



League of Women Voters® of Falmouth Bulletin

October 2020

In This Issue

Steering Committee Messagepage 2
 LWVF Friends.....page 3
 Membership Report....page 3
 Voter Service Activitiespage 3
 Senior Residences Votingpage 4
 General Election.....page 4
 Indigenous People Daypage 5
 LWVMA DEI Statementpage 6
 Virtual Social Night & Celebration.....page 6
 Suffrage Excerpts.....page 7
 Question 2: Rank Choice Voting.....page 8
 Natural Resources.....page 9
 Centennial Committeepage 9

Contact Us

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 Visit our web site
lwvf.org

Visit our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/LWVofFalmouthMA/>

[instagram.com/lwvfalmouth](https://www.instagram.com/lwvfalmouth)

Member Event Calendar

October 2020

	10	10-2:00 pm	Community Mural Painting Peg Noonan Park
Friday	16	6-7:00 pm	Virtual Social Night and Celebration Zoom
	17-30		Early Voting
	24		Deadline to Register to Vote for General Election
	27	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Zoom
	28		Deadline to apply for a mailed ballot for the general election
November	3		General Election
	16		TOWN MEETING
	19	7:00 pm	Falmouth's Progress Towards Sustainability Virtual
	24	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Zoom

LWVF Board of Directors 2020-2021

Steering Committee

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

Misty Niemeyer

It's a season of many changes. The leaves are changing color, the weather is cooling, and one of the most critical elections of our time is quickly approaching, giving us all an opportunity to influence the direction of our country and our local communities. Our league members are staying busy, working diligently with everything we've got to ensure voters are informed, prepared, and ready to vote in these unusual times. So much rides on this moment.

However, we want to take a moment, before this pivotal moment in our country, to celebrate the many things we are grateful for, the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, the many accomplishments of our local league, and for the treasured friendships amongst our incredible members. Join us on October 16th, 2020, from 6-7 pm for a virtual social event to celebrate our LWVF and all of our members. There will be a presentation called "Centennial Surprise," which is sure to entertain! We will be sharing some themed drink ideas to enjoy during the celebration. We encourage you all to wear festive attire, which is open to interpretation, but something in the red, white, and blue color scheme, of course! We encourage each member to invite at least one person you think may be interested in joining the league. A few members will be sharing their thoughts on what it means to them to be a part of the LWVF!

As one of the newer members of the steering committee and the board, I am proud to be a part of this local league. When I started Engage Falmouth with a few close friends, now almost four years ago, a few of our Engage team met on a rainy, dark winter night with several board members of the LWVF to discuss local work and potential collaborations. Despite the weather and darkness that evening, my spirit was lifted. I was inspired by the women in that room who had set the ground-work for what I was only starting to embark on, and they were far from finished. It was then that I knew I wanted to work with and be a part of this local league.

One of the most valuable lessons I have learned from the past few years, from many of you in this league, is this work can never stop. It's not something you can do until an elected official you voted for wins or legislation you fought for passes; the work must continue. Regardless of the outcomes of this November's election, we all must stay active and engaged to ensure progress in our communities and country continues. I hope we can all continue to inspire others, particularly younger women (and men if they are interested) in our community, to join the league's efforts and ensure this work can preserve for generations to come!



LWVF FRIENDS 2020

Sally Fritz
Christina Jacobi
Maria Moniz

Robert and Barbara Schneider
Freddy Valois

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Jacqueline Webster, Chair

No new members have joined LWVF since the last Bulletin. Our team consisting of Kathy Mortenson, Joan F. Power, Gayle Simundza has finished processing member renewals, and we are now working on the paper LWVF 2020-2021 Membership Directory. It will be mailed to members via the US Postal Service sometime this month.

VOTER SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Jenny Putnam, Chair

Sarah Pring, Voter Service Special Event Coordinator

As part of a broad campaign aimed at getting Falmouth Voting, the League will hold a **Community Mural Painting Day on October 10, 2020**. For details and sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/LWV> To complement our **Falmouth High School Voter Art Competition** an **Exhibition of Voter Art in partnership with the Falmouth Art Center** will be held from October 24-November 3rd. Submission deadline is October 20th. Entries can be dropped off at FAC reception. The images can be in any medium and must be non-partisan. We feel the campaign will be a very positive thing for the town in terms of civic engagement and hope it will help to expand the pool of registered voters and of those voting.

For the Mural, we have the commitment of a very talented local artist - Jackie Reeves - who recently did a community mural at Cotuit Art Center. Jackie was the 2016 recipient of the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod's Fellowship award for Visual Arts. She was also named the 2017 Pops by the Sea Commemorative Artist.

The Structure to paint will be three sided and the images will be non-partisan in nature. They will call on everyone to "Be A Voter" and to "Vote" in a vibrant compelling design. One of the three images will focus on the ways to vote.

VOTE 411 SENIOR RESIDENCES ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Denise Morrealle

In honor of National Voter Registration Day, September 22, the Vote 411 unit of the Voter Service Committee contacted the local senior residences to request permission to deliver information and forms regarding voter registration and ballot request forms. Our efforts were met with enthusiasm and the residences were happy to have information on hand. Thank you to Alice Carey, Olivann Hobbie, Sylvia Szulkin, Marcia Easterling, Libby Signall, Margaret Cooper, and Carol Chittenden.

The LWVMA General Election Voters' Guide is currently live on [VOTE411.org!](https://VOTE411.org)

AND NOW ON TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

Judy Ziss

The September 1 Massachusetts Primary was very important in itself but, in a sense, it also served as a trial-run for the even more important November 3 General Election. The Primary saw many innovations adopted due to Covid-19. Those innovations continue, sometimes in enhanced form, for the General Election. We hope you will find this summary helpful.

To Register to Vote: If you are not registered to vote, **October 24 is the last day to register** to vote in the November 3 election. You may register on-line at the Massachusetts Secretary of State's website. The link on the Falmouth Town Clerk's website will get you to the right page.

To Obtain An Application for An Early-Voting Ballot: You may have already requested an Early-Voting ballot for the General Election when you returned your request for an Early-Voting Ballot for the Primary. If so, you should receive your General Election ballot without taking any further action. If you did not already request your General Election ballot, you may print an application at the Town Clerk's website or the Massachusetts Secretary of State's website. If you cannot print an application, the Town Clerk's office will accept a **signed** request that is not on the official form.

To Submit An Application for An Early-Voting Ballot: Your signed application for an Early-Voting Ballot may be submitted to the Town Clerk's Office 1) by mail, 2) by e-mail, 3) or at the drop-box in front of Town Hall. The application must be received by the close of business on October 28 but **you are strongly advised to submit your application no later than October 20.** Then use the state **Track My Ballot** feature on the Secretary of State's website.

To Vote Your Early-Voting Ballot: You will receive your early-voting ballot by mail. Remember that the ballot cannot be printed and sent out

until the results of the September 1 primary are known. After receiving and completing your ballot, submit it to the Town Clerk's Office 1) by mailing it, 2) by placing it in the drop-box in front of Town Hall, or 3) by delivering it to an early-voting location during voting hours. **If you place your ballot in the drop-box, your must do so by 8:00 p.m. on November 3, which is the time the polls close.** If you mail your ballot, it is supposed to be counted if you mail it no later than November 3 and it is received by the Town Clerk's office no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 6. However, it is possible that, when returning a ballot in the postage pre-paid envelope, the envelope may not be postmarked, making it difficult to prove the date of mailing. Relying on this rule should be a last resort.

To Vote Early In-Person: Early in-person voting will be similar to that in the Primary except that the time period will be extended. It will run from **October 17 through October 30**, with special weekend hours scheduled for the weekend of October 17 and 18 and for the weekend of October 24 and October 25. As the date approaches, check the Town Clerk's website for voting hours and to confirm the location.

Election Day, Tuesday, November 3: The polls will be open as usual. **Select the method that works for you but, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE BE SURE TO VOTE.**



INDIGENOUS PEOPLE DAY

Meghan Hanawalt

Columbus Day became a federal holiday in 1937. It was first celebrated in 1792 as the 300th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of the "new" world. Why do we celebrate? At one point it became a way to laud the contributions of Italian-Americans and elevate their status as immigrants.


The costs of Columbus' voyage were enormous and In recent decades, Native Americans and other groups have protested the celebration of an event that resulted in the colonization of the Americas, the beginnings of the transatlantic slave trade and the deaths of millions from murder and disease. Not to mention that Columbus never set foot on the Americas. He enslaved many of the indigenous people he encountered in the West Indies, and subjected them to extreme violence and brutality.

LWVMA DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION POLICY

Adopted from LWVUS on June 24th, 2019

The League of Women Voters 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.



**The League of Women Voters
Falmouth Presents our first ever:
Virtual Social Night & Celebration**

When: Friday, October 16th, 2020 @ 6-7 pm
Where: On Zoom, from the comfort of your home!
Link to be emailed out.

Join us for a celebration of the 100th anniversary of
Women's Suffrage, our local leagues accomplishments
and our amazing members!



SUFFRAGE EXCERPTS FROM THE FALMOUTH ENTERPRISE

Olivann Hobbie

Anti-Suffrage Excerpts from the Falmouth Enterprise

The angry words of W.D. Lewis, president of the Texas Farmers Union, appeared on October 9, 1915, in an article entitled "Why Should Women Vote?" and on October 16, 1915 in an article entitled "Civilization's Greatest Tragedy."

Elihu Root's diatribe appeared in an article entitled "Our Public Forum" on January 27, 1917.

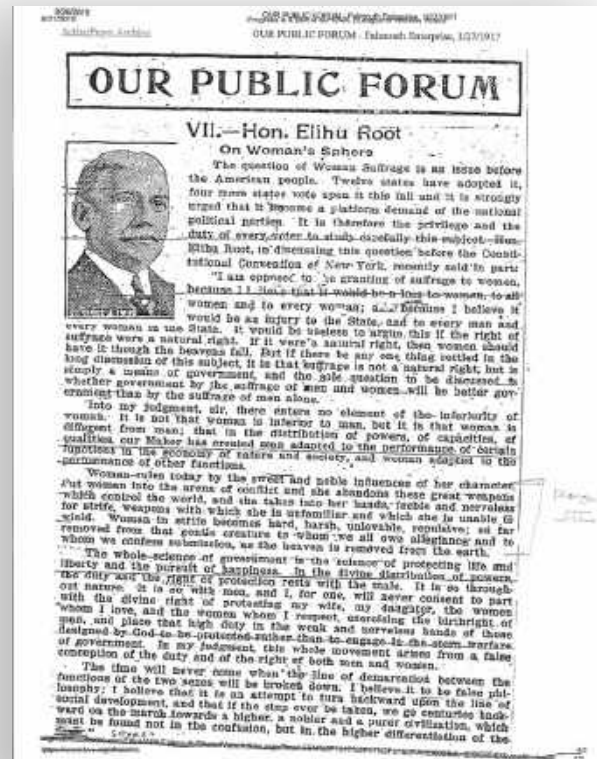
Pro-Suffrage Excerpts from the Falmouth Enterprise

Woodrow Wilson's writings were paraphrased by Mrs. Elizabeth Glendower Evans of Boston, the only woman who served on the first minimum-wage commission in Massachusetts, speaking in Woods Hole at a meeting reported on August 23, 1913. However, his true views were at times quite unclear.

Observations about the equities of women's suffrage by the President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in an interview with the Denver Times were reprinted on August 11, 1906.

In 1915 at a Governor's Convention in Boston attended by current or former governors of nine western states in which women already had the right to vote, the governors endorsed women's suffrage for Massachusetts. Their comments were reprinted on October 16, 1915.

The Quaker gentleman's comments at a Woods Hole card-party were reported on August 22, 1914. (It raised forty dollars for the National Suffrage Association!) The Falmouth male debater's observation about women leaving the house to vote was reported on April 17, 1909.



QUESTION 2 ON MASSACHUSETTS BALLOT: RANKED CHOICE VOITING

Margaret Cooper, Legislative Committee

In a three-way race for one position, have you ever agonized over your vote because you wanted to choose the least well-known candidate but feared you would be throwing away your vote? Similarly, have you gone back and forth between two candidates--both of whom you liked very much?

On November 3rd, Question 2 on the Massachusetts ballot gives you a chance to avoid these problems when you vote for all statewide offices beginning January 2022. **It would ensure that a winner in an election with three or more competing candidates will earn a majority of the vote.** It's called Ranked Choice Voting and allows you to rank all candidates--first, second, and third. Why is this important? Here are four reasons.

First, winning a majority of the vote gives the winner a healthy mandate from which to govern.

Second, Ranked Choice Voting encourages third party candidates. **Moreover, if your first choice does not win, your second choice might.**

Third, Ranked Choice Voting reduces negative campaigning as candidates will be seeking both first and second choices from voters.

Finally, Ranked Choice reduces the influence of money in politics. By making negative advertising less effective, Ranked Choice Voting reduces the need for, and influence of, money in politics.

Well, you ask, how does that work? Say, there are three candidates for one position.

Rather than voting for one of the three, you may rank your votes: first, second and third. (Alternatively, if you would rather vote for just one candidate, you can rank that person first and not rank the others.) If one of them gets at least 51% of the vote, she wins.

On the other hand, if no one wins after the first count, the last-place candidate is eliminated and ballots are counted a second time. Say, your first choice was Mary and she lost, so your first-place vote for her is gone. However, your second choice was Barbara, so now your vote for Barbara is counted among the first-choice votes in the second count. This process continues until one candidate wins at least 51% of the vote.

If more than one person is to be elected in a single race, Question 2 would not allow Ranked Choice Voting to be used.

Here is a link which demonstrates how RCV works:



Natural Brush Clearing and Poison Ivy Control

Meghan Hanawalt, Goatherd info@getmygoatscapecod.com
774-521-8745 www.GetMyGoatsCapeCod.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHRPMJmzBBw>

For more information on Ranked Choice Voting, please see www.fairvote.org and voterchoice.org or call me at 508-419-1066.

Please join LWVMA and vote yes on Question 2.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Richard Johnson, Chair

Natural Resources Committee is preparing a presentation to be released in November on "Falmouth's Progress Towards Sustainability". This will likely be a YouTube Video, but may be a Zoom presentation. It will recap some of the recent information presented by the Coastal Sustainability Action Committee on coastal vulnerability and alternative strategies for mitigation, as well as an update on Falmouth's progress towards being named a Green Community. That status will make the Town eligible for a variety of state grants for energy projects. We hope to update the status of several large ground mounted solar arrays currently in design, permitting and construction, as well as progress towards increasing the electric and hybrid vehicles in several Falmouth fleets.

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Richard Johnson, Chair of Centennial Committee

The Tupelo grove planted at Peterson Farm to celebrate the Centennial of the 19th Amendment and founding of the League of Women Voters continues to thrive. The trees and plantings installed by the Town in mid April have been carefully watered by a neighbor and have made excellent growth. They are beginning to show fall color now. The Commemorative Plaque was installed without the "L" in Falmouth. The replacement of the plaque has yet to be made by the installer.



We thank the IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) for donating the use of their Zoom account for our Board Meetings and communication
<https://www.ifaw.org>

International Fund for Animal Welfare
290 Summer Street, Yarmouth Port, MA 02675 | USA
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Important dates

Event	For General Election
Last day to register or change your registration	October 24
Early in-person voting	October 17–October 30
Applications for ballots must be received by the Town Clerk’s office before 5PM on	October 28
Ballots must be received by the town clerk’s office by the time polls close on	November 3
Exception: Ballots mailed by Nov. 3 must be received by Town Clerk’s office by 5PM on	November 6



League of Women Voters
P. O. Box 450
Falmouth, MA 02541

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JOIN

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Democracy in Action

