



BULLETIN, February, 2026

## TOWN ELECTIONS MONDAY MARCH 2

**VOTE!**

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

### **Greetings from the Convenor's Desk**

The annual town elections are coming soon.

The LWV annual Candidates' Night is scheduled for February 12, 2026, 7 PM at Clark Middle School. No snow date. We still need volunteers to run the nine precinct meetings as well as others to help with the town wide candidate forum. Please contact me at [mecoppe@mail.com](mailto:mecoppe@mail.com) Thanks to those who have already responded.

This year's municipal election does not have many races. The only contested town-wide race is for Planning Board. And only Precincts 4,5, and 8 have races. Precinct 7 has six candidates for eight seats.

### **Remember to vote on Monday, March 2.**

Speaking of local elections, one recommendation to the Select Board from the Vision for Lexington Subcommittee on Local Elections was to change the day of the week for the municipal election. Article 30 on the 2026 Town Warrant, inserted by the Select Board, would change the municipal election from the first Monday in March to the first Tuesday in March. This is a proposed by-law change and needs a two-third approval from Town Meeting. The entire report can be accessed at: <https://records.lexingtonma.gov/WebLink/DocView.aspx?id=3431885&dbid=0&repo=TownOfLexington&cr=1>

We welcome three new members to the Lexington League this year: Mona Roy, Vanessa Baress, and Patricia Robert. Mona is a long-time resident and activist in town. Vanessa and Patricia have moved here in the last year.

The Lexington League applied to the state League for a Scharfman Grant of \$400 to co-sponsor **LexYouthCivics!** with the Lexington Youth Commission. It will be held on Saturday, **February 28 at Cary Hall from 9:30 am until 1:30 pm**. This event is organized by a Lexington high school student, Grette Buttner, and is modeled on the civic “bootcamp” for adult volunteers held earlier.

Several members have asked about renewing their League dues. You will receive a notice from LWVUS about dues, I received mine in December, but I think a number of our members had a renewal date of January 31 so should be getting a notice. But, don't panic. You are still members of the League! If by the end of 2026 you have not received a notice, let me know and I will work with you to figure it out.

Hope you are all remaining warm and safe.

Margaret Coppe

Convenor

## [LWV LEXINGTON MARCH FIRST FRIDAY FORUM: THE DARK SIDE OF LIGHT POLLUTION](#)



**Kelly Beatty**

Join the League of Women Voters of Lexington at a First Friday Forum on March 6, 2026, 9:30-11:00 AM in Room 237 at the Lexington Community Center, to hear from Kelly Beatty about the dark side of light pollution.

Light pollution has become a pervasive and ugly consequence of our 24/7 society. Few of us can enjoy a star-spangled night sky any longer, thanks to the glowing pall caused by all the lights that line roadways, parking lots, and backyards. More ominously, a growing body of research finds that excessive light at night disrupts nocturnal ecosystems, sometimes dramatically. It can also inhibit the production of melatonin, a compound produced as we sleep—and only in darkness—that seems to play multiple roles in maintaining general human health. The situation has not been helped by the widespread rollout of light-emitting diodes, or LEDs. Fortunately, the spread of light pollution can be halted and even reversed. Join us as Kelly Beatty discusses how we can safely light up our homes, businesses, and communities without wasting energy, disturbing our neighbors, or creating an unhealthy environment for humans and wildlife.

Kelly Beatty has been explaining the science and wonder of astronomy to the public since 1974, when he joined the staff of *Sky & Telescope*. He retired in 2018 after 43 years, but remains actively involved in many S&T articles, tours, and other projects. An award-winning writer and communicator, he holds a B.A. from the California Institute of Technology and a Master's degree in science journalism from Boston University. Kelly has been active in efforts to reduce light pollution for more than 30 years. He served for more than a decade on the Board of Directors for the International Dark-sky Association ([darksky.org](http://darksky.org)) and is now an officer with Dark Sky's Massachusetts chapter.

This program is the seventh 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, it will be free and open to the public, with 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>

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ANNUAL CANDIDATES' NIGHT 7:00 PM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

The League of Women Voters of Lexington annual Candidates' Night is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, at the Clarke Middle School at 7:00 pm. Doors will open at 6:30 PM. There is no snow date.

Precinct meetings will run from 7:15 pm to 8:00 pm. These smaller group meetings are a valuable opportunity to meet and interrogate candidates who seek to represent your precinct in Town Meeting for three-year terms.

.At 8:00 pm, participants will gather in the Clarke auditorium to hear from candidates for town-wide positions. This year we'll hear from two members seeking reelection to the Select Board, followed by an unopposed School Committee candidate and an unopposed Housing Authority candidate looking to fill open positions. Each candidate will be able to give a two-minute introduction, followed by one minute answer to a League question. There will be no questions from the audience.

On the Planning Board, there is one open seat, and one member is running for re-election. There are three candidates for the Planning Board who will take the stage at 8:15 pm. They will make brief opening and closing statements, and will respond to League questions and questions submitted by the audience.

The League's voter information guide will be published on our website: <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/lexington>, in advance of Candidates' Night, including biographical information provided by the candidates.

The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any political party or candidate, but makes accurate information on all candidates available to voters.

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS

## LWVMA EVENTS

### REMINDER: LWVMA NEW MEMBER MINGLE, FEBRUARY 24

All members are cordially invited to a New Member Mingle on **Tuesday, February 24, at 7:00 pm on Zoom**. There will be a brief overview of LWVMA; including our staff, the state Board, state committees, and local Leagues, followed by small group conversations and a quick look at upcoming events. Whether you are a new member or a long-standing one, this is a chance to connect and get updated on League activities. Register at:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/yT73QrD6RwWXIs7KDeNMjA#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/730rD6RwWXIs7KDeNMjA#/registration), and bring a friend interested in learning more about the League.

### Community Advisors Needed for 2026 MA Spring Civics Showcases

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and Generation Citizen are once again collaborating to host four Statewide Civics Project Showcases across the Commonwealth in 2026:

- Springfield: MassMutual Center, Tuesday, May 26
- Dartmouth: UMass Dartmouth, Friday, May 29
- Worcester: DCU Center, Monday, June 1
- Boston: Edward M. Kennedy Institute, Friday, June 5

At each Showcase, volunteer Community Advisors have short conversations with students about their projects, asking questions and offering feedback based on their own expertise. Projects address a wide range in project topics; advisors come from diverse backgrounds: community organizers, legislators, business and non-profit leaders, educators, healthcare workers, and more. This is an interesting opportunity tailor-made for League members.

Register as a Community Advisor at:

[https://generationcitizen.rsvpify.com/MACivicsShowcase?utm\\_source=Civics%20Monthly%20Memo&utm\\_campaign=47f9111c99-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2023\\_08\\_25\\_04\\_20\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_7e599155c7-577457987](https://generationcitizen.rsvpify.com/MACivicsShowcase?utm_source=Civics%20Monthly%20Memo&utm_campaign=47f9111c99-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_08_25_04_20_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_7e599155c7-577457987).

## FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

LWVMA has issued the following statement:

*Black History Month offers an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of Black leaders and communities and also on the methods that helped secure many of the civil rights we continue to rely on today. Central to this history are civil disobedience, protest, and demonstrations—collective actions that challenged unjust systems and expanded the promise of democracy in the United States.*

*Throughout the Civil Rights Movement, progress was rarely yielded willingly. Instead, it was demanded through organized, strategic, and often courageous acts of resistance. From the Montgomery Bus Boycott to the Birmingham Campaign, from the March on Washington to the Selma to Montgomery marches, everyday people placed their bodies, voices, and livelihoods on the line to expose injustice and force the nation to reckon with its democratic ideals. These actions led to landmark victories such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, legislation that reshaped access to the ballot and affirmed the principle that democracy must be inclusive to be legitimate.*

*Civil disobedience has long been misunderstood as disorder, yet history shows it to be a vital democratic tool. Peaceful protests and demonstrations have served as a moral corrective when laws and institutions failed to protect the rights of all people. These actions reminded the country that democracy is not static; it is strengthened when citizens participate, challenge inequity, and insist on accountability.*

*This legacy is deeply connected to the work of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts. LWVMA's mission to defend democracy and ensure that every voice is heard echoes the same principles that guided civil rights activists decades ago. Our ongoing efforts to protect voting rights, expand civic participation, and combat voter suppression are modern expressions of that same struggle for equity and representation.*

*The fight for an inclusive democracy did not end with the victories of the 1960s. Today, barriers to participation persist that disproportionately affect historically marginalized communities. Honoring Black History Month means acknowledging this reality and recommitting ourselves to the work still ahead. Progress requires vigilance, education, and, at times, the courage to speak out when democratic norms are threatened.*

*As a community committed to Diversity, Equality and Inclusion, League members are called to recognize voices that have too often been excluded, to listen with intention, and to act with purpose. This includes examining how race, equity, and access intersect with voting rights and civic engagement, and ensuring that our advocacy reflects the lived experiences of all communities across the Commonwealth.*

*Black History Month reminds us that democracy has always been shaped by those willing to challenge injustice and demand better. As we reflect on this history, may it inspire us to continue defending democratic principles, amplifying marginalized voices, and building a more equitable future.*

## MASSACHUSETTS ACTION TO PROTECT MA RESIDENTS FROM U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

This week, Governor Maura Healey took action to protect the people of Massachusetts from abuses by President Donald Trump and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). She filed legislation to keep ICE out of courthouses, schools, child care programs, hospitals and churches; to make it unlawful for another state to deploy its National Guard in Massachusetts without the Governor's permission; and to allow parents to pre-arrange guardianship for their children in case they are detained or deported. While a state cannot interfere with ICE's actions, which fall solely within federal purview, this is the most comprehensive effort in the country to protect against ICE activity in sensitive locations.

The Governor's Executive Order prohibits the state from entering into any new agreements to cooperate with ICE in its operations under section 287(g) of the federal Immigration and Nationality Act unless there is a specific and certified public safety risk or need. It prohibits ICE from making civil arrests in non-public areas of state facilities, and prohibiting the use of state property for immigration enforcement staging.

Governor Healey stated: *"In Massachusetts and across the country, we continue to see unlawful and unconstitutional actions by ICE that are meant to intimidate and instill fear in our communities, including against United States citizens who are exercising their constitutional rights. This puts people at risk and in harm's way, and I find it necessary in the interest of public safety to take this action today."*

For decades, the Department of Homeland Security maintained a "protected areas" policy requiring ICE to refrain from immigration enforcement actions in sensitive locations, including hospitals, houses of worship, courts and school programs. This policy allowed all community members to access basic support and services without fear, and protected public safety by encouraging all people to seek necessary medical care and to testify in court when necessary, whether as a victim, witness, or party. On January 20, 2025, the Trump Administration rescinded the protected areas policy, replacing it with a directive giving ICE agents unbridled power to take enforcement actions in medical facilities, houses of worship, courts, schools and child care programs. Governor Healey's legislation would restore the longstanding protections against arrests by ICE agents in these essential spaces where families, children, and vulnerable people should feel safe.

## RESTORING THE PROMISE: A DISCUSSION ABOUT IMMIGRATION POLICY AND THE PATH FORWARD

On Tuesday, February 10, from 6:00 - 7:30pm, there will be an in-person community **discussion of immigration policy** at the **Plymouth Public Library, 132 South Street, Plymouth 02360 ((508) 309-7177)** lead by **Antonio Massa Viana**, a Massachusetts

immigration attorney. An immigrant himself, Massa Viana arrived in the U.S. at age 12 and later became the first known undocumented attorney admitted to the Massachusetts Bar. His personal journey through the immigration system fuels his dedication to advocacy in this field.

This nonpartisan program invites participants to reflect on the impact of current immigration policies, the ways immigration has shaped our nation, and the constitutional questions that affect both non-citizens and U.S. citizens alike. It is grounded in shared ideals -- fairness, accountability, and the belief that our nation's strength rests on how we treat every person under the nation's protection. It is intended to create space for meaningful dialogue and collective problem-solving.

*Please note that this is not a League-sponsored event, but the Plymouth League is helping publicize it in connection with its work in immigration in Plymouth.*

Register for this event at: <https://plymouthpubliclibrary.libcal.com/event/15296784>

## LWVMA ADVOCACY

### LWVMA STATEMENT ON 2026 BALLOT QUESTIONS

The LWVMA Board votes to support, oppose, or take no position on specific ballot questions based on positions or goals previously researched and adopted by the League, which are described in Impact on Issues (LWVUS) [ImpactOnIssues\\_2024-FINAL-DIGITAL.pdf \(lww.org\)](#) and Where We Stand (LWVMA) [Where We Stand \(2025 Refresh R 12.4\) \(lwwma.org\)](#). As a nonpartisan political organization, LWVMA does not endorse political parties or candidates, but does advocate for issues that the organization has studied and taken a position based on consensus from members. League members may participate in Yes campaigns for ballot questions that the Board has voted to support, and No campaigns for ballot questions that the Board has voted to oppose. While the Board has taken votes to provide a stance on each proposed measure, questions for the November 3, 2026 election do not become official until July.

**LWVMA supports** the following Ballot Questions.

- Election Day Registration
- Law to Improve Access to Public Records

- Zoning of Single-Family Homes
- Rejection of repeal of firearms laws passed in the last legislative session.

**LWVMA opposes** the following Ballot Questions.

- Limiting State Tax Collection Growth and Returning Surpluses to Taxpayers
- Reducing the State Personal Income Tax Rate from 5% to 4%.

**LWVMA takes no position** on the following Ballot Questions. Members may participate in Yes or No campaigns for these ballot questions, but should not do anything to make the public think that LWVMA or a Local League has endorsed a Yes or No campaign.

- Implement All-Party State Primaries “Top 2”
- Act to reform and regulate legislative stipends
- Nature for All Fund
- Protect Tenants by Limiting Rent Increases
- Labor Relations Policies for Committee for Public Counsel Services Employees
- Recriminalize marijuana

The legislature may choose to act on the petitions by May 5. If they take no action on a petition, another 12,429 additional signatures are required by June 17. More detail on the League’s positions on each of the Ballot Questions can be found at <https://lwmma.org/lwmma-statement-on-2026-ballot-questions/Positions>. LWVMA will host educational forums when the question numbers are finalized by the Secretary of the Commonwealth in July. Watch this space for dates and times.

Additionally, the Executive Order directs the Executive Office of Education and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to support public and private entities in developing policies and guidance on interacting with ICE.

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF UNITED STATES

### LWVUS EVENTS

#### LWVUS TURNS 106 ON FEBRUARY 14, 2026

This month, the League of Women Voters of the United States marks 106 years of standing up for democracy when it has been challenged, undermined, or ignored. Our history is complex and unfinished, but it is defined by a refusal to back down from the fight for equal participation and equal rights. For more than a century, people across generations have

organized in moments of uncertainty to hold power accountable and defend the freedom to vote. That work continues now, because democracy survives only when people are willing to protect it.



## 57<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NATIONAL CONVENTION, JUNE 25-28, 2026

The LWVUS will hold its 57<sup>th</sup> Biennial National Convention in Columbus, Ohio, June 25-28, 2026. Attendance may be in person or virtually for this multi-day event where League members from across the country come together to network, learn, and chart the course for the next biennium.

National Convention is a League experience unlike any other, as delegates representing state and local Leagues across the country vote on the nominees for LWVUS Board of Directors and Nominating Committee, as well as on bylaws amendments, budget, and League priorities. In addition to plenary sessions, Convention also includes dynamic presentations, practical trainings, and inspiring content that support our mission of empowering voters and defending democracy.

In-person attendees will have full access to plenary sessions, trainings, and networking opportunities. Virtual attendees can fully participate in live-streamed plenary sessions from anywhere. Check out [LWV.org](https://www.lwv.org) for details about the registration process, the event hotel, and more. Information on Pre-Convention trainings, breakout sessions, and confirmed speakers will be available in the coming months. This is your chance to help shape the future of our League and connect with fellow changemakers. Mark your calendar and get ready to be inspired!

## TELL CONGRESS THAT FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT HAS GONE TO FAR

The LWVUS has issued the following statement in response to the continued escalation of federal military activity in Minnesota from federal immigration officials:

*“The League of Women Voters condemns the escalating actions by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that put people at risk, deny individuals their constitutional rights, and undermine the democratic values meant to protect us all.*

*“We are horrified by federal immigration enforcement operations that deliberately infringe upon First Amendment rights to assemble and dissent. The use of intimidation, surveillance, and deadly force against lawful protestors is not public safety—it is repression. The use of lethal force against people exercising their constitutional rights is unacceptable and must be fully investigated. These fatalities, followed by false narratives designed to obscure the truth and impede oversight, represent a historic abuse of power we’ve never seen as a country. Democracy cannot endure when its government uses violence to silence dissent and evade accountability.*

*“The League of Women Voters will continue to organize, speak out, and act to ensure no agency is above the law. We call on Congress to investigate these actions and require accountability measures on the Department of Homeland Security. ICE and other federal immigration officials must cooperate with the appropriate level of law enforcement when civilians are hurt or killed and face accountability when they fail to comply. The League will continue to mount a unified response that defends constitutional rights, protects civic participation, and demands accountability for abuses of power.*

*“We will continue our partnership with LULAC, Common Cause, and additional partners to hold ICE accountable and amplify our concerns on its lack of transparency, accountability, and constitutional compliance.*

*“The League of Women Voters reaffirms that the rights outlined in the Constitution belong to all people, without exception. We will not accept policies or practices that suppress civic participation, weaponize enforcement, or undermine fundamental rights and human dignity.”*

## WEBINAR ON LWVUS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2026

The LWVUS is hosting a **zoom session on February 19, 2026, at 3:00 pm EST**, to present the national organization’s legislative priorities for 2026. To register, go to [lwv.org](https://www.lwv.org):

# LWVMA ADVOCACY

## ACTION ALERT

### LWVUS CO-SPONSORS NO KINGS, INCLUDING THE MASS MOBILIZATION RALLIES ON MARCH 28

LWVUS is an official co-sponsor of the No Kings rallies taking place in numerous locations. A mass mobilization across the country is scheduled for March 28. The League encourages members to join in this event, and provides the following

#### TALKING POINTS

We are coming together in the streets now and on March 28 because we know we can overcome oppression when we unite. In America, we have No Kings. President Trump's attempts to rule through oppression have called Americans across the nation to respond through morally grounded and non-violent protest. If he believes we will roll over and let him take our freedoms, he is mistaken.

- In response to the Trump administration's escalated violent attacks on everyday Americans in Minnesota and nationwide, the No Kings Coalition has activated an immediate and ongoing nationwide digital organizing effort leading up to their next mass mobilization on March 28.
- An initial training drew a turnout of over 200,000 people, showing that more and more of us are ready to move from fear to action. These trainings will continue leading up to the next No Kings mass mobilization across the country on March 28.
- President Trump is harming families right now. This is not a future threat — it's a deadly reality. This year, the administration's brutality has already killed people including Keith Porter Jr., Renee Good, Alex Pretti, and thirty-two others since January 2025. Families are living with instability intentionally manufactured by the president and his extremist enablers. Masked agents are ripping parents from children and terrorizing Latino, Black, and Asian communities. People shouldn't have to choose between going to work and risking their family's safety.
- The No Kings movement is growing. Every time the Trump administration escalates its violent attacks on everyday people and tries to take our freedoms, the No Kings movement grows stronger. March 28th is an opportunity to prove that we the people will not back down.
- President Trump is using fear & violence as a governing tool. This is the opposite of democracy. While families are crushed by the rising costs of groceries, housing and healthcare, the administration has supercharged funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to terrorize our communities. A government that truly cared about safety would invest in communities, people and schools, not send masked agents into our streets.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

February 10, 2026 Immigration Policy Discussion, 6:00-7:30 pm, Plymouth Public Library

February 12, 2026 LWVLex Candidates Night, 7:00 pm, Clarke Middle School

February 14, 2026 LWV's 106<sup>th</sup> birthday

February 19, 2026 LWVUS 2026 Legislative Priorities, 3:00 pm, Zoom

February 24, 2026 LWV Member Mingle, 7:00 pm, Zoom

March 2, 2026 Election Day, polls open 7:00 am to 8:00 pm

March 6, 2026 LWV First Friday Forum: Light Pollution, 9:30 am, Lexington Community Center

March 28, 2026 No Kings Mass Mobilization, various locations

May 26 - June, 5, 2026 2026 Mass Spring Civics Showcases, Springfield; Dartmouth; Worcester; Boston.

June 25-28, 2026 LWVUS national biennial convention, Columbus, Ohio and on zoom

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 the League convener Margaret Coppe at [mecoppe@gmail.com](mailto:mecoppe@gmail.com).

## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR LEGISLATORS

### **U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren**

JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury Street, Boston, MA 2203  
(617) 565-3170

311 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-4543

### **U.S. Senator Edward Markey**

JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury Street, Boston, MA 2203  
(617) 565-8519

255 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-2742

### **U.S. Representative Katherine M. Clark**

2368 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-2836

### **MA Senator Michael Barrett**

24 Beacon Street, Room 312B  
Boston, MA 02133  
(617) 722-1572

### **MA Senator Cindy Friedman**

24 Beacon Street, Room 313  
Boston, MA 02133  
(617) 722-1432

### **MA Rep. Michelle Ciccolo**

24 Beacon Street, Room 473F  
Boston, MA 02133  
(781) 330-0730

### **MA Rep. Ken Gordon**

24 Beacon Street, Room 473G  
Boston, MA 02133  
(617) 722-2070

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

## 2025-2026 BOARD

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We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you would like to submit an article for the March 2026 Lexington LWV Bulletin, please send it to Wendy Manz at [wendy\\_manz@yahoo.com](mailto:wendy_manz@yahoo.com) by February 23, 2026.



