

Happy Independence Day, America!

Happy Independence Day, Leaguers and Friends!

This is a perfect time to reflect on the 249-year-young Declaration of Independence and recommit to its basic principles. What was worth fighting for then, is worth standing up (and out!) to defend now.

The Declaration of Independence famously enumerates our “unalienable Rights...Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.” Its next declaration was pioneering and formative:

“That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, **deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.**” That is the foundational belief around citizen power in the United States: the government works to secure the Life, Liberty, and Happiness of the people.

Read the full text at the [National Archives website](#) or [listen to it](#) at their 2023 celebration.

Learn more context in the book, [Signing Their Lives Away: The Fame and Misfortune of the Men Who Signed the Declaration of Independence](#), and in Frederick Douglass’s 1852 Independence Day speech, “[What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?](#)”



While we celebrate Independence Day, let’s pause to think about what the mission is, what has been sacrificed to achieve it, and how we are tracking today.

JOIN US to Stand Out for Democracy – THIS SATURDAY(and *EVERY* Saturday)!

	<p>WHO: YOU! (And your friends!)</p> <p>WHAT: Stand Out for Democracy!WHEN: Saturdays, 11AM to noon</p> <p>WHERE: Winthrop School (Bay Road, Hamilton)</p> <p>WHY: Because Democracy is NOT a Spectator Sport. And it feels really good to do <i>SOMETHING</i> in community!</p> <p>HOW: Just SHOW UP! We often have extra signs to share!</p>
--	--

We appreciate you and your presence is valuable

UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

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!
- **Hamilton Special Town Meeting** Monday, July 14, 6:30 PM HWRHS Auditorium (775 Bay Road, Hamilton) Check in opens at 5 PM. **PLEASE arrive early** to allow time for check in!

AUGUST

- **Steering Committee Planning Meeting** Tuesday, August 12, 6:30 PM, Potluck at Dacia's home
- **Stand Out for Democracy** Saturday, August 2, 11 AM - 12 PM, Hamilton (Bay Road, in front of Winthrop School). Also August 9, 16, 23 and 30

WHAT'S NEWS

[Stand Out – Week Twelve Re-cap:](#)



It rained again! But we are still drawing more than 10 dedicated souls each week.

As we move into summer, we suspect we may begin to compete with nice weather activities, and while this is a movement, not a moment, we are open to your ideas for how to show our support for the Constitution and the rule of law. Let us know if you have ideas to share! Email us at LeagueHW@gmail.com.

We will be back at it this Saturday, July 5th. Don't forget sun protection and water!!

Special Town Meeting Information - Hamilton ONLY

Hamilton will vote on 3A at a Special Town Meeting on Monday, July 14th at 6:30 PM at HWHRS. (Note the change in date from June 26th.) Check in opens at 5 PM. **PLEASE arrive early** to allow time for check in!)

Finalized Warrant is HERE! Please review and bring your own copy if possible. This is a complex issue and worthy of our close attention before voting!

You can find all the information you need on the [Special Town Meeting 7/14](#) page of the Town website, including information on free transportation for seniors. When it is finalized, please download the warrant to save paper, or print at home. To help residents learn more and prepare for the upcoming Special Town Meeting, the following resources have been provided by the [Planning and Land Use Department](#).

[Town of Hamilton Town Center Zoning](#) This includes the latest draft zoning language and related materials.

[Project Website](#) This page provides detailed background on the planning process, including maps, data, and community input.

[Town Meeting Roles and How to Participate](#)

Learn more about how Town Meeting works and everything you need to know in order to participate effectively.

Exhibit - Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence

Historic Beverly in partnership with LWV North Shore is hosting a women's suffrage poster exhibition on loan from [The Smithsonian American Women's History Museum](#). Join Abby Battis, Historic Beverly Director, for a program at the Hale Farm discussing the exhibit on Thursday, July 3, at 2 PM. The exhibit will be on [display at Hale Farm](#) (click for location and hours) from June 21 to August 30. **UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS:**

- [Open Town Meeting: Remote and Secure](#) (Tuesday, July 8, 7 PM)

Every Town Meeting season, folks across the Commonwealth governed by the Open Town Meeting format raise criticism about access to the vote when voters can't be in person due to schedule conflicts, disabilities, caregiving responsibilities, and more. State law currently requires that Open Town Meetings be conducted on an in-person only basis and this disenfranchises many voters.

LWVMA is supporting a bill, H.2274 An Act authorizing remote participation at Town Meeting. [Register HERE](#) to learn more on Tuesday, July 8, at 7 PM (Zoom) about this issue!



- [Democracy in Your Hands Series](#) (various, through October 22) Our democracy is at a crossroads as the levers of power are out of balance and we are at the onset of a constitutional crisis. It's important now more than ever that League members understand the role that they play as anchors of democracy and be aware of the role that we all play, collectively in fighting for and sustaining our democracy. This webinar series will highlight five topics that are key to building an essential knowledge base on how to navigate in a changing political environment:
 - July 23, 11 AM to 12:15 PM: "Championing Issues that Matter Most to You"
 - August 20, 12:30-1:30 PM: "Understanding the Three Branches of Government"
 - September 17, 11 AM to 12:15 PM: "Working with Local Election Officials to Anchor Change"
 - October 22, 3:30 to 5 PM: "Building Coalitions to Amplify Action"

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!

