



League of Women Voters® of Falmouth Bulletin

September 2020

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Contact Us

Our address:
 League of Women Voters
 of Falmouth
 P. O. Box 450
 Falmouth, MA 02541
 Send us an email
FalmouthLWV@gmail.com

Visit our web site
lwvf.org

Visit our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/LWVofFalmouthMA/>

[instagram.com/lwvfalmouth](https://www.instagram.com/lwvfalmouth)

Member Event Calendar

September	12 11-2:00pm	Voter Services Presentation Cape Verdean Club-126 Sandwich Rd.
	22	National Voter Registration Day
	22 7:00 pm	Board Meeting on Zoom
	TBD 7:00 pm	CANDIDATES' NIGHT on FCTV
October	TBD	About the League Zoom Social Member Program
	19-20	Early Voting
	24	Deadline to Register to Vote for Special Election
	27 7:00 pm	Board Meeting on Zoom
	28	Deadline to apply for a mailed ballot for the general election
November	3	General Election
	19 7:00 pm	Falmouth's Progress on Sustainable Action, Member Program on Zoom

LWVF Board of Directors 2020-2021

Steering Committee

First Vice-President		* Joan Boyer , Steering Committee Chair	
Second Vice-President		* Maggie Sweasy	
At Large		* Kathy Mortenson	
At Large		* Joanne Treistman	
At Large		* Misty Niemeyer	
Secretary	Marcia Easterling	Membership	Jackie Webster
Treasurer	Meghan Hanawalt	Voter Service	Jenny Putnam
Observer Corps	Denise Morreale	Natural Resources	Richard Johnson
Board Moderator	Joanne Voorhis	Legislative	Judith Ziss
Annual Meeting	Alice Carey	Publicity	Olivann Hobbie
		Spokesperson	Sylvia Szulkin

Bulletin Editors: **Denise Morreale, Brenda Nolan**

If you wish to join the League, membership dues are \$50 for an individual membership and \$25 for an additional household member. Send your check made out to LWV of Falmouth, P. O. Box 450, Falmouth, MA 02541. Include your name, mailing address, email address and phone number. Go to our website www.lwvf.org, "join or renew" to renew and pay online, You do not have to be a resident of Falmouth to join.

MESSAGE FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Kathy Mortenson

Fall is the best season on Cape Cod. It is the time when we can enjoy the beauty, nature, and peacefulness of our community. However, Leaguers cannot sit back as the countdown to the November 3rd general election has begun during the Covid-19 pandemic. Town elections, and the state primary have now been held with voters casting ballots either in person on election day, voting early by requesting a mail-in ballot or in person early voting during the primary. The MA legislation signed by Governor Baker continues through 2020 allowing early voting by a mail-in ballot by requesting one from your town hall.

Cast your ballots early if you requested an early mail-in ballot and bring the ballot to your town hall if you want to be sure your ballot arrives in a timely manner. Most towns in Massachusetts have put up secure drop off boxes at town halls for ballots to be deposited in. Though some U. S. states will start mailing out ballots for the November 3rd election very soon, the Massachusetts primary election just took place. The election must first be certified, then ballots in Massachusetts will be printed for every town. This takes time.

The Voter Service Committee will present a program at the Cape Verdean Club on September 12. In October, the League will hold a virtual stress-free social night on Zoom with cocktails (nonalcoholic and alcoholic) and recipes. Judy Ziss and Margaret Cooper will present their "Centennial Surprise" planned for last March and now to be presented virtually. The November 19th meeting will also be held virtually and will be presented by the Natural Resources Committee on Falmouth's Progress on Sustainable Action. The Board of the League of Women Voters of Falmouth is grateful for all our members' support in this strange time.

CANDIDATES' NIGHT *At present, there is no date set*

LWVF and FCTV are planning to present a televised Candidates' Night covering three races: Massachusetts State Senator, Barnstable County Commissioner and Barnstable Assembly of Delegates. A date is not yet determined.

The Voter Service Committee is continuing to work on a variety of new outreach projects to educate voters and "Get Out the Vote!"

In Memoriam

☞ *Jayne Abbott* ☞



Jayne Abbott was an active member of the League of Women Voters of Falmouth. As stated in the Falmouth Enterprise, Jayne was involved in many organizations promoting a clean environment and overall quality of life for our community. Jayne attended and contributed to many of our League presentations. Her bumper sticker “Democracy is not a spectator sport” said it all.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Judy Ziss

Today, with the Covid-19 pandemic, we in Massachusetts could have faced a new threat to voting. Thankfully, we will not be forced to choose between our health and the exercise of our precious voting rights in the primary on September 1 and the general election on November 3. That is because the primary and election will be conducted under special rules set forth in *An Act Relative to Voting Options in Response to COVID-19* (H. 4820)

The Massachusetts League of Women Voters strongly supported passage of that new election law. Now the Falmouth League has prepared this brief summary, hoping that it will help you, the voter, select the method that best suits you for participating in the fall election season. You have several choices both for the primary and for the general election – 1) to vote early by mail 2) to vote early in person, 3) to cast an absentee ballot, or 4) to go to the polls on the days of the primary and election. **Make your choices based on your personal situation and preferences - but please, please, please be sure to vote.**

Summary of Main Provisions of the New Law

Applications for mail-in early voting. Both for the fall primary and for the general election obtaining a ballot and voting by mail will be easier. Most registered voters have already automatically received an application for an early-voting ballot with a postage-prepaid return envelope. Ballot applications also are easy to obtain from various websites. Indeed, any written request for a ballot is sufficient if it is signed and submitted to the town clerk's office regardless of whether the voter uses an approved application form.



Natural Brush Clearing and Poison Ivy Control

Meghan Hanawalt, Goatherd info@getmygoatscapecod.com
774-521-8745 www.GetMyGoatsCapeCod.com

Early-voting ballots. After you submit your ballot application, you will receive your ballot in the mail. After completing the ballot, you must return it. There are three ways to do this: in person, by mailing the ballot in the postage-prepaid envelope you receive, or by depositing it in a secured municipal lockbox.

Absentee Ballots. Voters who have already applied to get absentee ballots for every election will receive them. Generally, absentee voting remains available as before with some expansions to account for special health issues arising from the pandemic.

New computerized method for obtaining a ballot. The Secretary of State's office will set up a web site for requesting either an early or an absentee ballot. This system is supposed to be operational no later than October 1 for use in the general election and will provide a way to obtain a ballot on the web without submitting an application first.

In-person early voting and election-day voting. The new law provides for in-person early voting for the primary (August 22-28) and for the general election (October 17-30). Both periods include some weekend hours. Of course, polls also will be open for in-person voting on the days of the primary (September 1) and the general election (November 3).

Relaxed rules for polling place operations and modernized ballot counting. New rules regarding poll workers and new rules for feeding ballots into the tabulators will help town clerks in preparing for, and in conducting, both the primary and the general election. Our town clerks and their staffs will still be overburdened under the new laws but we hope these changes will ease their load a bit. Among other things, the check-out desk may be

eliminated so that you will just feed your completed ballot into the tabulator, feel good about voting, and go home.

Important dates

Event	For General Election
Last day to register or change your registration	October 24
Early in-person voting	October 17–October 30
Applications for ballots must be received by the Town Clerk’s office before 5PM on	October 28
Ballots must be received by the town clerk’s office by the time polls close on	November 3
Exception: Ballots mailed by Sept. 3 must be received by Town Clerk’s office by 5PM on	November 6



VOTER SERVICE PRESENTATION

Jenny Putnam, Chair

I have been invited to present at the Cape Verdean Club about voting, why to, how to, when to, etc. The event is outside, weather permitting, or inside with limited numbers and masks. It will be held on Saturday, September 12 from 11-2.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Jacqueline Webster, Chair

Welcome to new LWVF members **Susan Loucks** and **Libby & Richard Signall** who have joined since the last Bulletin.

Our team has been processing member renewals, which were due on July 1 2020; they have been coming in steadily. Thanks so much to those who have renewed!

For those who haven't yet renewed, we hope you will do so soon! We are working on the Membership Directory and would like to include you in it. (Note that if you are a new member who has joined us in 2020, you don't need to renew.)

Members who have not yet renewed can do so online as follows: Go to our website at www.lwvf.org and click on the JOIN RENEW button. Or, if you prefer to receive a paper renewal form in the US Post Office mail, let Jackie Webster know: 508-540-3893 or jwebster391@gmail.com



LWVF FRIENDS 2020

Sally Fritz
Christina Jacobi
Maria Moniz

Robert and Barbara Schneider
Freddy Valois

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Richard Johnson, Chair of Centennial Committee

Margaret Cooper and Judy Ziss had prepared a Centennial Surprise skit based on contemporary articles about suffrage published in the Enterprise. We had planned to present it last March at the Legislative Committee's public program. Obviously, that didn't happen. We just presented a shortened version during the UU virtual service on Sunday, August 23, and the skit is now being scheduled for our October League meeting. The Peterson Farm plaque has arrived and is awaiting installation. The trees are thriving.

LWVMA RESOURCES FOR 2020 BALLOT QUESTIONS

Two ballot questions will be on the statewide ballot Nov. 3. LWVMA has taken a stand on Question 2, Ranked Choice Voting. The questions, summaries, what your vote will do, statements of fiscal consequences, arguments in favor and against, and the full text of the measures are in the official guide to the 2020 ballot questions, the "Information for Voters" red booklet, which will be distributed to the households of all registered voters in September. It will also be posted on the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website.

See [LWVMA's positions](#) on these ballot questions at https://lwwma.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-BQ-Resources.FINAL_.pdf.

LWVMA SUPPORTS THIS QUESTION AND URGES A "YES" VOTE

Ranked Choice Voting gives you several options in a race with three or more candidates, allowing you to vote for a third party candidate without believing you are throwing your vote away. LWVMA supports it at the state level. If you want to learn how it works, please click on [the Web site]. <https://www.yeson2rcv.org>

"FALMOUTH WOMEN GAVE VOICE TO SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT"

Cape Cod Times has a front page above the fold story - "Falmouth Women Gave Voice to Suffrage Movement". Joan Boyer, LWVF Steering Committee chair is quoted in the article.

<https://www.capecodtimes.com/news/20200816/falmouth-women-gave-voice-to-suffrage-movement>



HIGH SCHOOL "VOTER ART" COMPETITION

Sarah Pring, Chair

The Falmouth League of Women Voters is organizing a Voter Art competition aimed at high school students. Entries are encouraged from now through to October 20th. Images will be displayed on our Instagram (lwwfalmouth) and Facebook (League of Women Voters of Falmouth) pages. Please follow us there!

Students are invited to create vibrant images in any style and any medium. A doodle can be as powerful as a masterpiece! - all abilities are encouraged. The goal of the images is to encourage everyone in Falmouth who is eligible to vote to take part in the democratic process by registering to vote and casting their ballot in the November 3rd Presidential Election, whether by mail or in person.

The competition will be promoted through Falmouth High School and Falmouth Academy and through various community groups. For more information, email FalmouthLWV@gmail.com.



NATURAL RESOURCES

Richard Johnson, Chair

Natural resources is preparing a presentation for November 19, likely to be a YouTube video, summarizing Town progress in meeting sustainability goals. The Committee is in the process of gathering information for the presentation. Some of the areas of interest are Green Communities Act, Ground Mounted Solar Arrays, Coastal Resiliency, and other topics which have been identified as topics of importance.

NO PLACE FOR HATE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ABOUT POLICING IN FALMOUTH

Maro Titus, Observer Corps Member

On July 16, 2020, there was a panel discussion with Chief Edward Dunne and panelists from the community. The first in a series of conversations, panelists included Chief Edward Dunne, Chief of Police for the Town of Falmouth, Reverend Will Mebane, Rector, St. Barnabas Memorial Church, Megan English Braga, Chair, Falmouth Select Board, Onjale Scott Price, Chief Operating Officer, Mizar Imaging and Bill Hough, Publisher, Enterprise Newspapers. Marie Younger Blackburn, CEO, Driven: Cape Cod's Conference For Women, served as moderator.

There are 58 officers in FPD, and 16 live out of town, but no more than 10 miles from Falmouth. Chief Dunne was then asked about minority recruiting, to which he noted there is one person of color, following the retirement or dismissal of others, with a lot of promoting throughout minority groups and municipal organizations in town to broaden awareness of this path toward working in FPD. There is also the 25-year old Citizens Police Department, which trains and educates Falmouth residents, including ride alongs, to see how a police officer goes about his/her job. Bill Hough noted seeing a lot of positive change occurring at FPD in recent years. He asked if any psychological profiling is done prior to hire, to which Chief Dunne answered affirmatively, investigators do a complete check, including a physical and psychological exam following an offer being made, but prior to hire. In Chief Dunne's four-decade tenure, he's had to fire seven officers for reasons along these lines. It was universally acknowledged by the panelists that diversity hiring is difficult across the community, the challenge is not the result of or limited to actions by the FPD. Chief Dunne noted that a large part of why we don't have the community relations problems seen in other communities is the result of intense, ongoing training of a well-educated police force that knows how to safeguard a community, a status reinforced in its Mission Statement. Chief Dunne encouraged self-reporting to the FPD for any and all instances of racial-related crime (e.g. Black Lives Matter signs stolen or damaged, other racial slurs on public and private property, etc).

Overall, a very balanced blend of panelists, though for a topic of this magnitude, hopefully future discussions will be more interactive. Each panelist directed questions back to Chief Dunne who represents the Falmouth Police Department with the utmost of professionalism and community loyalty. As the dialogue continues, it will be beneficial to broaden the scope of those entities who are equal stakeholders in addressing the important issues of racial fairness, community partnership and policing in Falmouth.

We thank the IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) <https://www.ifaw.org> for donating the use of their Zoom account for our Board Meetings and communication.

International Fund for Animal Welfare
290 Summer Street, Yarmouth Port, MA 02675 | USA
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League of Women Voters
P. O. Box 450
Falmouth, MA 02541

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JOIN

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Democracy in Action

