



League of Women Voters[®] of Falmouth Bulletin

September 2026

Steering Committee Report

For more than 150 years, Americans have found ways to ensure that being away from a polling place does not mean being left out of our democracy. During the Civil War, soldiers serving far from home were among the first Americans permitted to vote by absentee ballot. Over time, absentee voting expanded to include other citizens who could not be at their polling place on Election Day. What began as a way to ensure that those serving our country could participate in elections has become an important part of American democracy. Today, every state provides some form of absentee or mail voting, although the rules differ from state to state.

Voting by mail is about more than convenience. It is about access to the ballot and is fundamental to the right to vote. A single Election Day does not work equally well for everyone. Older voters, people with disabilities, caregivers, military and overseas voters, people who are traveling, those with demanding work schedules, and parents balancing family responsibilities may find it difficult to get to a polling place on a particular day. Voting by mail provides another opportunity for these citizens to make their voices heard. It can also give voters time to study candidates and ballot questions, make informed decisions, and participate without having to choose between voting and the other responsibilities of daily life. In Massachusetts, voters have the option of voting early by mail, a policy that recognizes that democracy is stronger when more eligible citizens have an opportunity to participate.

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I am writing this article for the League bulletin while important issues concerning mail-in voting remain unresolved. Currently, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts and other voting-rights organizations are challenging President Trump's executive order directing the U. S. Postal Service (USPS) to impose new requirements on mail-in and absentee ballots. Massachusetts U. S. District Judge Indira Talwani initially blocked key portions of the order. On August 24, however, the U.S. Supreme Court lifted that injunction, ruling that the challenge had been brought prematurely. The Supreme Court did not decide whether the administration's mail-in voting requirements are legal or constitutional.

The legal battle continued. After the USPS issued new rules to implement the executive order, the

Continued on next page

Steering Committee Report, cont.

League and other plaintiffs returned to court. On August 27, Judge Talwani issued a 14-day temporary restraining order blocking USPS from implementing key portions of those rules. A hearing scheduled for **September 3** will consider whether those temporary protections should remain in place. The judge's decision, and any subsequent appeals, could determine what changes, if any, will affect mail-in voting in the November elections.

What can Massachusetts voters do now? Stay informed, check with the Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth for the latest rules and guidelines, and verify your voter registration and mail-in ballot status. The legal battle may continue, but our responsibility as voters remains. **Know your options, and make a plan!**

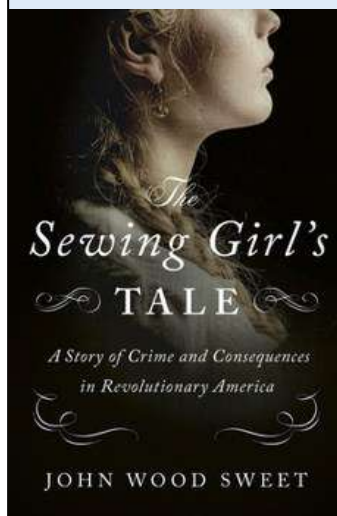
— **Sheila Scott Gordon**
Second Vice President

Editor's Note: Checking your voter registration status is simple and takes about 30 seconds or less. Just go to the web page for the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/voterregistrationsearch/>.

In Memoriam

Ethel "Yang" Conley
Ginny Gregg
Aimlee Laderman

Falmouth League Book Club



Join the Falmouth League of Women Voters Book Club to discuss the next book club selection: *The Sewing Girl's Tale: A Story of Crime and Consequences in Revolutionary America*, by John Wood Sweet. We will meet in the Bay Room of the

main branch of the Falmouth Public Library on Monday, September 21, 2026, 10:30 – 11:45 a.m. It's a riveting read!

At this meeting, we will also pick our next title.

Multiple copies are available at the Nonfiction Reference Desk, Falmouth Public Library.

Text Linda Jeffries-Summers (443-812-0067) with any questions and/or concerns.

— **Linda Jeffries-Summers**

SAVE THE DATE!

The League of Women Voters of Falmouth in collaboration with FCTV will present Candidates Night on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Falmouth High School Auditorium.

Come hear the candidates speak or watch the events on FCTV. Be an informed voter for the November 3, 2026 elections!

Membership News

Our sincere thanks to those who attended our recent Open House; we hope you will consider joining our League, or one of the committees, if you haven't already done so.

Individual memberships to the League are \$75, and there is a sliding scale for the membership fee, if needed. To join, click on the link, my.lwv.org or enter <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/falmouth>. Your membership with LWVF includes membership in the LWV of Massachusetts and the national LWV. A portion of your dues will be distributed accordingly.

You can learn more about our local chapter on our website at <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/falmouth>. As part of your membership, you will receive our monthly bulletin, along with email updates from Kathy Mortenson about upcoming events.

Please consider coming to the LWVF **Get Out the Vote/Postcard writing event, Wednesday, September 23, from 6:30 to 8:00** at Bad Martha's in East Falmouth. Please encourage anyone who wasn't able to attend the Open House in August to stop by! This is a great way to meet new people and encourage voters to exercise their rights in the midterm elections. Materials will be provided.

We encourage you to get involved by joining one of our committees and attending our meetings and programs. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out—we're happy to help.

Thank you for your continued interest and support!

— **Robin Bowerman**

LWVF Membership Chair

Thanks to Our Fine Runners in the Falmouth Road Race!



We are very grateful to the runners who represented the League of Women Voters of Falmouth in the 2026 Road Race: Cameron Costa, Kristin Nelson, Sarah McCormack, Ciara Chagnon, Alayna Krempa, Jane Walsdorf, and Alicia Miller, Congratulations to you all!

Centennial Grove Update

In October, 2021, many LWVF donors funded a grove of ten Tupelo trees, which were planted at a rehabilitated vernal pool at Peterson Farm in Falmouth. These trees celebrated two anniversaries: the centennial of the 19th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution that guaranteed women the right to vote, and the founding of the League of Women Voters.



Under the supervision of Mark Kasprzyk, Falmouth Conservation Commission, the trees were planted by Jeremiah Pearson and his crew from the Falmouth Public Works Department. Included were several red maples and many native shrubs and perennials adapted to the vernal pool habitat. A local volunteer assiduously hand watered these plantings for several growing seasons; all survived and are thriving five years later. A bronze plaque was installed on a granite pylon that described this gift to the town by the LWVF. These trees should reach maturity by the next centennial observation.



Many smaller Tupelo trees were also given by the LWVF donors for planting at other conservation sites around town, such as the Coonamesset River Greenway.



If you have not visited the Grove lately, it is worth a visit. The Centennial Grove is located just to the east of the Peterson Farm parking lot. It has been a wonderful success!

—**Richard Johnson**
Secretary

Indigenous Peoples Day Events

SAVE THE DATES

Indigenous Voices Honoring Mother Earth

You're invited to three Indigenous Peoples Day Events

October 1, 6:30-8:30pm

Falmouth Art Center. **Mashpee Wampanoag Youth
Environmental Ambassadors, Panel discussion.**

October 12, 2-4pm

Falmouth Museums on the Green, **"CLIMATE VOICES,"
Film Screening by Leslie Jonas with expert and
audience conversation.**

***Early November: Sankofa and the Three Sisters:
Bringing All Voices to the Table***

Conversation on the USA's 250 years from all voices: indigenous,
African American, women, men, Two Spirit, and LGBTQ+.

For more information: sfaiman@aol.com. 508-274-1131

THANK YOU SPONSORS and FUNDERS* Coalition for Social Justice ~ Falmouth Art Center ~ Town of Falmouth Diversity, Equity, inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Advisory Committee ~ Falmouth INDIVISIBLE* ~ Falmouth League of Women Voters ~ Falmouth Museums on the Green ~ Falmouth No Place for Hate ~ JUNETEENTH Community Celebration Committee ~ L.I.N.K, Linking Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Knowledge* ~ North Falmouth Congregational Church ~ Racial Justice Falmouth* ~ The Green Center ~ Waquoit Congregational Church ~ Woodwell Climate Research Center

"This program is also supported in part by a grant from the Falmouth Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



Make your voice heard today!

Contact Information for Your Legislators and Governor

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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.

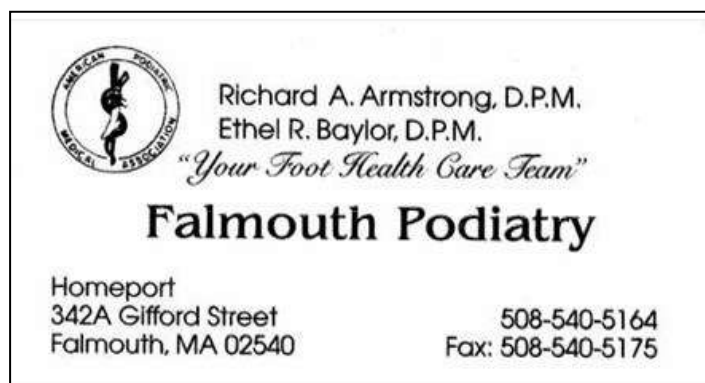
The Boston Globe

Send an e-mail to letter@globe.com or mail to
*Letters to the Editor, The Boston Globe, PO
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2026 Friends of the LWVF

Maria Moniz
Robert and Barbara Schneider

LWVF Board of Directors 2026-27

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First Vice-President	Janet Lauer*
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At-Large	Susan Loucks
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Facebook	Eileen Mattingly
Email Communication	Kathy Mortenson
Web Administrator	Gayle Simundza
FCTV	Lynne Rozsa

Nominating Committee

Chair

*Member of Steering Committee

Meeting and Event Calendar

Monday, September 21, 2026, 10:30 – 11:45 a.m., Bay Room of Falmouth Public Library	LWVF book club meeting
Tuesday, September 22, 6 p.m., Gus Canty Center, Falmouth	LWVF Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 23, from 6:30 to 8:00 at Bad Martha's in East Falmouth	Get Out the Vote/ Postcard writing event
Wednesday, October 14, 7:00–9:00 p.m., Falmouth High School Auditorium	Candidates Night
Tuesday, October 27, 6 p.m., location TBD	LWVF Board Meeting

Contact us:

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

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



Please note: Submissions for the October issue of the LWVF Bulletin are due by October 5, 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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September 2026

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Democracy in Action