

Stand Out for DEMOCRACY! 🌈 (Bring the SUN! ☀️)

Happy Thursday, Leaguers! Maybe since it's raining today, it will be clearer on Saturday?! We had a dedicated core of dripping wet supporters out this past Saturday. We hope to see more folks out **THIS Saturday, May 17th, from 11 AM to noon** in front of the Winthrop School in Hamilton. Bring friends! It's truly an energizing way to spend a small slice of the weekend.

Last month David Brooks published an OpEd in the NY Times called [What's Happening is Not Normal. American Needs an Uprising That is Not Normal](#) (gift article). In calling for a comprehensive national civic uprising, Brooks writes "What is happening now is not normal politics. We're seeing an assault on the fundamental institutions of our civic life, things we should all swear loyalty to — Democrat, independent or Republican." It's important for the rising pockets of resistance to gel into a movement



UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

MAY:

- **Stand Out for Democracy Saturday, May 17, 11 AM - 12 PM**, Hamilton (Bay Road, in front of Winthrop School). Also **May 24** and **31**!

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!](#))
- **Special Town Meetings (School Consolidation Question) Monday, June 9, 6:30 PM** Hamilton meets at HWRHS Auditorium (775 Bay Road, Hamilton); Wenham meets at Buker School (1 School Street, 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!](#))
- **Hamilton Special Town Meeting (3A Zoning)** Thursday, June 26, 6:30 PM HWRHS Auditorium (775 Bay Road, Hamilton)
- ***NEW DATE* LWVHW Annual Meeting** Monday, June 30, 6:30 PM, Wenham COA (10 School St., Wenham)

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:

If it's raining, chances are it's a Saturday! We got soaked on Saturday, but there was a dedicated, soggy core of 10 folks who greeted nearly one hundred friendly drivers and witnessed only a single thumbs down.

We had some new faces, including a friend from Newburyport and another from England! These standouts foster enthusiastic solidarity whatever the weather.



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!

Tips to remember:

- **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!**

 **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.)

 **LWVMA Action Alert: DEFEND DUE PROCESS**

Last week brought [news of yet another family being terrorized by Immigration and Customs Enforcement \(ICE\)](#). ICE is arresting and detaining people without warrants. Immigration infractions are civil, **not** criminal. Anyone charged with a crime in Massachusetts is already held accountable through our criminal justice system. While we understand the state constraints around reining in a federal agency, NOW is the time to raise our voices and urge all electeds to demand enforcement of due process protections guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. Our federal delegation has demonstrated their commitment to human rights, but we can no longer turn a blind eye to daily ICE abuses. [Learn how to turn your outrage into action.](#)


 **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](#).** 🗳️ [LWVUS Taking Action to Defend Democracy](#).

In case you missed it, The League and the National Partnership for New Americans collaborated on a [guide to supporting the immigrant community](#). The House [also passed the No Rogue Rulings Act](#), an attack on our system of checks and balances.

➡️ [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 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:

- [Meet the Legislative Specialist: Fairness for Farm Workers \(recording\)](#) (May 13) Presented by LWVMA ([accompanying slides](#)). Maya McCann and Claudia Quintero from the Central West Justice Center briefed on the Fairness for Farmworkers Campaign. The center and it's staff affirm the dignity and humanity of the farmworker by advocating for the passage of:
 - An Act Establishing Fairness for Agricultural Workers [H.2108/S.2012](#)
 - An Act relative to overtime pay for agricultural laborers in Massachusetts [H.3107/S.2011](#)
- [Meet the Legislative Specialist: Gun Violence Prevention \(recording\)](#) (May 8) Presented by LWVMA ([accompanying slides](#)). Caroline Ellis, longtime activist and LWVMA Legislative Specialist for Gun Violence Prevention took a deep dive into:
 - An Act relative to firearm industry accountability and gun violence victims' access to justice [S.1653/H.2672](#)
 - An act to promote safe firearm storage education and increase the well-being of students [S.397/H.548](#)
- [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](#).

✦ **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

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