

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF HAMILTON-WENHAM

LWVHW Updates - LWV turns 105! 🥳🎉

Happy birthday to us! The League of Women Voters is a spry one hundred and five years young as of Valentines Day. Brush up on your League History with this [cool interactive timeline](#) ahead of Friday's virtual rally (details below) and spread Valentines cheer with [LWV-branded printable cards](#).



We also added more information and calls to action from LWVMA and LWVUS to our newsletter. Your membership at the local level also gives you membership at the state and national level and they are doing some AMAZING front-line advocacy work!

UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY:

- **LWV 105th "From Locally to Nationally: Women Defend Democracy" Birthday Virtual Rally** Friday, February 14, 11:00 AM, Facebook Live Event (details below)
- **Local Election Nomination Papers DUE** Thursday, February 20 (last day to object or withdraw is March 10)

MARCH:

- **LAST Day to Register to Vote in Town Meetings and Local Elections**
Wednesday, March 5
- **Civic Learning Week** March 10-14, nationwide Learn more at CivicLearningWeek.org
- **Steering Committee Meeting** Tuesday, March 11, 6:00 PM, Wenham COA, 10 School St., Wenham
- **Women's History Through the Arts Program and Reception** Wednesday, March 19, 5:30-8:30 PM, Lynn Museum & Arts Center (more info to follow from LWVMA)

APRIL:

- **Annual Town Meetings** Saturday, April 5 (last day to register to vote is Wednesday, March 26)
- **Annual Town Elections** Thursday, April 10 (last day to register to vote is Wednesday, March 26)

WHAT'S NEWS

[Shaping Our Water Future: Task Force Updates & Insights](#)



We held our Speaker Series Event Shaping Our Water Future: Task Force Updates & Insights on Tuesday, February 4 at The Community House and had a great turnout despite the frigid weather!

If you missed it, you can [watch the recording on our website!](#) You can also find lots of information and ways to get involved on the [North Shore Water Resilience Task Force](#) website.

More than 80 community members joined us to learn more about how our community leaders and neighbors are planning for the future of safe and plentiful water and the role we ALL play in protecting our local water resources.

Pictured here are our panelists:
Representative Kristin Kassner, Senator Bruce Tarr, Erin Bonney Casey, IRWA Executive Director, and Representative Sally Kerans.



THANKS TO ALL for participating!

This event was presented in partnership with [Ipswich River Watershed Association](#) and supported in part by a grant from the [Hamilton-Wenham Cultural Council](#), a local agency which is supported by the [Mass Cultural Council](#), a state agency.

Happy 105!

On February 14, the League will be celebrating its 105th anniversary since its founding! Join us for a Birthday [Virtual Rally “From Locally to Nationally: Women Defend Democracy”](#), to honor the work accomplished so far to empower voters and defend democracy, and lift up its commitment to center voters’ voices and make our democracy more equitable, more critical now than ever! You will hear from our CEO Celina Stewart, President Dianna Wynn, and a group of State Leaders doing extraordinary proactive and defensive ground work. We will also share how people can join to become members of the League, as every one of us has a role to play in our democracy.

Take Action!

There are many ways to take action on League priorities from the comfort of your own home! LWVUS posts action items on their [Take Action page](#). Check back often for new actions. Currently there are two campaigns running:

Stand Up to Xenophobia

The House and Senate introduced the *Safeguard American Voter Eligibility*

(SAVE) Act, which would require citizenship documentation to register to vote even though voters in every state are already required to affirm or verify their citizenship status when registering. The *SAVE Act* would create one more barrier to the voting process, as many eligible voters do not have easy access to the necessary documents. [Tell your members of Congress to oppose the SAVE Act.](#)

✓ **Support the Expansion of Voting Rights**

More than 50 years after the *Voting Rights Act* was passed, full protections for voting rights are not guaranteed for all voters. While we have made progress in expanding voter access, many people still face challenges to participating in elections due to factors including income, health, age, race, disability, and gender. Voting is a fundamental right, and all Americans deserve an equal opportunity to make their voices heard in our democracy. [Urge Congress to protect the right to vote!](#)

[LWVMA Local League Activities Report 2024](#)

The data crunching is done and the verdict is WOW! Take a moment to [read through the Local League Activities Report](#) and feel good about your membership in this dynamic organization. Across the state we are 3,000 members strong and we can't do this work without our members!

The Massachusetts League asks local Leagues to report on our activities and engagement throughout the year to help assess overall impact. [This year's report](#) is truly inspiring and highlights and quantifies the impact of 44 local Leagues in carrying out the LWV mission through nearly 500 activities broadly categorized in three areas:

- Encouraging informed and active participation in government
- Working to increase understanding of major public policy issues
- Influencing public policy through education and advocacy



✓ [Election Information - What You Need to Know](#)

There are several positions up for election in both Hamilton and Wenham and there is still time to throw YOUR hat in the ring! **Nomination papers are available from your Town Clerk and are due back by Thursday, February 20th.**

There are three Regional School Committee seats up for election. Candidates appear on both towns' ballots.

Hamilton's ballot will also have the following seats on it: Select Board (2), Town Moderator (1), Board of Assessors (1), Planning Board (3), and Library Trustees (1).

Wenham's will include: Select Board (2), Board of Assessors (1), Board of Health (1), Library Trustees (1), Planning Board (2), Water Commission (2), and Housing Authority (2). Additionally, there are two ballot questions in Wenham.

For more detailed info, visit:

- Hamilton Town Clerk - [Election Information Page](#)
 - Wenham Town Clerk - [Election Information Page](#)
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New Membership Platform is LIVE

LWV is switching to a new member portal for all Leagues across the country this month. You should have received an email inviting you to log in to the new membership portal. You can also access it via the LWV MEMBER PORTAL button in the left hand navigation on LWVHW.org. Once you access it, you will be able to update your own information, including contact information. You will not be asked to renew your membership until your renewal date (June 30, 2025 for all members who were on our roster as of last month). Perhaps most exciting for many of us, we will now have the option to opt-in to auto-renew our memberships! [Let us know](#) if you have any questions or difficulty accessing.

Recordings of Presentations

LWVUS and LWVMA have presented some great information lately and we thought it might be useful to highlight some of the recordings for you!

- [League Policy Positions and How You Can Use Them \(video\)](#) ([slides](#)) LWVUS presented a great primer January 16 on what it means when the League has a policy position and how they can be used for education and advocacy at the local level.
 - [Defending Democracy in 2025 featuring LWVUS CEO Celina Stewart \(video\)](#) ([slides](#)) In a call on February 2, Stewart “outlined the LWVUS national strategy for the first 100 days of the new administration: focus, discipline, and when the League acts, it will act with speed. State and local Leagues will receive guidance as necessary from LWVUS to take action specific to the new administration.”
 - [Protecting Our Immigrant Communities \(video\)](#) ([slides](#)) On February 11, LWVMA hosted Elizabeth Sweet, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA). Liz discussed MIRA’s Protecting Our Immigrant Communities campaign, and she highlighted two bills currently before the legislature: The Safe Communities Act and The Immigrant Defense Act. You can find more information at <https://miracoalition.org/protecting-our-immigrant-communities-campaign/>. Liz also discussed the important Know Your Rights campaign. You can familiarize yourself with the details at <https://miracoalition.org/news/know-your-rights/>
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LWV Condemns Trump Administration's Weaponization of Government Against Americans

WASHINGTON — Today, the League of Women Voters of the United States CEO Celina Stewart issued the following statement in response to actions taken by the new administration and the impact on voters.


“In the first 17 days of the Trump administration, we’ve witnessed nothing short of the weaponization of government against Americans. The callousness of the most recent actions, including the terrorizing of the immigrant community, shows a blatant disregard for the well-being of the American people. We’ve seen the weakening of the Department of Justice’s civil rights work, continued attacks on people of color and the LGBTQIA+ community, and the elimination and freezing of humanitarian aid to other countries. These efforts are dangerous for our country, compromising our international ally relationships and putting many Americans’ livelihoods at stake.

“As an organization committed to empowering voters and defending democracy, the League is outraged by the current administration’s actions against the American people. We are equally concerned about the inaction of our elected officials in Congress to exercise their constitutional authority and put a stop to this attack on democratic institutions, Americans, and the rule of law.

“Over the past few weeks, we’ve witnessed a number of alarming actions from the executive branch met with little response from our elected officials in Congress. All members of Congress have a responsibility to serve the people they represent and swear to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. Congress is undermining the system of checks and balances upon which this country was founded by not responding to the executive branch’s violation of the law and encroachment on its authority. We call on Congress to act now to stop the infringement on its legislative authority and respond to the ongoing assault on our democracy on behalf of the American people.

“For over a century, the League has remained steadfast in our commitment to the American people and our democracy. President Trump’s latest actions put both in deep jeopardy. We call on our elected officials to stand up to tyranny, protect our democracy, and honor their oath to the American people.”

OTHER IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

 **Steering Committee Meetings** (generally second Tuesdays of the month) - Members are always welcome at Steering Committee meetings. **Our next meeting will be March 11 at 6 PM at the Wenham Council on Aging. 10 School St., Wenham.**

- [Approved Minutes from January 14](#)
 - [Draft Agenda for March 11](#)
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Not a member yet?

[Join us today!](#)

If you or someone you know would like to join the League, let us know or simply have them [join online!](#) We are always happy to answer questions too!

You can also encourage folks to [sign up for our periodic email updates.](#)

Thanks for helping build our community!