

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LEXINGTON

BULLETIN, June, 2026

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Greetings from the Convener's Desk.

Thanks to League members who helped staff our table on Discovery Day 2026. We talked to visitors to our booth, and gave out pocket copies of US Constitution and lots of candy! We are in the process of getting back to interested people who filled out our sign-in sheet.



*Mabel Amar, Wendy Manz, Melanie Thompson, Margaret Coppe.
Jeanne Canale also helped, and Mabel is an honorary member!*

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We are very sad to report that we lost two of our longtime members, **Martha Wood** (1937-2026), and **Jane Pagett** (1947-2026) last month.

Martha served as president of the local League from 2006-2008. She was an active member in the community up until her death, serving as a Town Meeting member and on many boards and committees, most recently on the Zoning Board of Appeals. She and I bonded many years ago as we both came from Kansas. Her memorial service will be held at Pilgrim Church at 10:30 am on Saturday, June 13.

Jane was also a long time Town Meeting member, a member of the Appropriation Committee, and a Minuteman School Committee member. A memorial gathering for her will be held at the Historical Society Depot Building at 10:00 am on Saturday, June 6.

These were two women who exemplified the community spirit and continuing commitment of members of the League, and we will miss them very much.

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Seeking your Input: Help us shape the next **LWVMA Website!** The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is currently redesigning our state website to optimize user experience and readability, and to ensure that our League has seamless access to information and resources. Your input is extremely valuable in helping us determine the next direction for the state League. All members are invited to take a brief survey to help us identify areas of improvement and determine how we can best support our local Leagues and members at-large! The link is here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfppsLGRFDCzdSLp6CqMH0dpkwwpQI0wFJcE0PMoFPVzwwnFA/viewform>

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Attend Burlington ICE Actions: *Bearing Witness* continues to stand in solidarity outside the ICE Operations Office in Burlington every Wednesday from 11:00 am –to 1:00 pm, and other organizations lead the charge every Thursday from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. The League is not an official sponsor of this event but encourages attendance.

We are taking a break for the next few months, but will be back in the fall with our First Fridays and Annual Meeting.

Margaret Coppe
Convenor

SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION ON JUNE 16: TRASH COLLECTION

Shall the Town vote to approve the action of the representative town meeting whereby it was voted to amend section 90-9 of the General Bylaws to (1) provide for free residential trash disposal up to a threshold level to be set by the Select Board: and (2) permit the Select Board to charge reasonable fees for trash disposal in excess of that baseline?

In Person Voting Registration: You must be registered to vote by **5:00 PM on Friday, June 5, 2026** to participate in this election. You may register to vote online or in person at the Town Clerk's Office. On Friday, June 5th, registration in person will be from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM in the Clerk's Office and then 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM at the Police Department.

Polls will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Mail-In Ballot Application : If you wish to vote by mail, you must return a mail-in ballot application by **5:00 PM on Tuesday, June 9, 2026** .

LEXINGTON LEAGUE FIRST FRIDAY FORUM, JUNE 5, 2026: VOTING RIGHTS: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?



Traci Griffith

The last Lexington League First Friday Forum of this season will be on **June 5, 2026, from 9:30 am -11:00 am in Room 237 at the Lexington Community Center**. We are pleased to have as our guest **Traci Griffith, of ACLU Massachusetts**, who will review recent Supreme Court rulings on the Voting Rights Act, and discuss **where we go from here**.

The ACLU, like the League, is non-profit and non-partisan. Their mission is to defend and expand civil rights and personal freedoms. They do that in three ways: their legal team goes to court to protect rights such as free speech, due process, and equal protection under the law; their policy team works with elected officials at the state and local levels; and their field team does community organizing and public education.

Traci Griffith is the Racial Justice Program Director at the ACLU of Massachusetts, where she leads statewide initiatives advancing equity and civil rights. She previously served on the National ACLU Board of Directors, including roles on the Executive Committee and as National Board Secretary, contributing to organizational governance and national strategy on constitutional and civil liberties issues.

A former Associate Professor and department chair at St. Michael's College in Burlington, Vermont, her teaching and scholarship have centered on media law, ethics, and race and gender representation. She continues to teach as an adjunct and provides cultural competency and bias mitigation training to organizations, nonprofits and corporate clients. She holds a J.D. from Notre Dame Law School, an M.S. in Journalism from Florida A&M University and a B.A. in Political Science from DePaul University.

This program is the Ninth in the 2025-2026 LWV First Friday Forum series hosted by the Lexington 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>.



LWVMA BIENNIAL COUNCIL SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 6

The LWVMA Biennial Council *Defending the Commonwealth* will take place on Saturday, June 6 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm on Zoom. After election of a new slate of LWVMA Directors, we will hear from our keynote speaker, Dr. Christine Slaughter.

Dr. Slaughter is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Boston University and a fellow in the Allen Lab for Democracy Renovation at the Harvard Kennedy School. Her research interests lie at the intersection of political psychology, racial inequality, and voting behavior. Through her research, Dr. Slaughter examines how members of historically marginalized groups (through their race, class, and/or gender) develop psychological and social resources to engage in the political process. Her work has been featured in USA Today, Forbes, The Bay State Banner, and Capital B News, as well as in many academic journals. section of the American Political Science Association (APSA), and the recipient of the 2026

Dr. Slaughter is an alumna of Spelman College, a historically Black women's college in Atlanta, Georgia and earned her Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles. She also serves as a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

At Council, local Leagues are allocated a certain number of voting delegates based on League size, but all League members are invited to attend. Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register>.

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 the coming year's 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.

OF INTEREST

On Thursday, June 11, from 7:30 pm-9:00 pm, at First Parish Church in Lexington, former State Representative Jay Kaufman and Chuck Collins, of the Institute for Policy Studies, will lead a community conversation on "Inequality and Democracy - On a Collision Course." They look at the current state of affairs as "a moment of opportunity."

Since his retirement, Representative Kaufman has worked with a number of national groups to support equality and democratic process. He is currently publishing on his "Uncertain Times" Substack site. Chuck Collins is the director of the Program on Inequality and the Common Good at the IPS and the author of a new book, Burned by Billionaires. All are welcome to join in the conversation.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MASSACHUSETTS

LWVMA ADVOCACY

LWVMA LEGAL DAY OF ACTION: AN OPPORTUNITY TO
OBSERVE FEDERAL COURT HEARING ON LWVMA v. TRUMP

On **June 2, 2026**, the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, sitting in the John Joseph Moakley U.S. Courthouse in Boston, heard a number of motions in the case of **League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, et al v. Trump**. Some 50 League members were among the observers in the court room for the two-and-one half hour hearing before Judge Indira Talwani.

As reported in the May Bulletin, the LWVMA is the lead Plaintiff in the law suit which challenges President Trump's March executive order on mail-in voting. The League is joined by a coalition of voting rights organizations, including the Association of

Americans Resident Overseas (AARO), US Vote Foundation, OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates (OCA), and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. They are represented by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), ACLU of Massachusetts, Brennan Center for Justice, Legal Defense Fund (LDF), Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC), and LatinoJustice PRLDEF. A number of states were permitted to participate as intervenors and were also represented by counsel.

The judge was considering a Motion to Dismiss from the Defendants (the U.S. Justice Department), a Motion for Summary Judgment from the Plaintiffs, and a Motion for a Preliminary Injunction which would stay execution of the order until the courts have had time to decide the broader questions of its legitimacy.

The President's order attempts to supersede mail-in voting laws of the individual states (including Massachusetts) by ordering the Department of Homeland Security to prepare a list of eligible voters for each state which is then provided to the state and ultimately forms the basis of the mail-in ballots the state governments provide to the U.S. Postal Service for mailing. While all the parties concede that these DHS lists, if prepared, will be incomplete and likely unreliable, based on the information contained in myriad federal data bases and subject to limitations of federal privacy laws, there was discussion of whether state voting authorities, or even the Postal Service, might be subject to criminal liability if the lists of voters to receive mail-in ballots ultimately differed from the federal lists.

The Defendants' Motion to Dismiss was not premised on the merits of the procedure set out in the Executive Order, but rather on the argument that since the procedure had not yet been put in place, no harm had accrued to Plaintiffs, and the matter was therefore not "ripe" for adjudication. The Plaintiff contested this argument by showing that state election authorities have to prepare for elections many months in advance, and were already facing added expense and confusion in anticipating the new procedure.

The Plaintiffs' and Intervenors' Motion for Summary Judgment was based on the argument that considering all the statements of fact agreed to by the parties in the pleadings, it was clear that the Executive Order was invalid on its face: **The Constitution provides that individual states have authority over voting procedures, and Congress may prescribe certain aspects of voting, such as the Fifteenth and Nineteenth Amendments giving specific groups (people of color, women) the right to vote, but the President and the Executive Branch have no authority to prescribe voting procedures or to interfere in elections conducted by the states.**

In considering whether a preliminary injunction would be appropriate, the Court had many questions as to whether the order could be implemented in time for elections coming up across the country this year, given statutory time periods and necessary preparation time, and whether such an order would have any effect, given that her

orders as a District Judge would undoubtedly be appealed to the federal Court of Appeals, and even ultimately to the Supreme Court.



The judge took all matters under advisement, promising an order in due time, and League members, armed with signs supporting mail-in voting, repaired to the front of the Courthouse for a brief press conference with statements from Celia Canavan, the LWVMA Executive Director, as well as from counsel for the various Plaintiffs.

[COMMONWEALTH BEACON CODCAST FEATURES LWVMA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DISCUSSING LWVMA v. TRUMP](#)

Last month, LWVMA Executive Director Celia Canavan was featured on an episode of **The Codcast, Commonwealth Beacon's podcast**, to discuss [LWVMA v. Trump](#). In this episode, Celia, along with Davin Rosborough of the American Civil Liberties Union, discusses the new rules created by the President's March executive order and the pile-up of legal fights including twelve red states seeking to intervene in support of the order.

[MASSACHUSETTS LAW REFORM INSTITUTE \(MLRI\) PODCAST: "LET'S CLEAR THE RECORD" FEATURES LWVMA HOUSING LEGISLATIVE SPECIALIST](#)

The inaugural episode of the MLRI Podcast mini-series "Let's Clear the Record" in May featured a discussion with LWVMA Affordable Housing Legislative Specialist Lori Stewart and Noreliz Dejesus of La Colaborativa about outreach strategy, community

engagement and contact with tenants at the one-year anniversary of the Massachusetts eviction sealing law. Under the law, tenants who win their eviction cases, have a case dismissed, or have a no-fault eviction case can petition to have their records sealed immediately after the appeal period ends. The purpose is to avoid continuing impact on tenants' credit, ability to find employment and future tenancies.

FAIRNESS FOR FARMWORKERS ADVOCACY DAY: JUNE 10

On **Wednesday, June 10 at 10:30 AM** advocates will gather at the Massachusetts State House steps on Beacon Street for a **Fairness for Farmworkers Rally and Lobby Day**.

- **10:30 AM**, Gather at State House steps on Beacon Street
- **11:00 AM**, Speaking program on State House steps
- **11:30 AM - 12:00 PM**, Enter State House on Hooker Entrance side
- **12:00 PM - 2:00 PM**, Legislator Meetings'.

The LWVMA supports the **Fairness for Farmworkers Coalition** seeking stronger protections for these essential workers. To participate, register here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/>.

LWVMA EVENTS



*The Democracy in
Everyday Life Series*

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS: A CORNERSTONE OF DEMOCRACY

**Dan
Kennedy**

Panelist



**Steph
Solis**

Panelist



**Sarah
Stone**

Panelist



**Marlene
O'Brien**

Moderator



**LWVMA DEMOCRACY IN EVERYDAY LIFE SERIES:
FREEDOM OF THE PRESS: A CORNERSTONE OF DEMOCRACY**

The next program in the **LWVMA *Democracy in Everyday Life Series*: “Freedom of the Press: A Cornerstone of Democracy”**, will begin streaming on YouTube on **June 5, 2026 at 6:30 pm EST**. The conversation, moderated by LWVMA Board Member Marlene O’Brien, a lawyer and writer currently focused on democracy, women’s issues and ethics, will focus on the meaning of the First Amendment and whether the “Free Press” is really free.

Panelists will be:

- **Dan Kennedy**, a professor in the School of Journalism at Northeastern University and author of three books on the future of journalism, who writes frequently about local news for his blog, **Media Nation** (dankennedy.net), as well as other publications, and serves as a panelist on Beat the Press with Emily Rooney, posting new episodes at scottvanvoorhis.substack.com.
- **Steph Solis** is co-author of the Axios Boston newsletter, president of the New England chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, and a member of NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ+ Journalists, covering state government, business policy, small businesses, immigration and other issues affecting Boston-area residents
- **Sarah Stone** is the National Field Director at Free Press, who oversees Free Press’ civic-media field strategy, aiming to pass public policies that transform local news and create equitable access to civic information.

Listen to the episode here: <https://lwwma.org/freedom-of-the-press>.

OF INTEREST

Who Governs the Governor’s Council is soliciting volunteers to serve as Observer Corps members to Governor’s Council meetings. You can join them for their next virtual informational meeting on **June 11 at 4:30 PM**. Prior registration not required.

Zoom information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81433377233?pwd=bmJMK3ZNRC9qaGdlR29ORDNjdVWuZz09>

Meeting ID: 814 3337 7233 **Passcode:** 881809

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF UNITED STATES

LWVUS EVENTS

REMINDER:

57TH BIENNIAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NATIONAL CONVENTION, JUNE 25-28, 2026

COLUMBUS, OHIO AND ON ZOOM

See the LWV Lex May Bulletin for details.

VOTE 411 IS READY FOR PRIMARY SEASON

Primary season has officially begun, and the League's **VOTE 411** has additional information. A new page lists the 2026 state primaries by date in both English and Spanish. **VOTE 411** can be accessed at: VOTE411.org.

LWVUS ADVOCACY

NEW HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COURT STRIKES DOWN ANTI-VOTER LAW

Last week, **the U.S. District Court for the District of New Hampshire struck down the state's anti-voter law** enacted in 2024, declaring it unconstitutional. The law created some of the strictest registration requirements in the nation and, among other things, required documentary proof of citizenship for voter registration.

The lawsuit was filed by the ACLU of New Hampshire, American Civil Liberties Union, and Ropes & Gray LLP, on behalf of plaintiffs the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire, Coalition for Open Democracy, The Forward Foundation, and several individual voters. The suit challenged the law's creation of needless barriers to voting, including its removal of the ability for eligible voters to register by attesting to their citizenship under penalty of perjury on a sworn affidavit. In addition to declaring the law unconstitutional, the Court blocked its use in all future elections, including the 2026 midterms and September primary.

"This decision sends a clear message that constitutional rights do not end when voting begins," said **Marcia Johnson, chief of activation and justice for the League of Women Voters.** *"Eligible voters should not be denied access to voting because of burdensome and unnecessary requirements. At a time when new barriers to voter registration are being enacted across the country, this ruling affirms that protecting elections and protecting voters' rights are not competing goals. The League of Women Voters is proud to stand with New Hampshire voters, and we will continue building a democracy where every eligible voter can participate freely, fairly, and with confidence."*

"This decision is a victory for New Hampshire voters and for the fundamental freedom to vote," said **Liz Tentarelli, president for the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire.** *"Granite Staters deserve a system that makes it possible for eligible voters to participate without unnecessary hurdles or confusion. The League of Women Voters of New Hampshire will continue working to ensure our elections remain accessible, fair, and secure for everyone."*

"Today's ruling is a victory for all Granite State voters. New Hampshire's elections have always been safe, secure, and accurate – and this law could have unconstitutionally and needlessly prevented thousands of eligible voters from casting a ballot," said **Henry Klementowicz, deputy legal director for the ACLU of New Hampshire.** *"Making it harder to vote is a clear attack on one of our most fundamental of rights, and this law is consigned to the dustbin of history where it belongs."*

According to the Court's decision, the law *"constitutes an unjustifiable burden on the right to vote in violation of the First and Fourteenth Amendments," "does little, if anything, to further the state's interests," and also "violates voters' rights to procedural due process."*

Despite the proven accuracy, reliability, and security of New Hampshire's elections, the law made fundamental changes to the state's election law that violate the First and 14th Amendments of the US Constitution. The law required documentary proof of citizenship for voter registration—documents like a passport or birth certificate, which many people do not have or cannot easily access—making it materially harder, if not impossible, for thousands of New Hampshire citizens to exercise their right to vote

"While we witness escalating attacks on voting rights nationwide, New Hampshire's HB 1569 represented yet another substantial barrier to the ballot box," **Jacob van Leer, staff attorney for the national ACLU's Voting Rights Project.** *"As federal and state leaders across the country seek to impose restrictive and unnecessary documentary proof requirements for voting, our win sends a clear message that such attempts to undermine our elections will not succeed."*

The Court's decision is in line with other federal courts that have weighed in on this issue previously. For instance, federal courts struck down a similar Kansas law, which imposed a proof of citizenship requirement for state and federal elections, as violating both the US Constitution and National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

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SAVE THE DATE

June 5, 2026 LWV Lex First Friday Forum: Voting Rights, 9:30 am- 11:00 am, Community Center

June 6, 2026 LWVMA Biennial Council, 10:00 am-12:30 pm, Zoom

June 10, 2026 Fairness for Farmworkers Advocacy Day,

June 11, 2026 Jay Kaufman and Chuck Collins on "A Moment of Opportunity," 7:30 pm-9:00 pm, First Parish Church, 7 Harrington Road

June 16, 2026 Special Town Election: Trash Collection, 7:00 am- 8:00 pm, various polling locations

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

September 1, 2026 State Primary Election

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

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

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We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you would like to submit an article for the September 2026 Lexington LWV Bulletin, please send it to Wendy Manz at wendy_manz@yahoo.com by August 28, 2026.