



LWVHW Winter Updates ❄️

Cheers to February 1st! We hope this update brings a bit of warmth to this wintry weekend.

UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY:

- **Shaping Our Water Future** Tuesday, February 4, 6:30 PM, The Community House, 284 Bay Road, Hamilton (free and open to the public!)
- **Steering Committee Meeting** Tuesday, February 11, 6:00 PM, Wenham COA, 10 School St., Wenham (all members welcome!)
- **Local Election Nomination Papers DUE** Thursday, February 20 (last day to object or withdraw is March 10)

MARCH:

- **Civics Bee** cancelled (more below)
- **Steering Committee Meeting** Tuesday, March 11, 6:00 PM, Wenham COA, 10 School St., Wenham
- **LAST Day to Register to Vote in Town Meetings and Local Elections** Wednesday, March 5

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

💧 EVENT: Shaping Our Water Future

Join us on Tuesday, February 4, at The Community House for [Shaping Our Water Future: Task Force Updates & Insights](#), a follow-up to our popular Water Resources and Conservation event held last spring ([video recording](#) is available on our website if you missed it).

Learn 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. 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.

SHAPING OUR WATER FUTURE:

Task Force Updates & Insights

**Tuesday,
February 4th**

2025 | 6:30pm

The Community House
284 Bay Road
South Hamilton



WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

BRUCE TARR

Massachusetts State Senator

KRISTIN KASSNER

Massachusetts State Representative

ERIN BONNEY CASEY

Executive Director
Ipswich River Watershed Association

If safe and plentiful drinking water is important to you, learn how YOUR community is planning for the future and the role that we all play in protecting our local water resources.

Learn more.



LWVHW Leadership took an evening in early January to hold a mini-retreat and share good food and great conversation about where we are and where we are going. Our resources, like so many organizations, are stretched thin and we are excited to take the opportunity in 2025 to pause, reflect, and regroup.

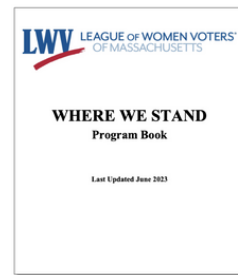
This strategy unfortunately means pausing the Civics Bee as we know it, but it feels like a good time for us to explore ways to focus our energy and resources for maximum impact in the community. We thank everyone who has made this event such a hit over the years!

We welcome the participation of all members as we regroup. This is a chance to bring fresh ideas and perspectives to the table. Steering Committee members found the following two publications useful in our visioning:



[Impact on Issues: A Guide to the Public Policy Positions of the League of Women Voters](#)

(LWVUS)



[Where We Stand Program Book](#) (LWVMA)

We look forward to stoking new energy and exploring innovative ways to deliver on our mission of empowering voters and defending democracy. LWV envisions a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

[H-W News Launches](#)

Congratulations to all on the launch of the community's new weekly print newspaper! LWVHW believes *H-W News* will unify and strengthen our community—and provide opportunities for us to share the great

work we do with more people. You may remember our speaker event last year, "Local Journalism as a Cornerstone of Democracy" ([watch here if you missed it!](#)). We truly believe that it is fundamental to an informed electorate and engaged citizenry and are thrilled to see this launch come to fruition. The tagline, "*It's in your hands*," reflects its mission: empowering our towns with dependable, fact-based news to spur informed civic engagement and collaboration in the arts, sports, and more.

Our Local League spokesperson, Dacia Rubel, had a [letter published in the inaugural edition](#). ICYMI, we have attached a PDF version.

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](#)

LWVUS Launches ChapterSpot: New Membership Platform

LWV is switching to a new member portal for all Leagues across the country this month. Watch for an email inviting you to log in to the new membership portal. 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!

Majority Rules Screening

What if changing the way we vote could change everything? LWV of the Plymouth Area is hosting a screening and discussion of [the film Majority Rules](#) today (February 1). While it's too short notice (and too messy out!) to participate, the thought-provoking documentary is widely available on streaming services ([watch a trailer here](#)).



“With America's democratic experiment mired in division and dysfunction, the state of Alaska votes to revolutionize their election system. The surprising results spark new alliances, a growing call for election reform, and fierce pushback from political parties. Could changing how Americans vote also change politics for the better?”

If you watch it, [let us know what you think!](#)

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 February 11 at 6 PM at the Wenham Council on Aging.** 10 School St., Wenham.

- [Approved Minutes from October](#)
- [Approved Minutes from November](#)
- [Approved Minutes from December](#)

Know someone who would like to join the League, let us know or simply have them [join online!](#)

You can also encourage folks to [sign up for our periodic email updates](#). Thanks for helping build our community!