



League of Women Voters[®] of Falmouth Bulletin

November 2024

Steering Committee Report

Greetings from the Steering Committee! I am writing this one week before the 2024 election, completely on the edge of my chair at this watershed moment in our democracy. By the time you read this, the election results should be known — we hope.

Some of us will be happy and relieved, others will be wringing their hands. Either way, we will need to pick ourselves up and continue the work of the League to study policy options, educate voters on those options, promote voter registration and voting, and encourage participation in the democratic process. Every person we can shift from non-voter to voter is an achievement, particularly when these voters understand the issues and candidates better than they had before. Each new or re-energized voter is part of the watershed that is a healthy democracy.

Speaking of watersheds, the town is making progress toward writing the Watershed Permits that will shape our response to the restoration of nitrogen-challenged coastal waters. It is a long road ahead to approve these draft permits and then implement their measures, but it is progress. The Urine Diversion Pilot Project is on the Fall Town Meeting Warrant; that technology could play a significant role in restoring our waters. The Senate in Boston approved a Climate Bill that addresses sustainable energy production and distribution, among

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other things. The House has not yet been able to take up that compromise bill, as of this writing, but pressure to do so continues and the governor has signaled that she will sign the bill, if it reaches her desk. This bill addresses the urgency of the climate crisis better than the policies and regulations currently in effect — yet another watershed moment.

Lastly, the Natural Resources Committee is hosting a program November 21 on food waste composting, at the Gus Canty Center at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you there! See the flyer on Page 4 for all the details.

— **Richard Johnson**
Steering Committee

Voter Service

The responsibilities of Candidates Night were shared among Chinna Mapp, Marcia Easterling, and myself. We were a great team, working together seamlessly. It was a wonderful experience. Lynne Rozsa is our liaison with FCTV, always ready and willing to help with anything related to broadcasting. Bob Fenstermaker at FCTV is invested in the event and always ready with helpful tips. We filled out the publicity form and the Communications Committee did the rest, making publicity easy to manage.

Chinna designed a stunning flyer that was shared virtually and placed in *The Enterprise*. The administration and secretary at Falmouth High School, the art teacher Jane Baker, and the custodial staff were very thoughtful and helpful with preparations. Our moderator, Mindy Todd is a professional, always prepared and able to put everyone at ease. The timekeepers, Judi Bartek and Nancy Copley, took their seats and timed each candidate response.

The six candidates who spoke were positive and appropriate in their responses. They were David Vieira and Kathy Fox Alfano for State Representative, Dylan Fernandes and Matthew Mura-tore for State Senate, and William Keating and Dan Sullivan for US Representative.

Chinna was the League's spokesperson introducing Candidates Night. I can only guess that approximately 75 people attended the event. FHS students' artwork related to voting rights and the US Constitution was on display and a whole array of voting assistance handouts were available at the reception table.

It's been a great ride serving as a chair and I thank everyone who shared it with me.

—***Felicia Bordick***
Voter Service Chair

Planning Luncheon Generates Ideas

Janet Lauer hosted a lunch meeting at Upper Cape Tech to discuss strategies for engaging inactive members of the LWV Falmouth. Many excellent suggestions, including hosting gatherings and starting a book club, were considered. The Falmouth LWV has the second largest membership in the state. We are energized to engage more members in being active in our multiple opportunities for participation.



Left to right: Felicia Bordick, Sheila Scott-Gordon, Janet Lauer, Richard Johnson, and Chinna Mapp

Membership: Road Race

The total we received from the road race after fees, bib costs, and minor expenses, is \$2,845.53—pretty great for our first year. The LWVMA is not participating in next year's race; they believe we can go forward on our own. I think it is worth trying again.

With a minimum five-bib purchase, we need five runners; however, we have a base of runners now, and I think we can find additional runners. I will volunteer to be the captain again and will recruit additional people to be on the committee and help with coordination. It is a valuable fundraising effort. After a consensus from the League Board, I have applied for next year's Road Race and hope our application will be accepted.

— ***Misty Niemeyer***
Chair, Membership Committee

League of Women Voters Statement on 2024 Election Results

WASHINGTON — The League of Women Voters of the United States president Dianna Wynn and CEO Celina Stewart released the following statement on the 2024 election results:

“The 2024 election underscores the dedication of poll workers, election officials, and volunteers nationwide, who ensured that every eligible vote was counted, and every voice was heard. This year’s election was marked by integrity, transparency, and high turnout. The American people have spoken.

“While we celebrate a fair and secure election, the outcome of this election has made the future for women unclear.

“Given the disturbing rhetoric made during this election season, we are deeply concerned about challenges we may face, particularly regarding the issues that disproportionately affect women, from health care and reproductive rights to eco-

nomie security and equal representation.

“We are thankful to Leagues across the country for their tremendous work supporting the election infrastructure and supporting voters, as well as every election worker and democracy defender who guaranteed our fair and free voting process. We are thankful for the work they have done so far this cycle and the counting, curing, and certifying work that will take place in the weeks ahead.

“The League is dedicated to our mission of defending democracy. As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to advocate for policies that uplift women and ensure equitable representation in all levels of government.”

[Source: <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/league-women-voters-statement-2024-election-results>]

A Useful Resource: The Massachusetts Conference for Women

Calling itself “a community of women committed to helping women,” the Massachusetts Conference on Women is a Boston-based organization that sponsors an annual nonpartisan conference; this year’s speakers include Oprah Winfrey, Caitlin Clark, Gail King, and Robin Roberts, among others.

The conference also has an online presence with podcasts and readings. Here is a sampling of available resources from their website at <https://www.maconferenceforwomen.org/speaker-articles/>:

[Take Control of Your Stress Response](#)

[How to Create Teams that Excel Under Pressure](#)

[The Art & Science of Effective Communication](#)

[12 Leadership Lessons from Pulitzer Prize-winner Doris Kearns Goodwin](#)

[Six Ways to Support the Essential Labor of Caregivers](#)

The annual conference in December is already sold out, but there is a virtual conference for the National Conference for Women in March. Details and registration information can be found at this website:

<https://www.maconferenceforwomen.org/conference/#national>.



Food Waste Composting in Falmouth



Mary Ryther
Recycling Coordinator
Town of Falmouth



Carmela Mayeski
Learning Partnerships Specialist
Falmouth Public Schools

Mary Ryther and Carmela Mayeski will present the kitchen scrap and food waste composting programs operated by the DPW and Falmouth Schools. Each program is intended to take food waste out of the solid waste stream going to landfills, and to transform the waste into useful soil-amendment compost for farmers and gardeners.

Learn how to participate in the residential program and about the logistical challenges and solutions for collecting food waste on an institutional scale. Information from Black Earth Compost, the leading full service compost company in New England, will also be available.

Thursday, November 21, 7 p.m.
Gus Canty Center, Room 3

Legislative Committee Report

The Legislative Committee held a partially social and partially business meeting at my house on Monday, October 21, with five of the six members in attendance. We started out with a lively discussion that happened to focus on current events. The discussion also turned to civics education, and the members emphasized that they would like to have notice of the classroom civics presentations so that they could try to attend.

Regarding legislation, we reviewed the main issues that had been our focus during the current legislative session. The legislature has acted favorably on some bills such as early childhood education (originally termed Common Start), firearms regulation, and affordable housing. Although the affordable housing bill did not include a provision to use the tax on a portion of sales prices of high-end housing to help support affordable housing, the provision that had been the focus of our advocacy, our affordable housing expert opined that future passage was very unlikely. The legislature also passed a bill to allow candidate child-care expenses as campaign expenses, legislation that would be especially helpful to mothers seeking election to office. We plan to continue advocacy for legislation on end-of-life options and facial recognition technology. After the new session convenes and the list of bills supported by the LWVMA is issued, we will decide on our list of about 10 bills where we will place our emphasis.

After the meeting, our communications with Zorianna Petrosyan resumed. Zorianna, a Falmouth high school graduate who is now a college student, has been working to change school start times for middle school and high school students based on the scientific evidence that the brains of young people in this age group are really not designed to function optimally if school starts too early. Zorianna has

written a letter to the LWVMA educational specialist regarding this issue and I have written a letter in support of hers.

The next meeting of the Legislative Committee will be in January, unless we find an earlier meeting is necessary. Our annual public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 20, and the Hermann Room at the Falmouth Public Library has been reserved.

— **Judy Ziss**
Chair, Legislative Committee

Civics Committee

We are in touch with our school contact, Michael Feeney, and we will soon be learning how we can best support the civics program both at the high school and in the eighth grade during the second half of the 2024-25 school year. We will report on the progress of the Civics Committee in the next issue of the Bulletin.

Last April, Mike Feeney received the Charles Mitsakas award for Outstanding Supervisor, which is presented by the Massachusetts Council for Social Studies. Because he received this award, Mike will serve for one year on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Council of Social Studies. In our experience, Mike has always been knowledgeable; his current position on the Council gives him additional access to other state leaders in his field. Mike’s responsibilities here in Falmouth are also expanding, and now reach fifth and sixth grades as well as seventh and eighth grades, in addition to the High School.

— **Judy Ziss**
for the Civics Committee



OPEN HOUSE

Cape Cod Bridges Program

What is happening?

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) invites you to attend an upcoming Open House for the Cape Cod Bridges Program. The purpose of this Open House is to provide updates on the Cape Cod Bridges Program. MassDOT will show graphics and displays regarding recommended highway interchange options, proposed build alternative for NEPA and MEPA reviews, and next steps. All views and comments submitted in response to the Open House will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

How will this affect you?

The Program will include the replacement of the Bourne and Sagamore bridges, provide connections to the local roadway network and improved multimodal accommodations within the Cape Cod Canal area.

When

Monday, November 18th, 2024
Afternoon: 12 P.M. to 3 P.M. EST
Evening: 5 P.M. to 8 P.M. EST

Where

Bourne Veteran's Memorial
Community Center
239 Main Street,
Buzzards Bay, MA, 02532



Registration for this event is not required. The Community Center is an ADA-compliant location. Translation services will be available in Spanish, Portuguese, ASL and by request.

Visit <https://www.mass.gov/cape-cod-bridges-program> for more information.



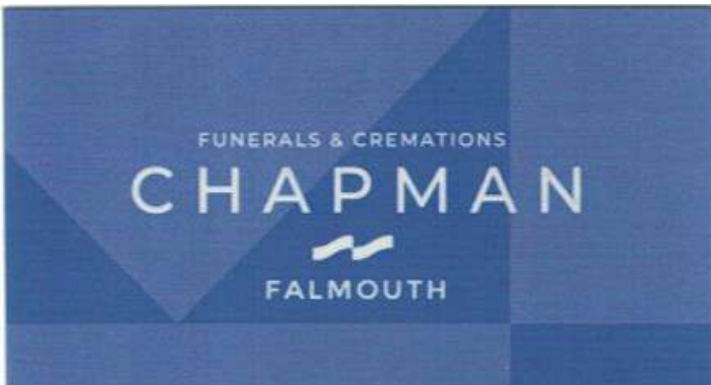
To ensure its meetings are accessible, MassDOT reasonably provides: translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, and auxiliary aids and services. To request such services, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer at 857-368-8580 or MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us. For adequate time to process such request, please make them as early as possible, ideally 10-15 days prior to the event.




Project inquiries may also be emailed to: massdotmajorprojects@dot.state.ma.us
Please submit any written statements regarding the proposed undertaking to: Carrie A. Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, Suite 7410, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Highway Division, PROJECT FILE NO. 608020



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FUNERALS & CREMATIONS
CHAPMAN
 FALMOUTH



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2024 Friends of the LWVF
 Maria Moniz
 Robert and Barbara Schneider

New URL for Our LWVF Website
 Our new website address for the League of Women Voters of Falmouth is now:
<https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/falmouth>
 Please change your bookmarks.

Make your voice heard today!

Contact Information
for Your Legislators

(Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number when writing.)

Senator Susan Moran
617-722-1330
Susan.Moran@masenate.gov

Representative David Vieira
617-722-2230 and press 5
David.Vieira@mahouse.gov

Representative Dylan Fernandes
617-722-2013 and press 3
Dylan.Fernandes@mahouse.gov

Congressman Bill Keating
508-771-6868
Info.keating@mail.house.gov

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 contact 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 Box 55819, Boston, MA 02205.

LWVF Board of Directors 2024-25

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Nominating Committee

Chair	Stephanie Miele
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*Member of Steering Committee

**Shared Chairmanship by Richard Johnson*, Kathy Mortenson, Denise Morreale, John Carroll, Sally Palmer. Richard Johnson is Board Representative.

Submissions for the December issue of the LWVF Bulletin are due on December 5, 2024. Please send copy, photos, and other material to both of these addresses:

maryfran55@earthlink.net
eileenmattingly@yahoo.com

Meeting and Event Calendar

November 18, 12-3 p.m. Open House on Bourne and 5-8 p.m., Bourne Bridges Project Veterans Memorial Community Center

November 21, 7 p.m., Gus Cnty Center Member meeting: Food Waste Composting in Falmouth

No Board Meeting in December

November 26, 7 p.m. Board meeting on Zoom

Contact us:

Address: League of Women Voters of Falmouth
P.O. Box 450
Falmouth, MA 02541

Email: FalmouthLWV@gmail.com

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

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

Join the League of Women Voters: Democracy in Action!

You do not have to be a resident of Falmouth to join. Membership dues are \$65 for an individual membership and \$25 for an additional household member. A discounted rate is available for students.

If you wish to join the League, send your check made out to the League of Women voters to the address in the "Contact us" box above. Include your name, mailing address, and phone number. You may also join online through our website at <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/falmouth>. Just click on "Join" and pay online.





League of Women Voters

P.O. Box 450

Falmouth, MA 02541

November 2024

JOIN

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Democracy in Action



Image by Kit Irwin