



League of Women Voters® of Falmouth Bulletin

July 2020

In This Issue

Steering Committee Messagepage 2

Legislative Update.....page 3

Membership Report....page 4

LWVF Friends.....page 4

LWVMA Council 2020
.....page 4

National Convention Notes
.....page 6

Educating and Promoting
Vote by Mail.....page 7

Cenntennial Update.....page 8

THE VOTE.....page 9

League of Women Voters
US.....page 9

Member Event Calendar
Massachusetts Primary Election September 1
General Election November 3



On the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment, learn how American women won themselves the right to vote. See page 9.

Contact Us

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LWVofFalmouthMA/](https://www.facebook.com/LWVofFalmouthMA/)

LWVF Board of Directors 2020-2021

Steering Committee

First Vice-President	Joan Boyer, Steering Committee Chair		
Second Vice-President	Maggie Sweasy		
	Kathy Mortenson, Joanne Treistman, Misty Niemeyer		
Secretary	Marcia Easterling	Membership	Jackie Webster
Treasurer	Meghan Hanawalt	Voter Service	Jenny Putnam
Observer Corps	Denise Morreale	Natural Resources	Richard Johnson
Board Moderator	Joanne Voorhis	Legislative	Judith Ziss
Annual Meeting	Alice Carey	Publicity	Olivann Hobbie
		Spokesperson	Sylvia Szulkin

Bulletin Editors: **Denise Morreale, Brenda Nolan**

If you wish to join the League, membership dues are \$50 for an individual membership and \$25 for an additional household member. Send your check made out to LWV of Falmouth, P. O. Box 450, Falmouth, MA 02541. Include your name, mailing address, email address and phone number. Go to our website www.lwf.org, "join or renew" to renew and pay online, You do not have to be a resident of Falmouth to join.

MESSAGE FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Joan Boyer, Steering Committee Chair

This is the beginning of a new year for the League of Women Voters. The Board has decided to produce an extra Bulletin this summer in order to stay active and involved in these difficult times.

Thank you to the 52 members who participated in our online annual meeting vote to elect new Officers and Board Members, adopt a budget, and approve the Local Program. All passed unanimously. We have also added an option to renew your membership online, paying by credit card, or PayPal or even just filling out the form and mailing a check. The time is NOW!! Please choose an option <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/falmouth/join-or-renew>.

The Board has decided to delay the start of the new Local Program of Updating Our Local Positions and focus our efforts on the November Election. We have formed a **Committee on Educating and Promoting Vote by Mail**. Its mission is to **promote voting by mail** as a safe, reliable and trustworthy alternative to going to the polls. Gov. Baker signed the Vote by Mail law on July 6. See the report here:

<https://www.wbur.org/news/2020/07/06/massachusetts-vote-by-mail-law>

There is a change in the leadership in the Falmouth League. I am assuming the role of Steering Committee Chair. We have three new Steering Committee members: Kathy Mortenson, Misty Niemeyer and Margaret Sweasy. Sylvia Szulkin is now the League Spokesperson. Alice Carey is in charge of Annual Meeting. Doris Epstein is leaving the Board of Directors. Our thanks to her for many, many years of service.

Our last change will be the retirement of Carol McKeon as Voter Service Chair. She will remain working on the committee to bolster Jenny Putnam, who is assuming the Chairmanship. Great work Carol!

The link to our new Board of Directors on our website is <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/falmouth/about-lwv-falmouth/board-directors>.

We received many program ideas from you. These are very challenging times to try to plan the future. In September, we hope to focus on the upcoming election and be able to have a program of some sort presented. October will be Candidates Night. In November, the Natural Resources Committee would like to present "Falmouth's Progress on Sustainable Action"



So please everyone—Stay Safe and Stay Involved!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Judy Ziss, Chair

As you know, the Legislative Committee has been emphasizing immigration and voting this year. One of the two immigration bills we have been promoting, the Safe Communities Act (H.3573/S.1401), is still before the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security and S.1641, which would make Massachusetts drivers licenses available to undocumented individuals, is still before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. Obviously, these bills will die without action, and the legislature has been busy with emergency matters.

On the voting front, it looks like ranked choice voting will be on the ballot in the fall, with signatures having been gathered electronically statewide under Covid-19 conditions. Wow!

Other voting bills the League favored became irrelevant, at least temporarily, as the legislature rushed through emergency legislation for the fall primary and elections.

On July 2nd H.4820, which had been reported out of a joint conference committee and passed by the House, was passed by the Senate. Both the House and the Senate adopted the emergency preamble, the legislation was enacted and sent to the governor's desk for his signature.

Displaying 10 actions for Bill H.4820

Date	Branch	Action
6/30/2020	House	Reported from the committee of conference
6/30/2020	House	Reported on H4778
6/30/2020	House	Rules suspended
6/30/2020	House	Committee of conference report accepted - 157 YEAS to 1 NAYS (See YEA and NAY in Supplement, No. 191)
7/2/2020	Senate	Rules suspended
7/2/2020	Senate	Conference committee report accepted, in concurrence -see Roll Call #204 (Yeas 39 to Nays 0)
7/2/2020	House	Emergency preamble adopted
7/2/2020	Senate	Emergency preamble adopted
7/2/2020	House	Enacted
7/2/2020	Senate	Enacted and laid before the Governor

When this new legislation was being considered, Bill Hough had asked Olivann for an op-ed piece. At that point, the emergency legislation was moving quite fast so it seemed likely that the op-ed we were preparing would become outdated before it was published. Governor Baker signed the bill on July 6, 2020 and our op-ed will be ready for submission to the Enterprise.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Kathy Mortenson, Joan F. Power, Gayle Simundza
Jaqueline Webster, Membership Chair

Welcome to new LWVF members **Julie Swanbeck** and **Laurel Miller** who have joined since our last Bulletin.

Renewals for membership in LWVF were due on July 1, 2020. **If you are a new member who has joined us in 2020, you don't need to renew.** If you have already sent in your renewal dues, thanks so much!

For those of you who haven't yet renewed, we hope you will do so soon. You can renew online as follows:

Go to our website at www.lwvf.org and click on the JOIN RENEW button. Fill out the Membership Information form, and select from three choices:

1. Pay online with your credit card (using PayPal).
2. Pay online with your PayPal account.
3. Specify that you will mail a check later and then send it to PO Box 450 Falmouth MA 02541.

If you prefer to receive a paper renewal form, let Jackie Webster know: 508-540-3893 or jwebster391@gmail.com

LWVF FRIENDS 2019

Sally Fritz
Christina Jacobi
Winnie Mackey

Robert and Barbara Schneider
Freddy Valois

LWVMA COUNCIL 2020

Joan Boyer

The following advice was given to the LWVMA Board of Directors at the June Council. DIRECTION TO THE BOARD:

- Meghan Hanawalt (LWV Falmouth) Ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) is a component of everything we do.
- Susan Friedman (LWV Newton) Election reform: support ranked choice voting and related change.
- Mary Bradley (LWV Sudbury) Provide the tools to navigate the waters of racism.
- Julie Rohwein, Launa Zimmaro (LWV Concord-Carlisle) Please continue your excellent work on the election reform and criminal justice efforts

this session. But please do not forget the urgency of climate change – a slower moving crisis but one that will not have a vaccine.

- Florence Seldin (LWV Cape Cod Area) Need to focus all our efforts on the coming election – make certain vote by mail, once it's passed, is implemented.
- Suzanne Brock (LWV Cape Cod Area) Please plan and share action regarding the ongoing political unrest areas including voting suppression and changes in police training.
- Valentina Pasquantonio (LWV Acton-Area)... "HEALTH CARE is a right of every citizen."...
- Jen Lynch (LWV Salem) The Board may want to reconsider the membership model. The per member payment level makes it difficult for local Leagues
- Joanne Blatte (LWV Sharon Stoughton) Work on increasing college student voting.
- Judith Reilly (LWV Fall election "worst case scenario" planning.
- Tom Mikus (LWV Cape Ann) Will LWVMA sponsor debates among candidates for state-wide office?]
- June Michaels (LWV Cape Ann) The LWV Cape Ann is focused on elections for the next five months ...
- Janice Goodell (LWV Harvard) We need to include health care in our list of priorities. It is the number one concern of citizens.
- Kathy Jacob (LWV Sudbury) Pay attention to concentration and redistricting.
- Patricia Clifford (LWV Acton-Area) PLEASE continue to focus on Voter Service at the local level. The statement on social justice underscores the importance of action at this level.
- Ingrim Klimoff (LWV Lexington) Suggestions for dealing with the high cost of annual membership.
- Carol McKeon (LWV Falmouth) Thank you to everyone in LWVMA leadership for the work done on protecting the November vote. Please make this the priority between now and November. Without voter security and empowerment all other work is undermined.
- Kathy Jacob (LWV Sudbury) Pay attention to census.
- Cynthia Nock (LWV Concord-Carlisle) Work with groups in the Black community to collaborate on legislation that affects them.
- Nell Forgacs (LWV Sudbury) Mail-in voting and cultural competency training at all levels of government.
- Nancy Rogers (LWV Central Berkshire) Working with colleges around the state to make voter access for students clear and accessible.
- Ramelle Pulitzer (LWV Central Berkshire) We are considering a car parade to alert small town folks to register, then turn out to vote. We think it could be a visually fun and safe way to build awareness this year. We want to build ways to connect the event to follow through.

- Brigid Glackin (LWV Northampton) reflect and consider the financial difficulties that local leagues may face in this crucial year. Also any sharing of expertise regarding techniques, strategies, etc., that will promote our grassroots efforts during the pandemic would be greatly appreciated.
- Katherine Florio (LWV Brookline) I wonder if wealthier towns with some room in their budget could adopt or partner with less well-funded towns for the next two years.

NATIONAL CONVENTION NOTES

Richard Johnson, Attendee

The League of Women Voters 54th Biennial Convention took place virtually on June 24-26, with several days of preliminaries before those dates. The Convention had been planned to be in Washington DC but was changed to a virtual platform with the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions on travel and social distancing. The organizers did very well in planning and running this unprecedented event.

The week began with a number of zoom caucuses and information sessions, providing the background for a number of anticipated motions, resolutions and issues. LWWMA had one to explain the state League's positions and another provided background on the climate emergency: there were 10-12 of these (<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/2020-convention-virtual-caucuses-and-info-sessions>).

The second and most interesting part of the 24th session was a panel discussion on Expanding the Vote, led by LWV CEO Virginia Kase. Washington DC Mayor Muriel Bowser led off the discussion followed by Alejandra Castillo (CEO of YWCA), Allison Riggs (Southern Coalition for Social Justice) and Valerie Jarrett (WhenWeAllVote.org). Emphasis was placed on lobbying Congress to expand early voting, voting by mail, and safe in-person voting; countering state efforts to disenfranchise the poor and people of color; and building life-long enthusiasm for voting. Note that the US House approved a proposal for District of Columbia statehood while the convention was happening. Watch this discussion here: <https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters/videos/203050890905619/>

The first Plenary Session on the 25th opened with an acknowledgement of past racism and discussion of the current Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy which runs through all levels of LWV policy and management. We were asked to acknowledge/honor our native populations as well as those who came here both freely and



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against their will. The Credentials chair announced that 1241 delegates had registered from 50 states and the District of Columbia. The Convention Rules were adopted with one modification having to do with leaving and re-entering the Zoom call. The Nominating Committee presented their proposed slate of officers and directors; there were no nominations from the floor and the new Officers and Directors were approved 1100 to 19.

Keynote Speaker Norah O'Donnell of CBS News spoke well about the links between activism and journalism. Her comments were pre-recorded and relatively brief:

https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters/videos/861834027675396/?__so__=serp_videos_tab

National Program Planning proposals were described and discussed. There was near universal consensus to continue the Making Democracy Work policy, which includes an emphasis on Climate Change, The Equal Rights Amendment, Health Care, Gun Safety and Immigration.

The Final day of the convention included a presentation by LWV CEO Virginia Kase which was excellent; she spoke to our mission of education and civil discourse. She noted that the current political climate often views these as "partisan". She also called for us to find ways to dismantle systemic prejudice and racism.



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UPDATE FROM THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATING AND PROMOTING VOTE BY MAIL

Denise Morreale and Maggie Sweasy, Co-Chairs

Members: Jenny Putnam, Judy Ziss, Misty Niemeyer, Kathy Mortenson, Richard Johnson, Sarah Pring, Mary Fran Buckley

Its mission is to **promote voting by mail** as a safe, reliable and trustworthy alternative to going to the polls.

The legislative conference committee reconciling the House and Senate versions of the election law addressing COVID-19 concerns for the fall elections has released the final bill, which was signed by Governor Baker on July 6, 2020.

It's going to take time for our elections officials to implement the needed reforms in this bill so that our Sept. 1 primary and Nov. 3 general elections operate both safely and efficiently. The sooner they can get started, the better.



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The final bill, H.4820, provides for applications for mail ballots to be sent to all voters before each election, expands early voting, calls for an online portal so voters can request a mail ballot, and allows election officials to begin processing mailed ballots before Election

Day, along with other changes.

Vote by Mail certainly has generated an abundance of negative press. The voters of Massachusetts need reassurance that the Vote by Mail process will work and they will be counted. Since the bill has been going through so quickly, our Committee members have been following League of Women Voters MA and US diligently to see how we can help our Town Officials navigate the logistics of the increased use of alternatives to voting at the polls on election day.

Much information is available to us and we are hoping to sort and relate this information to the voters.

CENTENNIAL UPDATE

Richard Johnson, Chair



The Centennial Grove at Peterson Farm planted in April is thriving. Those of you who go there for walks will have noticed that the bronze plaque describing this planting was installed earlier this week. Close observers will also have noted the misspelling on the plaque! The mock-up we approved was correct and we have alerted the fabricator about the error. A replacement is on the way. It feels a bit like the struggle to get that 36th state to ratify the 19th amendment to be so close, just not yet there!

THE VOTE

Kathy Mortenson, Steering Committee Member

To learn how difficult the struggle was for women to win the vote, watch on WGBH, channel 2 next week: *The Vote* Part One and Part Two

On the 100th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, learn how American women won themselves the right to vote.

Monday, 7/6 and Tuesday 7/7 at 9pm on WGBH 2 Check Explore! For rebroadcast dates and times.

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/vote/>

One hundred years after the passage of the 19th Amendment, *The Vote* tells the dramatic culmination story of the hard-fought campaign waged by American women for the right to vote — a transformative cultural and political movement that resulted in the largest expansion of voting rights in U.S. history. In its final decade, from 1909 to 1920, movement leaders wrestled with contentious questions about the most effective methods for affecting social change. They debated the use of militant, even violent tactics, as well as hunger strikes and relentless public protests. The battle for the vote also upended previously accepted ideas about the proper role of women in American society and challenged the definitions of citizenship and democracy. Exploring how and why millions of 20th-century Americans mobilized for — and against — women’s suffrage, *The Vote* brings to life the unsung leaders of the movement and the deep controversies over gender roles and race that divided Americans then — and continue to dominate political discourse today.

FROM THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS US

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type,

physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

Why it matters and what we have been doing

Election rules differ state by state, and sometimes change from year to year. Using VOTE411.org, voters can confirm their polling location, check if ID is required, and see what their personal ballot will look like. Confirming this information before heading to the polls saves voters time and helps voters make more informed decisions.

We have long been a trusted source of objective and nonpartisan election information. Since 2006, vote411.org has served tens of millions of voters.

LWV 2020 Convention had a great panel discussion on getting out the vote, including the CEO of this group: <https://www.whenweallvote.org/>



League of Women Voters
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