



BULLETIN, June, 2025

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Greetings from the Convenor's Desk,

The League year is coming to a close with our Annual Meeting on June 26. I am pleased we have secured Lexington resident Carol Rose, Executive Director of the ACLU Massachusetts as our keynote speaker. I am looking forward to the evening and encourage all our members to attend.

We have concluded our First Friday series successfully and are starting to plan for next year. Please do not hesitate to let us know if there is a topic or a speaker that we might use. This monthly series continues to be the highlight of our League year and I want to thank all who have helped to put them on.

We are in the midst of a change in how membership dues will be paid. In the past, a letter went out from the local League with the information about dues. This year, dues will be paid directly to LWVUS, and then 20 percent of the funds collected will come to us. 100 per cent of any extra donation will come directly to us. If you have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact us and we will help.

I am looking forward to attending the LWVMA convention on June 14, along with Wendy Manz. We will report back on what we learn when the next Bulletin comes out.

Wishing everyone a beautiful and restful summer.

Margaret Coppe
Convenor

mecoppe@gmail.com



MA ACLU HEAD CAROL ROSE WILL DELIVER THE KEYNOTE AT THE LEXINGTON LWV ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 26

The 82nd Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Lexington will be held on **Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 7:00 PM in Estabrook Hall, Cary Memorial Building, 1605 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington.** At 7:30 PM, following a business meeting and election of officers, **Carol Rose, Executive Director of the ACLU of Massachusetts** will speak on **“ACLU: Now More Than Ever.”**

Rose, a Lexington resident, has led the ACLU in Massachusetts since 2003. She has focused on racial justice and equal opportunity for women, LGBTQ+ people and immigrants. She has launched the ***Technology for Liberty Project*** which focuses on strengthening privacy rights against corporate and government practices that rely on new technology. The aim is to ensure government transparency and effective warrant requirements for surveillance.

As always, the presentation will be free and open to the public. Lex Media will also record the program for later viewing. For more information, contact the League convener Margaret Coppe at [**mecoppe@gmail.com**](mailto:mecoppe@gmail.com).

REMINDER:

DISMANTLING RACISM IN OUR TOWN CONVERSATIONS

The Lexington Human Rights Committee and the Lexington Lyceum Advocates are continuing a series of “conversations and reflections” on Tuesday evenings at 6:45 pm – 8:45 pm at the Lexington Community Center. The sessions are free and open to all interested participants, and are designed to strengthen personal and collective awareness of anti-Black racism and its consequences through presentations by those

who live, work, study and/or worship in Lexington and its environs. The goal is to commit together to undo and repair legacies of racism and white supremacy in ourselves and our communities. Remaining sessions are scheduled for June 10 and June 17.

Register at <https://tiyurl.com/DRIOTSpring2025>. More information is available at LexDismatlingRacism@gmail.com.

OF INTEREST

“VOTES FOR WOMEN: A PORTRAIT OF PERSISTENCE”

The League of Women Voters of the North Shore is joining with Historic Beverly to sponsor an exhibit at Hale Farm in Beverly entitled “Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence.” The exhibit, which will run from June 27 to August 30, will feature a poster exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in collaboration with the National Portrait Gallery, exploring the complexity of the women’s suffrage movement and its relevance to American lives today.

The crusade for women's suffrage is one of the longest reform movements in American history. Between 1832 and 1920, women citizens organized for the right to vote, agitating first in their states or territories and then, simultaneously, petitioning for a federal amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Based on the National Portrait Gallery exhibition of the same name, "Votes for Women" seeks to expand visitors’ understanding of the suffrage movement in the United States. The poster exhibition addresses women's political activism, explores the racism that challenged universal suffrage, and documents the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, which prohibits the government from denying U.S. citizens the right to vote based on sex. It also touches upon the suffrage movement's relevance to current conversations on voting and voting rights across America.

The Smithsonian American Women’s History Initiative, *Because of Her Story* is one of the country’s most ambitious undertakings to research, collect, document, display, and share the compelling story of women. It seeks to deepen understanding of women’s contributions to the nation and the world. More information about the initiative is available at womenshistory.si.edu.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS

LWVMA EVENTS/PROGRAMS



MA ATTORNEY GENERAL ANDREA JOY CAMPBELL TO SPEAK AT LWVMA BIENNIAL CONVENTION JUNE 14, 2025

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is pleased to announce that MA **Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell*** will be providing us with a virtual keynote **address at our 2025 Convention: *Year 105: Democracy Forward***.

The mission of the MA Office of the Attorney General is to act as an advocate and resource for the people of Massachusetts in areas including protecting consumers, combating fraud and corruption, investigating and prosecuting crime, and protecting the environment, workers, and civil rights. In a time when so many threats to our democracy have occurred and Constitutional crises loom, our country has relied on the judicial branch to ensure that basic rights and institutions are protected. AG Campbell will inform us of the actions the Massachusetts judiciary is taking to challenge executive orders on voting, ending birthright citizenship, dismantling DEI and the gross mistreatment of immigrants. She will offer the League insights that should empower us to continue our own fight for a better Commonwealth for all.

**[Please note that the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts does not support or endorse any candidate or political party, but will work with elected officials once in office to advance policy positions, educate our members, and increase civic education throughout the Commonwealth.]*

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The LWVMA Convention will also feature **breakout sessions** for member discussion of current issues:

Intersectionality & Action: A DEI Roadmap for Local Leagues'

This session, hosted by the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, is designed to move this ongoing conversation from theory to action. The interactive session will begin with a panel discussion featuring four local League members who will speak to the core principles of DEI, the importance of intersectionality, and the visible impact of recent policy reversals on marginalized communities. Panelists will also highlight best practices and share accessible resources for local Leagues to consider as they work to center DEI in their advocacy and programming. DEI Committee Chair Courtney Henderson will conclude the session with a presentation of clear, actionable steps to give local Leagues the tools to proactively support and protect those most affected by the rollback of equity-focused policies.

"The Voter Girl Project" is hosted by the LWVMA Membership Committee and presented by Sherry Rose, League of Women Voters of Kent, Ohio. She will introduce us to this civic engagement program developed by the LWV of Kent, in partnership with the Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio. Now available to all Local Leagues in Massachusetts through a statewide license, the project offers a hands-on, age-appropriate curriculum that helps Girl Scouts—from Daisies to Ambassadors—understand democracy, elections, and the power of their voice. This breakout session, will provide an overview of the program structure, share best practices from successful implementations, and explore how local Leagues can collaborate with local Girl Scout troops to deliver an impactful and inspiring experience.

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The **LWVMA Convention** will be held at the Envision Hotel in Mansfield, MA on Saturday, June 14, 2025. Additional items on the agenda include:

- Planning state program and voting a budget for the next biennium;
- Voting on the Reparations Study Consensus;
- Updates to LWVMA Bylaws, primarily affecting membership and dues;
- Election of LWVMA Officers and Directors; and
- Forging connections among local Leagues from around the Commonwealth.

Questions about Convention? See "Frequently Asked Questions" section on our Convention webpage <https://lwmma.org/convention-2025/> or email lwmma@lwmma.org.

TEAM LWV@105 WILL COMPLETE IN THE BOSTON WOMEN'S 10K

Run like a woman with LWVMA! The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts will have a team this year with the **Boston Women's 10K**, which will take place on **October 11, 2025**. Our team, LWV@105, will be a chance for you to connect with other League members and support our work! Want to join members of the LWVMA Board in running? Sign up at <https://runsignup.com/Race/Register/RaceGroup-1?raceId=72269>. Those not running are invited to support the team with signs, noisemakers, and cheer on the day of the race!

LEADERSHIP GIVING COUNCIL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM WELCOMES SUMMER INTERN

In May, the LWVMA welcomed a summer **Marketing and Events Intern**, financed by the newly announced Leadership Giving Council Internship Program. **Lily Johnson** is a rising sophomore at the University of Connecticut, majoring in Marketing and minoring in Political Science. Originally from Plymouth, MA, she was involved in student government through high school, which taught her the importance of civic engagement and sparked her interest in public policy. With a background in digital marketing, Lily has already begun to bring her interests in marketing and political science to her internship this summer!

The new Leadership Giving Council Internship Program seeks to raise \$10,000 a year to sponsor two paid interns for the Massachusetts League. The LWVMA believes that today's intern is tomorrow's nonprofit leader, and wishes to actively engage the next generation of nonprofit and civic leaders.

LWVMA ADVOCACY

LWVMA STATEMENT ON DHS LIST OF "SANCTUARY CITIES"

On May 29, the federal Department of Homeland Security published a list of more than 500 "sanctuary jurisdictions" across the country, putting them on notice that the Trump administration views them as obstructing immigration enforcement. Massachusetts cities including Boston and Cambridge are among those believed to be standing in the way of the president's mass deportations agenda.

On June 2, the **League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA)** released the following **statement in response to the public listing of sanctuary jurisdictions**:

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) removals are devastating our communities. "From arresting parents in front of their children to pulling people who present no public safety threat out of their cars in broad daylight, the aggressive ICE tactics we're seeing across the Commonwealth do not protect the public, and instead spread fear," according to Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA), representing 44 local Leagues across 155 municipalities from Cape Cod to the Berkshires, stands in solidarity with immigrants and our partners in the immigrants' rights community. The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal, and right to humane treatment. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the revolution that birthed our nation, we affirm that the Massachusetts Constitution guarantees equal protection of the laws to all people, regardless of nationality, citizenship, or immigration status. When due process is denied to any group, it weakens the rule of law for all of us.

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LWVMA is a proud member of the **Protecting Our Immigrant Communities Campaign (POIC)**. Learn more about POIC by watching the LWVMA event recording [HERE](#). Contact your elected officials using our Action Alert [HERE](#). We urge the Massachusetts Legislature to pass these bills swiftly to ensure the safety of all residents of the Commonwealth.

LWVMA notes that we can't stop Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) removals, but Massachusetts can take a stand for due process and the rule of law. Members are urged to contact our State Representative Michelle Ciccolo and Ken Gordon and our State Senators Cindy Friedman and Mike Barrett (See contact information at the end of this Bulletin.) **THIS WEEK** via email or phone to ask them to support the passage of the following bills.

[H2580/S1681](#), *An Act to protect the civil rights and safety of all Massachusetts residents (Safe Communities Act)*

[H1588/S1122](#) *An Act relative to immigration detention and collaboration agreements (Dignity not Deportations)* [H1954/S1127](#), *An Act ensuring access to equitable representation in immigration proceedings (Immigrant Legal Defense Fund)*

You can read summaries of the bills on the LWVMA website: [League-Supported/Opposed Legislation 2025-2026 – League of Women Voters of Massachusetts](#).

Questions? Email specialists@lwmvma.org You may also want to review the Attorney General's **Know Your Rights: ICE Enforcement A Guide for Immigrants, Families, and Communities**, issued May 29, and share it with your community and personal network.

LWVMA SUPPORTS SEVEN BILLS TO PROTECT MA FROM FEDERAL THREATS

The LWVMA is prioritizing the following seven bills, which, if enacted, would help to protect Massachusetts from current federal threats:

H.2370/S.1563, *An Act prioritizing patient access to care (update state law to ensure no one must leave the state for abortion care);*

SD.2808, *An Act strengthening health care protections in the Commonwealth (Strengthen protections for providers that offer abortion care and gender-affirming care);*

H.2580/S.1681, *An Act to protect the civil rights and safety of all Massachusetts residents (Safe Communities Act);*

H.1588/S.1122, *An Act relative to immigration detention and collaboration agreements (Dignity not Deportations);*

H.1954/S.1127, *An Act ensuring access to equitable representation in immigration proceedings (Immigrant Legal Defense Fund);*

H.3594/S.2328, *An Act regarding free expression (Prohibits book bans);*

H.86/S.197, *An Act to protect location privacy/An Act to protect safety and privacy by stopping the sale of location data (Location Shield Act).*

More information about each of these bills can be found at:

<https://lwmvma.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Seven-bills-to-defend-against-federal-threats.pdf>. Questions: Email specialists@lwmvma.org.

Please contact your legislators to urge their support of these bills.

LWVMA POSITION ON “NO KINGS” PROTEST ON JUNE 14

The League of Women Voters is not an official national partner of the “**No Kings**” nationwide action on June 14, as current messaging for the national event appears to be more focused on the President himself than on broader public issues that impact the League mission. The LWVMA will continue looking for opportunities to lead and support nonpartisan mobilizations that focus on legislation, policies, and issues. If local protest is focused on policies and issues that impact their communities, Leagues may choose to participate. That decision will be made by local and state League boards on whether participation helps or hinders their ability to work effectively with each community.

LWVMA PARTNERSHIPS: THE COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

As it looks to achieve more effective advocacy and voter service in all its activities, the LWVMA actively seeks coalition partners to expand its goals and broaden its reach.

COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE.

On June 17, the LWVMA will join with the Coalition for Juvenile Justice for a **Day of Advocacy at the State House** to advance key youth justice reforms.

Attendees will gather at the State House, Great Hall, 24 Beacon Street, Boston MA or follow the proceedings as they are live streamed:

Doors will open at 11:45 am and the program will begin at 12:00 noon. Light lunch will be served. At 1:30 pm there will be an opportunity for League attendees to meet in person or via phone or email with their legislators.

Bills that the League hopes to advance include:

- **An Act Improving Juvenile Justice Data Collection** (Rep. Vargas H.2028/ Sen. Creem S.1054);
- **An Act to Promote Public Safety and Better Outcomes for Youth** (Reps. O’Day & Cruz H.1923/ Sen. Crighton S.1061);
- **An Act promoting diversion of juveniles to community supervision and services** (Rep. Fluker-Reid H.1695/ Sen. Creem S.1051);

- **An Act to Ensure Educational Rights are Upheld for Incarcerated Youth** (Rep. Keefe h.620/ Sen. Miranda s.1721);
- **An Act to Prevent the Imposition of Mandatory Minimum Sentences Based on Juvenile Adjudications** (Rep. Frank Moran H.1900/ Sen. Eldridge S.1081);
- **An Act promoting fairness in youthful offender indictments** (Rep. Nguyen h.1918/ Sen. Dayano S.1240);
- **An Act to Enhance Fairness and Increase Positive Outcomes for Children** (Rep. Decker h.1658/ Sen. Creem S.1050);
- **An Act to remedy disparities in students' educational achievement** (Reps. Ultrino & Meschino H.730/ Sen. Jehlen S.376);
- **An act relative to juvenile fees, fines, and restitution** (Rep. Decker h.1660/ Sen. Gomez s.1131);
- **An Act protecting youth during custodial interrogations** (Rep. Sangiolo H.1984/ Sen. Creem S.108);
- **An Act Relative to Health Care Quality for Children and Youth** (Rep. Schwartz H.285 | Sen. Oliviera S.169);
- **An Act Relative to Consensual Adolescent Sexual Activity** (Rep. Lewis H.1835/ Sen. Fernandes S.1104);
- **An Act Relative to Expungement of Juvenile and Young adult records** (Rep. Decker H.1657/ Sen. Creem S.1058).

More information about each of these bills can be found at:

<https://www.cfjj.org/advocacy>.

ELECTION MODERNIZATION COALITION

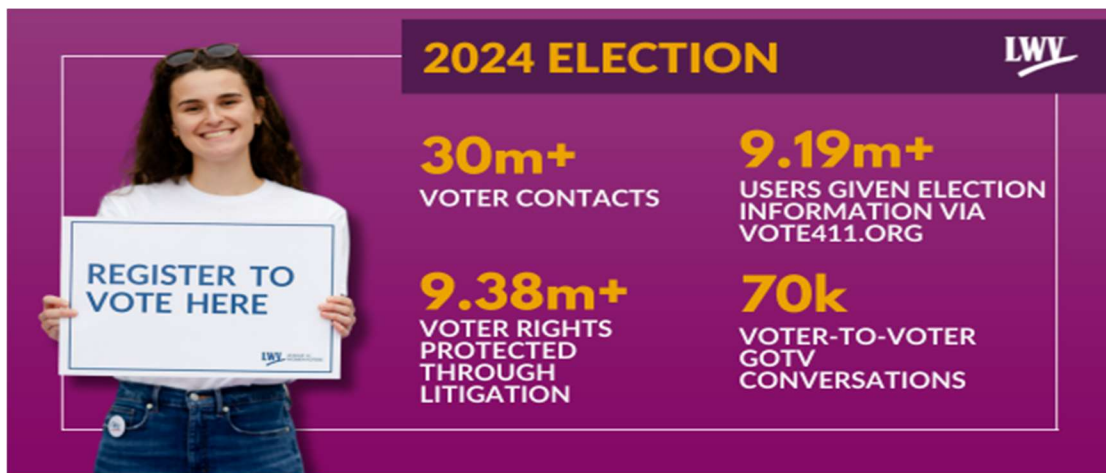
LWVMA and our partners in the **Election Modernization Coalition (EMC)** held a press conference at the State House on May 14 to launch this session's voting access campaign, targeting bills to enact same-day voter registration, decouple the municipal census from voter rolls, and monitor polling locations for disability access. We noted that over 3,300 provisional ballots cast in the November 2024 election were rejected. With same-day registration, almost all of those voters could have just registered and voted with a ballot that counted.

COMMON CAUSE

LWVMA and **Common Cause** recently hosted a briefing for legislators on the need to pass a resolution to rescind outdated calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention. Former **U.S. Senator Russell Feingold** (of McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform) spoke to the Zoom **webinar, attended by legislators and/or staff**, on the need to block efforts to dramatically alter the US Constitution through an untested Convention of States by seeking to get state legislatures to send resolutions to Congress. Past calls for a convention are being counted in the effort to reach the goal of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the states (34) seeking a convention. Massachusetts, for example, has still active resolutions to ban abortion (1977), abolish the income tax (1964), repeal prohibition (1931) and more. LWVMA, with Common Cause, is seeking a new resolution to rescind them all.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

LWVUS VOTER SERVICE



2024 ELECTION IMPACT REPORT PUBLISHED

The LWVUS has published a report on the many activities of Leagues across the country, leading up to the 2024 election. The goal has been to uplift all voters — across gender, race, political party, geographic location, and language. Through everyday partnerships

and the support of surge funders, Leagues took on the work of defending democracy. The Report is an impressive compendium of individual voter contacts, voter registration, litigation in defense of voter rights and an array of public and private partnerships to help further the cause of voter empowerment. It is available at:

https://www.lwv.org/2024-election-impact?utm_source=Salsa&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=ImpactReport&utm_content=5.25&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=f999b89b-ee35-48c3-ae23-689e53763237

LWVUS ADVOCACY

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET PACKAGE NOW BEFORE THE SENATE

The U.S. Senate is currently considering a budget package, passed the House of Representatives by one vote, that would slash Medicaid funding, putting millions of Americans' health care coverage at risk. Medicaid is the single largest source of health coverage in the country. Nearly 72 million Americans, including children, pregnant people, seniors, families with limited incomes, and people with disabilities, rely on Medicaid for essential care. As part of our current **Unite and Rise initiative**, the LWVUS is calling on Congress to protect Medicaid for the millions who rely on it. If you haven't already, take action using our **Action Alert** at www.lwv.org to urge your U.S. Senators to act to save Medicaid. And share the League's **recent educational series** on **Facebook** and **Instagram** to help spread the word!

As noted in the May Bulletin, the LWVUS continues to push back against the **SAVE Act**, dangerous anti-voter legislation also passed by the House and currently in the Senate, that would create more barriers to voter registration for more people. Please continue to raise the voices and stories of people who will be most impacted by the SAVE Act when you contact your senators.



**Stand up for
democracy before
it's too late!**



SAVE THE DATE

June 6, 2025 Student Civics Showcase, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm,
Edward M. Kennedy Institute, Boston

June 14, 2025 LWVMA Biannual Convention, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Mansfield, MA

October 11, 2025 Boston Women's 10K race

We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you would like to submit an article for the Summer 2025 Lexington LWV Bulletin, please send it to Wendy Manz at wendy_manz@yahoo.com by June 27, 2025.

Contact Information for Legislators

U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren	JFK Federal Building 15 New Sudbury Street Boston, MA 02203 (617) 565-3170
U.S. Senator Edward Markey	255 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 202 224-2742
U.S. Representative Katherine Clark	2448 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 202 225-2836

***Mailing addresses for MA legislators are all at
24 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02133 with a room number.***

MA Senator Michael Barrett	Mike.Barrett@masenate.gov Room 617 722-1572
MA Senator Cindy Friedman	Cindy.Friedman@masenate.gov Room 617 722-1432
MA Representative Michelle Ciccolo	Michelle.Ciccolo@mahouse.gov Room 617 722-2210
MA Representative Ken Gordon	Ken.Gordon@mahouse.gov Room 156 617 722-2240

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

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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 Lexington League Convenor, Margaret Coppe at mecoppe@gmail.com. All League forums are free and open to the public.

