

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF CONCORD-CARLISLE



Concord DEI Commission and Partner Organizations, including LWVCC, assemble for the first time together at the start of the Patriots Day Parade on April 17, 2023
photo credit Margot Kimball and David Manion

2023 Annual Meeting
Thursday, June 1, 2023 7:00 p.m.
TriCon Church, 54 Walden Street, Concord

LWVCC Letter from the Board

“Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities.” Voltaire

Six years ago, now Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman spoke to our League. She opened her talk by responding to the question, “What has happened to truth?” by opining that we “are at a turning point where ‘truth’ is too often seen as subjective and where the guardians of ‘truth’ must be vigorous.” Little did Ms. Sherman know, and little did her audience appreciate, the challenges to fundamental veracity that lay ahead.

The social prophets have been trumpeting calls to alert us ever since to the perils of the future. For example, during a talk in April, Bill McKibben, the eminent environmentalist, spoke to people in Concord and exhorted us to “get out of [our] comfort zone,” and fight for the values we hold dear: “we’re poised to leave behind us a world with melting poles and a country where people invade the Capitol and kill police officers in order to stop the counting of votes.” As serious and committed as Concordians are, “we are not going to solve the crisis on Tesla and one town at a time,” we need to become part of a larger movement. There is a climate crisis.

Simultaneously, we have struggled against assertions that President Biden did not win the election—“It was stolen.” We have heard that Cesar Chavez, long deceased, masterminded the steal through Dominion Voting Machines that reversed votes away from one candidate, for Biden. Disinformation, the sanitized language for prevarication, has convinced millions of Americans that what is truth is, in fact, a lie.

And we have read Maria Ressa’s words, in her powerful work *How to Stand Up to A Dictator*, “My generation has failed, and we are handing you a broken world. Which means you have to be stronger and smarter than we are...be skeptical of social media...put your phones away...[for] politics has become so divisive that it’s a gladiator’s battle to the death.” We have felt the sting of divisiveness but have determined, as positive leaders, to challenge that condition.

It is true, that across the country laws obstructing voting have increased. The dissolution of *Roe vs. Wade* has left so many women in our country without access to safe and needed health care. The housing crisis has left too many folks without the shelter a wealthy country should provide for all citizens. Restrictive zoning rules have prevented our community from becoming the diverse town it could be, and our prejudice has meant that the words of Frederick Douglass, when he spoke to Concordians in 1844 and reminded us of our racism, remain too alive today.

We—members of the LWVCC—have not capitulated to the notion that the fight for fairness and decency and truth are over. We have marshaled a persuasive DEI initiative that has moved the town of Concord forward to form a DEI Commission, undertake an extensive poll about the attitudes of Concordians, and urge the Select Board to explore the creation of a DEI Director position in Concord. Our Housing Issues Committee has addressed the pressing needs of affordable housing—from SHI affordable to alternative, reasonable housing for downsizing families and young families just beginning. Our Civics Education Committee has worked with the public schools to support vigorous civic government studies. Our Voter Service Committee has ensured that folks knew where to vote in a newly gerrymandered town, held informative Candidate Forums, and assured that everyone was reminded to get out and vote. Our Environment and Town Government Committees have focused on issues from supporting folks to run for Select Board to fighting the hazardous expansion of Hansom Field. And, we have grown in membership as a League.

In the face of dispiriting division, productive leadership and engagement have characterized the work of our League. And as Concord gathered in the town center to celebrate Ellen Garrison’s 200th birthday on the evening of April 14th, the spirit of a strong, outspoken, principled women resounded, and shone for all of us to follow. *Stephan Bader, Nancy Confrey, Robert Hilsinger, Diane Proctor, Emily Wheeler, and Linda Ziffirin, LWVCC Board Members*

LWVCC Annual Meeting Order of Business

June 1, 2023 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

In Person and on Zoom

6:40 p.m. Check-in begins

7:00 p.m. Welcome: Diane Proctor, LWVCC Board Member
Featured Speaker: Nancy Koehn, Harvard Business School

Business Meeting

Call to Order 8:00 p.m.

Nancy Confrey, LWVCC Board Member

- Credentials Report Linda Ziffrin, Membership Chair
- Treasurer’s Report Robert Hilsinger, Treasurer
- Budget Report Stephan Bader, Budget Committee
- Bylaws Report Nancy Brown, Bylaws Committee
- Remarks Members of 2022-23 LWVCC Board
- 2023-2024 Local Program Emily Wheeler, Linda Ziffrin, LWVCC Board
 - Affirmation of 2023-2024 Local Program
- Memorials
- Nominating Report Nancy Brown, Nominating Committee Chair
 - Election of Steering Committee and Nominating Committee Members
- Direction to the Board Stephan Bader, LWVCC Board Member
- New Business LWVCC Board
- Closing Address Linda Ziffrin, LWVCC Board Member
- Adjournment Diane Proctor, LWVCC Board Member

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Proposed Budget for 2023-2024

Budget for 2024 is in the right column. Similar to previous years the budgeted expenses exceed the budgeted income. Covid continues to impact both events and places for events. Line 9 "Other 103 Memorial Contributions" indicates the interim income received in the names of Barbara Lewis & Debbie Barr.

LWV Concord - Carlisle		Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Variance	Budget
Proposed Budget 2024 (Annual)		2020	2021	2022	YTD (Apr)	YTD (Apr)	YTD (Apr)	2024
1	INCOME - Total	\$ 25,355	\$ 36,785	\$ 23,154	\$ 22,014	\$ 16,653	\$ 5,361	\$ 15,600
2	100-Membership	\$ 9,670	\$ 9,686	\$ 9,267	\$ 8,620	\$ 8,883	\$ (263)	\$ 8,800
3	101-Fundraiser House Tour	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
4	102-Fundraiser Non-Member Appeal	\$ -	\$ 2,078	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ (2,000)	\$ -
5	103-Contributiions	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
6	Member Contributions	\$ 4,933	\$ 12,901	\$ 2,552	\$ 6,275	\$ 2,470	\$ 3,805	\$ 2,500
7	Non-Member Contributions	\$ 25	\$ 67	\$ 50	\$ -	\$ 50	\$ (50)	\$ 50
8	Phonathon	\$ 1,466	\$ 1,124	\$ 984	\$ 10	\$ 500	\$ (490)	\$ 1,000
9	Other 103 Memorial Contributions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,671	\$ -	\$ 5,671	\$ -
10	104-Forum-Convention Contributions	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
11	Sharfman Grant	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ (250)	\$ 250
12	Voter Service Forum Grant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
13	Other 104-Forum-Convention Contrib	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
14	105-Winter Meeting Income	\$ 1,916	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500	\$ (2,500)	\$ 3,000
15	106-Bank Interest	\$ 0	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 0	\$ -	\$ 0	
16	107-Miscellaneous	\$ 7,045	\$ 10,928	\$ 10,300	\$ 1,438	\$ -	\$ 1,438	\$ -
17								
18	EXPENSES - Total	\$ 30,774	\$ 32,525	\$ 27,149	\$ 19,259	\$ 37,961	\$ 18,702	\$ 34,948
19	500-Administration	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
20	Annual Meeting	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
21	Honorary Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
22	Invitations & Postage	\$ 230	\$ -	\$ 110	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 250	
23	Refreshments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100
24	Workbook Printing & Postage	\$ 721	\$ 1,330	\$ 1,617	\$ -	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 1,800
25	Other Annual Meeting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 200	\$ 50	\$ 250
26	Discretionary Office Fund Hospitality	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
27	Liability Insurance	\$ 502	\$ 443	\$ 787	\$ 812	\$ 450	\$ (362)	\$ 800
28	Paypal Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
29	Other 500-Administration	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
30	501-Assessments	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
31	National Assessments	\$ 6,192	\$ 6,176	\$ 4,832	\$ 4,304	\$ 4,304	\$ -	\$ 4,368
32	State Assessments	\$ 4,169	\$ 4,152	\$ 3,255	\$ 2,915	\$ 2,915	\$ (0)	\$ 2,973
33	Other 501-Assessments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
34	502-Membership Directory	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
35	Postage	\$ 90	\$ -	\$ 402	\$ 127	\$ 150	\$ 23	\$ 150
36	Printing	\$ 566	\$ 732	\$ 639	\$ 682	\$ 800	\$ 118	\$ 750
37	Other Membership Directory	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

LWV Concord - Carlisle		Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Variance	Budget
Proposed Budget 2024 (Annual)		2020	2021	2022	YTD (Apr)	YTD (Apr)	YTD (Apr)	2024
38	503-Membership Mtgs	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
39	Fall Meeting	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
40	Food and Facility Equipment	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
41	Invitations-Printing and Postag	\$ 212	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 145	\$ -	\$ (145)	\$ 150
42	Refreshment Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100
43	Speaker Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ (500)	\$ 500
44	Venue Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400
45	Other Fall Meeting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300	\$ 300	
46	Spring Meeting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 90	\$ 971	\$ -	\$ (971)	
47	Winter Meeting	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
48	Breakfast Speaker	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300	\$ 300	
49	Food and Facility Equipment	\$ 2,460	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 5,000
50	Honorary Gifts		\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
51	Postage	\$ 110	\$ 70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100	
52	Printing	\$ 124	\$ 113	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 150	
53	Other 503 Winter Meeting		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
54	504-Membership Activities General	\$ 881	\$ -	\$ 685	\$ -	\$ 750	\$ 750	
55	505-Conventions and Conferences	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
56	Nat'l Convention (even year)	\$ 150	\$ -	\$ 1,375	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000
57	State Convention (odd years)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	
58	State Fall Conference	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
59	State Spring Council (even year)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
60	Other 505-Conventions and Conferen	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
61	506-Fundraiser Annual Appeal Letter	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
62	Printing and Postage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 350
63	Other 506-Fundraiser Annual Appeal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
64	507-Fundraiser House Tour	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
65	508-Fundraiser Phonothon	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
66	509-Communcations-Website and Em	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
67	Email (Constant Contact)	\$ 159	\$ 383	\$ 383	\$ 287	\$ 332	\$ 45	\$ 396
68	General (Domain Name)		\$ 21	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ -
69	Website (MyLO)		\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ 400
70	Zoom		\$ 531	\$ 881	\$ -	\$ 700	\$ 700	\$ 150
71	Other 509-Communcations-Website a	\$ 570	\$ -	\$ 2,175	\$ 113	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,888	\$ 4,500
72	510-Postage	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
73	Box 34	\$ 140	\$ 150	\$ 176	\$ 231	\$ 190	\$ (41)	\$ 250
74	First Class	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
75	Permit for Bulk Mailing	\$ 235	\$ 240	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
76	Other 510-Postage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

LWV Concord - Carlisle	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Variance	Budget
Proposed Budget 2024 (Annual)	2020	2021	2022	YTD (Apr)	YTD (Apr)	YTD (Apr)	2024

77 511-Printing and Copying							
78 Bulletin Postage	\$ 173	\$ 158	\$ 427	\$ 91	\$ 250	\$ 159	\$ 150
79 Bulletin Printing	\$ 2,502	\$ 1,325	\$ 901	\$ 794	\$ 1,500	\$ 706	\$ 800
80 Local Signs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 400
81 Postcards and Misc	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
82 Other Printing and Copying		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
83 512-Book Group	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 50
84 513-Riverfest	\$ 37	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 25
85 514-Misc Donations	\$ 38	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
86 515-Education-Communication	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
87 516-Forums and Action							
88 Advocacy Issues	\$ -	\$ 55	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
89 Civic Education	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 84	\$ -	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 400
90 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,022	\$ 3,000	\$ 978	\$ 1,000
91 Education Forum		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
92 First Friday Conversations	\$ 424	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
93 Immigration Committee		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
94 LWV Anniversary	\$ 826	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
95 Money in Politics		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
96 Observer Corp		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
97 Town Government Initiative	\$ 18	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
98 Town Meeting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 395	\$ 120	\$ 200	\$ 80	\$ 350
99 Other 516-Forums and Action		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 3,000
100 517-Voter Services							
101 Forum Costs, Rental, etc.	\$ 99	\$ -	\$ 91	\$ 179	\$ 100	\$ (79)	\$ 250
102 How to Get Elected	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
103 Other -Voter Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 623	\$ 31	\$ 200	\$ 169	\$ 100
104 518-Publications-State and National	\$ 126	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
105 519-Donation to LWVMA	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000
106 520-Miscellaneous Expense							
107 New Initiative		\$ -	\$ 1,250	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -
108 Other Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 8,613	\$ 13,871	\$ 4,460	\$ 4,366	\$ 2,000	\$ (2,366)	\$ -
109 521-Miscellaneous Donations		\$ 350	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
110 522-Bank Charge	\$ 36	\$ 25	\$ 54	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ -	\$ 36

Total Cash	30-Apr-2023	
Community Partnership Checking (B Lewis)	30-Apr-2023	\$2,803.71
Business Checking (Regular Checking)	30-Apr-2023	\$4,761.24
Business Premium Savings	31-Mar-2023	\$ 36,344.54
Non Personal CD	31-Mar-2023	\$ 15,484.15
Total Cash		\$59,393.64

Total Cash	30-Jun-2022	
Community Partnership Checking	30-Jun-2022	\$ 925.51
Business Checking	30-Jun-2022	\$ 1,762.12
Business Premium Savings	30-Jun-2022	\$ 36,341.81
Non Personal CD	30-Jun-2022	\$ 15,478.37
Total Cash		\$ 54,507.81

**LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING
PROPOSALS FOR 2023-2024**

New Initiatives 2023-2024

Maintain All Positions with no changes

No New Studies

Recommended New Initiatives

- Continue collaboration and coordination across LWVCC committees
The work of individual LWVCC committees often overlaps and interlinks with the work and interests of other committees. Committees should avail themselves of opportunities to complement and collaborate with each other.

Local Program Planning Proposals for 2023-2024

It is proposed that LWVCC continue to focus on the national LWV program, **Making Democracy Work**. This will include:

- Providing voter information & voter registration activities
- Encouraging and facilitating voter engagement in local and state elections
- Continuing support for Civics Education_in collaboration with the public schools

Our work in other areas will continue and provide opportunities for collaboration among our committees. In particular:

- Focus work to build and sustain commitment to Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion across all areas of League work.
- Focus on Housing, as MBTA Communities Act requirements will be forthcoming.
- Focus on Environmental Justice, Climate Change and Sustainability. This issue interweaves the work of many committees, including Environment, DEI, Housing Issues & Town Government. Review and ensure our local League Positions on Sustainability are up to date.
- Pay attention to Common Start and other League-supported bills that may help address affordability and availability of childcare.

LWV Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Nancy Brown, Chair

The Nominating Committee met regularly beginning in January and began by interviewing current Steering Committee members to ascertain their interest in continuing to serve, their comfort with the model of shared governance, and to identify others they felt could take on the role of leadership. We advertised in Monday Member News and spoke to committee chairs and a number of League members, including some relatively new members, who are interested in getting more involved at the committee level.

Most of the current Steering Committee members indicated their interest in continuing their role using the “steering committee” model of governance. We also explored what neighboring Leagues are doing and discovered that many local Leagues have governance structures similar to ours, with anywhere from 3-8 members of the steering committee. Our slate of six members is in line with what is becoming “common practice.”

We continue to believe that the collaborative, shared leadership model – where responsibilities can be distributed and much decision-making can rest with committee chairs who are the most knowledgeable about their issues – is practical and workable. Guiding the League and assuring that the work gets done will continue to be the role of the Steering Committee.

The Nominating Committee is proposing the following slate:

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Stephan Bader
Robert Hilsinger, Treasurer
Diane Proctor
Melissa Saalfield
Emily Wheeler
Linda Ziffrin

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Karlen Reed, Chair
Court Booth
Vince Carlson
2 Members to be selected by the Steering Committee

Annual Reports of Committees

Membership Report

Linda Ziffrin, Chair

This year, we continued to share experiences in new ways, always with the aim of trying to include everyone. Our first member event in September was in-person! We enjoyed an ice cream social on a beautiful day on Board member Diane Proctor's lawn. This was followed by a conversation in the library with David Pepper, author of *Laboratories of Autocracy*. Many of us gathered together in person, while David and 38 of our members participated via Zoom!

Our membership is growing! Membership dues remain unchanged from last year: \$60 for individual membership, \$90 for Household membership, and no dues for Student membership. With the renewal form added to our Fall Newsletter, weekly reminders in our Monday Member News, and our online form on our website, www.LWVCC.org, we are working to make it simple and easy for folks to join and for members to renew!

We welcome our 25 new members who joined LWVCC so far this year. Combining our new members with our 27 life members (members of the League of Women Voters for 50+ years), 4 new student memberships, and our ongoing membership, we have a total of 191 members overall. Special thanks to Irmingard Doane, who once again, expertly managed, edited and entered all of our membership data into the LWV US national roster database.

From an engagement and advocacy standpoint, we continue to try new advocacy actions. We joined with LWV Boston and Urban League & Teen Empowerment in Roxbury for a GOTV, Voter Registration event.

We continued our use of OutreachCircle, a digital organizing tool provided to our league by LWV US. OutreachCircle keeps our members up to date on activities and provides a tool to easily reach out to friends and family, to share LWVCC activities, actions for advocacy, notifications, reminders, invitations, videos, etc. Using OutreachCircle, we collectively sent 5,498 emails to members and friends, along with 238 text messages. The result: a 75% open rate, and increased participation & engagement in our events!

In addition, members using OutreachCircle assisted Voter Services in sharing critical voting information, including info on candidate forums, reminders to check your voter registration, links to requesting mail-in ballots, locations to drop your ballots, notices on deadlines, changes in precincts...and reminders to get out to vote.

Want to learn more? Go to: <https://vc0.co/A3h> or use your smartphone camera, point it at this QR code, and then click on the link displayed. Questions? Please reach out to membership@lwvcc.org. We are delighted to help get you started!



**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Committee
(formerly the Racial Justice
Committee)**

Nancy Brown and Anne Rarich, Co-Chairs

In the fall of 2022 the DEI Committee implemented an educational series in partnership with Concord Adult Education: Looking at Community in Concord through a DEI Lens. The series was attended by 150 people, both in person and virtually. Sessions focused on the history of racial relations in our community, education, and housing issues. The final session offered participants an opportunity to focus on where we go from here.

We envision this series as the first step in engaging the community in DEI work. Members of the DEI Committee have continued our self-education with discussions of books and movies pertaining to racism to encourage personal growth and reflection, and we are contemplating additional educational opportunities in the future.

This winter the DEI Committee co-sponsored a showing of the movie “Who We Are,” which depicts the extent of racism in our society. The movie was followed by a conversation allowing participants to share their thoughts and concerns. There were about 40 attendees for the viewing in the Fowler library.

The DEI Committee has followed the work of the DEI Commission and has sought to play a supportive role. In March the League, at the request of the DEI Commission, co-sponsored a forum with the DEI Commission on Making Concord a Welcoming Community. Our State Representatives and Senator as well as housing officials spoke about transitional housing issues and the future needs of Concord when it comes to affordable housing. There were 65 attendees in person and others on Zoom.

The DEI Committee has been instrumental in getting Article 10 on the Town Meeting

warrant and helping the DEI Commission prepare for the Town Meeting. Article 10, which asked the Select Board to prioritize collaboration with the DEI Commission towards the hiring of a DEI Director, and passed.

The committee hopes to promote collaboration with the various social justice groups in Concord, whether they are non-profits or town appointed bodies. We envision quarterly roundtables where we can maximize our power and work collaboratively. One demonstration of this is the Patriots’ Day Parade march.

Book Group

*Barbara Finan, Anne Hayden, Janet Miller,
Diane Proctor, Mary Sterling, Chair*

The LWVCC Book Committee hosted some lively discussions of five books this past year:

- **September 14:** *Laboratories of Autocracy*, by David Pepper
- **November 16:** *Lessons from the Edge*, by Marie Yovanovitch
- **January 18:** *Controlling Women: What we must do now to save reproductive freedom*, Julie Kay, Kathryn Kolbert March
- **March 15** *How to Stand up to a Dictator*, Maria Ressa
- **May 17** *The Big Fix: Seven Practical Steps to Save Our Planet*, Hal Harvey, Justin Gillis

All sessions were held on Zoom; attendance for each session ranged from 6 to 11 participants.

The Book Committee selects books that focus on topics of current issues or local interest. Book meetings are open to the public; League members and their friends are welcome to participate.

Housing Issues Committee

Ingrid Detweiler, Chair

Much of the Housing Issues Committee work was focused on monitoring the creation of Concord's latest Housing Production Plan which will serve as a guideline for the next five years for planning and developing affordable housing in town. Committee members participated in public discussions of the draft HPP and made recommendations which were included in the final document. Specifically, the LWVCC Housing Issues Committee's list of public sites for affordable housing as well as Creative Thinking Ideas were included in the final HPP report.

At its October 17, 2022 meeting, the Town of Concord Select Board declined to send a letter of support to the Department of Housing and Community Development for the Christopher Heights project, thus ending a 10-year effort to build an 83-unit senior assisted living complex on 12 acres referred to as Junction Village.

A new development proposal for the JV land was presented to the Select Board at its January 30, 2023 meeting. POAH—Preservation of Affordable Housing—which had submitted an RFP 10 years ago, suggested a plan to build 40 – 50 rental units of mixed-use family and senior housing. Early reaction to the proposal has been positive. A major constraint to building housing in Concord is the lack of capacity in Concord's sewer system. Onsite septic systems would be part of this proposed development.

At the request of Lee Smith, chair of the Concord Housing Development Corporation, the Housing Issues Committee held a follow-up meeting with Smith to discuss the POAH concept proposal.

The LWVCC held a very informative March 25th forum on housing which featured Senator

Mike Barrett and Representatives Simon Cataldo and Carmin Gentile as well as Concord Housing Authority executive director Jennifer Polito. The forum was moderated by Stephan Bader.

The Committee reviewed 2023 Annual Town Meeting articles related to housing and made recommendations to the Steering Committee.

The Housing Issues Committee continues tracking the seven-acre Assabet River Bluff purchase and the CHDC's progress toward renovating the existing two-family house and building three new affordable units on one acre designated for family housing.

Committee member Clare Gordon continues to keep us informed about state housing legislation. Committee members attended the fall, winter and spring meetings of the Concord Housing Roundtable.

Concord Town Government Committee

Diane Proctor, Chair

The Town Government Committee met throughout the year to focus on and discuss varied issues that involve Concord's town politics and policies. From the proposed Hanscom Field expansion and policies involving the PCCC (Public Ceremonies and Celebrations Committee), to monthly First Friday events that covered myriad topics from "How to run for The Select Board" to Warrant Article reviews, our meetings enjoy the thoughts of a well-informed membership. The discussions guide the League's perspectives on central town issues from the Middle School Building project to support for Concord's new newspaper, *The Concord Bridge*. Our monthly minutes are sent to the Board for their meetings.

Voter Service

Nancy Confrey, Chair

The 2022-2023 year for Voter Service consisted of five elections: a state primary (Sept 6th) and mid-term (Nov 8th) election and two town elections: one special Concord town election to approve the debt exclusion for increased funds for the middle school (Feb 16th) and the annual town elections (Concord March 28th and Carlisle May 16th).

We held **candidate forums** for the state primary, mid-term and Concord's annual town election.

On June 30th, we collaborated with the Acton Area and Chelmsford Leagues to hold a Candidates Forum for the State Representative of the Middlesex 14th District which included the three Democrats running (Vivian Birchall from Acton, Simon Cataldo from Concord and Pat Wojtas from Chelmsford). (The Republican candidate, Rod Cleaves, initially agreed to participate but declined at the last minute.) It was a hybrid forum held in person at the Chelmsford High School Performing Arts Center, virtually by Zoom as well as livestreamed on Chelmsford cable TV, and moderated by Nancy Brumback (LWV Sudbury). The hour debate was well attended both in person (~100 people) and on Zoom and was then posted on the LWVCC website for viewing.

Simon Cataldo (D-Concord) was the winner of the Democratic primary and faced Rodney Cleaves (R-Chelmsford) in the general election on November 8th. With the LWV Acton Area (Lori Cooney and Pat Clifford), we hosted a Candidate Forum for this race on October 11th at Harvey Wheeler, moderated again by Nancy Brumback. It was recorded by Minuteman Media and then posted on web sites.

On March 5th, LWVCC held a Candidate Forum in the Town House Hearing Room for all candidates running in the March 28th election.

The incumbent candidates running in uncontested races for School Committee (Carrie Rankin) and Town Moderator (Carmin Reiss) answered questions from the host prepared in advance and from the audience; this portion of the forum was intended as a way for the voters to get to know both the candidates and the most pressing issues they face in their roles. The candidates in the contested race for Select Board (Mark Howell and Karlen Reed) then answered questions with Lynn Brodsky (LWV Winchester) moderating, using questions prepared in advance from LWVCC members.

The passing of the Massachusetts VOTES act in June 2022 made permanent many of the voting provisions that had been put in place during the pandemic such as early voting in person and voting by mail. While these are positive steps forward in accessibility of voting, they also impose a new bureaucratic burden on Town Clerks across the Commonwealth. LWVCC's Karlen Reed stepped forward and single-handedly recruited, organized, and managed a group of workers to **support the Concord Town Clerk's office** with processing ballot applications, mailing and receiving ballots, and conducting early, in-person voting at the Town House for the Sept 6th, Nov 8th and Feb 16th elections.

Karlen also then organized an in-person "Clerk's Retrospective and Reception" on December 9th at the Congregational Church in Carlisle that included election retrospectives from the Town Clerks of both Concord and Carlisle: Kaari Mai Tari (who was taken ill at the last minute so Karlen filled in for her) and Peggy Wang, a moderated question session and, of course, left time for socializing and plentiful refreshments. With more than 70 in attendance, the reception started with a rousing choral rendition of "The Twelve Days of Early Voting" by the "Clerk's Chorale" (i.e. LWVCC Board members and anyone else bold enough to join us).

Voter registration tables were manned for Concord's July 4th celebration and at AgDay in Concord Center in September. We worked with the Sunshine Hub at CCHS on registration drives

and with the CCHS Green Team on a Voter Registration drive in the school on Earth Day.

We have continued to make use of the sandwich boards and yard signs procured in 2021 to **get out the vote for elections** in both Concord and Carlisle. Linda Ziffrin was valiant in using Outreach Circle to make sure everyone on our mailing lists was alerted to election deadlines.

It takes a League to do Voter Service and many members of LWVCC, including all Board members, stepped up to help with Candidate Forums and to get out the vote.

Communications

Karlen Reed

Communications is essential to our organization, and every First Friday, every weekly Monday Member News (MMN) notice, every website update, every postcard, every direct mail, and every Outreach Circle email and text message is part of the League's communications strategy to reach our members, our community, and the world at large with our message and events.

Our MMN is our primary vehicle to keep our members abreast of the latest, and we use it to supplement the information on our website, lwwcc.org. MMN is published every Monday; League member Cynthia Rainey dutifully sends out an email to all members via Constant Contact that provides updates, links, and deadlines of important events. Thanks so much to Cynthia for her care and consistency, and thanks also to the League Board members and committee chairs who, each week, send in their news alerts on a fairly tight schedule. Special thanks go to the technical team behind all the Zoom meetings and video productions: Nancy Confrey, Linda Ziffrin, Karlen Reed, and Stephan Bader.

Civics Education Committee

Susan Frey, Chair

The Civics Education Committee continues to focus our efforts in supporting the efforts of Concord teachers who are implementing the 2018 legislation that requires students in 8th grade and high school to undertake civic action projects.

In November Mary Sterling and Susan Frey presented on the State League Committee on Civic Education zoom webinar sharing the lessons learned from the first student action project civic showcase held in June 2022. The presentation is available on the State League's website, www.lwvma.org.

This winter Mary Sterling and Susan Frey created a new online Community Resource Guide for teachers and students. The aim of this guide is to facilitate connecting students to local community leaders so 8th graders can learn how to advocate, which is a part of the civic action project. The guide lists topics, town committees, local nonprofits, and people who are knowledgeable about these topics. It will be a helpful tool for teachers to point students to local resources as they research their action projects. We want to thank the community members who volunteered to be listed in the guide and for their willingness to respond to the students' emails.

The collaboration between the LWVCC and Concord Middle School continues. Mark your calendar on the afternoon of May 24th and please plan to attend the 2nd student showcase at Sanborn. On June 2nd 12 students from Concord will attend the first State Showcase, to be held in Worcester. This year the committee and 8th grade social studies teachers are initiating a small pilot event in Boston at which METCO students and Concord students can showcase their projects for METCO families and friends. Details for these three events will be listed in Monday Morning News.

Strategic Planning Committee Member Susan Frey represented the LWVCC on the School District's Strategic Planning Committee for the 2023-2028 plan.

LWVCC IN MEMORIAM



Erica Morrison
April 19, 2023



Barbara Lewis
September 1, 2022



Debra Stark Ecker
February 19, 2023



Debbie Barr
February 20, 2023



Terry Rothermel
August 6, 2022

2022 – 2023 LWVCC Photos



DEI Committee at work



December Clerks' Event Chorus "On the twelfth day of early voting, my true love gave to me...."



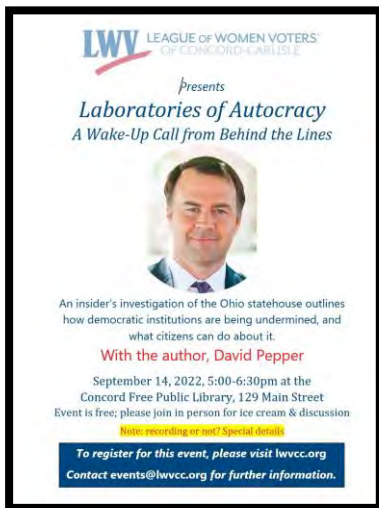
First Friday – Concord Roads Program



First Friday – Warrant Review #2



LWVUS Annual Convention, Denver, CO



Fall Event speaker, David Pepper



Winter Event – Housing

League Of Women Voters Of Concord-Carlisle

Local Positions

Summary of Positions

1. Town Government
2. Education
3. Public Health/Condom Availability
4. Recreation, Concord;
Bike Paths, Carlisle
5. Animal Control, Concord
6. Crime Prevention
7. Tourism, Concord
8. Hanscom Field
9. Long Range Planning
10. Town Facilities
11. Land: Uses & Management – Concord
12. Planning, Concord
13. Housing, Concord
14. Agricultural Land Use, Concord
15. Housing, Carlisle
16. Environmental Health
17. Wetlands
18. SuAsCo River Basin

1. Town Government, Concord

The League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle supports a local government which is based on the fullest possible participation of informed citizens in its policy and decision-making processes. The League finds that Town Government as now practiced in Concord is both democratic and effective. To make it more responsive, open, and fair, we would support the following improvements:

1. 1. 1 Increased communications between:
 - a) committees and their appointing authorities, including periodic review and supervision, as well as more explicit definition of committee's charges
 - b) committees and the public
 - c) committee chairmen and members, including once yearly training/orientation sessions, and detailed and written orientation information for new members. (Modified 2001)
1. 1. 2 Increased citizen participation through:
 - a) more publicity of hearings
 - b) early notices of committee meetings and hearings with agendas
 - c) use of all available media to inform public on town affairs
 - d) distribution of town information package to newcomers
 - e) wider distribution of green cards.
- 1.1.3 Committee procedures made more effective by:
 - a) specific term lengths for committee members
 - b) use of sub and ad hoc committees for specific studies and to relieve overburdened committees
 - c) informative minutes, publicly available
 - d) termination process for unneeded committees
- 1.1.4 Adequate clerical and financial support with information given to committees by the Town Manager on services available.
- 1.1.5 Fair and responsible appointment process strengthened by:
 - a) expanding use of green cards, with regular updating and review by citizens and the Town Manager's office.
 - b) posting vacancies with at least two weeks between posting and appointment
 - c) flexible, informal interviews with prospective appointees
 - d) prompt appointments
 - e) reasonable use of recommendations from committee members
 - f) geographical distribution of committee members for those committees whose functions warrant it.
 - g) use of the following criteria in appointing committee members: availability for attendance at committee meetings; eagerness to serve; expertise; work and/or volunteer experience; ability to work with others; stamina (not in order of priority).
- 1.2 League members were firm in opposition to:
 - a) use of green cards as an exclusive source of appointees
 - b) use of a search committee to nominate appointees

- c) election of more town committees (Adopted March 1977)
- 1.3 The League supports the continuation of the Town Meeting as the primary deliberative and legislative body of the Town (Adopted February 1996)
- 1.4 The League supports open Town Meeting as currently practiced with voting on Town Meeting issues taking place within the sessions of the town meeting. (Adopted February 1996.)
- 1.5 The League believes that it is the obligation of the Town to provide all citizens seeking to attend Town Meeting, the opportunity to participate. If it should become impossible, on a regular and frequently recurring basis, to accommodate all of the persons wishing to attend Town Meeting, then the League would support a representative form of town meeting as an alternative to the present open Town Meeting. (Adopted February 1996.)
- 1.6 The League opposes any change in Town Meeting Voting that would separate the vote from the deliberative process. (Adopted February 1996.)
- 1.7 The League opposes any voting method that would constrain participants from having full access to information about the questions on which they are voting. (Adopted February 1996.)
- 1.8 To further ensure that the residents of Concord are informed participants, the League urges that the Town take greater measures to:
 - a) Increase the understanding of citizens about their local government.
 - b) Offer a fuller explanation of committee and board duties along with the Green Cards. Advertise committee vacancies promptly and widely.
 - c) Give wider distribution to the Town Report. (Adopted February 1996.)

Town Government, Carlisle

That the town of Carlisle should continue its present form of government, strengthening its effectiveness by improved communication and cooperation among boards and by the use of administrative and technical support when needed.

- 1.9.1 Support the use of administrative and technical assistance to foster the effective use of volunteers' time and expertise.
- 1.9.2 Support an annual meeting, chaired by the Selectmen at which all town committees present their accomplishments and goals.
- 1.9.3 Support issue-oriented meetings as needed, among pertinent boards. The ultimate responsibility for these meetings lies with the Selectmen.
- 1.9.4 Support timely distribution of pertinent information by committees to townspeople. (Adopted 1980. Amended 1983.)

2. Education

Concord and Carlisle in pursuit of quality education in the public schools:

- 2.1 Support a school organization that encourages the following: stability—requiring few major changes and little redistricting in order to preserve a sense of school community; low pupil-teacher ratios with the lowest in the primary grades; respect for parental preference among a range of teaching styles; broad uniform program aims; sound fiscal management.
- 2.2 Support for a system of guidance and social work that allows for department flexibility and staff mobility and interaction, particularly with the elementary schools. (Adopted July 1980.)
- 2.3 Support for a system of guidance and social work which has as its primary role maintenance of the climate of learning of the student body as a whole and the consideration of the needs of the individual student; and which communicates openly with parents and provides information through channels such as workshops, written material, PTG meetings, etc. (Reaffirmed 1999)
- 2.4 Support additional, vocational education in the school system. An ideal system would include a) adequate up to date facilities; b) flexibility in time, choice, program, and amount of concentration on vocational or academic courses by each student; c) coordination with instruction in the Concord and Carlisle systems; d) full use of facilities for the whole community after regular school hours, evenings and summers; e) expansion of an improved work-study program; f) career awareness beginning in the elementary grades. (Reaffirmed 1999).
- 2.5 Support at Concord-Carlisle High School a curriculum development process utilizing inputs by departments, cooperation between departments, citizen input, and administrative and school committee review. Curriculum to afford flexible scheduling of student and teacher time to create

opportunities for course options. Curriculum to emphasize interdepartmentally a sampling of many areas; development of analytic skills, written and oral communication skills; preparation for citizenship; and requirements for graduation in courses in many disciplines. (Adopted 1971. Amended 1978, 1979, 1983, 1985.)

- 2.6 Support a program of staff development and teacher evaluation to be reviewed regularly by the School Committees (Adopted 1971. Modified 1999.)
- 2.7 Support the availability of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities for students of Concord-Carlisle High School and at the Concord and Carlisle Middle Schools. (Adopted 1971. Amended 2001.)
- 2.8 Support a budget that includes adequate funding. (Adopted 1971. Modified 1999.)
- 2.9 Support efforts by the schools and the parents associations to improve communications with the community. (Adopted 1971.)

3. Public Health/Condom Availability

The Concord-Carlisle League of Women Voters recognizes that AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) remains a major health problem in this country, particularly for young adults. The League also recognizes that sexual intercourse is the most frequent although not the exclusive mode of transmission for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) as well as hepatitis B, and other STDs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases).

- 3.1 Support a program for making condoms available to young people under conditions that include counseling and education as to the risk of disease and unplanned pregnancy and the need to assume responsibility for the consequences of their actions.
- 3.2 Support doing such a program in conjunction with the Regional School Committee, the Boards of Health and the Boards of Selectmen of both communities.
- 3.3 Support the involvement of other public and private agencies in developing the program. (Adopted January 1995. Language updated 2002, 2011.)

4. Recreation, Concord

- 4.1 Support a comprehensive public recreation program in Concord.
- 4.2 Support a master plan for recreation in Concord.
- 4.3 Support the acquisition of land to meet the active recreational needs of the Town.
- 4.4 Support the development and maintenance of public swimming facilities, and the improvement of natural bodies of water. (Modified 2007.)
- 4.5 Support the improvement and extension of Concord's present bike/foot path system including the preparation of a long-range construction plan.
- 4.6 Support the additional facilities for bicyclists, including a bike/foot path map, marked paths and street crossings, and safe racks well-placed around Town.
- 4.7 Support recreational activities on conservation lands that do not alter the integrity of the land for conservation purposes.
- 4.8 Support the increased distribution of information on conservation lands to townspeople.
- 4.9 Support making information on conservation land available upon request to visitors to Concord. (Amended 2000)

Bike Footpaths, Carlisle

- 4.10 Support the development of bike/foot ways in Carlisle and the promotion of bicycle and pedestrian safety.
- 4.11 Support a pilot project for the development of bike/foot ways (Adopted 1982.)
- 4.12 Support a master plan for bike/foot ways for all existing town roads.
- 4.13 Support the Planning Board regulations requiring developers to build bike/foot paths in all new developments. (Adopted 1973. Amended, 1980, 1982.)

5. Animal Control, Concord

- 5.1 Support a dog control by-law that: is consistent and easy to understand; defines "under control by owner"; prohibits dogs from school property during classroom hours except with express permission of the principal; included a limited leash law for the business areas of Concord, school

property outside of classroom hours, and town playgrounds; includes a “pooper scooper” provision for the business areas of Concord, playgrounds, and school property

- 5.2 Support enforcement of Concord’s animal control by-law that: is based on a complaint responsive system; includes limited patrolling by dog officer in problem areas such as playgrounds, business districts, and school property plus areas that have a high number of complaints; encourages dog licensing by charging higher fines for unlicensed dogs; encourages citizen participation by expedient and appropriate response to legitimate dog-related complaints.
- 5.3 Support license fees to be set at a level to encourage neutering. (Amended 2000.)
- 5.4 Support an innovative approach to dog licensing that: encourages licensing by mailing reminders to owners of all dogs reported on the Town census; follows up on known unlicensed dogs; has mail-in license forms; has a flexible licensing schedule—perhaps every three years when dog is due for rabies shot; encourages prompt licensing by charging late fees.
- 5.5 Support educational activities such as: information packets prepared by the town and widely distributed to town citizens explaining law and responsibilities of dog owner; community programs on animal care, possibly through the schools. (Adopted May 1985.)
- 5.6 Support the immunization of cats against rabies (in accordance with state law) and strongly urge the immunization of all domestic animals against rabies and other contagious and potentially life-threatening diseases.

6. Crime Prevention

- 6.1 Support efforts to heighten public awareness about crime prevention, including educating citizens to report suspicious incidents to the police, and establishing neighborhood groups both to prevent crime and as a method of developing a stronger sense of community.
- 6.2 Support efforts to prevent juvenile crime by identifying youth needs and concerns and coordinating the development and implementation of youth services. (Modified 2008.)
- 6.3 Support police Department crime prevention efforts, particularly educational programs in the schools and in the community at large, including an active “Operation identification” program.
- 6.4 Support increased use by the Concord district court of restitution and alternative sentencing, including the community service work program in Concord.
- 6.5 Support effective methods of identifying and publicizing the costs of vandalism to Town property.
- 6.6 Support effective methods of supervising heavily used Town conservation land. (Adopted December 1980.)

7. Tourism, Concord

In order to provide a pleasant experience in Concord for visitors to the revolutionary and literary sites and to maintain and improve the quality of life for Concord residents, the League supports:

- 7.1 Visitors' services with adequate public parking and toilet facilities located in the vicinity of the Milldam and at the West Concord shopping district. (Revised 2001.)
- 7.2 Improved directional signs. Mini- informational maps of the vandal-proof roadside type are especially needed.
- 7.3 Public or private groups publishing maps or tapes which will direct visitors taking walking or biking tours of the Town.

8. Hanscom Field

- 8.1 Oppose extension of Hanscom field into a major airport
- 8.2 Support maintenance of general aviation activity at Hanscom Field at no higher than the 1973 level.
- 8.3 Support the participation of Concord and other Towns in the solution to problems associated with Hanscom Field.

9. Long Range Planning

- 9.1 Support of local and regional long-range planning. Cooperation in the development of comprehensive planning criteria for the towns.

10. Town Facilities

- 10.1 Support for the re-use of surplus buildings: (a) consistent with the character of the neighborhood; (b) consistent with the current zoning; and (c) consistent with the preservation of architectural features.
- 10.2 Support for the reuse of surplus buildings which: (a) use private funding whenever possible; (b) satisfy a need within the community; (c) are sound economic investments for the community; and (d) which are planned to be self-supporting when possible.
- 10.3 Support for rehabilitation of Stow Street surplus buildings for: (a) elderly housing; (b) low income and family housing; (c) recreation; and (d) education.
- 10.4 Oppose extensive retail or commercial development on Stow Street.

11. Land: Use and Management, Concord

- 11.1 Support strategic land management to achieve: preservation of open space, a diversity of housing types, and land for municipal uses.
 - a. municipal use
 - b. stewardship of our historic and literary past
 - c. recreation-active and passive (conservation)Decisions about purchases should be made by weighing acquisitions against an overall plan with attention to balance, location, and possibilities for multiple use. Modified 2007.
- 11.2 Support Town acquisition of land for
 - a. affordable housing, including subsidized housing
- 11.3 Support land taking by eminent domain only as a last resort and when it satisfies the public need and the public good; this could also be useful in clearing title to a property when ownership is unclear. Modified 2007.
- 11.4 Support the protection of wetlands and lands in the flood plain through strong enforcement of legislation regulating wetlands, flood plains, and conservation lands; through such methods as percolation tests and Town acquisition of such Concord lands.
- 11.5 Support acquiring open land in densely populated areas of Concord. Support visibility of land as an important criterion of Town Acquisition.
- 11.6 Support a land transfer tax (Note: This position was adopted prior to Concord and Carlisle approving the Community Preservation Act real estate Property tax surcharges.) Modified 2008.

12. Planning, Concord

- 12.1 Support development of a land use plan in Concord that 1) has land capacity as a key component, 2) defines specific principles and policies, and 3) utilizes appropriate data maps.
- 12.2 Support positive action towards the achievement of Concord town planning goals in the conversion of any municipal buildings.
- 12.3 Support the regular updating of the Concord accessory apartment conversion bylaw as means to provide housing alternatives within existing housing stock. (Modified 1999, 2007.)
- 12.4 Support the principle of acquiring land with the intention of later leasing or selling parts of it if the intent to do so was made clear at the time of purchase or if the land was found to be surplus to Town needs.
- 12.5 Support the concept of land banking
(Criteria to be considered for Town land acquisition include the ability to be developed, location, linkage, potential uses, preservation, access, public safety and health. Each parcel of land is unique, therefore it is difficult to establish priorities in criteria for purchase, but the ability to be developed may be the most important.) Adopted 1987. Modified 2007.

13. Housing, Concord

- 13.1 Support housing at all income levels in Concord. In particular, there should be a supply of low and moderate income housing in Concord to ensure inclusion of the elderly, those on fixed incomes, young people, families, disabled/handicapped persons, teachers, and town employees.
- 13.2 Support the following criteria to support implementation: (a) sound planning should be the basis of such development; (b) private and public efforts to provide such housing should be encouraged, especially if they provide economic mix within neighborhoods; (c) low rise, low density, multi-

family dwellings would fulfill the Town's need and would be most in keeping with the desire to preserve the "open land" character of Concord. Revised 1999. Modified 2007.

- 13.3 Support a mix of housing to meet the needs of a variety of age and income levels.

14. Agricultural Land Use, Concord

- 14.1 Support preservation of farmland in Concord by the following methods: The Farmland Assessment Act, conservation restrictions, purchase of development rights, land trusts, and tax reform.
- 14.2 Support Concord acquisition of farmland where other methods of preservation could not be used and the alternative would be the likely loss of the land to development.
- 14.3 Support the agricultural use of MCI-Concord agricultural land, and public education on the problems and potentials of farming in Concord.

15. Housing, Carlisle

- 15.1 Support mixed income housing (low, moderate, and fair market) in Carlisle with priority to housing needs for the elderly. We recommend that consideration be given to rehabilitation and/or conversion of existing buildings and new construction of housing units that will be in keeping with the rural character of Carlisle. We further recommend the use of rent subsidies and tax abatements where applicable. Adopted 1978.

16. Environmental Health

Solid Waste Disposal

- 16.1 Support a solid waste disposal method that is safe and protects the health of the community and the environment; any method must be economically feasible and well managed.
- 16.2 Support improved methods of operation at existing landfill sites.
- 16.3 Support regionalization of solid waste disposal facilities
- 16.4 Support recycling education programs in the schools

Sanitary Sewage Facilities

- 16.5 Support improvements needed to maintain present systems at their peak performance.
- 16.6 Support first priority for tie-ins for those areas contiguous to the existing collection line, which are in dire need of service. (Reaffirmed 1999)

17. Wetlands

- 17.1 Support preservation and/or acquisition of wetlands and related uplands in the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord River Basin as well as other actions by appropriate federal state and local agencies.
- 17.2 Support the preservation and/or acquisition of the wetlands and related uplands in the Shawsheen River basin in Concord (Elm Brook).
- 17.3 Support strengthening Concord flood plain and wetland bylaws. (Adopted March 1981. Moved from 12.4 2007.)

18. SUASCO River Basin

The SuAsCo River Basin Group represents nine Leagues in the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord River Basin. The SuAsCo River Basin Group allows the Leagues to approach water resource problems on a regional basis.

- 18.1 Support (a) comprehensive long range planning and coordinated action for use of water and related land resources in the SuAsCo Basin (b) measures to protect and maintain water supply, flood control, fish and wildlife, state and local agencies to accomplish the above; (c) adequate funding for federal, state and local agencies to accomplish the above; (d) federal, state, and local action to achieve flood plain zoning, stream encroachment planning, conservation easements, and the improvements of river flows.
- 18.2 Oppose high power transmission lines running overhead through areas zoned for residence.

LWVCC Program as Affirmed at 2022 Annual Meeting

**BYLAWS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF CONCORD-CARLISLE
As amended June 2022**

As adopted May 20, 1947 and amended May 20, 1953; May 9, 1962; May 19, 1965; May 25, 1966; May 24, 1967; May 15, 1974; May 21, 1975; May 26, 1976; May 24, 1978; May 27, 1981; May 21, 1982; May 23, 1984; May 20, 1987; May 18, 1988; May 17, 1990; May 23, 2007; May 20, 2009; May 21, 2014, May 2016; June 2020; June 2022

<p>Sec. 1 as amended 1965, 1975, 1988</p>	<p>ARTICLE I</p>
<p>The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle. This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States and of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts.</p>	
<p>Sec. 1 as amended 1967, 1975, 1988, 2014</p> <p>Sec. 2 as amended 1962, 1967, 1975, 1988, 2014</p> <p>Sec. 3 as amended 2021</p>	<p>ARTICLE II Purposes and Policy</p>
<p><i>Purposes.</i> The purposes of the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.</p> <p><i>Political Policy.</i> The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.</p> <p><i>Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.</i> The League is fully committed to ensure compliance— in principle and in practice—with LWVUS’ Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy.</p>	
<p>Sec. 1 as amended 1967, 2014</p> <p>Sec. 2 as amended 1967, 1970, 1974, 1975, 1988, 2014, 2016</p>	<p>ARTICLE III Membership</p>
<p>Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League of Women Voters shall be eligible for membership.</p> <p>Types of Membership. The membership of the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle shall be composed of voting members and associate members.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(a) Voting members: Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle shall be voting members of the local league, the LWV of Massachusetts and the LWVUS. Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members, excused from the payment of dues.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(b) Associate members: All others who join the League shall be associate members.</p>	

<p>Sec. 1 as amended, 1984, 1988, 2014</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE IV Officers</p> <p><i>Enumeration and Election of Officers.</i> The Officers of the League of Women voters of Concord-Carlisle shall be a President or two co-Presidents, up to two Vice Presidents who shall be ranked numerically, a Secretary and a Treasurer. If there is a single President, there shall be at least one Vice President. These By-Laws shall be interpreted so that references to the President may include co-Presidents. Officers shall be elected and shall serve in accordance with Article V, Section 1.</p>
<p>Sec. 2</p>	<p><i>The President.</i> The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and/or the Board of Directors. The President may, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes. That person shall be, <i>ex officio</i>, a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. That person shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the President, and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.</p>
<p>Sec. 3 as amended 1975, 1984, 2014</p>	<p><i>The Vice Presidents.</i> The Vice President(s), in the order of their rank, shall, in the event of the absence, resignation, disability or death of the President, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office. In the event that no Vice President is able to serve in this capacity, the Board of Directors shall elect one of their members to fill the vacancy. The Vice President(s) shall perform such other duties as the President and Board may designate.</p>
<p>Sec. 4 as amended 1975, 1984, 2014</p>	<p><i>The Secretary.</i> The Secretary shall keep minutes of business meetings of the League and of all meetings of the Board of Directors and shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.</p>
<p>Sec. 5 as amended, 1975, 1981, 2014, 2022</p>	<p><i>The Treasurer.</i> The Treasurer shall collect and receive all money due. The Treasurer shall be a custodian of these monies, shall deposit them in a bank and/or interest-bearing account designated by the Board of Directors and shall disburse the same as required to pay bills for the organization. That person shall present statements to the Board at their regular meetings and an annual report to the Annual Meeting. The books of the Treasurer shall be reviewed annually by a qualified individual appointed by the Board of Directors.</p>
<p>Sec. 1 as amended 1953, 1967, 1974, 1975, 1978, 1984</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE V Board of Directors</p> <p><i>Number, Manner of Selection and Term of Office.</i> The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the League and at least five (5) elected directors. The officers and elected directors shall be elected by the Annual Meeting and shall serve until the conclusion of the next regular Annual Meeting or until successors have been elected and qualified. The Board of Directors shall appoint such additional directors as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. The terms of office of the appointed directors shall be one (1) year and shall expire at the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting.</p>
<p>Sec. 2 as amended 1967, 1975, 1988</p>	<p><i>Qualifications.</i> No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of this organization unless that person is a voting member of the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle.</p>

<p>Sec. 3 as amended 1975, 2014, 2022</p>	<p><i>Vacancies.</i> In the event of a vacancy on the Board of Directors by reason of resignation, death, or disqualification of an officer or elected member, and upon the request of the Board of Directors, the Nominating Committee will be charged with nominating candidate(s) to fill the vacancy. Following the nomination, if any, a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors would fill the position until the next Annual Meeting. Three consecutive absences from a board meeting without a valid reason may be deemed a resignation.</p>
<p>Sec. 4</p>	<p><i>Powers and Duties.</i> The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the National Convention, the State Convention and the Annual Meeting. The Board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary.</p>
<p>Sec. 5 as amended 2009, 2020</p>	<p><i>Meetings.</i> There shall be at least nine (9) regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually, which shall be open to all members of the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle. The President may call special meetings of the Board of Directors and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the Board. Meetings may be conducted by electronic means, such as telephone conference call, video conferencing or email.</p>
<p>Sec. 6 as amended 2009, 2022</p>	<p><i>Quorum.</i> A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum, and a majority of the members in attendance at any Board Meeting shall, in the presence of a quorum, decide its action. Any one or more members of the board may participate in a meeting by means of electronic conferencing, allowing all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.</p>
<p>Sec. 7 as amended 1975, 2014</p>	<p><i>Executive Committee.</i> The Board may appoint an executive committee consisting of no fewer than five (5) members of the Board. The executive committee shall act in emergencies between meetings of the Board and shall exercise such other power and authority as may be delegated to it by the Board. Any action of the executive committee shall be reported to the Board at its next regular meeting.</p>
<p>Sec. 1 as amended 1998, 2009</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE VI Financial Administration</p> <p><i>Fiscal Year.</i> The fiscal year of the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle shall commence on the first day of July in each year and shall end on June 30 of the following year.</p>
<p>Sec. 2 as amended 1962, 1966, 1967, 1971, 1972, 1975, 1976, 1981, 1982, 1987, 1990, 2009, 2014</p>	<p><i>Dues.</i> Annual membership dues shall be payable on July 1. Any member who fails to pay dues within seven (7) months after they become payable shall be dropped from the membership roll.</p>

Sec. 3	<i>Budget.</i> A budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the Board of Directors to the Annual Meeting for adoption. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole.
Sec. 4 as amended 1962, 1974, 1975	<i>Budget Committee.</i> A Budget Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least two (2) months prior to the Annual Meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing year. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members at least two (2) weeks before the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall be ex-officio a member of the Budget Committee, but shall not be eligible to serve as Chairman.
Sec. 5 as added 2014	<i>Distribution of Funds on Dissolution.</i> In the event of the dissolution of the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle, all moneys and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the control of the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle shall be paid to the LWV of Massachusetts after the state and national per member payments and other obligations have been met. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal, or mixed that may at the time be owned or under the control of the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle shall be disposed of to such person, organization, or corporation for such public, charitable or educational use and purposes as the Board in its absolute discretion may designate.
Sec. 1 as amended 2009, 2020, 2022	ARTICLE VII Meetings Meetings. There shall be at least two (2) meetings each year, in addition to the Annual Meeting. Time and place shall be determined by the Board of Directors. Meetings may be conducted by electronic conferencing.
Sec. 2 as amended 1967 1975, 1988, 1990, 2014, 2020	Annual Meeting. An Annual Meeting shall be held yearly, the exact date and place to be determined by the Board of Directors. The Annual Meeting shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Adopt a local program and a budget for the ensuing year. (b) Elect officers and directors, and members of the Nominating Committee. (c) Transact such other business as may properly come before it. (d) Quorum. Ten (10%) of the members shall constitute a quorum. Annual meetings may be conducted by electronic conferencing.
Sec. 1 as amended 1953, 1967, 1988	ARTICLE VIII Nominations and Elections <i>Nominating Committee.</i> The Nominating Committee shall consist of five (5) members, two (2) of whom shall be members of the Board of Directors. The Chairman and two (2) members who shall not be members of the Board of Directors, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current Nominating Committee. The other two (2) members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors, immediately after the Annual Meeting. Vacancies occurring in the Nominating Committee shall be filled by the Board of Directors.
Sec. 1	ARTICLE IX <i>As adopted and amended 1962, 1967, 1974, 1975, 1984, 1988, 2009, 2022</i>

	Local Program and Positions
	<i>Authorization.</i> The governmental principles adopted by the National Convention, and supported by the League as a whole, constitute the authorization for the adoption of the Program.
Sec. 2	Local Program
	<p>The Program of the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle shall consist of those local government issues chosen for concerted study, advocacy and action for the coming year.</p> <p>The Annual Meeting shall act upon the Program using the following procedures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recommendations for the Program for the upcoming year shall be considered by the Board of Directors prior to adoption at the Annual Meeting. Recommendations come either from the Program Planning meeting, or from individual LWVCC voting members. In either situation, the recommendations shall be submitted to the Board at least six weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. b. Upon consideration of the recommendations, the Board shall formulate a Proposed Program for the coming year. c. The Proposed Program shall be sent to all voting members at least two (2) weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. d. A <u>majority vote</u> of voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be required for adoption of the Proposed Program as presented to the Annual Meeting by the Board of Directors. e. If a recommendation submitted to the Board and considered by the Board is not included in the Program formulated and recommended to the Annual Meeting, then it may still come to the Annual Meeting for adoption under the following procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A <u>majority</u> of voting members at the Annual Meeting <u>agree to consider the proposal</u>; and • A minimum of <u>two-thirds vote</u> is required for adoption. f. <u>Changes in the Program</u>, in case of altered conditions, may be made at any time during the year upon recommendation of the Board, provided that information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general membership meeting at which the change is to be discussed. A <u>majority vote</u> of voting members present and voting is required for passage.
Sec. 3	Local Positions
	<p>The LWVCC has adopted positions on a wide variety of local issues over the years. Many of these positions build on those adopted by the State and National Leagues.</p> <p>These are annually reviewed, as needed, by the Board. Any changes in the local positions of the LWVCC must be approved by members at the Annual Meeting. Notice of any proposed changes to local positions should be sent to members at least two (2) weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. A majority vote of voting members present and voting is required for passage.</p>
Sec. 4	Member Action. Members may act in the name of the League of Women Voters only when authorized to do so by the President and/or Board of Directors.

Sec. 1 as	ARTICLE X
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amended 1962, 1967, 1975, 1988	National Convention, State Convention and Council
	<i>National Convention.</i> The Board of Directors at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the national office shall select delegates to the convention in the number allotted the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle under the provisions of the By-Laws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.
Sec. 2 as amended 1962, 1967, 1975, 1988	<i>State Convention.</i> The Board of Directors at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the state office shall select delegates to the Convention in the number allotted the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle under the provisions of the By-Laws of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts.
Sec. 3 as amended 1962, 1967, 1975, 1988	<i>State Council.</i> The Board of Directors at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the state office shall select delegates to that Council in the number allotted the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle under the provisions of the By-Laws of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts.

Sec. 1 as amended 1975, 2014	ARTICLE XI Parliamentary Authority
	<i>Parliamentary Authority.</i> The rules contained in the current version of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.
Sec. 1 as amended 1974, 1975, 2009	ARTICLE XII Amendments
	<i>Amendments.</i> These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members at the Annual Meeting, provided the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least two (2) weeks in advance of the meeting.
Sec. 1 as added 2007	ARTICLE XIII Temporary Variations in Governance Structure
	<i>Temporary Variations in the Governance Structure.</i> Notwithstanding any provision of these By-Laws to the contrary, the membership may, at any Annual Meeting, accept a slate of officers and directors that varies from that otherwise required by Articles IV and V of the By-Laws. The leadership group elected at any such annual Meeting shall carry out the responsibilities assigned to officers and directors in these Bylaws.



**LWVCC
P.O. Box 34
Concord, MA 01742-0034**

TO:



**June 2022 Civics Education Showcase – with student Nika Lysyj
and LWVCC members Susan Frey and Mary Sterling**

Photo credit Fred Burnham

**Please Join Us for Concord's 2nd Civics Showcase,
where 8th graders will share their Student Action Projects
Wednesday, May 24, 2-4:00 p.m.,
Sanborn Middle School, 835 Old Marlboro Road,
Concord. Refreshments. Free.
*Sponsored by the Concord Public Schools and LWVCC***