



League of Women Voters[®] of Falmouth Bulletin

May 2025

Steering Committee Report

The Falmouth League, with FCTV as co-sponsor, presented Candidates Night on April 30, before a packed Hermann Room audience. After an introduction by first vice president Janet Lauer, Falmouth Town Clerk Michael Palmer addressed the audience, emphasizing the importance of town elections.

Mr. Palmer reported that the annual town elections do not get the attention and turnout that national elections elicit — for Falmouth town elections the turnout is about 20%. These elections are for candidates who serve on committees that have a direct effect on our lives. The candidates are people with whom we have contact every day on Main Street, in the grocery stores, and other local spots.

Mr. Palmer challenged the audience to spread the word about the upcoming election and assist folks or neighbors who may need assistance in getting to the polls. He stressed that “We can do better than 20%!”

In-person voting will be Tuesday, May 20, at your local precinct. Early in-person voting, at town hall, is May 10, May 12

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through May 16, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The last day to register to vote was Friday, May 9. Any questions about voting procedures should be addressed to the town clerk’s office, 508-495-7350.

Make sure your voice and concerns are heard! Every effort has been made by the town clerk’s office to make voting as convenient and easy as possible. There’s little excuse not to participate in our town’s election. VOTE!

— **Mary Fran Buckley**
Steering Committee

Legislative Committee Report

I am more than happy to report that the Legislative Committee now has eight members, and I confess that I am not entirely confident that I am not missing somebody. My predecessor, Margaret Cooper, long-time member Kerry Walton, and I have been joined over the past years by Helen Bresnahan, Colleen Cunningham, and Annie Holden, and now, by our two newest members, Deanna Jaroche and Jan Rook. We met at my house on Monday, May 5. When I say “we” I should explain that the “we” was four of us. However, because the four included our two newest members, the meeting was an exceptionally valuable opportunity to explore their interests and how they can reinforce and supplement the work of the Committee.

As most of you know, the Legislative Committee is an advocacy organization, working to promote the legislative priorities of the LWVMA as listed on its website under the heading “League-Supported/Opposed Legislation 2025-2026.” We plan to continue to support three bills whose predecessors we have supported in the past. They are:

- An Act relating to End of Life Options/Death with Dignity (H. 2505/S.1486);
- An Act to implement the recommendations of the special commission on facial recognition technology (H.1946/S.1053); and
- An Act relative to immigration detention and collaboration agreements, with the intent of ending or prohibiting such agreements (H.1588; S.1122).

We also plan to advocate in support of these five bills:

- An Act regarding free expression (pertaining to access to materials in public and school libraries) (H.3594/S.2328);
- An Act ensuring access to equitable representation in immigration proceedings (H.1954/S.1127);
- An Act to promote safe firearm storage education (H.548/S.397);
- An Act enforcing accessibility for voters with disabilities (H.820/S.504); and
- An Act promoting access to counsel and housing stability in MA (H.1952/S.968).

We will oppose a bill calling for a national constitutional convention due to the risk that we could lose the constitutional protections we currently have.

We are providing this summary to LWVF members to give you an idea of what we are doing. We believe these are all issues of general importance, as are the many other issues addressed in other important bills that are not on our list. Now, with eight members on our Committee, we probably can expand the scope of our advocacy by a few more bills. If you know of a bill supported by the LWVMA that you would like us to support, we are open to suggestions.

— Judy Ziss

Chair, Legislative Committee

Defend Due Process

The following is adapted from a message from the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts:

We wake to the news of yet another family being terrorized by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and we know folks are being forcibly removed throughout all of our cities and towns. ICE is arresting and detaining people without warrants. Immigration infractions are civil, **not** criminal. Anyone charged with a crime in Massachusetts is already held accountable through our criminal justice system. While we understand the state constraints around reining in a federal agency, **NOW is the time to raise our voices and urge all electeds to demand enforcement of due process protections guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.** Our federal delegation has demonstrated their commitment to human rights, but we can no longer turn a blind eye to daily ICE abuses – we **MUST** act now.

Turn your outrage into action. Will you make SIX calls or emails today? Please contact your federal and state elected officials using the suggested script below. This includes:

US Senator Ed Markey

US Representative Bill Keating

US Senator Elizabeth Warren

MA State Representative Thomas Moakley
or David Vieira

Governor Maura Healey

MA State Senator Dylan Fernandes

[Editor's note: All contact information is on page 7 of this Bulletin.]

Feel free to personalize the message by adding why securing human rights for all residents is important to you. Remember to include your name and complete street address.

Suggested Script:

"Dear [Insert Elected Official]:

News this morning of yet another family torn apart: a harrowing tale of a Worcester mother taken by federal agents who did not present a warrant. The federal government is violating due process and the rights guaranteed by the US Constitution. Protecting due process for immigrants protects it for every one of us.

The League of Women Voters believes in the individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. We oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights—including arresting people without a warrant. The League supports due process for all

Defend Due Process, cont.

the right to humane treatment and that no person or group should suffer legal discrimination.

Please work with local, state and federal officials and demand that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) stop violating due process rights guaranteed by the US Constitution. We urge you to take immediate action to protect residents of the Commonwealth from further terror.

Sincerely,

[Your name and complete address]"

Volunteer for Arts Alive 2025

Would you like to represent the League of Women Voters of Falmouth at the annual Arts Alive festival? On Friday, June 13 through Sunday, June 15, we will share information about both membership in the LWVF and about voter registration with visitors at our table. Shifts will start at 9:30 a.m. for set-up and end at 5 p.m. To learn more or to volunteer, contact Janet Lauer at janet@lauer-family.org.



Gala League Luncheon

At 11:00 a.m. on April 30, 23 members of the LWVF convened on the campus of the Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical High School in Bourne for a luncheon. High on a hill overlooking the Cape Cod Canal, the school's restaurant provides a magnificent view of the Bourne Bridge and surrounding areas. The food is delicious and reasonably priced, and all is prepared by students in the Culinary Arts program. Students wait on tables as well. The restaurant has a take-out bakery and a menu that changes daily.



Photos by Marcia Easterling

Voter Service: Candidates Night 2025

On Wednesday evening, April 30, in the Hermann Room of the Falmouth Public Library, FCTV and the LWV of Falmouth presented Candidates Night. The event, broadcast live, was moderated by Mindy Todd of WCAI (pictured above).



The event offered two panels for the two contested races — four candidates for two seats on the Select Board and six candidates for three seats on the School Committee. Questions came from multiple sources: the LWVF Voter Service Committee, the community, the audience in attendance, as well as from two high school students who asked their questions addressing the candidates in person.

Available to the audience, in addition to the presentation of candidates for local offices, were comments from Mike Palmer, Falmouth Town Clerk (pictured below), and an uncontested candidate for a one-year Select Board term, Jack Richardson.



At the entrance to the Hermann Room, multiple helpful voting aids were offered: voter

Continued on next page

Select Board Candidates

Douglas Brown, Richard McEvoy, James Morse, and Colin Reed.



Voter Service: Candidates Night 2025, cont.

registration forms, dates for early voting, locations of polling places, small cards with QR codes for voting information in different languages, and an opportunity to join the Falmouth League. There was also a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in representing the LWV in the Falmouth Road Race.

— ***Felicia Bordick***
Voter Service Committee

Candidates for School Committee



Sarah Bogdan

Michael Heylin

LWVF Awarded Scharfman Grant

The LWV of Falmouth received a Scharfman Grant to assist in funding a Get-Out-the Vote project focused on two goals. The first is to recruit new members who will bring different perspectives and new energy. Secondly, the grant will provide funding for the GOTV materials to ensure that the cost involved does not deter participation.

The project will take shape in the structure of casual coffee hours focused on voter education—everything related to voter registration and voter opportunities—as well as hands-on activities involving writing to voters all over the United States.

This is a nonpartisan effort to get people registered to vote and to inform voters of very specific information about upcoming elections. In addition, and most importantly, the new LWV members will also compose their own script sharing why they think it's important to vote.

— ***Felicia Bordick***
Voter Service Committee



Melissa Keefe and Margaret Souza



Amanda McGonigle and Jane Scarborough

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

Representative David Vieira
(617) 722-2230 and press 5
David.Vieira@mahouse.gov

Representative Thomas Moakley
(617) 722-2800 x7302
Thomas.Moakley@mahouse.gov

Senator Elizabeth Warren
(202) 224-4543
[https://www.warren.senate.gov/
contact/shareyouropinion](https://www.warren.senate.gov/contact/shareyouropinion)

Senator Edward Markey
(202) 224-2742
[https://www.markey.senate.gov/
contact/share-your-opinion](https://www.markey.senate.gov/contact/share-your-opinion)

Congressman Bill Keating
(508) 771-6868
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
*Letters to the Editor, The Boston Globe, PO
Box 55819, Boston, MA 02205.*



Stephanie Miele
Certified Piano Technician

Tuning
C: 508-685-9866
H: 508-548-1759
steplen@comcast.net



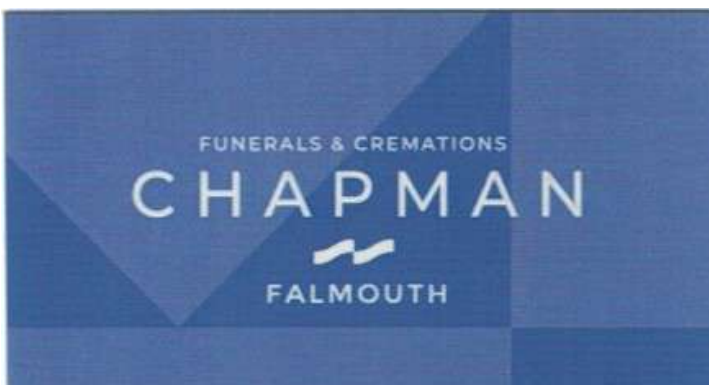
Richard A. Armstrong, D.P.M.
Ethel R. Baylor, D.P.M.
"Your Foot Health Care Team"
Falmouth Podiatry

Homeport
342A Gifford Street
Falmouth, MA 02540

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

2024 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	Shared Chairmanship**
Voter Service	Felicia Bordick
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging	Don Gibbons
Membership	Misty Niemeyer
Observer Corps	Meghan Palanza
Publicity/Bulletin	Mary Fran Buckley*, Eileen Mattingly
At-Large	Bruce Woodin
At-Large	Susan Loucks
At-Large	Janice Rook

Off-Board Specialists

Historian	Kathy Mortenson
Facebook	Penny Duby
Email Communication	Kathy Mortenson
Web Administrator	Gayle Simundza
FCTV	Lynne Rozsa

Nominating Committee

Chair	Stephanie Miele
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*Member of Steering Committee

**Shared Chairmanship by Richard Johnson*, Kathy Mortenson, Denise Morreale, John Carroll, Sally Palmer. Richard Johnson is Board Representative.

Meeting and Event Calendar

May 17, 9:30 a.m.	LWVF Annual Meeting, Meigs Room, Swope Café, Woods Hole
June 13-15	Falmouth Arts Alive participation
June 25, 6:30 p.m. (Note date change)	Board meeting, Gus Canty Center
TBD	Observer Corps Re- ports

Contact us:

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

Email: FalmouthLWV@gmail.com

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

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

Submissions for the June issue of the LWVF Bulletin are due by June 5, 2025. Please send copy, photos, and other material to both of these addresses:

maryfran55@earthlink.net
eileenmattingly@yahoo.com

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF FALMOUTH

Annual Meeting
9:30 a.m., May 17, 2025
Meigs Room at the Swope Café
250 MBL Street, Woods Hole