



BULLETIN, August, 2026

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Greetings from the Convenor's Desk.

Welcome back to a new League year!

Primaries are upon us, and the Lexington League is co-sponsoring two **Candidate Forums** of interest to Lexington members.

We are joining with the Leagues of the Acton Area, Arlington, Bedford, Belmont, Boston-Cambridge, Concord-Carlisle, Dover-Sherborn, Melrose, Sudbury, Waltham, Wayland, Westford, Weston and Winchester, to co-sponsor:

- A forum for the Democratic primary contest for Middlesex County District Attorney between Marian Ryan and David Solet will take place on August 10, 2026, at NewTV in Newton. There will be no live audience, but it will be taped and available for electronic viewing within a week after the taping. We will share the link with you as soon as it is available.
- A forum for the upcoming Democratic primary contest for Governor's Councilor District 3 between Mara Dolan and Margie Palladino. It will also be taped and will be made available to the public in mid-August by NewTV, Thanks to Newton for organizing these events.

I was sad to recently accept the **resignation of Lisah Rhodes as treasurer** for the Lexington League. She has served in that position for many years and done an outstanding job. We will miss her. The Lexington League is looking for someone to take over that task. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be, let me know. Working with the local League Board is rewarding and would be much appreciated.

Welcome to **new member Barbara Glassman**! She has recently relocated to Lexington and is a strong supporter of League activity.

Margaret Coppe

Convenor

LEXINGTON LEAGUE FIRST FRIDAY FORUM, SEPTEMBER 4, 2026: HELP SHAPE LEXINGTON'S NEW WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM



Maggie Peard

Lexington LWV will begin its 2026-2027 First Friday Forum series on September 4, 2026 at 9:30—11:00 am in Room 237 at the Lexington Community Center.

Maggie Peard, Lexington's Sustainability and Resilience Officer, will bring us up to date on the Town's plans for a new waste collection program. She has served in this position for the last four years, shepherding projects including decarbonization, EV charging, community resilience planning, waste reduction, and more. She serves on the Waste Reduction Task Force and has been working closely with the Department of Public Works on the Town's efforts to modernize the waste collection system.

After years of gathering information and collecting public input, the Town has arrived at two options for the design of a program to control rising costs and reduce waste. This session will outline the two options and invite input from attendees on which one they prefer. All feedback gathered at this session will be reported to the Select Board, who will ultimately approve a final program design.

This program is the first in the 2025-2026 LWV First Friday Forum series hosted by the League of Women Voters to promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues. As always, the program is free and open to the public and there will be time for questions and answers. Lex Media will record the program for future viewing. For more information about the League and this program go to: <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/lexington>.

REMINDER: LEXINGTON LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING IN SEPTEMBER

The Lexington League's Annual Meeting has been moved from June to September to coincide with the start of the League's year. This will allow us to hold our business meeting and elections for League positions at the beginning of our year, and to map out our annual

program after input from the state and national conventions/councils held in alternate years in June. Stay tuned for information on the Lexington LWV Annual Meeting program as it becomes available.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS

LWVMA ADVOCACY

LWVMA LEGISLATIVE SUCCESS DURING THE LAST LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Cheers! Many of the goals of our legislative platform for the session ending July 31 were achieved: Brava to *every member* who took the time to call and email their legislators via LWVMA Action Alerts, attended Day on the Hill, or met with their state representative and state senator. Our voice matters.

Governor Healey signed the PROTECT ACT this month.

Two more of our top priorities await Governor Healey's signature:

- [H.5595](#), An Act prioritizing patient access to care (abortion decisions between patient and doctor)
- [S.2726](#), An Act regarding free expression (prevents book bans).

Bills that passed both chambers and are currently in conference committee may emerge between now and January 5, 2027:

- MA Consumer Data Privacy Act (data privacy/location shield)
- An Act improving campaign finance reporting by state ballot question committees.

And major wins from earlier in the session:

- An Act strengthening health care protections in the Commonwealth, or Health Care Shield Act 2.0
- A joint resolution to rescind all previous legislative calls for an Article V convention to amend the U.S. Constitution.

In addition, **several legislative priorities were funded as part of the state budgets** this session:

FY'26 Budget

- Immigrant Legal Defense Fund \$5M
- Civics Education \$2.5M

- Access to Counsel \$2.5M'

FY'27 Budget

- Immigrant Legal Defense Fund \$8M
- Civics Education \$2.5M
- Access to Counsel \$3M'

[Bills that did not advance to a floor vote by July 31 may not be dead, but must be filed again next session.]

Special thanks to the LWVMA Legislative Action Committee

Shout out to all 20 legislative specialists who follow legislation for the entire two-year session. They write and submit testimony, attend hearings, contribute to coalition meetings, and are the ultimate experts in their subject matter. We offer you our gratitude with a virtual standing ovation!

Questions? Contact specialists@lwmvma.org.

REMINDER: BURLINGTON ICE ACTION CONTINUES

Bearing Witness continues to stand in solidarity outside the ICE Operations Office in Burlington, MA, behind Burlington Mall, every Wednesday from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. The League is not an official sponsor of this event but encourages attendance. Learn more at www.docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqP-xjQ0PK-dx_Jg0DsMCdWM-NdZR4mMXxXYBRf4yh5opNNQ/viewform.

LWVMA VOTER SERVICE

VOTE411 is LIVE!

VOTE411 is the League's "one-stop-shop" for election related information. Voters can use the following features on VOTE411 to educate themselves ahead of the September 1st and November 3rd elections:

- ***Receive personalized ballot and candidate information*** www.vote411.org/ballot
- ***Check their voter registration*** www.vote411.org/check-registration
- ***Make a voting plan*** www.vote411.org/make-your-plan
- ***Learn more about voting rules and options in Massachusetts*** www.vote411.org/massachusetts

Candidates for the primary election have been invited to fill out candidate questions prepared by LWVMA's VOTE411 Questions Subcommittee. Responses are starting to populate and will continue to be submitted through the summer.

IN BRIEF: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE COMING ELECTIONS

With continued headlines, actions, and rhetoric degrading voter trust in our upcoming elections, it is especially important to stay grounded in our current voting landscape in Massachusetts. We are proud to provide the following information to assure you that you can trust your own voting process in Massachusetts and can share trusted information with your community.

1. Your Mail-In Ballot is safe and secure for the September 1 Primary. Vote by mail applications are being received now, and the following deadlines still apply:

- **August 22 - Deadline for registering to vote.**
- **August 25 - Your mail-in ballot application** must reach your local election officials by 5:00 pm.
- **September 1 - Your ballot** must reach your local election office or drop box by 8:00 pm. Drop ballots may be left in the Clerk's Office in the Town Office Building, or in the marked mail box outside the TOB entrance.
- **A note on mail-in voting for the general election:** The LWVMA v. Trump lawsuit continues, and we will update you on any news related to its outcome.

2. VOTE411 is still your one-stop shop for all election information.

Visit the [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org) sites listed above for more detailed information.

3. Election Protection is a national network of nonpartisan, nonprofit organizations that work to protect all voters by providing information, resources and help for any issues voters experience. It is sponsored by Common Cause and other civic organizations.

They help volunteers find the best way to get involved — whether by monitoring polling places (from your vehicle, or remotely), watch-dogging social media for disinformation and voters in need of help, or reaching out to voters to make sure they know their rights. Volunteers connect voters with trained legal professionals

In addition to expanding access to the ballot box for incarcerated people, the JBV Workshops provide essential nonpartisan information about voter registration, absentee ballot applications, and candidate guide materials to help eligible incarcerated voters make informed decisions each election cycle. They work with incarcerated voters to complete paperwork and track their ballots. They also advocate for institutional changes that are required to ensure that ballots are received and counted by the Elections Department. Learn more at www.edc-unlockdemocracyma.com/volunteer.

EP volunteers are **not** “poll watchers” who are assigned to observe the polls on behalf of a campaign or political party and certified by the election officials – often inside the polling place. The Election Protection program is nonpartisan and not affiliated with any campaign or party. They recruit and train volunteer poll monitors who do not enter the polling place, except in limited circumstances. They report any problems they see and help ensure voters know their rights, report and solve issues that arise at the polling places. Election Protection poll monitors need to attend trainings but do not need to be certified by election officials. Learn more at:

www.protectthevote.net/frequently-asked-questions/.

The US Department of Justice (DOJ) is sending election monitors to Boston and New Bedford for the September 1 primary. Election monitors are frequently sent to Massachusetts—eight cities were monitored in 2024.

4. Nine Ballot Questions have been certified to appear on the November 1 ballot,
in the following order:

- Question 1: Expanding the Public Records Law
- Question 2: Collective Bargaining for CPCS Employees
- Question 3: State Primary Elections
- Question 4: Election Day Registration
- Question 5: State Revenue Limit & Rebate
- Question 6: Natural Resource Conservation Fund
- Question 7: Single Family Homes
- Question 8: Prohibit Retail Sale of Adult Recreational Use Marijuana
- Question 9: Firearms Regulation.

LWVMA Town Hall: **Local League Guidance on Ballot Questions**

On Monday, August 10 at 7:00 PM via Zoom. A virtual Town Hall will review the League’s position on each ballot question, describe LWV work on Questions 4 and 9, and answer your questions. Register at www.us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/NMwew_yHQZWYbsKJXaGIGg#/registration.



TOOLS FOR BUILDING A MORE ACCESSIBLE DEMOCRACY

People with disabilities are more likely to encounter barriers to voting. The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is pleased to have Brianna Zimmerman of the Disability Law Center (DLC) present a webinar on this topic, including tools to engage the disability community in voting and civic participation, discussion of the basic rights of voters with disabilities; types of accommodations available to voters with a range of disabilities; special considerations for registering voters in long-term care facilities (including nursing homes), and some best practices for making events accessible to all community members.

Brianna Zimmerman (she/her) is the Voting Rights Advocate at the DLC, a statewide nonprofit legal services organization and the Protection and Advocacy (P & A) agency for Massachusetts. She conducts voter registration drives and voting rights trainings, and ensures that voting is accessible to those with disabilities. She also helps coordinate the REV UP MA coalition, which promotes civic engagement and voting access. Register HERE for this webinar on August 12, 2026, at 7:00 pm on Zoom:

www.us02web.zoom.us/join/join?from=addon&meetingRef=yRpRd1uuQgSUEJltHQFr-w#/registration.

OF INTEREST

The Jail Based Voting/Civic Ed team conducts civic education and discussion programs at the Suffolk County House of Corrections and Nashua Street Jail with the help of local college students and community volunteers. It is implementing a **Mobile Ballot Box Initiative**, which provides community support for eligible incarcerated voters to cast their ballots during local, state, and national elections.

In addition to expanding access to the ballot box, the JBV Workshops provide nonpartisan information about voter registration, absentee ballot applications, and candidate guide materials in order to help eligible incarcerated voters make informed

decisions each election cycle. They help incarcerated voters to complete paperwork and track their ballots. They also advocate for institutional changes required to ensure that ballots are received and counted by the Elections Department.

The League is not a sponsor of these programs, but supports them and encourages members looking for ways to support fair elections during this cycle to investigate them. For more information go to: www.edc-unlockdemocracyma.com/jail-based-voting-and-civic-education.

LWVMA WILL FIELD A TEAM IN THE BOSTON 10 K FOR WOMEN'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY;



The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is happy to announce that for the second year, we will be lacing up to walk, run, and jog as ***Team Civic Pacers*** for the 50th anniversary of the **Boston 10k for Women, held at the Boston Common on October 10, 2026**. This year, the League has been selected as a **charity partner**, so your participation makes an impact not just on race day, but on sustaining our civic education, youth leadership, and internship programming – ensuring the League's impact sustains us for another 106 years.

Sign up to become a part of a multigenerational team of runners, walkers, and joggers, united by our civic responsibility! Participants are asked to raise a minimum of \$500.00 for the League, with a suggested amount of \$1,000.00 to receive special League merch! For more information and to sign up: www.lwvma.org/2026-boston-10k-for-women/ .

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

LWVUS ADVOCACY

LWVUS VOTER SERVICE

STATUS OF BILLS IN CONGRESS REGARDING VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING

Congress continues to introduce bills that would require voters to present documentary proof of citizenship (DPOC) to register and/or vote. In the 119th Congress, three major pieces of legislation have been introduced to require DPOC to vote, including:

- The ***Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act***, which passed the House in 2025 and would require citizenship documentation to register to vote, and, more recently
- The ***SAVE America Act*** and the ***Make Elections Great Again Act***, which have even stricter components than the SAVE Act, like requirements for voters to present DPOC both at registration and the polls, and for absentee ballots to be received by election day.

These bills were not brought to a vote in the Senate before it left for its August recess.

As previously reported, the League strongly opposes these measures for the following reasons: It is already illegal for noncitizens to register and vote in federal or state elections. Requiring documentary proof of American citizenship to register to vote in federal elections is unnecessary and seeks to divide us. It simply creates another barrier to voting. Many communities of eligible voters would be unnecessarily burdened by the requirements of the SAVE Acts. Among them are:

- Military voters, who would be required to present documentation every time they re-register to vote when their family moves.
- Families who have been impacted by natural disasters and lost important documentation, who would be required to replace these documents while also going through the traumatic process of rebuilding their lives.
- Married women and other Americans who have changed their names, who would also be required to secure updated documentation to register to vote.
- People of color. Compared to white US citizens, citizens of color are three times more likely to lack documents such as birth certificates, passports, naturalization certificates, or certificates of citizenship or face difficulties accessing them.

Americans do not need MORE obstacles to vote. The SAVE Act would create further barriers to voting, as many eligible voters do not have easy access to the necessary documents.

A PRIMER ON THE FEDERAL VOTER ID ACT

The Voter ID Act (HR 9368) is a more recently introduced voter ID act that would overhaul the way voters verify their identities at the polls for federal elections around the country.

The US House attached this legislation to a separate bill to ban stock trading. The bill was considered on the House floor on July 22, 2026 and passed by a vote of 232-198. On the same day, the **SAVE America Act**, which was attached to the National Defense Authorization Act, passed the House 216-212. Neither act has yet passed the Senate, and with both houses in recess, any passage by the Senate and reconciliation with the House bills would be happening within weeks of the national midterm elections, making execution of the provisions almost impossible.

The League OPPOSES laws that limit the IDs that voters can use to register to vote or to cast a ballot. Elections officials across the country already have rules and processes in place to prove the identity of a voter without instituting a strict ID proposal or limiting the IDs required to participate in the election process.

The Voter ID Act:

- Requires that voters show photo identification before voting in federal elections
- Limits valid IDs to: driver's licenses, state ID cards, passports, military or VA IDs and some Tribal IDs.
- Excludes the use of other IDs like: student IDs, employee IDs, and public assistance IDs (affecting young people and voters of color disproportionately)
- Would force at least 35 states to change their election laws to meet the requirements of the Voter ID Act (requiring a great deal of public education and poll worker training, with no resources or timelines provided)
- Does not include any type of failsafe or alternative way of providing ID (e.g., casting a provisional ballot and showing proof of ID later; bringing a utility bill or equivalent as a way of proving your identity).

The Voter ID Act:

- Will create an overwhelming burden on voters who do not have access to ID or cannot afford to obtain one
- Will strain election administrators across the country to implement this bill with no additional resources from the federal government
- Will make mail-in and absentee voting more difficult as it requires voters to include copies of an acceptable ID when returning their ballot

What is the difference between the proposed SAVE/SAVE America Acts?

- The SAVE Act and other similar legislation requires voters to provide documentary proof of citizenship in person **at the time of registration**.
- **The Voter ID Act would require valid photo ID (from a short list of acceptable IDs) each time someone goes to vote at the polls.**
- *The SAVE America Act would require both documented proof of citizenship and a valid photo-ID.*

All three acts require burdensome and unnecessary steps for US citizens to vote and impose strain and expense on state election administrators around the country. They are all premised on the false narrative that there is widespread election fraud in the United States, sowing mistrust in our election systems.

DISTRICT COURT BLOCKS USCIS RULE PREVENTING IMMEDIATE VOTER REGISTRATION FOR NEW CITIZENS US

The U.S. District Court of Maryland has temporarily blocked a US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) rule issued, in August 2025, that prevented nonpartisan civic engagement groups like the League from registering new US citizens to vote at administrative naturalization ceremonies. The Court's preliminary injunction prevents the new rule from going into effect while the case is litigated.

The plaintiffs sued the administration for violating the First Amendment rights of the national League of Women Voters and state and local Leagues to engage in political speech and associated activities. The suit also addresses the administration's failure to obey the *Administrative Procedure Act* that requires federal agencies to follow clearly defined and transparent procedures when adopting new policies.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots, membership-based civic engagement group that has long exercised its constitutionally protected right to educate and assist new Americans in registering to vote at administrative naturalization ceremonies. Over the past few decades, the League has registered hundreds of thousands of new US citizens to vote after naturalization ceremonies nationwide. In 2024, the League registered more than 15% of all new American citizens to vote at naturalization ceremonies.

As a result of USCIS's rule change, however, state and local Leagues were forced to cancel hundreds of planned voter registration events. Since USCIS's unlawful rule has been in place, state and local Leagues have been prohibited from attending and assisting new citizens in registering to vote for more than eight months. With this Court victory, the League can restart its important work with new citizens at administrative naturalization ceremonies.

The court issued a temporary injunction following a lawsuit filed by Campaign Legal Center on behalf of the League of Women Voters (LWV) and a number of state and local Leagues. Now, civic engagement groups can continue educating and registering new Americans at

administrative naturalization ceremonies — a longstanding tradition that encourages participation in the political process.

When people become American citizens, they should be welcomed into full participation in civic life, not met with new barriers,” said Celina Stewart, CEO of the League of Women Voters. “For generations, the League has stood beside new citizens as they take the oath of citizenship and prepare to make their voices heard at the ballot box. Today’s ruling protects that fundamental democratic principle, and we will continue fighting to ensure every eligible voter can participate freely and fully in our democracy. This victory protects naturalized citizens’ access to the ballot box and the constitutional rights of civic organizations that help new citizens exercise their democratic freedoms.

U.S. CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT DECLINES TO BLOCK PRESIDENT’S EXECUTIVE ORDER ON MAIL-IN VOTING

On July 28, the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit declined, at this stage, to issue an injunction blocking the President’s executive order on mail-in voting, The League of Women Voters issued the following statement in response to the ruling.

Yesterday's ruling does not change what is at stake for voters. It is deeply troubling that, just months before the 2026 midterm elections, voters are once again being forced to navigate uncertainty and confusion about the rules that govern our access to the ballot.

While the court declined to block the executive order at this stage, the Constitution is clear: states are responsible for administering elections, and voters deserve election rules that are transparent, stable, and designed to expand participation — not create confusion or create new barriers to the ballot box.

Mail voting is a secure, reliable, and trusted option used by millions of Americans. Seniors, military families, rural voters, voters with disabilities, caregivers, and working people across the country rely on the flexibility mail voting provides to participate in our democracy. Efforts to restrict access to mail ballots risk silencing eligible voters and undermining confidence in our election system at a moment when Americans deserve certainty, stability, and trust. At a time when election officials should be able to focus on helping voters participate, this executive order threaten to inject confusion and fear into the process in ways that could deter eligible voters from casting their ballots—it is intentional and undemocratic.

It is vital that Americans remember the power of their vote, and make sure unnecessary barriers do not silence their voice in the 2026 midterm elections. The League will continue to challenge policies that threaten free, fair, and accessible elections, and remains committed to ensuring every eligible voter has access to the ballot. No voter should have to wonder whether new restrictions, shifting rules, or political interference will stand between them and their constitutional right. Democracy is strongest when all voters can fully participate, and we deserve better.

LWVUS WEBINARS ON ELECTION ISSUES

The national League of Women Voters has scheduled a series of online webinars related to election issues, among them:

- Engaging Young People for Civic Participation, 8/13;
- Election Observation Activities, 8/20;
- Voter Intimidation and the 2026 Election, 9/3;
- Know Your Rights: Election 2026: Integrated Communications Strategies that Mobilize Voters, 9/24 .

They can be accessed through the League Management section of the LWVUS website:

www.lwv.org/league-management/events/lwv-election-2026-webinar-series.

SAVE THE DATE

August 10, 2026 LWV Guidance on Ballot Questions, 7:00 pm on Zoom

August 12, 2026 More Accessible Democracy, 7:00 pm on Zoom

August 13, 2026 Webinar on Young People Civic Participation, Zoom

August 20, 2026 Webinar on Election Observation, Zoom

September 1, 2026 State Primary Election

September 3, 2026 Webinar on Voter Intimidation 2026, Zoom

September 4, 2026 LWVLex First Friday Forum: Waste Collection Program 9:15 am, Community Center

September 24, 2026 Webinar on Communication Strategies to Mobilize Voters, Zoom

September, 2026 LWV Lex Annual Meeting, time and place to be announced

October 2, 2026 LWVLex First Friday Forum

October 10, 2026 Boston 10K for Women

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

2025-2026 BOARD

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The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization dedicated to the principles of self-government established in the Constitution of the United States. The League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. For more information, contact Convenor Margaret Coppe at [**mecoppe@gmail.com**](mailto:mecoppe@gmail.com).