promotes rights and opportunities for all women.

[Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council \(MDDC\)](#) - Provides opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and their families to enhance independence, productivity, and inclusion.

[Massachusetts Office on Disability \(MOD\)](#) - Ensures the full and equal participation of all people with disabilities in all aspects of life by working to advance legal rights, maximum opportunities, supportive services, accommodations, and accessibility in a manner that fosters dignity and self-determination.

[Massachusetts Office of Health Equity](#) - Promotes the health and well-being of racial, ethnic, and linguistic minority populations throughout the Commonwealth by increasing the [Department of Public Health](#)'s capacity to respond effectively to the critical public health needs of these communities.

[Office for Refugees and Immigrants \(ORI\)](#) - Administers the federally funded refugee resettlement program, which includes refugee cash and medical assistance, employment services, English language proficiency classes, foster care for unaccompanied minors, and social adjustment services.

[Office of Children, Youth and Families Programs](#) - Oversees the policies and programs of the [Department of Transitional Assistance](#), [Department of Youth Services](#), [Department of Children and Families](#), and [Office for Refugees and Immigrants](#) to help young people grow up to be healthy, caring, and economically self-sufficient adults.

[Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity \(ODEO\)](#) - Carries out the Governor's mandate to ensure practices of non-discrimination and equal opportunity and delivers customer-focused solutions in attracting, hiring, retaining, and promoting a diverse workforce within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

[Supplier Diversity Office \(SDO\)](#) - Provides certification services for minority-owned businesses and women-owned businesses. The Supplier Diversity Program institutes policies to encourage the award of state contracts in a manner that develops and strengthens certified minority, veteran, and women business enterprises.

MASSACHUSETTS CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS THAT ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

ACLU Massachusetts, <https://www.aclum.org/>

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, <https://lwvma.org/>

Massachusetts Women of Color Coalition, <https://mawocc.com/>

Ma Healthy Aging Collaborative: <https://mahealthyagingcollaborative.org>

VOTING and ELECTIONS

Voting/Election Civic Issues:

1. Voter Turnout: What do statistics about voter participation by demographic group tell you about which demographic groups participate the most and which demographic groups participate the least? How would you increase voter turnout in local, state and federal elections, especially for youth?
2. Access to voting: How can we make it easier for citizens to vote? What are the historic and current strategies of voter suppression that have been used to suppress the vote particularly targeted at African Americans, Native Americans, minorities and youth? What measures need to be taken to protect citizens' rights to vote and keep them safe from voter suppression efforts?
3. Money and politics: Do large corporations have an unfair advantage in influencing the outcome of elections? What can be done to level the playing field of influence between corporations and the ordinary citizen?
4. Women's Suffrage: What can be learned from the long history of women's struggle to obtain the right to vote about strategies used for civic action to bring about major political change? What are women's current challenges to protect their rights and achieve equal rights?
5. Media and elections: How do traditional media and social media shape public perception of candidates? How are some media being misused to disseminate misinformation? Can anything be done to protect voters from deliberate misinformation?

GOVERNMENT OFFICES THAT ADDRESS ELECTION ISSUES

TOWN GOVERNMENTS: Every town has a Town Clerk's Office that oversees elections for the town.

STATE GOVERNMENT: The Secretary of the Commonwealth oversees elections at the State level. The website for that department has extensive information about voting requirements, processes and statistics and other pertinent information. It also includes the capacity to register to vote online.

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us>

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: The Federal Election Commission is an independent regulatory agency whose purpose is to enforce United States campaign finance law in federal elections. It currently lacks a quorum. <https://www.fec.gov>

NON-PARTISAN SOURCES THAT ADDRESS VOTING/ELECTION ISSUES ON THE STATE AND NATIONAL LEVELS

1. **League of Women Voters of the United States, (LWVUS)** - Description: The League is non-partisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government. LWVUS encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy. <https://www.lwv.org>
2. **League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA)** – Description: LWVMA is a state affiliate of the national LWVUS. It has the same mission, serving at the state level. <https://www.lwvma.org>
3. **League of Women Voters of the Cape Cod Area, (LWVCCA)** – Description: This is the local affiliate of the League of Women Voters that serves all Cape Cod towns with the exception of Falmouth, which has its own League. <http://lwvcapecod.org/>
4. **League of Women Voters of Falmouth, (LWVF)**, <http://www.lwvf.org>
5. **VOTE411** – Description: Established by LWVUS. Since 2006 has been a source of objective and non-partisan election information. It is a one-stop shop for election related information. <https://vote411.org>
6. **VOTE SMART:** Description: Provides free, unbiased, in-depth information about current officials, candidates, issues, legislation and voting. <http://www.votesmart.org>
7. **Ballotpedia** - Description: Is a non-profit, non-partisan online political encyclopedia written by a staff of researchers and writers. Founded in 2007 it covers American federal, state and local politics, elections and public policy. Ballotpedia.org. Massachusetts specific information can be found at: <https://ballotpedia.org/Massachusetts>
8. **Common Cause** – Description: A non-partisan grassroots organization dedicated to upholding the core values of American democracy. Common Cause is committed to advancing honest, open and accountable government as well as encouraging citizen participation in democracy. www.commoncause.org
9. **The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tufts University** – Description: Conducts research on the civic and political engagement of young Americans. Their website has a wealth of information on this topic and specifically on voting. <http://civicyouth.org>
10. **Massachusetts K-12 Civics and Social Studies Resources** – This resource is managed by the Massachusetts Civic Learning Coalition in Partnership with CIRCLE and The Jonathan

M. Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University. This list of professional development and curriculum providers and resources covers a wide range of social studies and civics resources. Several resources are listed on media literacy. <https://k12civics.tufts.edu>

11. **Rock the Vote** – Description: Rock the Vote is a national organization devoted to helping youth understand their voting rights, encouraging them to vote. www.rockthevote.org
12. **Fair Vote** – Description: A non-partisan champion of electoral reforms at local, state and federal levels through strategic research, communications and collaboration. www.fairvote.org
13. **MASSPIRG - *Massachusetts Student Public Interest Research Group***. We're a statewide, non-partisan, student-advocacy organization with chapters on college campuses across the state. For nearly 50 years we've run campaigns to protect the environment and public health, alleviate poverty, make college more affordable, and strengthen our democracy.