



# League of Women Voters<sup>®</sup> of Falmouth Bulletin

March 2026

## ***Steering Committee Report***

Like many people, I’ve been following the news about the SAVE Act. It recently passed the House by a very close vote and is now being considered in the Senate. If the Senate doesn’t pass it, it won’t become law. There’s strong opposition from Democrats and even some Republicans, and it would likely need 60 votes to get past a filibuster.

In simple terms, the SAVE Act would require people to show official proof of U.S. citizenship, like a passport or a birth certificate with a matching ID, before they can register to vote in federal elections.

To me, this raises some concerns. Groups like the Brennan Center for Justice say that noncitizen voting is already extremely rare. The League of Women Voters has also warned that this kind of requirement could make voter registration more complicated and increase mistakes.

Certain groups might feel the impact more than others. Women who’ve changed their names after marriage might have trouble if their documents don’t match exactly. Low-income people may struggle with the cost of getting a passport or certified birth certificate. Rural and older voters might have difficulty getting to government offices. Military families who move often might not always have all their paperwork handy.

Kansas tried something similar in 2013, requiring proof of citizenship to register. Before that law, noncitizen registration was extremely rare,

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about 0.002%. After the rule went into effect, about 31,000 eligible citizens, roughly 12% of applicants, were blocked from registering because they couldn’t provide the required documents. The law was eventually struck down in federal court and hasn’t been enforced since 2018, even though it is still technically on the books.

We already have laws in place to protect our elections. The League of Women Voters is committed to ensuring that voting is accessible, secure, and fair, and that eligible voters are not denied their voice in our democracy.

As a voter, I believe the right to vote is fundamental, and any changes to the system should make it easier for eligible citizens to participate—not harder.

**—Sheila Gordon**  
**Second Vice-President**

## ***Field Service Meeting Highlights***

The February 5 Field Service Meeting brought together representatives from across the region to share updates, coordinate statewide efforts, and discuss emerging issues affecting our communities and local Leagues.

### **Statewide Updates**

LWVMA is developing its **new strategic plan** and will soon request **input from local Leagues**.

**State board vacancies** are open now, with additional openings expected in July. Members from across Massachusetts are encouraged to consider serving.

**Board liaisons** will be assigned to each region to strengthen communication and support.

**Non-League members may be nominated** to the state board and will become members upon joining.

### **Local League News**

#### **South Coast**

Feb. 18 program: **Tatiana Oberchetta** – **“Humanity at Work,”** supporting immigrants with legal, medical, and family needs.

Discussion of **protections for Haitian residents**, with recent coverage in *The New Bedford Light*.

**ICE activity is increasing** in New Bedford.

#### **Plymouth Area**

Upcoming civic programs include a **“Running for Office” Town Hall** and an **Introduction to Town Government** session.

Continuing the **“Where Do Your Taxes Go?”** program, addressing projected budget pressures and rising retiree health costs.

**Standouts** continue with strong support from

local law enforcement.

ICE has reportedly **taken over the Plymouth Jail**.

### **Immigration & Community Safety**

ICE presence is rising across the region.

Local officials, including the Plymouth Sheriff and police chief, have been **cooperative and supportive** of League-related public actions.

### **Nonpartisanship & Advocacy**

Collaboration with **Indivisible** remains acceptable as long as the group does **not endorse candidates**.

Members are encouraged to participate in the **March 28 “No Kings”** standout; League signs may be carried.

### **LWVMA Announcements**

A new **9-page action document** summarizing statewide advocacy has been distributed.

Policy update: **Green card holders may no longer apply for small business loans**.

### **Leadership Opportunities**

The state nominating committee is seeking new members for a **two-year term, with expectations of 9–10** virtual board meetings per year, committee participation, and attendance at annual meetings and special events

**Mentorship is provided** for new board members.

Recruitment is open statewide, with a call for **broad representation**.

**—Marinna Martini**

## Natural Resources Meeting on Coastal Resilience

On February 19th, Falmouth's Coastal Resilience Officer Joshua Wrigley gave a presentation to League members and the public on the pressure climate change is exerting on Falmouth's coastal resources and the actions the town is taking to support coastal resilience. Resilience is the capacity of coastal systems and communities to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from environmental challenges. Falmouth is one of four Cape and Island towns to create such a position and Wrigley is coordinating information with the other three towns.



The pressures on our coastline ecosystems include rising sea level, increasing storm frequency and severity, pollution from development, and erosion.

After laying out this background, Wrigley presented several examples: Surf Drive beach, the sea wall at Chapoquoit Island, the bridge over the inlet at Menauhant Beach, and several river/wetland projects to restore habitat and improve storm water storage.

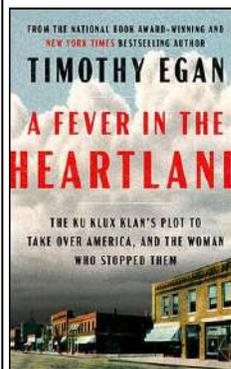
Beach sand nourishment was a significant topic animated with a drone video of Surf Drive Beach from Little River to the bath house. Wrigley discussed some of the challenges to this project, including constraints posed by protected eel grass beds offshore

and the requirement that new sand must match existing in grain size and other qualities. Although sand may wash away with the next major storm, landward erosion would be more severe if the sand was not replaced. Wrigley described dredging operations to clear inlet channels and what must be done to the dredge material before it can be used elsewhere. The Menauhant Bridge replacement will allow for a broader channel with improved tidal flushing of Bourne Pond.

The audience was very engaged, asking a number of questions and sharing additional details and historic perspective on several of the projects and locations discussed. Members of several town boards and town meeting attended.

—*Richard Johnson*  
*Natural Resources*

## LWVF Book Club



The next meeting for the LWVF's new book club will be at 1:30, April 14, in the Bay Room of the Falmouth Public Library. The book under discussion will be Timothy Egan's *A Fever in the Heartland*. According to the Barnes & Noble website,

Egan's book is: "A historical thriller that tells the riveting story of the Klan's rise to power in the 1920s, the cunning con man who drove that rise, and the woman who stopped them." Copies of the book will be available at the Falmouth Public Library reference desk.

## Legislative Program Postponed



Due to a scheduling conflict, the “Meet Your Legislators” program planned for March 23 has had to be postponed. The legislative committee is currently seeking a date and location amenable to all parties. Information about a new time and place will be forthcoming as soon as it is available.

## LWVUS Biennial Convention

The theme for the 2026 League Convention is “Unite and Rise 8.5.” The hope is to mobilize 8.5 million voters through advocacy, civic education, and public engagement.

Delegates to the Convention vote for:

1. A selected program for action or adoption for 2026-2028
2. New national positions or amendments
3. Budget
4. Resolutions, will, or sentiments of the convention body.

The Convention will take place June 25-28, in Columbus, Ohio. We are able to attend virtually and have proceeds to cover three voting delegates. Let Janet Lauer know if you are interested in participating as a delegate.

Editor’s Note: For more information on Unite and Rise 8.5, see <https://www.lwv.org/uniteandrise>.

## 2026 Falmouth Election Schedule

### Mark your calendar:

Friday, March 27: Last day to obtain nomination papers

Tuesday, March 31: Last day to return nomination papers

Friday, April 1: Drawing for ballot position

Thursday, April 16: Last day to withdraw from the election

Friday, May 8: Last day to register to vote for the annual town election

Tuesday, May 19: annual town election

### Town-Wide Offices

Select Board: Elect two for 3-year terms

Library Trustee: Elect two for 3-year terms

School Committee: Elect three for 3-year terms

Planning Board: Elect three for 3-year terms

Municipal Light Board: Elect two for 3-year terms

Falmouth Housing Authority: Elect one for a 5-year term

Falmouth Housing Authority: Elect one for a 4-year term

Candidates for town-wide offices are required to collect 50 signatures from Falmouth registered voters.

Candidates for Town meeting member are required to collect 10 signatures from Falmouth registered voters.

## ***Voter Service: Get Out The Vote for Mid-Term Elections 2026***

In anticipation of increased interest in the upcoming midterm elections, the Voter Service Committee will host coffee hours for LWVF members who are willing to volunteer to write postcards to help get out the vote in November.

We will meet for coffee and conversation while writing postcards to get people to register to vote, to remind voters of upcoming elections, and to remind citizens that their vote is their voice and they want to be heard.

The scripts for these Get Out The Vote postcards are going to several different states. We do not support a particular candidate; we emphasize the importance of exercising the right to vote. If you are interested in joining this effort, please email Felicia Bordick at [WeGOTV.ma@gmail.com](mailto:WeGOTV.ma@gmail.com).

When Felicia has a list of interested members, she will send out a notice as to the date and time, and where the meeting will be.

**— Felicia Bordick**  
**Chair, Voter Service Committee**

### ***Save the Date***

April 7	International Women’s Day Breakfast
April 19	DEIB presentation on tribal sovereignty
April 29, 6:30 p.m.	Candidates Night, Hermann Room, Falmouth Library
May 9, 9:30 a.m.	Annual Meeting Brunch, Meigs Room, Swope Building, Woods Hole.

## ***International Women’s Day 2026***

In just over a month, people from all over the Cape will come together in Hyannis to celebrate International Women's Day 2026, and you are invited! The official observation day is March 8 — we are celebrating on April 7.

This year’s theme: “Women Advancing Equity, Democracy & Sustainable Change in the World,” is a big lift. We know we can face this challenge together as a community. LWV Falmouth is a proud sponsor and partner for this breakfast.



The keynote speaker will be the Hon. Shannon Frison, Esq., USMC, a trial lawyer and author of *Scar Tissue: A Tale of American Armor*. In addition, panels of local experts will guide us on how to address this year’s theme, during these challenging times.

There will be close to 40 resource tables ranging from healthcare to immigration to education to business to social justice. You name it, resources will be available.

With more than 250 people at the breakfast, you will be sure to see old friends and make some new ones.

The link to register is <https://e.givesmart.com/events/N8m/>. This event will sell out, so please get your ticket soon.

# International Women's Day Breakfast



## CAPE COD'S INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST

**WOMEN ADVANCING EQUITY, DEMOCRACY & SUSTAINABLE CHANGE IN THE WORLD**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:  
HON. SHANNON FRISON, ESQ, USMC, TRIAL LAWYER  
AUTHOR OF SCAR TISSUE: A TALE OF AMERICAN ARMOR**

**April 7, 2026  
7:30am - 10:30am  
COME JOIN US!  
Margaritaville Resort Cape Cod  
1225 Iyannough Rd, Hyannis, MA 02601**



**REGISTER HERE:  
<https://e.givesmart.com/events/N8m/>**



**BROUGHT TO CAPE COD BY THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:**



# ***Make your voice heard today!***

## **Contact Information for Your Legislators and Governor**

Governor Maura Healey  
[https://www.mass.gov/info-details/  
email-the-governors-office](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/email-the-governors-office)  
(617) 725-4005

Senator Dylan Fernandes  
(617) 722-1330  
[dylan.fernandes@masenate.gov](mailto:dylan.fernandes@masenate.gov)

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(617) 722-2230 and press 4  
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Senator Edward Markey  
(202) 224-2742  
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contact/share-your-opinion](https://www.markey.senate.gov/contact/share-your-opinion)

Congressman Bill Keating  
(508) 771-6868  
[Info.keating@mail.house.gov](mailto:Info.keating@mail.house.gov)

## **Letters to the Editor**

### ***The Falmouth Enterprise***

Letters can be mailed to 50 Depot Avenue, Falmouth, MA 02540 or e-mailed directly to the editor at [paradise@capenews.net](mailto:paradise@capenews.net).  
General email: [newsroom@capenews.net](mailto:newsroom@capenews.net).

### ***The Cape Cod Times***

Email to [letters@capecodonline.com](mailto:letters@capecodonline.com) or mail to Letters, Cape Cod Times, 319 Main St., Hyannis, MA 02601.

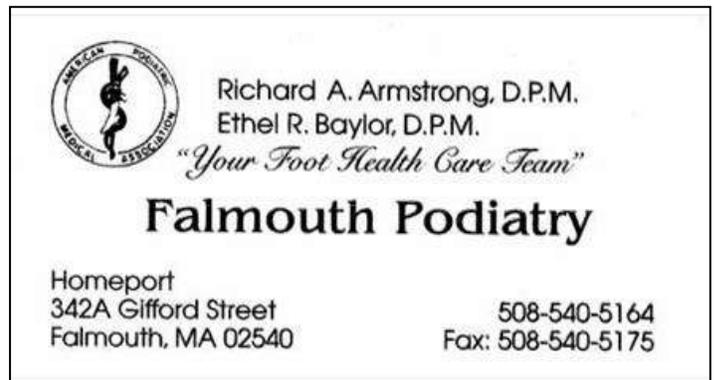
### ***The Boston Globe***

Send an e-mail to [letter@globe.com](mailto:letter@globe.com) or mail to Letters to the Editor, The Boston Globe, PO Box 55819, Boston, MA 02205.



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**Falmouth Podiatry**

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508-540-5164  
Fax: 508-540-5175

***2025 Friends of the LWVF***

Maria Moniz  
Robert and Barbara Schneider

## LWVF Board of Directors 2025-26

### Board Members

First Vice-President	Janet Lauer*
Second Vice-President	Sheila Scott-Gordon*
Secretary	Richard Johnson*
Treasurer	Joan Boyer
Legislative	Judith Ziss
Natural Resources	
Voter Service	Felicia Bordick
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging	Don Gibbons*
Membership	
Observer Corps	Meghan Palanza
Publicity/Bulletin	Mary Fran Buckley*, Eileen Mattingly
At-Large	Bruce Woodin
At-Large	Susan Loucks
At-Large	Marinna Martini

### Off-Board Specialists

Historian	Kathy Mortenson
Facebook	Eileen Mattingly
Email Communication	Kathy Mortenson
Web Administrator	Gayle Simundza
FCTV	Lynne Rozsa

### Nominating Committee

Chair	Kathy Mortenson
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\*Member of Steering Committee

## Meeting and Event Calendar

Note: The Legislative Committee program, "Meet Your Legislators," has been postponed due to a scheduling conflict.

**Tuesday, March 24, 6 p.m.** Board meeting on Zoom

**Tuesday, April 14, 1:30, Bay Room of Falmouth Public Library** LWVF Book Club, *Fever in the Heartland*.

**April 19, 3–4:30 p.m. Location TBD** DEIB presentation on Wampanoag tribal sovereignty with Melissa Ferretti.

**April 26, 6 p.m.** Board meeting on Zoom

### Contact us:

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Website: <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/falmouth>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVofFalmouthMA/>

Please note: Submissions for the next issue of the LWVF Bulletin are due by April 5, 2026. Please send copy, photos, and other material to both of these addresses:

[maryfran55@earthlink.net](mailto:maryfran55@earthlink.net)  
[eileenmattingly@yahoo.com](mailto:eileenmattingly@yahoo.com)

# welcome

**To our new and renewing members:**

**Mary Joe Clark (new)**

**Linda Jeffries-Summers, Lisa Beonaon,  
Marinna Martini, Pamela Marrone, Deanna  
Laroche (returning)**