



League of Women Voters[®] of Falmouth Bulletin

September 2025

Steering Committee Report

As we head into our 250-year anniversary of American independence we are entering into a constitutional crisis. Congress is ceding its power to the executive branch and is not accountable to “We the people.” With increased polarization, gerrymandering, and disinformation and misinformation, we are experiencing low voter turnout. Big money and a smaller fraction of the electorate determine the outcome of many elections, making those legislators beholden to those voters. Legislators are not crossing the aisle or collaborating with the other side.

Democracy is broken and in need of a rehab. At our September members’ meeting we will view the film, *Majority Rules*, about rank choice voting. We will follow the film with a discussion and mock election to demonstrate how it works. I hope you will join us on Thursday, September 18 at 7 p.m. in the Hermann Room at the main branch of the Falmouth Public Library. In the meantime, participate in peaceful protests and do something every day to promote democracy.

The Declaration of Independence was the promise; the Constitution was the fulfillment.

—Janet Lauer
First Vice President

Table of Contents

Steering Committee Report	1
Legislative Committee Report	2
LWVUS: Protecting the Vote	3
Ranked Choice Voting.....	4
Understanding DEI presentation.....	5
Legislative and Press Directory	6
Board of Directors	7
Meeting and Event Calendar	7

Save the Date!

Ranked Choice Voting film screening and panel discussion

Hermann Room, Falmouth Public Library
Thursday, September 18, 7 p.m.

Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration

Cultural Center
Falmouth Museums on the Green
Sunday, October 12, 3–5 p.m.

Dr. Seyana Mawusi presentation on DEI

Hermann Room, Falmouth Public Library
Thursday, October 16, 4:30 p.m.

Legislative Committee Report

The Legislative Committee met at my house August 17. Five members were present (if I have my count right) and the meeting was truly productive.

One of our newer members, Deanna, came with a list of several bills she would like our Committee to support; those in attendance agreed to support them. Two of the bills, H.86 and S.197, termed the Location Shield Act, would protect privacy of phone users by barring or limiting the sale by phone companies of their customers' location data. Another bill introduced in the Senate, H.3398/S.2160, would ensure gender parity and racial and ethnic diversity on public boards. Regarding Deanna's other proposal, which would oppose a Constitutional Convention, we have already taken that position. In the League's view, having a Constitutional Convention, even for reasons we support, would risk a "runaway" convention in which protections we value could be lost.

At our meeting we also agreed to continue to support H.3594/S.2328, An Act regarding free expression. This bill relates to libraries; Colleen, our librarian member, has emphasized the importance of enacting the protections set forth in the bill.

I came to the meeting with a list of bills we already support and a list of bills I suggested adding.

In the first category, we agreed to continue to support the following:

1. An Act relative to end of life options, H.2505/S.1486;

2. An Act relative to immigration detention and collaboration agreements (with the intent of ending or prohibiting such agreements), H.1588/S.1122; and

3. An Act to implement the recommendations of the special commission on facial recognition technology, H.1946/S.1053..

We also agreed to add the following bills:

1. An Act enforcing accessibility for voters with disabilities, H.820/S.504;
2. An Act to promote safe firearm storage education and increase the well-being of students, H.548/S.397; and
3. An Act promoting access to counsel (of indigent individuals) and housing stability in Massachusetts, H.1952/S.968.

We agreed to continue to work together to add to the list of bills for which we will advocate. We also will help and encourage all Committee members to become activists for passage of League-endorsed legislation that we wish to support.

— Judy Ziss, Chair
Legislative Committee

In Memoriam

Janice Hank

1955-2025

LWVUS: Protecting the Vote

LWVUS Mission Statement: *The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend democracy through advocacy, education, and litigation, at the local, state, and national levels.*

Why It Matters: Increased accessibility to the electoral process is integral to ensuring that every American can exercise their right to vote. Leagues across the United States work year-round to promote pro-voter reforms that both preserve our existing rights and provide flexibility for casting ballots in order to be inclusive of historically underserved communities

WASHINGTON — The League of Women Voters CEO, Celina Stewart, Esq., issued the following statement in response to President Trump's vow to eliminate mail-in ballots and voting machines:

Free, fair, and accessible elections are the cornerstone of a healthy democracy. President Trump's call to eliminate vote-by-mail is a direct attack on Americans' freedom to vote.

Vote-by-mail is secure, accurate, and trusted by millions of voters — including older adults, military members, rural communities, tribal communities, voters of color, and voters with disabilities. Vote-by-mail has proven to expand voter participation in recent elections.

President Trump has no constitutional authority to take this action. Under our US Constitution, the states have the power to run

elections, and only Congress can step in to regulate those elections when needed. This move is yet another overreach by an unpopular president who seeks to silence the public to hold onto power.

President Trump's attacks on voting machines are similarly misleading and dangerous. Voting systems in the US already meet strict standards for security, accuracy, transparency, and accessibility, with paper ballots or audit trails to verify results. Scrapping machines in favor of hand counting would undermine election integrity and efficiency, not strengthen it. The League of Women Voters stands firmly for secure, modern systems that protect every vote and uphold public trust in our democracy.

The President should get his facts straight: he does not have the authority to regulate elections, states have strong measures to ensure voting equipment is secure, and many countries successfully utilize vote-by-mail.

The League of Women Voters will not stand by while politicians spread lies to limit democratic participation. We will be looking at the forthcoming Executive Order very closely and will use every tool in our toolbox to push back on these threats to our free, fair, and accessible elections.

We will fight to protect vote-by-mail and every method that makes casting a ballot accessible. Our democracy is strong when every eligible voter can make their voice heard, whether at a polling place or through a mail-in ballot.

Ranked Choice Voting: Film Screening and Panel Discussion



The League of Women
Voters of Falmouth
presents a short film
and panel discussion on

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)

Thursday, September 18, 7:00 P.M.

Hermann Room,
Falmouth Main Library
(Use after-hours entrance near Library
Lane and Katharine Lee Bates Road.)

- ◇ The presentation will begin with a screening of the film *MAJORITY RULES 101* (34 mins), followed by a panel discussion with **Ed Shoemaker**, Executive Director of Voter Choice Massachusetts and Ranked Choice Boston; **Celia Nolan**, Training Director with Rank the Vote and Director of the League of Women Voters Hingham; and **Asia Graves**, Cape and Islands RCV Lead, Barnstable League and NAACP Cape Cod Chapter.
- ◇ Experience RCV in the moment with voting in a mock election.
- ◇ Learn how RCV works, how RCV allows for immediate runoffs, and understand why many see RCV as a hedge against gerrymandering. Learn why the major parties are concerned.

Understanding DEI with Dr. Seyana Mawusi

The phrase “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion” causes anxiety, aggravation, even anger, in some parts of our society. But many people opposed to DEI probably don’t know what it really means. It is not about affirmative action. It helps us all make sure our processes and procedures work for all the many cultures in our society, so that all may be heard and properly responded to in kind.

For those reasons, the LWVF DEIB committee (The last term, “Belonging,” comes from the other three), has hired one of the leaders in the field to give our members a workshop to provide some insight into why the LWV locally, and at the State and National levels, all believe in DEI as a benefit for all of society. On October 16 at 4:30, we will have a conversation with Dr. Seyana Mawusi. She has served as a college professor and as a principal in elementary and middle schools. Dr. Mawusi consults with leaders to help them to rethink and reframe their personal and professional lives. Her clients include our local schools.

She will be speaking on October 16 to interested members of the LWVF. Because Dr. Mawusi teaches with small groups, this initiative is limited to the first 25 who sign up. So please email the LWVF DEIB committee chair: Don Gibbons at dongibbons49@yahoo.com to reserve your place.

Here are some definitions of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion from the LWVMA website:

Diversity is about a collective or a group and can only exist in relationship to others. A team can be diverse and so can an organization. **A person is not diverse.** They may bring

diversity to a team, but they in themselves are not diverse.

Equity refers to systems, processes, and approaches based in fairness that ensure everyone is given equal opportunity and treated with dignity and respect. This means that resources may be divided and shared differently to make sure that each person has a fair chance to succeed. Therefore, equity does not mean “sameness.” Equity takes into account that people have different access to resources because of systems of oppression and privilege. Equity seeks to balance that disparity.

Inclusion refers to the degree to which a diverse set of individuals is able to participate fully in collaboration, strategizing, and decision-making within an organization or group.

—Don Gibbons, DEIB Chair

Registration is open

**Hear Dr. Mawusi’s presentation
“Everyday every way - Developing
Equity and Inclusion (DEI).”**

**Thursday October 16
4:30 to 5:30**

Hermann Room, Falmouth Library

Session is limited to 25 people!

**Please register ASAP with LWVF DEIB
chair Dongibbons49@Yahoo.com**

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>
 (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>

Senator Edward Markey
 (202) 224-2742
<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.

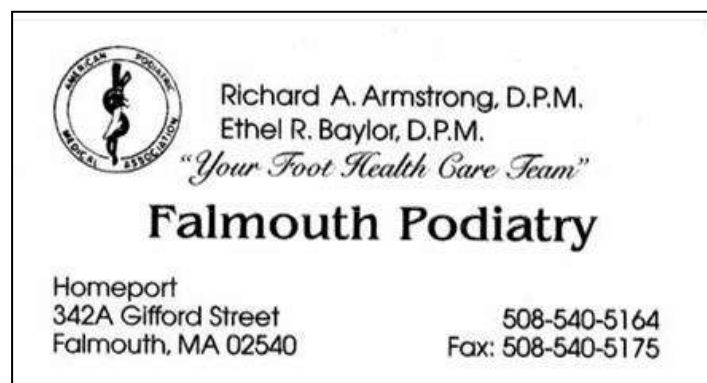
The Boston Globe


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

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	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	Kathy Mortenson
-------	-----------------

*Member of Steering Committee

Meeting and Event Calendar

September 18, 7 p.m.	Showing of film <i>Majority Rules 101</i> and discussion of ranked choice voting, 7 p.m., Falmouth Main Library, Hermann Room
September 30, 6:30 p.m.	Board meeting, Gus Canty Community Center
October 16, 4:30 p.m.	Discussion of DEI with Dr. Seyana Mawusi, Hermann Room, Falmouth Main Library
October 28, 6:30 p.m.	Board meeting

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

maryfran55@earthlink.net
eileenmattingly@yahoo.com