



BULLETIN, March, 2026

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Greetings from the Convenor's Desk

I hope that everyone survived the massive snow storms last month. I, for one, can hardly wait for spring.

There are some League activities scheduled for March and for the rest of the year. In March some of our League members will be attending a performance of "Suffs" the musical telling the story of the Suffragette movement. We'll have a review for the next Bulletin.

June 6 is the LWVMA Council, which is remote this year. Council is held every other year, alternating with League Convention. This is an opportunity to hear from League leaders and members about what is going on state wide.

We are excited to learn that the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts has been accepted into the 2026 Boston 10K for Women Charity Program! This event will be in October and will be a major fund raiser for the State League. I will be working with the development team on it and will have more information later.

I know that many of you are concerned about what has been going on nationally with immigrants' removal. Here is a link to the LWVUS position and directions on how to send in your comments: lwmva.org/federal-immigration-enforcement-update/.

As noted in the last Bulletin, LWVMA **supports** the following Ballot Questions for the November 3, 2026, election. This means that League members may participate as League members in Yes campaigns for these Ballot Questions

- Election Day Registration
- Law to Improve Access to Public Records
- Zoning of Single-Family Homes

LWVMA also **supports** a YES vote on the referendum to repeal firearms laws passed in the last legislative session. A YES vote keeps the legislation intact.

LWVMA **opposes** the following Ballot Questions for the November 3, 2026, election. This means that members may participate in No campaigns for these questions.

- Limiting State Tax Collection Growth and Returning Surpluses to Taxpayers
- Reducing the State Personal Income Tax Rate from 5% to 4%

Attend Burlington ICE Actions

Bearing Witness stands in solidarity outside the ICE Operations Office in Burlington every Wednesday from 11 AM - 1PM; and other organizations lead the charge every Thursday 11 AM - 1 PM. The League is not an official sponsor of these events but encourages attendance.

League Dues

Several members have asked about renewing their League dues. You will receive a notice from LWVUS about dues, I received mine in December, but I think a number of our members had a renewal date of January 31 so should be getting a notice. But, don't panic. You are still members of the League! If by the end of 2026 you have not received a notice, let me know and I will work with you to figure it out.

Hope you are all remaining warm and safe.

Margaret Coppe

Convenor

LWV LEXINGTON MARCH FIRST FRIDAY FORUM: THE DARK SIDE OF LIGHT POLLUTION



Kelly Beatty

Join the League of Women Voters of Lexington at a First Friday Forum on March 6, 2026, 9:30-11:00 AM in Room 237 at the Lexington Community Center, to hear from Kelly Beatty about the dark side of light pollution.

Light pollution has become a pervasive and ugly consequence of our 24/7 society. Few of us can enjoy a star-spangled night sky any longer, thanks to the glowing pall caused by all the lights that line roadways, parking lots, and backyards. More ominously, a growing body of research finds that excessive light at night disrupts nocturnal ecosystems, sometimes

dramatically. It can also inhibit the production of melatonin, a compound produced as we sleep—and only in darkness— that seems to play multiple roles in maintaining general human health. The situation has not been helped by the widespread rollout of light-emitting diodes, or LEDs. Fortunately, the spread of light pollution can be halted and even reversed. Join us as Kelly Beatty discusses how we can safely light up our homes, businesses, and communities without wasting energy, disturbing our neighbors, or creating an unhealthy environment for humans and wildlife.

Kelly Beatty has been explaining the science and wonder of astronomy to the public since 1974, when he joined the staff of *Sky & Telescope*. He retired in 2018 after 43 years, but remains actively involved in many S&T articles, tours, and other projects. An award-winning writer and communicator, he holds a B.A. from the California Institute of Technology and a Master's degree in science journalism from Boston University. Mr. Beatty has been active in efforts to reduce light pollution for more than 30 years. He served for more than a decade on the Board of Directors for the International Dark-sky Association ([darksky.org](https://www.darksky.org)) and is now an officer with Dark Sky's Massachusetts chapter.

This program is the seventh in the 2025-2026 LWV First Friday Forum series hosted by the League of Women Voters to promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues. As always, it will be free and open to the public, with time for questions and answers. Lex Media will record the program for future viewing. For more information about the League and this program go to: <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/lexington>.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS

LWVMA EVENTS



ALYSSA PAYNE AND THE STORY OF “SUFFs: THE MUSICAL MARCH 4, ON ZOOM

Ticket holders for SUFFs:The Musical, coming to Boston on March 19, as well as other members of the LWVMA, have the opportunity to share an exclusive talk with New York-

based actress Alyssa Payne. Ms. Payne, a singer, composer and lyricist as well as an actress, has been an assistant to Suff's composer and lyricist Shaina Taub on the Tony Award winning musical. She will share with us her experience working on SUFFs, the story of the women's suffrage movement, reminding us of the courage, collaboration and persistence that ultimately won women the right to vote. She is representative of current artists who are blending history, storytelling and activism in the American theater. Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/So93gmikQ52AHygXE5Kmwz#>.

DEMYSTIFYING THE STATE BUDGET ZOOM SESSION

How does the sausage get made? Join us **Monday, March 9 at 7:00 PM via Zoom** for *Demystifying the State Budget* featuring Elizabeth Lutts, Policy & Budget Advisor for State Senator Patricia Jehlen. She will brief us on the state budget process, how it works, and take your questions.

Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/rZILiyLRQJigqBcXgaqOOg#>

Community Advisors Needed for 2026 MA Spring Civics Showcases

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and Generation Citizen are once again collaborating to host four Statewide Civics Project Showcases across the Commonwealth in 2026:

- Springfield: MassMutual Center, Tuesday, May 26
- Dartmouth: UMass Dartmouth, Friday, May 29
- Worcester: DCU Center, Monday, June 1
- Boston: Edward M. Kennedy Institute, Friday, June 5

At each Showcase, volunteer Community Advisors have short conversations with students about their projects, asking questions and offering feedback based on their own expertise. Projects address a wide range in project topics; advisors come from diverse backgrounds: community organizers, legislators, business and non-profit leaders, educators, healthcare workers, and more. This is an interesting opportunity tailor-made for League members.

Register as a Community Advisor at:

https://generationcitizen.rsvpify.com/MACivicsShowcase?utm_source=Civics%20Monthly%20Memo&utm_campaign=47f9111c99-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_08_25_04_20_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-7e599155c7-577457987.



The latest in series in the LWVMA series of **Democracy in Everyday Life** presentations will be available for viewing **March 6**. Panelists include Dr. Elizabeth Barnett, Professor of Pediatrics at Boston University Chobanian and Avedisian School of Medicine; Suzanne Curry, Director of Policy Initiatives at Health Care For All; and Dr. Paul Hattis, a physician-attorney and Senior Fellow at the Lown Institute. <https://lwvma.org/the-link-between-democracy-access-to-healthcare>.

LWVMA ADVOCACY

LWVMA JOINS AMICUS BRIEF IN SUIT TO PRESERVE BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP

The national League of Women Voters has joined in an amicus brief filed by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and Howard University School of Law's Civil Rights Clinic on behalf of the NAACP, Equal Justice Society, the National Urban League, and the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, in asking the US Supreme Court to strike down an executive order, issued by President Trump on January 20, 2025, on birthright citizenship.

The amicus brief is in support of a nationwide class action challenging the executive order. The lawsuit was brought by ACLU, Legal Defense Fund, Asian Law Caucus, Democracy Defenders Fund, ACLU of New Hampshire, ACLU of Maine, and ACLU of Massachusetts.

The brief calls out the administration's attempt to narrowly restrict birthright citizenship based on parentage while wielding other civil rights laws to advance its ideological agenda.

As explained in the brief, the executive order would target immigrants of color, including immigrants who are US citizens, making them more vulnerable to civil rights abuses. The

current administration's immigration enforcement tactics harken back to a time when newly freed Black people had to carry their manumission papers.

"Birthright citizenship is not a political bargaining chip. It is a constitutional guarantee," said **Celina Stewart, CEO of the League of Women Voters**. "The administration's attempt to eliminate birthright citizenship is an attack on every American, especially Black Americans, and a dangerous escalation in the effort to redefine who belongs in our democracy."

"Birthright citizenship is not up for debate. This attack on the 14th Amendment is nothing short of an attempt to resurrect racist ideologies and erase protections that were constitutionally set in stone for all of us," said **Derrick Johnson, President and CEO of NAACP**.

"Birthright citizenship is the safeguard that keeps the United States from becoming a racialized caste society where the government decides who counts and who does not," said **Mona Tawatao, legal director of the Equal Justice Society**. "It ensures that every child born here, no matter their race or their parents' status, enters our democracy as an equal. We must recognize and protect this long-enshrined fundamental right not as a technical rule, but as the constitutional expression of the multiracial democracy all our children deserve."

"The words of the 14th Amendment are plain and clear. If you are born here, you are a citizen here," said **Maya Wiley, President and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights**. "Those words were written to ensure that there would never again be a class of people born here denied their rights as citizens, no matter their race or ethnicity. We are a nation built by the many to create the one - one country made up of diverse citizens. We celebrate a nation that is proud of its multi-racial democracy and that holds dear the inalienable rights of all the citizens of this great nation."

"Attempts to end birthright citizenship through executive action ignore settled law, distort the meaning of the Citizenship Clause, and revive the same dangerous impulses that once denied equal protection to entire groups of people. The Court must reject this unlawful overreach and uphold the Amendment's promise, which has anchored civil rights progress since it overturned the injustices of the Dred Scott era." Said **Marc H. Mrial, President and CEO of the National Urban League**.

The brief debunks the Trump administration's claim that the Reconstruction Congress intended birthright citizenship to only apply to freed slaves and their children. The Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution and the Immigration and Nationality Act Civil Rights Act of 1866 clearly grant birthright citizenship to all people born in the United States, regardless of the legal status of the parents.

President Trump issued the executive order on birthright citizenship on his first day back in office, on January 20, 2025.

LWVMA AVOCACY ON IMMIGRATION

LWVMA is a member of the [Protecting MA Communities Campaign](#) working to pass the following immigrant protections: 1) Ban future 287g agreements between local law enforcement and ICE; 2) Prohibit informal collaboration with ICE; 3) Fund legal counsel for immigrants facing deportation.

Public Hearing.

Please join us in our efforts to secure swift passage of immigrant protections in Massachusetts this session. The House has released [H.5158](#), the PROTECT Act, and a public hearing for the bill is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 4 at 11:00 AM**. LWVMA will submit written testimony in support of the bill and attend the hearing. We expect a Senate bill to be released shortly.

We encourage you to watch *Protecting Immigrants in the Commonwealth* featuring Gil Calderin, Director of Advocacy for the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy coalition (MIRA) at: <https://lwmva.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/>

Together, we will help shape policies that reflect the needs, dignity, and humanity of our immigrant communities. Legislators need to hear from their own constituents and advocates—now more than ever—about the issues that matter most and the bills required to address them.

Courage Over Fear: Immigrants Day at State House March 18

Join us for the **30th annual Immigrants at the State House** on **Wednesday, March 18, at 9:30 AM**, sponsored by the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA). Register at <https://miracoalition.org/>.

Phone Bank to Support Immigrant Protections

The Protecting MA Communities Campaign (PMC) welcomes new volunteers to phone bank in support of speedy passage of immigrant protections on Beacon Hill. Our legislators have heard from us, and now we're expanding . calls to legislators outside of our districts. Phone banks will be offered on March 5 and March 12. Register at:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Ykce7c0hTx2KmM5H3hsVGQ#/
/](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Ykce7c0hTx2KmM5H3hsVGQ#/)

MASSACHUSETTS ACTION TO PROTECT MA RESIDENTS FROM U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

This week, Governor Maura Healey took action to protect the people of Massachusetts from abuses by President Donald Trump and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). She filed legislation to keep ICE out of courthouses, schools, child care programs, hospitals and churches; to make it unlawful for another state to deploy its National Guard in Massachusetts without the Governor's permission; and to allow parents to pre-arrange guardianship for their children in case they are detained or

deported. While a state cannot interfere with ICE’s actions, which fall solely within federal purview, this is the most comprehensive effort in the country to protect against ICE activity in sensitive locations.

The Governor’s Executive Order prohibits the state from entering into any new agreements to cooperate with ICE in its operations under section 287(g) of the federal Immigration and Nationality Act unless there is a specific and certified public safety risk or need. It prohibits ICE from making civil arrests in non-public areas of state facilities, and prohibiting the use of state property for immigration enforcement staging.

Governor Healey stated: *“In Massachusetts and across the country, we continue to see unlawful and unconstitutional actions by ICE that are meant to intimidate and instill fear in our communities, including against United States citizens who are exercising their constitutional rights. This puts people at risk and in harm’s way, and I find it necessary in the interest of public safety to take this action today.”*

For decades, the Department of Homeland Security maintained a “protected areas” policy requiring ICE to refrain from immigration enforcement actions in sensitive locations, including hospitals, houses of worship, courts and school programs. This policy allowed all community members to access basic support and services without fear, and protected public safety by encouraging all people to seek necessary medical care and to testify in court when necessary, whether as a victim, witness, or party. On January 20, 2025, the Trump Administration rescinded the protected areas policy, replacing it with a directive giving ICE agents unbridled power to take enforcement actions in medical facilities, houses of worship, courts, schools and child care programs. Governor Healey’s legislation would restore the longstanding protections against arrests by ICE agents in these essential spaces where families, children, and vulnerable people should feel safe.

LWVMA IS DEFENDING THE 2024 MA GUN SAFETY LAW

VOTE YES
FOR A SAFE MASSACHUSETTS

7:00 PM
Thurs, March 12
Zoom

DEFEND THE 2024 GUN SAFETY LAW!
LWV

On **Thursday, March 12 at 7:00 PM via Zoom**, LWVMA will host a webinar: ***Yes on 3 for a Safe Massachusetts: Defend the 2024 Gun Safety Law***. LWVMA Gun Safety Legislative Specialist Caroline Ellis will brief us on the repeal referendum and how you can get involved. Register here: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/hHuBkuYsQZivtocZgya-eA#/.](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/hHuBkuYsQZivtocZgya-eA#/)

LWVMA is participating in the **Vote Yes for a Safe Massachusetts campaign** to defeat the Massachusetts Firearm Regulations Referendum. This is a veto referendum to repeal ***An Act Modernizing Firearms Laws*** passed in 2024. LWVMA supported the passage of this law during the previous legislative session. **A YES vote upholds the law as is. A NO vote repeals the law.** LWVMA's endorsement of this ballot measure covers all 44 local Leagues.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF UNITED STATES

LWVUS EVENTS

57TH BIENNIAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NATIONAL CONVENTION, JUNE 25-28, 2026

The LWVUS will hold its 57th Biennial National Convention in Columbus, Ohio, June 25-28, 2026. Attendance may be in person or virtually for this multi-day event where League members from across the country come together to network, learn, and chart the course for the next biennium.

National Convention is a League experience unlike any other, as delegates representing state and local Leagues across the country vote on the nominees for LWVUS Board of Directors and Nominating Committee, as well as on bylaws amendments, budget, and League priorities. In addition to plenary sessions, Convention also includes dynamic presentations, practical trainings, and inspiring content that support our mission of empowering voters and defending democracy. Each local League is entitled to a number of voting delegates based on the membership of that League; however, all members of the League may attend as non-voting delegates, either in-person or virtually.

In-person attendees will have full access to plenary sessions, trainings, and networking opportunities. Virtual attendees can fully participate in live-streamed plenary sessions from anywhere. The Early Bird reduced rate for in-person attendance is \$575.00 and is available until March 31, 2026 at 11:59 ET. Beginning on April 1st, the regular rate for in-person attendance will be \$600.00. The rate for virtual attendance is \$150.00. In-person attendees will attend all sessions and stay at the Hilton Columbus Downtown. Those attending are responsible for all travel costs associated with the trip. Rooms must be reserved and paid for through the booking link, and the League has negotiated a room rate of \$229 per night for attendees. Breakfast and lunch will be available for all in-person attendees beginning on Friday, June 26. Dinners will be on your own.

Check out [LWV.org](https://www.lwv.org) for more details about the registration process, the event hotel, and any other questions. Information on Pre-Convention trainings, breakout sessions, and confirmed speakers will be available in the coming months. Mark your calendar and get ready to be inspired! Register here: <https://events.lwv.org/event/Convention2026>.



LWVUS MEMBERS' CHOICE FOR 2026 LEAGUE LOGO AND YARD SIGNS

LWVUS ADVOCACY

LWVUS WORKS TO DEFEAT THE SAVE AMERICA ACT AND THE MAKE ELECTIONS GREAT AGAIN ACT

The national League is requesting financial support to help in its opposition to the *SAVE America Act*, the *SAVE Act*, and the *Make Elections Great Again Act*, and has issued the following statement:

"[These acts] are part of a coordinated attack on the freedom to vote. The documentary proof of citizenship requirement is illegal, discriminatory, and unnecessary, as current law already mandates that only citizens may vote in state and federal elections. It's a deliberate obstacle designed to keep eligible citizens from exercising their fundamental right to vote.

The *SAVE America Act* is now heading to the Senate for a vote. **We are ramping up our work to stand against any and all attempts to make voting harder for eligible citizens, whether by Congress or the current Administration.**

This dangerous, anti-democratic bill will disproportionately harm:

- **Women who changed their names after marriage** — who would have to secure updated documentation to register to vote.
- **Military families** — who would have to re-register every time they move sometimes very close to an election day;
- **Disaster survivors** — who may have lost documents in disasters and face burdensome hurdles to replace them while rebuilding their lives;
- **Communities of color** — Black Americans are three times more likely than white citizens to lack easy access to birth certificates, passports, or naturalization papers.

It will also weaken the *National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) of 1993*, a law that expanded access to voter registration. We worked for years with legislators to pass the NVRA, and we cannot let this groundbreaking law be dismantled, harming millions of voters. As guardians of voters' rights, **we are mobilizing and taking action.** *We will not stay silent* while the SAVE Act threatens our essential right to vote— the very foundation of our democratic process

Join League in Action to participate in our call-in days on March 3 and 11, by calling your Senators to urge them to oppose the *SAVE America Act*.

[LWVUS CO-SPONSORS NO KINGS, INCLUDING THE MASS MOBILIZATION RALLIES ON MARCH 28](#)

LWVUS is an official co-sponsor of the No Kings rallies taking place in numerous locations across the country. A mass mobilization is scheduled for March 28. The League encourages members to join in this event, and provides the following [Talking Points](#):

We are coming together in the streets now and on March 28 because we know we can overcome oppression when we unite. In America, we have No Kings. President Trump's attempts to rule through oppression have called Americans across the nation to respond through morally grounded and non-violent protest. If he believes we will roll over and let him take our freedoms, he is mistaken.

- In response to the Trump administration's escalated violent attacks on everyday Americans in Minnesota and nationwide, the No Kings Coalition has activated an immediate and ongoing nationwide digital organizing effort leading for the next mass mobilization on March 28.
- An initial training drew a turnout of over 200,000 people, showing that more and more of us are ready to move from fear to action. These trainings will continue leading up to the next No Kings mass mobilization across the country on March 28.
- President Trump is harming families right now. This is not a future threat — it's a deadly reality. This year, the administration's brutality has already killed people including Keith Porter Jr., Renee Good, Alex Pretti, and thirty-two others since January 2025. Families are living with instability intentionally manufactured by the president and his extremist enablers. Masked agents are ripping parents from children and terrorizing Latino, Black, and Asian communities. People shouldn't have to choose between going to work and risking their family's safety.

- President Trump Is using fear & violence as a governing tool. This is the opposite of democracy. While families are crushed by the rising costs of groceries, housing and healthcare, the administration has supercharged funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to terrorize our communities. A government that truly cared about safety would invest in communities, people and schools, not send masked agents into our streets. T
- The No Kings movement is growing. Every time the Trump administration escalates its violent attacks on everyday people and tries to take our freedoms, the No Kings movement grows stronger. March 28th is an opportunity to prove that we the people will not back down.

SAVE THE DATE

March 4, 2026 Alyssa Payne on "Suffs: the Musical," 6:30 pm, Zoom

March 6, 2026 LWV First Friday Forum: Light Pollution, 9:30 am, Lexington Community Center

March 6, 2026, Democracy and Health Care panel, released on YouTube

March 9, 2026 State Budget Demystified, 7:00 pm, Zoom

March 12, 2026 Defending Gun Safety, 7:00 pm, Zoom

March 18, 2026 Immigrants Day at the State House, 9:30 am, Boston

March 19, 2026 "Suffs: The Musical" League night, Boston

March 28, 2026 No Kings Mass Mobilization, various locations

May 26 - June, 5, 2026 2026 Mass Spring Civics Showcases, Springfield; Dartmouth; Worcester; Boston.

June 25-28, 2026 LWVUS national biennial convention, Columbus,

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization dedicated to the principles of self-government established in the Constitution of the United States. The League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. For more information, contact the League convener Margaret Coppe at mecoppe@gmail.com.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

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We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you would like to submit an article for the March 2026 Lexington LWV Bulletin, please send it to Wendy Manz at wendy_manz@yahoo.com by March 26, 2026.

