

The logo for the League of Women Voters of Lexington. It features the letters "LWV" in a large, bold, blue font on the left. To the right of "LWV" is the text "LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font, with a registered trademark symbol (®) at the end. Below "LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS" is the text "OF LEXINGTON" in a light blue, sans-serif font. A red brushstroke graphic is positioned below the "LWV" and extends towards the right.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF LEXINGTON

BULLETIN, May, 2024

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Greetings from the Convener's Desk

The past month has been a busy one and I am pleased to say, a most productive one. Our forum, Paved Paradise, held in collaboration with the Town transportation office, was well-attended with over 70 gathered in Estabrook Hall. Thanks to Pam Lyons, League member, and Susan Bennett, Town Transportation Manager, for suggesting the topic and organizing the evening. If you get a chance to read Henry Grabar's book, **Paved Paradise: How Parking Explains the World**, you will find it both entertaining and informative, and may forever change your view on how we prioritize parking in our city planning.

The Lexington League was also fortunate to receive a grant from the Lotte E. Scharfman Memorial Fund of the LWVMA to partially support the cost of the event. This is the first time we have applied for a grant from this fund (named in honor of Lotte Scharfman, former president of the LWV Lexington).

I have been voted as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Lotte E. Scharfman Memorial Fund for the next two years. I am looking forward to working with the Board as it considers grant requests from Leagues across the state.

The LWVMA held a Leadership Giving Council Luncheon on May 4, 2024 at the historic home of Nancy Beeuwkes (League member) and Rein Beeuwkes in Concord. Four League specialists held breakout sessions on voting access, climate emergency, women's issues, and firearms. Susan Garvey, Director of Development LWVMA, spoke on the current operating budget and the greatest needs of the state League. Top of the list is a program called Voter Voice, which will help track the responsiveness of the membership to Action Alerts. Currently the state has no way of knowing how many people contact their legislators nor how many legislators are contacted.

The Lexington League has three voting delegates to the **LWVMA 2024 Council on June 22, 2024**. Please contact me before June 3 if you are interested in being a delegate. More on the Council agenda below.

Finally, an appeal to help the League advance its legislative agenda. All members receive email Action Alerts to keep us updated on the work of our Legislative Specialists on Beacon Hill and to let us know when to contact our legislators. When you see them, take a moment to make that contact. Even a brief email urging support of League-supported legislation helps. It does matter.

Best wishes for a pleasant and relaxing summer.

Margaret Coppe
Convenor

LEXINGTON LWV ANNUAL MEETING, THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024:

The Lexington League will hold its **Annual Meeting Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 7:00 pm** at the Lexington Community Center dining room. Members will review the Treasurer's Annual Report and the **proposed budget** for 2024-2025, then vote on a slate of officers for the coming year. After business is concluded, there will be a speaker and light refreshments. Stay tuned for more information on the program.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS

LWVMA EVENTS

REMINDER: LWVMA COUNCIL 2024

Please save the date for the 2024 Massachusetts League of Women Voters Council: **Saturday, June 22, 2024, from 9:00 to 11:00 am on Zoom**. Each local League has a specified number of voting delegates, based on the membership of that League, but all members are welcome as non-voting attendees. Voting delegates will vote on this year's slate of officers and directors.

The featured speaker this year will be **Beth Chandler, President and CEO of YW of Boston**, who will be discussing "building the bench," that is, creating a leadership pipeline to ensure the sustainability of our organization. Ms. Chandler has been involved in mission driven non-profit work for more than 20 years, and currently heads YW, an organization committed to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. To register, go to:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tce2vqTkiG9KNp0PWXcqJCJTh-g3HPrW_#/registration

MASSACHUSETTS RESULTS OF 2023 LWVUS NATIONWIDE SURVEY

Each year the LWVUS conducts a survey of all local Leagues across the country to assess their level of activity and the nature of their work. Below are the results for Massachusetts.



**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS**

2023 ANNUAL LEAGUE SURVEY

Massachusetts

25 Leagues represented **43** Leagues in state



By the numbers

- 185,082** contacts made
- 7,081** volunteer hours
- 1,384** volunteers
- 648** voters registered

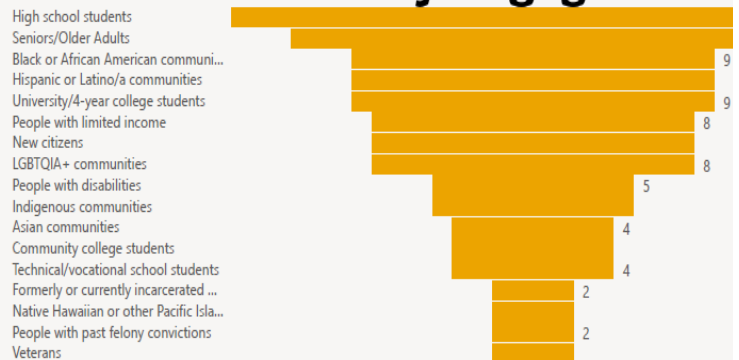
Value of Volunteer Time

\$277,504

*Calculated based from state's value rate of \$39.19
"Value of Volunteer Time" Independent Sector (2024).

Visuals show number of Leagues

Community Engagement



Partnerships

Common Cause	Planned Parenthood	Black Voters Matt...	Local Cha...	AARP	LUL
5	4	2		AAUW	1
ACLU	NAACP	Brennan Center	Local food...	Campaign ...	SCS
4	3	2	2	Hospital/h...	SPLC
		Lawyers' Committ...			
		2			

WEBINAR: EMPOWERING YOUNG VOTERS IN REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

On May 22, 2024 at 5:30 pm EST. LWVMA will host an interactive webinar on policies affecting young voters' access to reproductive health care and how they can mobilize on this issue. Go to link below.

<https://web.cvent.com/event/da21a31c-97fc-4689-a166-13f154a8840b/regProcessStep1?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=96d13e85-2841-41b4-814c-4cf4fd69003d>



FIGHTING FOR ABORTION RIGHTS

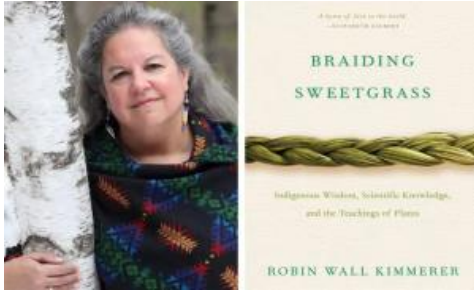
League members and supporters gathered at the Supreme Court to stand for reproductive rights. This action coincided with the oral argument in *Moyle v. United States*, a case that could determine access to emergency abortion care.

LWVMA JOINS THE ANNUAL FALMOUTH ROAD RACE

LWVMA is excited to announce that, for the first time, in conjunction with LWV Falmouth, it will be a participating charity in the **2024 Falmouth Road Race on August 18, 2024**. The ASICS Falmouth Road Race is a seven-mile coastal route. It celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2022 and continues to be a destination race that attracts runners from all over Massachusetts and beyond, who are committed to supporting noteworthy causes. Through its *Numbers for Nonprofits* program, runners pledge to run for a charity, and this year, the League of Women Voters Lotte E. Scharfman Memorial Fund will sponsor a team of athletes running to support the state League and the Falmouth League. We are looking for one more runner for the League team. If you are interested in running, please contact Misty Niemeyer at (mistyniemeyer13@gmail.com).

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION: Hearing Indigenous Voices

In May, LWVMA DEI activities are focusing on the indigenous population of our country and highlighting recently published books by indigenous authors. Recommended:



Braiding Sweetgrass, by Robin Wall Kimmerer.



As Long as the Grass Grows, by Dina Gilio-Whitaker



Pollution is Colonialism, by Max Liboiron

REMINDER: EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY

While Earth Day and Climate Change were the focuses of the LWVMA DEI program in April, the League reminds us that in light of the serious and growing consequences of climate change, we need to recognize that every day is Earth Day. The League continues to advocate for a combination of strong environmental policy, with environmental justice at its core, combined with individual action.

The Massachusetts Legislature is currently working on another blockbuster omnibus climate bill; we will share more details as they become available. Elements that need

to be a part of the final legislation include: promoting clean renewable energy sources like wind and solar, grid modernization, streamlining permitting and siting processes, phasing out fossil gas, reforming MassSave to better incentivize electrification efforts at the residential level, and updating the bottle bill.

In the meantime, the LWVMA suggests that all members review the **Massachusetts Climate Action Plan** at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/everyone-can-take-climate-action#in-your-home> for suggestions on what individuals and households

LWVMA ADVOCACY

LWVMA ACTION ALERTS

JOHN R. LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT

The LWVMA is proud to support the advocacy of the national League (See **LWVUS Action Alerts** below.) in urging reintroduction of **HR14/S4, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (JLVRAA)**. This federal legislation is needed to fully restore and modernize the Voting Rights Act and ensure that discriminatory voting policies are stopped. The Massachusetts congressional delegation supports the JLVRAA as official co-sponsors. LWVMA has written to Senator Markey and Senator Warren to express the support of the Massachusetts League and is urging local League members to do so as well.

TAX DEFERRAL BILL

Many seniors across the state struggle to stay in their homes as their property tax bills grow faster than their incomes. One bright spot for many low- and middle-income seniors is the opportunity to defer their property taxes. **H2738, An Act relative to taxes due upon the death of active-duty personnel and the elderly**, has made it all the way through the legislative process to the Committee on Bills in Third Reading, the last stop before a House floor vote—and the same status where it ended last session. Upon the death of a senior (over 65) person or active military person who has deferred their property tax and has no surviving spouse, this bill allows heirs to the property a one-year grace period to pay the deferred taxes plus the agreed upon interest.

Please go to the link below to see a sample script for a letter to your legislators, urging leadership to bring this bill to the floor for a vote. <https://lwvma.org/help-get-tax-deferral-bill-for-seniors-and-military-across-the-finish-line/>

LEGISLATURE ENTERS THE HOME STRETCH

The Massachusetts Legislature is entering its busiest three months, leading up to adjournment of the formal session on July 31. The bills that pass this session will do so between now and July 31.

That means that many of the bills the League supports will be coming up for a vote, often on short notice. All League members receive Action Alerts from the LWVMA Legislative Team, and we encourage you to keep an eye on your inbox for action alerts that will need your immediate attention. When you get one, please contact your Senator or Representative, as noted in the alert, with the specific request. You may know your legislator already supports a bill, but they need to hear from constituents anyway--to counteract opponents of legislation and to enable them to tell their colleagues that the bill is drawing a lot of constituent support. A quick email will do it, no matter how many times you've emailed on other bills.

Your active support greatly increases the League's clout on Beacon Hill. Thank you!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

LWVUS EVENTS

REMINDER: REGISTRATON IS NOW OPEN FOR THE 2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION: *TURN UP AND TURN OUT*

Registration is now open (until June 10) for the 2024 National Convention to be held at the Washington, D.C. Hilton from June 27 to 30. The Convention will be a fully hybrid experience, with combined and unique experiences for in-person and virtual attendees. League members are invited to attend the National Convention as voting delegates or as observers.

The Saturday evening dinner speaker will be Kimberly Teehee, director of government relations for the Cherokee Nation and senior vice president of government relations for Cherokee Nation Businesses, as well as a delegate-designate to the US House of Representatives from the Cherokee Nation. We are honored to have Ms. Teehee as our

special guest at our Saturday dinner. Delegates can add a Saturday dinner registration option to their Convention registration for this event.

To review the extensive agenda for the Convention, both virtual and in person, go to the link below.

<https://web.cvent.com/event/07627034-5f27-44a8-8363-5805fab4b0ef/summary?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=9a5dbec4-9614-4cbe-9b90-ce03b01d8b33>

For general information on the Convention and to register, go to:

<https://web.cvent.com/event/07627034-5f27-44a8-8363-5805fab4b0ef/summary?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=d30d8e9e-6763-49d8-b6a4-ac1d5f1ccac0>.

LWVUS ISSUES STATEMENT ON THE RIGHT TO PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION AND PROTEST

On May 2, 2024, the national League issued the following statement regarding peaceful protest in the United States:

“At the League of Women Voters, our goal is to ensure that every person can make their voices heard — in the streets and at the polls. We firmly believe that, like voting, peaceful protest is a constitutional right deeply rooted in American democracy. Both voting and protest are powerful tools for driving change.

“For over 100 years, the League has supported the First Amendment right of free speech. Even before the League was formally organized, brave women suffragists staged protests demanding something radical at that time — the right to vote. We strive to model their dedication and advocacy through protests that preserve the dignity and respect of all.

“Protests are an effective tool for amplifying the voices of the people and inspiring action. When we use the act of protest together with the power of our vote, we can create meaningful and lasting change.”

ELECTION RUMORS BRIEFING MAY 13: WHAT LOCAL LEAGUES CAN DO

The LWVUS hosts periodic **Election Rumors Briefings** to review growing national and local trends in mis- and disinformation, and to share tools to help Leagues track and

address these information streams. Click on the link below to tune into the **May 13 session at 3:30 pm ET.**

<https://web.cvent.com/event/dc6ab7b4-7ece-4bf8-bef6-05634ca82ee6/regProcessStep1?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=9a5dbec4-9614-4cbe-9b90-ce03b01d8b33>

LWVUS ADVOCACY

LWVUS ACTION ALERTS

THE JOHN R. LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT

The freedom to vote is under attack. Since the 2012 Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* gutted the **Voting Rights Act (VRA)**, twenty-nine states have passed ninety-four laws that make it harder to vote, with the burden falling hardest on Black voters and other voters of color. We need a fully restored VRA to defend our democracy and protect the freedom to vote. That is why the League is supports the reintroduction of **HR14 and S4, the *John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act***, legislation that is needed to fully restore and modernize the VRA and ensure that discriminatory voting policies are stopped in their tracks.

Tell your members of Congress to protect the freedom to vote and support the passage of the JLVRAA. Sign in at:

https://www.lwv.org/take-action/urge-your-members-congress-support-john-r-lewis-voting-rights-advancement-act?utm_source=salsa&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=LU&utm_content=05.02.24&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=9a

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT *

More than 100 years after some women gained the right to vote, people in the United States are still not constitutionally guaranteed equality on the basis of sex. The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) will update the US Constitution to protect the equality of rights under the law regardless of sex. The ERA has met all ratification requirements, and now we are urging Congress to act to ensure that the ERA is published.

Joint resolutions have been introduced in both chambers of Congress that will both affirm that the ERA is a valid part of the Constitution and address the question of a ratification time limit. In April 2023, the Senate brought this resolution to the floor. A bipartisan majority of senators supported it but failed to reach the 60-vote threshold to

overcome a filibuster. We will keep pushing to gain support for this resolution in both chambers of Congress, and we need your help.

Urge Congress to assert that the ERA is part of the Constitution! Sign in at: https://www.lwv.org/take-action/tell-congress-equality-belongs-constitution?utm_source=salsa&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=LU&utm_content=05.02.24&eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=9a5dbec4-9614-4cbe-9b90-ce03b01d8b33

STATEHOOD FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

A reminder that residents of the District of Columbia still do not have the same rights and representation as their fellow Americans. **DC statehood is a human right and a racial justice issue and is critical for our democracy.** For over 80 years, the League has supported DC statehood, and we continue to work for it today. You can take direct action and support statehood for the people of DC by urging our federal legislators to pass **HR51, the Washington DC Admission Act.**



SAVE THE DATE

- May 13, 2024 Election Rumors Briefing Webinar, 3:30 pm, Zoom
- May 15, 2024 LexSeeHer Monument Installation, 11:00 am,
Lexington Visitors Center
- May 18, 2024 LexSeeHer Monument Dedication, 11:00 am,
Lexington Visitors Center
- May 25, 2024 Lexington Discovery Day, Lexington Center
- June 20, 2024 Lexington LWV Annual Meeting, 7:00 pm,
Community Center
- June 22, 2024 LWVMA Council, 9:00-11:00 am Zoom
- June 27-30, 2024 LWVUS Biennial Convention, Washington, D.C. Hilton and
Zoom. See registration link in this issue.
- August 18, 2024 Falmouth Road Race to support LWVMA and Falmouth
LWV
- September 17, 2024 National Voter Registration Day

Contact Information for Legislators

U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren

JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203

(617) 565-3170

U.S. Senator Edward Markey

255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

202 224-2742

U.S. Representative Katherine Clark

2448 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

202 225-2836

***Mailing addresses for MA legislators are all at
24 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02133 with a room number.***

MA Senator Michael Barrett

Mike.Barrett@masenate.gov
Room 617 722-1572

MA Senator Cindy Friedman

Cindy.Friedman@masenate.gov
Room 617 722-1432

MA Representative Michelle Ciccolo

Michelle.Ciccolo@mahouse.gov
Room 617 722-2210

MA Representative Ken Gordon

Ken.Gordon@mahouse.gov
Room 156 617 722-2240

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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 Lexington League Convenor, Margaret Coppe at mecoppe@gmail.com. All League forums are free and open to the public.

We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you would like to submit an article for the June 2024 Lexington LWV Bulletin, please send it to Wendy Manz at wendy_manz@yahoo.com by May 30, 2024.

