



April Showers Bring...May Stand Outs for DEMOCRACY! 🌻

Happy Wednesday, Leaguers! Well, the weather didn't cooperate last Saturday, but ***we still stood in community*** with 15 hardy souls dedicated to the defense of our democracy! ****JOIN US again* THIS Saturday, May 3rd, from 11 AM to noon in front of the Winthrop School in Hamilton.*** Our May goal is to have enough democracy defenders to line *both* sides of Bay Road! Bring friends! It's truly an energizing way to spend a small slice of the weekend.

Heads UP! Tomorrow is International Workers Day - or May Day – so this weekly update is coming to you a day early to give you (a little) time to plan! Lots of organizations are standing in solidarity today across the country for fair wages, benefits, and dignity. (Some links below for last minute actions if you are available.)

On a recent [Women's March Mass Organizing Call](#), Lety Salcedo, Immigration Program Director with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), encouraged folks ***not to underestimate the value of standing out to protect democratic values and the US Constitution.***

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UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

MAY:

- **Local May Day Actions Thursday, May 1**
 - Cape Ann Indivisible [May Day Strong: We Are the Many](#) Grant Circle (Gloucester) @ 2 PM
 - [May Day Strong: We Are the Many](#) Beverly Middle School @ 2:45 PM
 - Newburyport Indivisible RISE [HOPE \(Highway Overpass Protest Event\)](#) Rt 113 overpass (Newburyport) @ 4 PM
 - **MASS 50501 [Boston May Day](#)** Parkman Bandstand, Boston Common @ 5:30 PM
- **Stand Out for Democracy Saturday, May 3, 11 AM - 12 PM**, Hamilton (Bay Road, in front of Winthrop School). **May 10, 17, 24 and 31!**
- **Steering Committee Meeting Tuesday, May 13, 6:00 PM**, Wenham COA (10 School St., Wenham)

JUNE:

- **Stand Out for Democracy Saturday, June 7, 11 AM - 12 PM**, Hamilton (Bay Road, in front of Winthrop School). Also **June 14, 21, and 28!**
- **HWHRC Pride Picnic Sunday, June 8, noon - 4 PM**, Patton Homestead (650 Asbury Street, Hamilton)
- **LWVMA Convention 2025 – Year 105: Democracy Forward! Saturday, June 14, 9 AM - 4 PM**, EnVision Hotel Mansfield/Foxboro (31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield)
- **The Community House Block Party Saturday, June 21**, Patton Park (Asbury Street & Bay Road) (rain date Sunday, June 22)

WHAT'S NEWS

Week Three:

One brief, drenching downpour sent us scurrying for umbrellas, but otherwise we handled the drizzle without melting – and folks were really clever with waterproofing their signs!

We again received **LOTS** of positive honks and cheers – from passenger cars, commercial vehicles, mail trucks, and a loudly satisfying one from a passing Hamilton fire truck! Next week we are bringing our attendance clicker to capture the numbers.

We had several new faces and picked up a new member! Hoping for better weather next week, but we won't melt...and democracy needs more than fair-weather friends!



Stand Out for Democracy **THIS SATURDAY** (and *EVERY* Saturday)!

Join us from 11 AM to 12 PM Saturdays in Hamilton on the grassy area in front of the Winthrop School (rain or shine! Bring an umbrella if the skies, like our situation, look ominous!)

Bring a friend or neighbor! Think about local folks and organizations in the fight to preserve and protect our civic institutions and civil rights. *The more the merrier!*

Let's all use **OUR** First Amendment rights and **be Out-Standing for Democracy!**


Bring a sign -- or not -- your presence is valuable! We usually have some extras on hand to share!

✨ Welcome NEW League Members!

The ranks of our local League are growing! We have been joined by seven new members in recent weeks. Welcome to **Tamsen E.**, of Beverly, **Elisabeth B.**, of Wenham, and **Susan F.**, **Evelyn F.**, **Lindsey F.**, **Tina M.**, and **Kathy S.**, all of Hamilton. Thanks for joining our work informing and empowering voters and defending democracy. **Happy to have you here!** 🇺🇸 [LWVHW in the community](#)

We will have tables at two upcoming community events: [HWHRC's annual Pride Picnic](#) on Sunday, June 8, and **The Community House's annual Block party** on Saturday, June 21. League tabling

is a great way to expand our presence in the community and it's FUN! **We will need volunteers** to cover shifts at these events, so watch this space and sign up for an hour or so. Learn the ropes with seasoned Leaguers, enjoy conversations with folks, and help facilitate fun giveaways and activities. ➡
LWVMA Convention - Registration Open

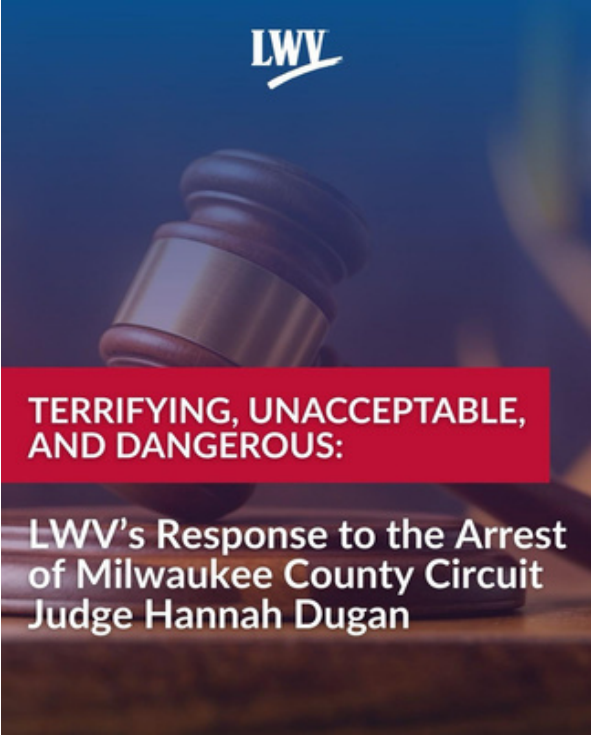
 The poster for the LWVMA Convention 2025 features a stylized yellow and purple dome of the Massachusetts State House on the left. To the right, the text reads: "LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS CONVENTION 2025", "DEMOCRACY FORWARD" in large bold letters, "Saturday, June 14", "9:00 am to 4:00 pm", "EnVision Hotel", "Mansfield, MA", and "CELEBRATING 105 YEARS" at the bottom.	<p>Year 105: Democracy Forward!</p> <p>For 105 years, Leaguers have gathered around the Commonwealth to organize and mobilize voters at the polls and the State House. From the <i>19th Amendment</i> to the <i>VOTES Act</i> of 2022, the League of Women Voters has been at the forefront of empowering voters and defending democracy.</p>
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Convention is being held on Saturday, June 14, from 9 AM to 4 PM in person at [EnVision Hotel Mansfield/Foxboro](#) (31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield). The schedule includes:

- Light breakfast
- Lunch
- Motivational Group Activity
- Interactive break-out sessions on important topics
- Program Planning and Budget for the next biennium
- Vote on Reparations Study Consensus
- Election of LWVMA Officers and Directors

Convention is a great way to connect with other local Leagues from around the Commonwealth. [Registration is open now](#) (\$125 before May 26; \$145 after that). Guest speaker TBA.

 **LWVUS Responds to Arrest of Milwaukee County Circuit Judge**

	<p>On April 25, 2025, federal agents arrested Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Hannah Dugan at her courthouse for allegedly obstructing the unlawful arrest of Eduardo Flores-Ruiz. In response, the League of Women Voters CEO Celina Stewart released the following statement:</p> <p>“Make no mistake: the targeting of Judge Dugan is terrifying, unacceptable, and dangerous. Federal agents arresting a sitting state court judge undermines the sanctity of the judiciary and threatens us all.</p>
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"Amid an alarming intensification of the targeting of noncitizens by this administration, this act is a clear attempt to silence and intimidate anyone who stands up for the rights of noncitizens. Today's action creates a chilling ripple effect that erodes faith in institutions meant to protect and serve us all. "In this incredibly divisive and dangerous moment, it is up to all of us — no matter our political leaning — to fight for our neighbors, our communities, and the vision of the country we want to live in."

<p>Read the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin's joint statement with other pro-democracy organizations in the state.</p>	
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Find all the latest LWVUS news in the [LWV Newsroom](#).  **URGENT: The SAVE Act is Still on the Table!**

With [Congress in recess](#) until May 3rd, **we still have time to take action!** Spread the word to friends in swing states. Maybe they can petition their senators back in their home offices.



Celina Stewart, LWWUS CEO, issued a statement in response to the passage of the [SAVE \(Safeguard American Voter Eligibility\) Act](#) in the US House. Her remarks were chilling: “Today is a dark day in politics...and a dangerous step backward for our democracy.” [Read the full press release](#) on the LWWUS site and consider taking one or more of the actions below and share them with friends!

- [Tell your Senators to oppose the SAVE Act](#): the Senate must reject this bill to prevent it from becoming law. [Call](#) the US Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 (*pro tip: save this in your contacts!*) or [take email action](#).
- Take a moment to [respond to your member of the House’s vote](#) on the SAVE Act either by [calling](#) the switchboard (*aren’t you glad you saved it in your contacts?*) or [take email action](#).
- **Get familiar** with these great [Talking Points compiled by LWWUS](#) to help push back on misinformation.
- **Share information** with young voters: LWWUS CEO, Celina Stewart, wrote an excellent and informative op-ed for Teen Vogue about the harm the SAVE Act will cause nationwide: [What is the SAVE Act? The Trump Admin’s Attempt to Strip Voting Rights from Women and Young People](#).

UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS:

- [Rise for Freedom Nationwide Mass Trainings](#) (ongoing Thursdays, 8-10 PM through Thursday, May 15) – training for “people who love our country and understand the threat of autocracy before us and want to do something about it.” This would make a great option for a watch party with friends!
 - May 1: “Mutual Aid & Structures for Stronger Local Organizing”
 - May 8: “De-escalation & Advanced Strategic Organizing Skills”
 - May 15: “Advanced Organizing Skills”
- [LWVMA - Meet the Specialists](#) (ongoing)

MEET THE SPECIALISTS



Gun Violence Prevention Caroline Ellis

MAY 8 | 7PM | ZOOM



LWVMA's *Meet the Specialists* programs offer members the chance to take a deep dive into the state level bills the League supports in a specific topic area.

Learn more about these important issues and what we can do to advance them on Beacon Hill.

May 8, 7 PM: [Gun Violence Prevention](#)

May 13, 12 noon: [Fairness for Farmworkers/Immigration](#)

May 15, 12 noon: [Reproductive Rights/Women's Issues](#)

- [Felony Disenfranchisement: How Leagues are Engaging and Advocating for Re-Enfranchisement in Their Communities](#) (Wednesday, May 21, 3 PM) – a panel discussion about the importance of enfranchisement for justice-involved individuals and how state and local Leagues can engage and advocate.

PAST VIRTUAL EVENTS:

- [The Future of Journalism and Democracy in the Digital Age \(recording\)](#) (April 29) Presented in partnership with Democracy Maine and the League of Women Voters of Alaska and Colorado.
- [LWVMA Town Hall: Supported/Opposed Legislation 2025-2026 \(recording\)](#) (April 17) Learn from chair Jen Muroff about the Legislative Action Committee and the bills LWVMA is prioritizing this session. ([accompanying slides](#)) Visit the [legislative tracking page](#) for more information. This is a **FANTASTIC** primer on how the League advocates for and against legislation at the state level. **Highly recommended viewing!**
- [MoveON Hands OFF De-escalation and Safety Training](#) (April 3) This is a GREAT informative webinar on personal safety at stand out and protest events. Worth a watch at your leisure. The basics of de-escalation and safety apply widely.

OTHER IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

✦ **Stay Informed** LWVUS sends an informative bi-weekly newsletter (check out the [April 17 issue](#)). You can [join the mailing list here](#).

✦ **Steering Committee Meetings** (generally second Tuesdays of the month) Members are always welcome at Steering Committee meetings. **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 13, at 6 PM at the Wenham Council on Aging** (10 School St., Wenham).

- [Draft Agenda for May 13](#)
- [Draft Minutes from April 8](#)
- [Approved Minutes from March 11](#)

✦ **LWVMA Convention 2025** “Year 105: Democracy Forward!” **Saturday, June 14, 9 AM - 4 PM**, EnVision Hotel Mansfield/Foxboro (31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield) [Registration now open!](#)

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!



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

LWVHW Steering Committee

Dacia Rubel, Spokesperson & Civics Engagement

MJ Brown, Membership & Publicity/PR

Christina Holz, Elections & Voter Services

Max King, Graphics Specialist

Jane Kusel, Legislative Envoy

Stephanie MacLeod, Treasurer & Website

Lindsay Schnabel, Elections & Voter Services

Bethany Swanson, At-Large

The League of Women Voters of Hamilton-Wenham

PO Box 283, Hamilton, MA 01936

LeagueHW@gmail.com