

🌱 Our Stand Out for DEMOCRACY Continues to GROW!! 🇺🇸

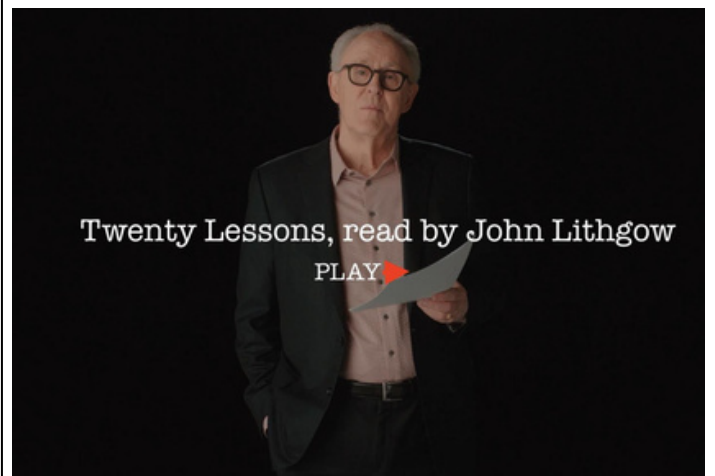
Happy Thursday, Leaguers! The weather could not have been nicer last Saturday – water and sunscreen were in demand! Our numbers were double the week before and triple our first outing. We even spilled across to the Patton Park side of the street. We the people are massing. ***JOIN US again* THIS Saturday, May 10th, from 11 AM to noon** in front of the Winthrop School in Hamilton. The weather forecast looks pleasant. Bring friends! Can we line both sides of Bay Road this week?

It's truly an energizing way to spend a small slice of the weekend.

Many of us have read **Timothy Snyder's 2016 work, *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century***.

His [Substack](#), "Thinking About...", is a wealth of thoughtful writing on timely topics.

Last month he shared key **selections from *On Tyranny*** [read by actor John Lithgow](#). It is powerful.



UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

MAY:

- **Stand Out for Democracy** **Saturday, May 10, 11 AM - 12 PM**, Hamilton (Bay Road, in front of Winthrop School). **May 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) ([Sign up for a shift!](#))
- **LWVHW Annual Meeting** **Monday, June 9, 6:30 PM**, Wenham COA (10 School St., Wenham)
- **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, 4 PM** (fireworks start around 9), Patton Park (Asbury Street & Bay Road) (rain date Sunday, June 22) ([Sign up for a shift!](#))

JULY:

- **Stand Out for Democracy** Saturday, July 5, 11 AM - 12 PM, Hamilton (Bay Road, in front of Winthrop School). July 12, 19 and 26!
- **Steering Committee Meeting** TBD

WHAT'S NEWS

Week FIVE:

What an unexpectedly GORGEOUS day! We **more than doubled our numbers** from last week (31!) and the mood was energetic as we soaked up the sun and the honks of support. We brought an attendance clicker and Bethany noted every sign of support we received. The count was **212 enthusiastic honks and gestures** as we were leaving. Negative feedback was so insignificant, no clicker was needed. We could literally count the thumbs down and other hand gestures on one hand!

We had several new faces and picked up another new member!

We have learned a few things along the way:

- **Show enthusiasm** – smile and wave – music helps the mood!
- **Don't engage with negativity** - no booing or gesturing back - it's just not worth it
- **Leave the scene better than you found it** - protests that leave behind litter or damage harm their own cause.
- **Keep your signs in your car** so you can spontaneously join other like-minded actions - **and bring multiple signs** if you have them - we've had many spontaneous standout joiners who don't have their own sign – **YET!**



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


<p>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!)</p> <p>Bring a friend or neighbor! Think about local folks and organizations in the fight to preserve and protect our civic institutions and civil rights and encourage them to join us for the hour. <i>The more the merrier!</i></p> <p>Let's all use OUR First Amendment rights and be Out-Standing for Democracy!</p>	<p>Bring a sign -- or not -- your presence is valuable! We usually have some extras on hand to share!</p>
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🌟 Welcome NEW League Members!

This week we welcomed two new members: **Pat P** from Wenham and **Carole R** from Beverly! Thanks, both, for joining our work informing and empowering voters and defending democracy. **Happy to have you here!**

If you know someone who'd like to become a member, [point them to our website](#).

🕯 The Candle Signal – Light for Our Democracy

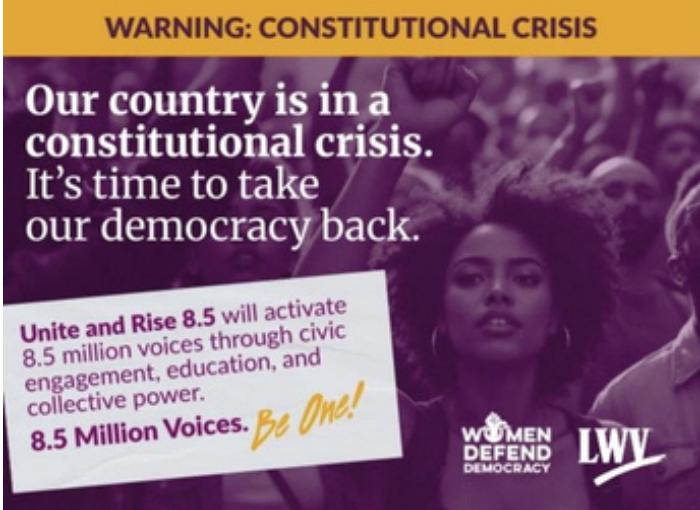
	<p>Keeping a candle or lantern lit in a window is a quiet symbol of solidarity and resistance. It echoes the “one if by land, two if by sea” lanterns from an early troubled time.</p> <p>Many of us have battery operated holiday candles perfect for this small action. If you don't, ask at the next stand out and you may find a loaner.</p> <p>This action is not affiliated with the League specifically, though the first nationwide League event of this crisis (held in March) was Light for Our Democracy, so it fits a theme!</p>
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🏠 Community-Wide Events - Help Represent LWVHW

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.


- [Pride Picnic Sign Up Sheet](#) (Sunday, June 8, Patton Homestead, multiple shifts 11-4:15)
- [Block Party Sign Up Sheet](#) (Saturday, June 21, Patton Park, multiple shifts 4-8; fireworks start around 9. Rain date Sunday, June 22.)

[LWVUS Launches New Engagement Initiative](#)

	<p>Unite and Rise 8.5!</p> <p>"We the people must fight back. That is why the League of Women Voters is launching a powerful new initiative, Unite and Rise 8.5." — LWV CEO Celena Stewart and President Dianna Wynn</p>
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The League defines a Constitutional Crisis as: "When the executive, the legislative, or judiciary branches cannot or will not adequately protect the US Constitution, when there are explicit attempts to dismantle a functional democracy within any of the three branches, or when any level of federal government takes action to destroy democratic institutions in a manner that intentionally or purposefully jeopardizes the US Constitution." When these events occur, the constitution is deemed at the highest serious risk and warrants full-scale action to preserve and protect democratic institutions and civil society. Through Unite and Rise 8.5, the League will engage and mobilize 8.5 million voters to protect and preserve our democracy. [Read on to learn more](#) about the campaign and how to get involved and **find all the latest LWVUS news in the [LWV Newsroom](#).**

[LWVMA Convention - Registration Open](#)

	<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.

✓ **The SAVE Act is Still on the Table!**

As long as the *SAVE Act* hasn't been voted on in the Senate, these actions are worth taking and sharing in your circles:

- [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 LWVUS](#) to help push back on misinformation.
- **Share information** with young voters: LWVUS 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 8: “De-escalation & Advanced Strategic Organizing Skills”
 - May 15: “Advanced Organizing Skills”
- [LWVMA - Meet the Specialists](#) (ongoing)



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 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.

ICYMI – 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. 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!** ([accompanying slides](#))
- [Trust in Democracy: Combatting Mis- Dis- and Mal-information \(recording\)](#) (April 11) Presented by LWV Belmont. Learn more about building networks of trust, understanding the landscape of mis-and-disinformation, and learning how best to discern news on social media and in our everyday lives. ([accompanying slides](#)) ([resource guide](#))
- [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).

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

✦ **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

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