



League of Women Voters[®] of Falmouth Bulletin

October 2026

Steering Committee Report

Candidates Night

Falmouth's League of Women Voters has several committees that serve the citizens of our town. The service that is the most visible to the town is Candidates Night, done in partnership with Falmouth Community Television (FCTV) channel 6. FCTV also posts Candidates Night on their ROKU and Apple TV channels. A reporter from *The Falmouth Enterprise* usually wraps up the evening in a comprehensive article. The Falmouth League is visible!

Candidates Night will be at Falmouth High School on Wednesday, October 14, at 7:00 p.m. Doors will open at 6:15 for attendees and candidates to chat; attendees may address issues that impact them personally.

Invited candidates include those for U.S. Representative for the 9th Congressional District, for the state Senate for Plymouth and Barnstable counties, the State Representative for the 3rd Barnstable District, and for Barnstable County Commissioner. Candidates who are in uncontested races may come and speak briefly if they would like to do so.

Support the Falmouth League on October 14. Either come in person or attend via television. Afterward, follow the event as reported in *The Falmouth Enterprise*. Voters deserve to know where their candidates stand.

—**Don Gibbons**
Member, Steering Committee

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Legislative Committee Chair Needed

The LWVF Board is seeking a chair for the Legislative Committee to take over from Judy Ziss. Responsibilities include:

- Receives legislative information from LWVMA; keeps up with the state and national programs and the LWVMA Legislative Priorities; informs Board.
- Contacts Legislators in response to Action Alerts; works with President to organize member response to legislature; knows who is interested in what issues.
- Organizes meetings with Legislators once a year.
- Works with State Program Specialists and local Publicity Committee.

Please contact Janet Lauer or Sheila Scott Gordon if you are interested.

Voter Service Report

Write To Vote

In appreciation of the Falmouth LWV Board for supporting “Get out the vote” postcard and letter writing campaigns, I would like to share the final count on this shared effort. For almost one year, volunteers have been writing to voters all over the United States using a variety of online websites with nonpartisan messaging to encourage low propensity voters to get out and use their voices by exercising their right to vote.

We didn’t call or text, we wrote short expressions of urgency on the importance of participating in the process to select those who will represent our interests in government. Writing is recognized as a waning skill, compromised by the popularity of abbreviated social media. Today writing a letter or even a postcard sounds dated! We hear concern for students and their ability to express themselves in writing without AI assistance. Combining the exercise of one American citizen writing a personal note to another with the objective of increasing the number of people who vote, this effort can be aptly labeled: “The Write To Vote.”

The multiple resources used in this effort include postcards and letters obtained from Vote Forward, VoteRiders, the Turn PAC Project, The Center for Common Ground, and The Environmental Voter Project. On their websites you can easily access the organizations’ mission statements as well as the research methodology applied after each election to determine the effectiveness of the writing effort. They will reassure you, that writing to voters to remind them of their responsibility to vote does make a difference! Why? Because it increases the number of registered voters who apply for a mail-in ballot or cast a vote in person and vote early or on election day!

And in conclusion (drum roll please): we can proudly take credit, with special thanks for funding from the Falmouth League and a Scharfman Grant, for mailing 4,000 postcards from the Turn PAC Project to eight different states; 500 postcards to Virginia from the Environmental Project; 500 postcards to N. Carolina from the Center for Common Ground; 400 letters to Pennsylvania containing Voter Guides from Vote Forward; and 400 letters with resources to clarify how to obtain Voter ID to Texas and Ohio from VoteRiders. We always remind our fellow citizens—who you vote for is private, but whether or not you vote is important to all of us. We hope to expand this effort by bringing the intersection of writing skills and civic responsibility into classrooms at local high schools.

—Felicia Bordick

Member, Voter Service Committee

“Transfer Tax” Panel — November 2

On November 2, 2026, Dan Gessen, candidate for Barnstable County Commissioner, State Representative Thomas Moakley, and Laura Moynihan, Executive Director and In-House Counsel for the Falmouth Housing Trust, will participate in a panel discussion exploring the proposed “Transfer Tax” and its potential impact on affordable housing. The meeting will be in the Hermann Room of the main Falmouth Public Library at 6:30 p.m.

Presented by the League of Women Voters of Falmouth, the program will provide an opportunity to learn more about the proposed transfer tax, hear perspectives from the panelists, and ask questions about how such a measure could affect housing affordability on Cape Cod.

Indivisible Rally — NO KINGS: Vote Early

The League of Women Voters of Falmouth plans to participate in the upcoming No Kings rally sponsored by Indivisible Falmouth. Indivisible is a partner with the LWVMA and LWVUS.

On Saturday, October 17, there will be an event on the Falmouth Village Green from noon to 1:30. NO KINGS Vote Early will be a day of nonpartisan voter participation, to be sure that every eligible voter knows how to vote and understands how to vote early.

Indivisible is asking that, because the event is nonpartisan, signs brought to the rally not mention political parties, specific candidates, ballot initiatives or specific elected officials. As the organizers stated in their letter to the League, “We want the signs to promote voting; voting for candidates (again, no names) who support your group’s passion. That might be social justice, our immigrant neighbors, our veterans, the environment, our homeless, our farmers, freedom of speech, a free press....”

After the rally, there will be a march to Town Hall to help spread the word that early voting begins on October 17 and continues seven days a week through October 30.



Getting Out the Vote—in 1954!

The archives of the *Falmouth Enterprise* in the Falmouth Public Library show the first Get Out the Vote campaign of the newly-established League of Women Voters of Falmouth. Concerned about voter turnout, the League came up with the idea of sending a station wagon with League members to distribute nonpartisan information about the issues and candidates.

According to page 5 of the *Enterprise* for April 24, 1953, the League of Women Voters of Falmouth had been provisionally approved the year before. This was the only League on the Cape and included Pocasset, Cataumet, Mashpee, and Cotuit in addition to the Town of Falmouth.

An article appearing on pages 1 and 4 of the October 29, 1954, *Enterprise* showed that one year later, the LWVF had launched the “Votemobile,” the station wagon wending its way around the area to encourage all eligible voters to turn out to cast their ballots.

Go to the webpage at <https://falmouth.historyarchives.online/> and search for the word “Votemobile.” You will find a dozen articles about this effort to reach voters and you will even see a photo of the original vehicle, emblazoned with the name of the League, and three of our very earliest members talking to the public about the importance of voting, on page 1 of the October 29 issue.

Editor’s Note: Thank you to Kathy Mortenson for her persistence in locating this information and sharing it with us.

We Be People

SAY NO KINGS!


VOTE EARLY

**RALLY ON THE
FALMOUTH VILLAGE GREEN
& MARCH TO TOWN HALL**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17
NOON - 2 PM**

VOTE EARLY

OCT 17 - OCT 30

**Civil Defense Room
(Lower Level)
Town Hall
Falmouth MA**

In-Person Early Voting

Sat, Oct 17 • 9AM - 5PM

Sun, Oct 18 • 10AM - 2PM

M - F, Oct 19-23 8AM - 4:30PM

Sat, Oct 24 • 9AM - 5PM

Sun, Oct 25 • 10AM - 2PM

M - F, Oct 26-30 8AM - 4:30PM

Help Wanted for Election Day

LWVMA is part of the state Election Protection (EP) Coalition, which includes members such as Lawyers for Civil Rights, Common Cause, MA Voter Table, ACLUM among others. LWVMA Members at Large Elizabeth Foster-Nolan and Lucy Costa serve on the steering committee for the EP Coalition. We are actively recruiting nonpartisan volunteers to serve as nonpartisan poll monitors on Election Day (November 3) at locations across Massachusetts. Volunteer poll monitors answer questions from voters as well as observing what is taking place at the polls and reporting issues as discussed in training. Additional details with a fuller description that can be used for communications will be in the upcoming LWVMA newsletter. So please look for that.

Here are 3 ways that folks can help support Election Protection:

1. Sign up to volunteer. Shifts are 3 hours and a 90-minute virtual training is required. There is lots of support available on Election Day. Elizabeth and I will be

facilitating training on October 8 and 13 at 7 p.m. and October 18 at 3 p.m. but there are additional training dates available. To sign up as a volunteer and then have access to training sign-ups: <https://protectthevote.net/?source=LWVMA>

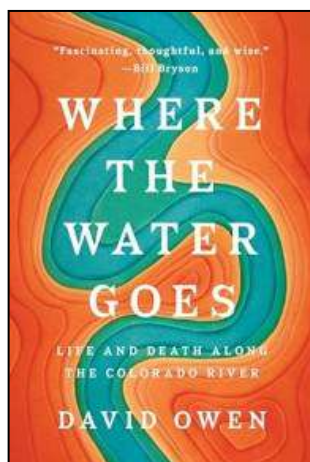
2. Share about this opportunity with local league members and others in your personal networks.
3. If you have relationships with local community colleges, universities, alumni groups would be willing to share about this opportunity with those organizations, please email Lucy at lucygar-netcosta@gmail.com. We have a special source code for students and are tracking the outreach across the Coalition so as not to duplicate efforts.

Thank you.

With best regards,

Lucy G. Costa and Elizabeth Foster-Nolan

League Book Club for October



October's selection is *Where the Water Goes* by David Owen. There are copies to check out at the Adult Reference Desk, main branch of the Falmouth Public Library, and paperback copies at Eight Cousins Bookstore on Main Street.

We will meet in the Woods Hole Library meeting room, Monday, October 26, at 10:30 a.m. Additional resources can be found on the author's homepage: davidowen.net. If you are interested in the audiobook, it is free on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com).

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.

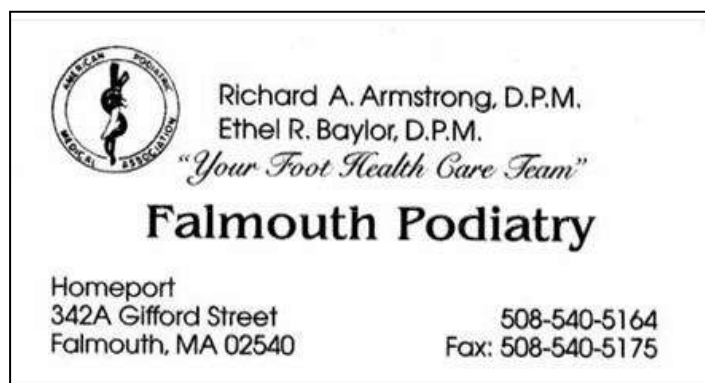
The Boston Globe

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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Second Vice-President	Sheila Scott-Gordon*
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At-Large	Marinna Martini

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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

Wednesday, October 14, 7:00–9:00 p.m., Falmouth High School Auditorium	Candidates Night
Monday, October 12, 2 p.m., Museums on the Green	Indigenous Peoples Day film screening of <i>Climate Voices</i> and panel discussion with Woods Hole Scientists
Saturday, October 17, 12:00 p.m. –1:30, Village Green	No Kings: Vote Early rally.
October 17-30	Early Voting dates
Tuesday, October 20, 6 p.m., Gus Canty	LWVF Board Meeting
Monday, October 26, 10:30 a.m., Woods Hole Library meeting room	LWVF Book Club
Monday, November 2, 6:30 p.m., Hermann Room, Falmouth Library	Panel discussion on “Transfer Tax”

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 Members for 2026:

**Mary Kavanagh, Erin McCormack
Laurie Hogan, Mary Silva Doctor
Troy Clarkson, Donna Buckley
Molly Hauck, Amy Kukulya
Maggie Davidson, Jennifer Owens
Marette Power, Caroline Power**

Please note: Submissions for the November issue of the LWVF Bulletin are due by November 5, 2026. Please send copy, photos, and other material to both of these addresses:

maryfran55@earthlink.net
eileenmattingly@yahoo.com



League of Women Voters

P.O. Box 450

Falmouth, MA 02541

October 2026

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Democracy in Action