



League of Women Voters[®] of Falmouth Bulletin

April 2026

Steering Committee Report

Since 2017, the League of Women Voters has been supporting and lobbying to get an urgent immigrants' right legislation passed. Early this month it happened, as the Massachusetts House passed An Act Promoting Rule of Law, Oversight, Trust and Constitutional Treatment (PROTECT). Now, we have to work on the state Senate.

Our Falmouth Legislative chair, Judith Ziss, could tell you many stories of how long one has to fight to get things through the state legislature. One of my jobs was lobbying Beacon Hill and Capitol Hill about the need for research funding for the university where I worked; it could be surprising how often you needed to reinvigorate that idea. I can't imagine promoting research in the current atmosphere.

I read about the PROTECT passage in an email from Jennifer Muroff, of the LWVMA, congratulating members of the Legislative Action Committee for the work they had done meeting with, calling, emailing, and texting their representatives to promote this law. Its eventual passage will do several things to make the legal environment safer for undocumented people in our community. Some provisions need to be spelled out.

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The law bans new and renewal of 287(g) agreements. Those actions gave custom and immigration enforcement to local law enforcement officials—something they don't usually have. These agreements can be narrow, just for enforcement officials in jails, more broadly to include warrants, and very broadly to include all law enforcement. This could mean a longtime worker who is supporting his family and paying taxes could be stopped by anyone and end up in immigration custody. That will be less likely in our state, if this passes the Senate.

Once an individual is in custody, every agency must have multilingual resources that explain individual civil rights and how people

Continued on next page

Steering Committee, cont.

can contact legal service. The agencies must have competent interpreter services.

If the Senate approves this law, immigrants in our state should have a much firmer footing in our legal system.

—Don Gibbons
Chair, DEIB Committee

Editor's Note: The following are major provisions of the PROTECT Act (An Act promoting the rule of law, oversight, trust, and equal constitutional treatment):

It prohibits law enforcement inquiries into an individual's immigration status unless it is directly related to a criminal investigation.

It bars the use of state and local resources, funds, or personnel for civil immigration enforcement.

It limits the sharing of data with federal immigration authorities.

It creates protection against the warrantless arrest of immigrants in courthouses.

It requires the Governor and Attorney General to publish multilingual guidelines on how manage interactions with ICE.

It provides improved access to legal counsel and interpretation services for detained individuals.

The full text of the bill and a list of legislators supporting it is available from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD5608.html>.

Town of Falmouth Election Information

Mark your calendar:

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.

LWV Lawsuit to Protect the Vote

The following public statement was released on April 2 by the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts:

BOSTON, MA – A coalition of voting rights organizations filed a [lawsuit](#) today in the US District Court for the District of Massachusetts challenging President Trump's March 31 [executive order](#) concerning mail-in voting. The Constitution explicitly states that only Congress and the states can set the rules for elections. Nevertheless, the order attempts to displace states' mail-in voting laws by transforming the US Postal Service from a neutral mail carrier to an arbiter of who may cast a ballot by mail.

The order also requires the Department of Homeland Security to build and give to each state a list of citizens eligible to vote. Given that federal databases are out-of-date and unreliable, this risks mass disenfranchisement of eligible voters.

The suit was filed by the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, the League of Women Voters, 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.

The plaintiffs and their counsel released the following statement:

"This executive order is an illegal and danger-

ous attempt by the Trump administration to eliminate accessible voting options and subvert our democracy by seizing control of election administration from the states and Congress. If implemented, it would disenfranchise eligible voters across the nation.

"Attempts to end voting by mail are part of the Trump administration's larger strategy to undermine elections and subvert the will of the people. The US Constitution is clear: the states and Congress — not the president — set the rules for our elections. President Trump tried to make an end-run around the Constitution with another executive order last year and was promptly rebuffed by multiple courts. History will repeat itself.

"This executive order would upend countless state laws and procedures regarding mail-in voting. It could deny eligible voters, including voters with disabilities, US citizens living abroad, and military members and their family members, the right to vote by mail — and unknown numbers will be disenfranchised without that option. Far from improving elections, this executive order would create chaos for election officials, erode public confidence in our elections, and block Americans from exercising their most fundamental right and responsibility as citizens — voting. By taking the administration to court, we are standing up for the rule of law and the promise of our democracy."

To learn more, see this Boston Globe article:

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2026/04/02/metro/trump-mail-in-voting-lawsuit-massachusetts/>

An Evening with Melissa Ferretti

Sunday, April 19 3:00–4:30 p.m.

Morse Pond School, 323 Jones Rd, Falmouth

An Afternoon with Melissa Ferretti

Chair of the Herring Pond Wampanoag

Chair of the Bourne Select Board

Member, Commission on the Status of Women in Massachusetts



Mural created by Falmouth High School students with assistance from Gertrude Hendricks, Mashpee Wampanoag Education Coordinator, and artist Jackie Reeves.

As the United States and the town of Falmouth mount many celebrations to mark the achievement of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, it is important to remember that there were nations on this land long before Europeans arrived. On April 19, the League of Women Voters of Falmouth will sponsor a talk by Melissa Ferretti, chair of the Herring Pond Wampanoag. Ms. Ferretti will discuss efforts to reform their nation's constitution as part of a new resolution from Governor Maura Healey last year recognizing the tribe. Other topics include the Old Indian Meeting House on tribal land on Herring Pond, used today for ceremonies, and the role of indigenous women leaders.



Candidates Night



In partnership with Falmouth Community Television (FCTV)



Candidates Night

Wednesday evening
April 29 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
The Hermann Room
at the Falmouth Public Library
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Come to hear candidates for contested Falmouth town seats share their perspectives on how they will serve on the Select Board, the School Committee, and the Municipal Light Board. Candidates for seats that are not contested have been invited to be introduced to the audience.

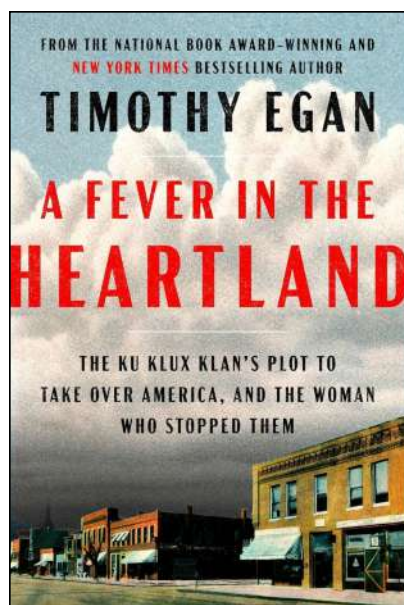
The event will also be televised live on FCTV Public Channel 6, fctv.org, as well as FCTV's Roku and Apple TV channels.

LWVF Book Club

Join the FLWV book club!

The newly formed Falmouth League book club will meet in the Bay Room, main branch of the Falmouth Public Library, Tuesday April 14 at 1:30 p.m. The discussion of the current selection, *A Fever in the Heartland* by Timothy Egan, will be led by League member Linda Jeffries-Summers. Join the group to listen to, or join in, the discussion. The next club selection will be made at the end of Tuesday's meeting.

A Fever in the Heartland documents the rise of the Ku Klux Klan in Indiana during the 1920s. The successful recruiting campaign was led by D.C. Stephenson, who rose to the title of Grand Drag-



on in the Klan due to his successful efforts in Indiana. He enticed men from local Protestant churches, the police force, judges, and legislators to join the Klan. Their goal was to "control America by peaceful methods." However, their methods were anything but peaceful. Cloaked in white robes with headgear that covered their faces, the new Klansmen terrified businesses and non-Klansmen with beatings, fiery crosses, hangings, and death threats.

The northern Klan hated all people of color,

as the southern Klan had. In addition, the new Klan railed against Catholics, Jews, Asians, and some Eastern Europeans, as they sought to put their members into political offices throughout the state of Indiana. With Klan member judges and prosecutors who were allowed to pack a jury, there seemed to be no hope in stopping this terrorist group. Stephenson had made tremendous inroads politically and within white Protestant churches, whose leaders proclaimed the good deeds the Klan performed while overlooking their terror campaigns. The number of new recruits soared.

No one was willing to stand up to Stephenson for fear of reprisal. One exception was a seemingly powerless woman, Madge Oberholtzer. She is Egan's hero in this dark chapter of American history.

—*Mary Fran Buckley*

Looking for a good book?

Here is a booklist full of suggestions for you from some of our LWV chapters:

https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/leagues/wysiwyg/%5Bcurrent-user%3Aog-user-node%3A1%3Atitle%5D/2025_book_club_selections_2025.pdf

<https://my.lwv.org/new-york/new-castle/league-reads>

https://lwv-rma.org/lwv-rma_book_club.php

<https://my.lwv.org/illinois/wheaton/lwv-book-club>

Treasurer's Report

LWV OF FALMOUTH TREASURER REPORT AND PROPOSED BUDGET 2026

	as of 7/1/24	FY2024-2025	FY2025-2026	as of 6/30/25	FY2026-2027
INCOME	Actual	Budget	Budget	Actual	Budget (Proposed)
Ads	\$ 300	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 125	\$ 175
Annual Meeting	\$ 64	\$ 1,028	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,000
Contributions - Non-members	\$ 1,018	\$ 1,000	\$ 300	\$ 200	\$ 500
Contributions - Members	\$ 1,196	\$ 500	\$ 650	\$ 1,470	\$ 500
Dues	\$ 8,831	\$ 7,335	\$ 1,610	\$ 4,661	\$ 1,600
Development / Fund Raisers	\$ 400	\$ 2,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,691	\$ 5,000
Transfer from checking account					
Replacement Checks	\$ 535				
INCOME TOTAL	\$ 12,343	\$ 12,063	\$ 8,760	\$ 13,197	\$ 8,775

EXPENSES

Action/Program		\$ 50	\$ 250	\$ 100	\$ 400
Administration	\$ 222	\$ 350	\$ 322	\$ 2,358	\$ 300
Postage	\$ 150	\$ 121	\$ 68		\$ 100
Web Site Fee	\$ 468	\$ 400	\$ 475		\$ 460
Annual Meeting & Report	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,829	\$ 1,800
Bank & Paypal Fees	\$ 225	\$ 250	\$ 25	\$ 130	
Development/Road Race		\$ 200	\$ 1,150	\$ 1,150	\$ 1,125
Printing	\$ 300	\$ 170	\$ 750	\$ 166	\$ 300
Convention - National				\$ 450	
- State		\$ 450	\$ 500	\$ 250	\$ 500
Membership & Directory	\$ 463	\$ 500	\$ 400	\$ 420	\$ 300
Participation & Gifts	\$ 250	\$ 425	\$ 525	\$ 650	\$ 325
Per Member Pay Mass. (PMP)	\$ 2,323	\$ 3,006	\$ 2,290	\$ 1,633	\$ 200
Per Member Pay US (PMP)	\$ 3,392	\$ 4,350	\$ 3,328	\$ 4,336	\$ 200
Voter Service	\$ 500	\$ 850	\$ 300	\$ 706	\$ 1,000
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$ 8,793	\$ 11,622	\$ 11,383	\$ 14,178	\$ 7,010

*tri-fold\$175

50 new cards \$68

checking acct	\$ 12,196.15	\$ 8,279.63	\$ 10,290.83	as of 4/2/26
LWV Educ Fund	\$ 647.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	
TOTAL CASH	\$ 12,843.15	\$ 8,429.63	\$ 10,440.83	

Save the Date

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. Cost is \$25.00. [Special note: When sending your RSVP to Sheila Scott Gordon at sheilascottgordon@gmail.com, please put the words "Annual Meeting" in the subject line.]

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)
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Senator Dylan Fernandes
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Senator Edward Markey
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Congressman Bill Keating
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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.
General email: newsroom@capenews.net.

The Cape Cod Times

Email to letters@capecodonline.com or mail to
Letters, Cape Cod Times, 319 Main St.,
Hyannis, MA 02601.

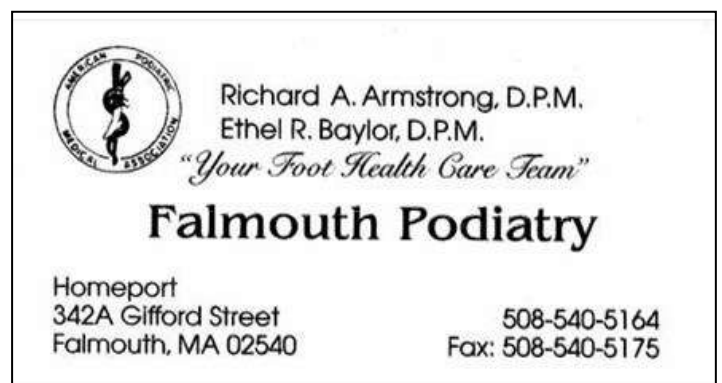
The Boston Globe

Send an e-mail to letter@globe.com or mail to
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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

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

April 19, 3–4:30 p.m. , DEIB presentation on
Morse Pond School, 323 Wampanoag tribal
Jones Road, Falmouth. sovereignty with Melissa
Ferretti.

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

April 29, 7–9 p.m., Candidates Night
Hermann Room of
Falmouth Public Library.
(Doors open at 6:30
p.m.)

Contact us:

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Email: FalmouthLWV@gmail.com

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

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

welcome

To our new and renewing members:

Maggie Davidson

Amy Kukulya

Nan Logan (returning)

Please note: Submissions for the next issue of the LWVF Bulletin are due by May 1, 2026. Please send copy, photos, and other material to both of these addresses:

maryfran55@earthlink.net

eileenmattingly@yahoo.com



League of Women Voters

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April 2026

JOIN

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Democracy in Action