

BULLETIN

LWVCC Website: www.lwvcc.org

Winter 2021

P.O. Box 34 Concord, Massachusetts 01742-0034

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**Julie Rohwein, LWVCC
President**

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We have said goodbye and good riddance to the year 2020. Too many, including members of our own community, have suffered in the continuing pandemic. Assessing and repairing damage done to our democracy by recent events will be an ongoing effort. (continued p. 2)

CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 6 Wed. Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 8 Fri. First Friday, 9:30 a.m.
- 10 Sun. Voter Suppression (at Kerem Shalom), 4 p.m.
- 15 Fri. Racial Justice Com., 10 a.m.
- 18 Mon. Communications Com., 7 p.m.
- 19 Tue. Concord Town Gov't. Com.2 p.m.
- 25 Mon. Concord Town Caucus, 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY

- 3 Wed. Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 5 Fri. First Friday, 9:30 a.m.
- 27 Sat. Concord Town Meeting Preview Meeting. Warrant opens

MARCH

- 3 Wed. Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 5 Fri. First Friday, 9:30 a.m.
- 7 Sun. League Candidates Forum
- 19 Fri. Draft Warrant Articles due
- 25 Thur. Concord Town Election
- 26 Fri. Concord Town Warrant closes

*Members are welcome at monthly Board meetings.
Please contact the President if you would like to attend.*

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization of men and women formed in 1920 and dedicated to the principles of self-government established by the Constitution of the United States. The League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

President	Julie Rohwein	President@lwvcc.org
Membership	Linda Ziffrin	Membership@lwvcc.org
Communications	Ingrid Detweiler	Communications@lwvcc.org
Webmaster	Cynthia Rainey	wm@lwvcc.org

President's Letter (continued from p. 2)

As 2021 begins, our troubled times are not over, but change is on the horizon. With the arrival of vaccines against COVID-19, we may hope to gather in person once again in the not-too-distant future. In the face of tremendous challenges, the election in November was held safely and securely. And with record-breaking turnout. In this newsletter, you will find an account of the work volunteers from our League and our community undertook to help local election officials keep up with the additional work the election entailed.

Our League continued to work through changed circumstances. Many of our committees kept going with virtual meetings, and more will be reactivating in this New Year. Instead of our customary Winter Member Breakfast, the LWVCC will offer an evening program featuring security expert Juliette Kayyem online on January 28th. More events are in the works, so keep an eye on Monday Member News for details.

I will continue to be available to talk with members on Friday afternoons during the President's Virtual Office Hour. I enjoy hearing from you and learning about your thoughts and concerns. The registration link is published each week in MMN. Or, if you prefer to speak by phone, drop me an email or a message, and we can find a time to talk. I hope that many of you will take the opportunity to stop by and chat.

Having passed through the intensity of this fall and the election, many of us may take some time to step back and rest. That is necessary. But the work of democracy goes on and it needs you. Our membership chair Linda Ziffrin, Vice-President Nancy Brown, and me are all available to help you connect with LWVCC activities. Members can also contact committee chairs directly if they are interested in the work of the committee, and committee meetings are generally open to all members. Board meetings are also open for members to observe. Please contact me at President@lwvcc.org if you would like to attend.

I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year!
Julie Rohwein, President

Winter Event with Juliette Kayyem

Thursday, January 28, 2021



Juliette Kayyem

Juliette Kayyem, nationally recognized security advisor, will be the guest speaker at the 2021 Winter Event. This year a Thursday evening 7:00 p.m. meeting via Zoom will replace the traditional Saturday breakfast at the Colonial Inn. If you wish to socialize before the program you can log on at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Kayyem will speak about the security consequences of misinformation

and dis-information, and how we might rebuild trust in our information sources ~ unless late-breaking developments turn the discussion in another direction.

Ms. Kayyem is the Belfer Senior Lecturer in International Security at the Harvard Kennedy School, where she is the Faculty Director of the Homeland Security Project and Security and Global Health Project. She is also a national security analyst for CNN and regular guest on WGBH's Boston Public Radio. Previously she was President Obama's Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs at the Department of Homeland Security and Governor Patrick's homeland security advisor. She has published her memoir, *Security Mom*, detailing her experiences as a homeland security expert and mother. Her columns in *The Atlantic*. and editorial columns in the *Boston Globe* focused on ending the Pentagon's combat exclusion rule against women, yielded her a Pulitzer Prize finalist nomination and led to eventual changes in military policy. More information on Ms. Kayyem can be found at her website, <https://juliettekayyem.com/>

Please follow the specific pre-reservation instructions below:

When: Jan. 28, 2021 7:00 PM for the program, including questions from participants.

Plan to join early, at 6:30 pm, if you would like to participate in a Zoom social half-hour. For either starting time, you must register in advance for this meeting on the LWVCC website (lwgcc.org). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing more information about joining the meeting.— *Stephan Bader, Events Chair*

LWVCC Expands Its Outreach Circle Pilot Program

The Concord-Carlisle LWV has initiated a new program to inform its members more quickly about local, state, and national issues. The new tool is OutReach Circle. In a pilot program tested by several board members, the OutReach Circle app was used to share information about upcoming events, voting information, and calls to action. Sponsored by The League of Women Voters US Organizing Team, OutReach Circle is a digital platform and app where League members can easily stay connected to League activity and conduct civic education outreach efforts to friends, members, and different communities, all from one platform, all from your phone or tablet!

Using OutReach Circle's tools, we created actions and reminders that were time sensitive. For example, one action was, "Am I Registered?" Tapping on that action links to the web page to check Voter Registration status. In Concord, for the November Election, Precinct 1 changed its location for in-person, election day voting. OutReach Circle sent out a notice to our group, informing them of the change of location while helping voters find their proper polling place on election day.

The OutReach Circle pilot program will be expanded. As the pandemic continues to impact our health and community, it has become even more critical to have the ability to do digital outreach, to stay connected as a LWV community and to expand our reach. Stay tuned! -- *Linda Ziffrin, Stephan Bader, and Cindy Nock*



Linda Ziffrin



Stephan Bader



Cindy Nock

Racial Justice Perspectives by the LWVCC



Nancy Brown

Following the death of George Floyd and the resulting racial unrest, a group of LWVCC members have held bimonthly Zoom meetings to discuss local concerns about racial, social, and economic inequality. The recently formed Racial Justice Committee has been meeting twice a month on Friday mornings to determine how the LWVCC can play an effective role in learning about racial justice issues in Concord and Carlisle and beyond and, when appropriate, encourage League action.

One of the first areas of interest has been the role of policing in our communities. The committee had an informative Zoom meeting with Concord's Police Chief, Joseph F. O'Connor, who spoke about the work that is being done in Concord to address racial issues in policing. We followed the discussions about the police reform legislation passed by the Legislature and eventually signed into law with modifications by the Governor. We anticipate that work will need to continue to address policing issues in our community and in the Commonwealth.

Members of the Committee participated in a visit to a Robbins House exhibit highlighting the role of African Americans in the history of Concord. Much of the information in the exhibit can be found on the Robbins House website: robbinshouse.org. The Committee is interested in pursuing opportunities to work with Robbins House organization.

The committee is considering several ideas to help inform members. One idea is to offer a guided tour of the Freedom Walk, which displays some of the sites relevant to the history of African American residents of Concord. Another idea is hosting a League movie night featuring a movie on racial justice or a related subject. It would work similarly to the LWVCC Book Club: League members would watch a movie or video and then we could gather on Zoom to discuss it. The Committee is planning on hosting a town wide forum on Zoom with other groups, focusing on METCO and exploring

how well METCO is working for participating students and the Concord/Carlisle community.

If you are interested in exploring racial and social justice issues in Concord and Carlisle, please consider joining the committee. Watch MMN for notice of meetings or contact Nancy Brown at secondvicepres@lwvcc.org. --

Nancy Brown

The METCO Program An Overview

The METCO program (Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity) is a state-funded grant program that promotes diversity and educational opportunity for more than 3,300 Boston and Springfield school students, as well as thousands of students in the METCO receiving school districts. The METCO program was started in the 1960s to provide enhanced educational opportunities for participating students, to reduce the racial isolation of suburban school districts, and to reduce segregation in city schools.

Concord's participation began in September 1967 when 20 students enrolled at Concord-Carlisle High School. Over the years, the program has expanded so that now approximately 140 students from Boston attend grades K-12 in Concord and Concord-Carlisle High School. Now, Alcott Elementary School hosts all the K-5 METCO students.

The METCO program provides an opportunity for students of color to benefit from the excellent schools in our community, but equally important, it allows Concord students and in some instances Concord families to get to know students of color. Over the years, local families have hosted METCO students. A Concord family with a student who participates is matched with a student from Boston, providing assistance with things like after school transportation and generally making students feel welcome. League member Catherine Parmelee reported that the experience of her family was invaluable. She stated: "We were matched with a METCO first grader at Willard. Over decades we developed friendships with our METCO family by sharing 4th of July barbeques, birthdays and graduations, weddings and births, and now, funerals. It's not easy to find a way to bring two such disparate families together. For us METCO offered a cherished opportunity."

There remain many challenges with the METCO program, not the least of which are the many hours students spend commuting. Under the direction of Andrew Nyameya, the Concord-Carlisle METCO Director, the school system is working hard to address the concerns of METCO students and to promote racial understanding in the schools. A parents' group, the Committee Organizing Against Racism is also active.

The League's Racial Justice Committee is interested in learning more about METCO and opportunities for LWVCC to participate in the work of eliminating racism in our schools and in our community. If this is of interest to you, we invite you to join the Racial Justice Committee. -- *Cath Parmelee and Nancy Brown*

Looking for Housing Advocates: LWVCC Housing Issues Committee



Dorrie Kehoe

Members of the Concord-Carlisle League of Women Voters,

Do you want to make a difference? Is that one of the reasons you joined the League?

The LWV Housing Issues Committee may be exactly what you are looking for. We are a small, but (hopefully growing) group, looking for new and as-yet unknown opportunities to provide more “affordable” – also read small – housing in Concord. We are not duplicating the fine work of existing Concord Housing Committees and are instead carving our own niche.

When we talk about “affordable,” we are, of course, talking about the legal definition of affordable as interpreted in Massachusetts. And there is a huge need for affordable housing. Our committee is also focusing on the need for smaller homes so residents—like many who moved to Concord years ago, found their “first house,” raised their families and contributed to the Town—can remain in Concord. Concord also needs more housing choice.

Want more information about how you can help? Contact Committee Chair, Dorrie Kehoe at: affordablehousing@lwgcc.org.

LWVCC Members Recognition

As part of the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, local Leagues were asked to choose a member (past or present) to be recognized on the list of Formidable League Women of Massachusetts, women who have made significant and lasting contributions to the League.

The LWVCC Board choose Nancy Beeuwkes, who joined the League in 1992 after moving to Concord. Nancy began as a League observer of the Concord School Committee. After two years as an observer, she ran for and was elected to the School Committee.



Nancy Beeuwkes

Nancy has served a combined six years as President or Co-President of LWVCC and is currently the longest serving member of our Board. More recently, as the chair of Activities and Events, she organized forums, found interesting speakers, and planned membership gatherings large and small. Nancy organized LWVCC participation in State and National Conventions, Councils, and leadership meetings. Currently she serves as the Board's Liaison to LWVMA and organizes our trips to "Day on the Hill," On a less formal basis, Nancy has been a support and mentor to many other League members.

Several other members were also recognized for their generous financial support and were named to the Century Club Donor's List: Anne Hayden, Norma Shapiro, Judy Zaunbrecher, and Launa Zimmaro. – *Julie Rohwein*

Thinking about Running for Office?

Lotte Scharfman, a past President of The League of Women Voters Massachusetts coined the phrase “Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport,” an idea that guides Leaguers in every action we take and pushes us to do more than we thought we could.

The year 2020 was an unusual and engaging time for voters and activists, with the National and State primaries and National, State and Local elections all with new voting procedures enacted to enable safer elections during the pandemic. Being an informed voter has never been so daunting and so important!

Perhaps, while observing this year’s challenges, you have increased your level of involvement in our democracy. Now is the time to think about whether you could fill a seat at the table and run for office in your Town.

Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport. As we begin the new year, continue exercising your rights as a voter, educating yourself and others about voting, volunteering to work at election polling places, advocating for issues we care about and YES, consider running for office! -- *Cindy Nock*.

Town of Concord Election Information

In Concord there are 16 elected positions as follows, generally with at least one position on each board open each year.

- Select Board 3-year terms, 5 members, 2 open seats
- School Committee 3-year terms, 5 members, 2 open seats; *Note: the elected School Committee members also serve on the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee*
- Housing Authority 5-year terms, 5 members, 3 open seats
- Town Moderator 1-year term, 1 member, 1 open seat

For the year 2021, the following positions are due for election in Concord:

- Select Board (2 openings)
- School Committee (2 openings)
- Moderator (1 opening)
- Housing Authority (1 opening for 5-year term)
- Housing Authority (1 opening for 2-year term)

Any voter registered in Concord may run for town office by being nominated at the Town **Caucus**, or by submitting a **petition**, or by organizing **write-in** votes. The Town Caucus is nonpartisan and open to all registered voters. Only two caucus candidates may appear on the ballot for each office. If more than two candidates are presented, a vote must be taken and the two candidates receiving the most votes are nominated. A petition requires 50 certified signatures and must be presented to the Town Clerk for certification at least 35 days prior to the election. A write-in vote is not legal unless it includes the full name and residence of the candidate.

Town of Carlisle Election Information

In Carlisle, there are 30 elected positions as follows, generally with at least one position on each board open each year.

- Board of Assessors: 3-year terms, 3 members
- Board of Health: 3-year terms, 5 members
- Select Board: 3-year terms, 5 members
- Library Trustees: 3-year terms, 3 members
- Town Moderator: 1-year term, 1 person
- Planning Board: 3-year terms, 7 members
- School Committee: 3-year terms, 5 members *Note: Two of the five members (voted and appointed by the five) also serve on the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee.*
- Town Clerk: 3-year term, 1 person

The Carlisle Local Election Calendar can be found on the Town website Carlislema.gov and is traditionally as follows:

- Annual Town Meeting –Spring date set by the Select Board.
- Citizens' Caucus – Date set by the Select Board at least 31 days before the Annual Town Meeting.
- Town Election – Date set by Select Board usually 2 weeks after the Annual Town Meeting.

Any voter registered in Carlisle may run for town office by being nominated at the town citizens' **caucus**, or by submitting a **petition**, or by organizing **write-in** votes. The citizens' caucus is nonpartisan and is open to all registered voters. Only two caucus candidates may appear on the ballot for one office. If more than two candidates are presented, a vote must be taken and the two candidates receiving the most votes are nominated. A petition requires 20 certified signatures and must be presented to the Board of Registrars for certification at least 28 days prior to the election. A write-in vote is not legal unless it includes the full name and residence of the candidate.

For more information on descriptions of the elected positions, campaign financing and other resources you can consult a useful guide, *Getting Elected* written by LWVCC on lwvcc.org. *Cindy Nock, Voter Service Chair*

LWVCC Members Volunteer to Help With the 2020 Elections

Running an election is not as simple as it appears, which was magnified this fall across the country. The COVID-19 pandemic required voters and election administrators alike to carry out the process in a manner never before seen. The vast majority of voters in both Carlisle and Concord took advantage of the changes in state law that provided for early voting by mail and in-person. These changes were effective for both the September 1 State Primary and the November 3 State/Presidential Election.

The mail-in ballot process required a tremendous amount of time and labor, and League members came through to assist the Town Clerks in both communities to make it happen smoothly, accurately, and efficiently. Of the more than 80 residents who assisted as either volunteers or poll workers at the Presidential Election, 30 were League members. Bravo and a huge thank you! The League Honor Roll is listed below.

The Town Clerk staff developed and maintained systems that assured that voters who requested a mail-in ballot received one in a timely manner, with no duplications. When ballots were received, volunteers assisted with

recording receipt, organizing, alphabetizing, verifying signatures, and sorting by precinct.

Voters were able to use the “track your ballot” system available on the Secretary of State’s web site. Early in-person voting, which ran October 17-30, saw League members serving as poll workers, checking in voters, handing them their ballots, sterilizing the voting booths, and monitoring voters dropping their ballots in the voting bins.



Melissa Saalfield and Anita Tekle sorting ballots

A few days prior to Election Day, Advance Processing was used to record, open the ballot envelopes, and flatten the ballots. At the end of each day, all ballots were securely sealed and stored in the Town’s vault. On Election Day, ballots received in Concord prior to that day were processed through the Electronic Voting machines.

For the Presidential Election in Concord, there were 12,391 ballots cast (86.55% turnout) and of those ballots cast, 58.83% were Mail-In ballots, 25.39% were Early In Person ballots and 15.78% were Election Day In Person ballots. The number of ballots rejected was 58 (.55%), mostly for failed delivery or already voted.

For the Presidential Election in Carlisle, there were 3670 ballots cast (89.56% turnout) and of those ballots cast, 51.91% were Mail-In ballots, 27.33% were Early In-Person ballots and 20.76% were Election Day In Person ballots. The number of ballots rejected were 18 (.62%), mostly for no signature or already voted.

In addition, Concord “won” the lottery for post-election audit for one of its five precincts (required of 5% of precincts state-wide), which went smoothly thanks to all the hard work of all involved. Both Concord and Carlisle Town Clerks acknowledged that the 2020 Presidential Election would not have gone so well without the assistance of so many dedicated volunteers.

Honor Roll of League Members Assisting with Presidential Election

Stephan Bader	Robert Hilsinger	Melissa Saalfield
Susie Brinner	Susan Jancourtz	Sue St. Croix
Mary Chapman	Alice Kaufman	Barbara Tarlow
Nancy Cronin	Dorrie Kehoe	Anita Tekle
Ingrid Detweiler	Ruth Lauer	Alice Van Deusen
Sue Felshin	Barbara Lewis	Fred Van Deusen
Susan Frey	Rebecca Purcell	Emily Wheeler
Tanya Gailus	Anne Rarich	Judy Zaunbrecher
Joan Geoghegan	Karlen Reed	Launa Zimmaro
Anne Hayden	Kitsy Rothermel	

-- Anita Tekle, Cindy Nock, and Karlen Reed

Concord Annual Town Meeting Moved to June 13, 2021

Mark your calendars for a June Concord Annual Town Meeting to be held outside on the Concord-Carlisle High School Doug White Field, Sunday, June 13, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

Additionally, the Concord Select Board has announced that the 2021 Town Election will be held on Thursday, March 25, 2021, with the Town Caucus held on Monday, January 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. and nomination papers due to the Town Clerk's office by Thursday, February 4, 2021. Details on the location of the Caucus are pending. The 2021 Concord Town Meeting calendar is below. Please note that, because we are still under the influence of the COVID-19 virus, all public hearings will be held via the Town's Zoom platform. -- Diane Proctor and Karlen Reed



Diane Proctor



Karlen Reed

Event	Date	Location
Town Meeting Preview Meeting. Town Warrant is open	Saturday, February 27, 2021	Zoom
Draft Warrant Articles are due	Friday, March 19, 2021	Send in via email: tmsubmissions@concordma.gov
Warrant closes 4 p.m.	Friday, March 26, 2021	
Town Meeting Warrant mailed to residents	Tuesday, April 13, 2021	
Select Board Public Hearing	Tuesday, April 27, 2021	Zoom
Finance Committee – Town budget & CPC	Thursday, April 29, 2021	Zoom
Finance Committee – School budgets	Thursday, May 6, 2021	Zoom
Finance Committee – Enterprise budgets	Tuesday, May 11, 2021	Zoom
Planning Board	Thursday, May 13, 2021	Zoom
Finance Committee Report mailed to residents	Thursday, June 3, 2021	
Annual Town Meeting	Sunday, June 13, 2021 Rain date: Monday, June 14, 2021; additional Town Meeting sessions June 14-18, as needed	Concord-Carlisle Regional High School, starts 1:00 p.m.

First Friday with Carol Rose, Executive Director of Massachusetts ACLU

Noting that we share a birthday—each 100 years old—Carol Rose, Executive Director of the MA American Civil Liberties Union, spoke of the mutual efforts of the LWV and ACLU to defend and strengthen democracy. “Never has our work been more relevant...we are all witnesses and shapers of history,” she remarked. Rose spoke via Zoom to an audience of League members from around the state and highlighted the partnership between the ACLU and League in protecting voters’ rights.

In the midst of a pandemic, we witnessed the disruption of the U.S. Postal Service, the Supreme Court's dismantling of the Voting Rights Act, as well as "rampant efforts to disenfranchise tens of millions of voters in the battleground states," Carol noted. Despite all this chaos, 65% of eligible voters went to the polls, with 42 states recording record turnouts.

Over 1,600 (four times the usual number) poll workers and monitors were trained by the ACLU to create what Carol called a "thickening and strengthening of our democracy.



Carol Rose, ACLU

We have to show up against tyranny!" As an example, Carol spoke of the ACLU's work in Georgia, where Andrea Young, daughter of noted civil rights activist Andrew Young, stated that while "Stacey [Abrams] invited them to vote; the ACLU assured them the right to vote."

Recalling that the Gore decision in 2000—with its hanging-chads—concerned only a 537-

vote margin in Florida, she chronicled the considerably larger voting differentiation this time, in terms of voting advantages for Biden-Harris: 20,000 in Wisconsin, 54,000 in Pennsylvania, 148,000 in Michigan, 14,000 in Georgia, and 11,000 in Arizona. She assured us that the litigation against the vote, in a truly "fair, well-run, and clean" national vote, was unlikely to be successful—and noted the army of ACLU lawyers at the ready. On December 11th, the Supreme Court confirmed her optimism.

Carol urged the League to help make mail-in ballots permanent in Massachusetts, secure the opportunity for permanent early voting, and endorse election-day registration. To listen to Carol's talk, please go to the LWVCC Website. -- *Diane Proctor, Chair, Concord Town Government Committee*

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The Minuteman Statue at Old North Bridge