



BULLETIN, October, 2025

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Greetings from the Convenor's Desk

A majority of the Executive Board of the League of Women Voters of Lexington have voted to support the Bloom proposal for a new Lexington High School. We urge you to learn all you can about the proposal and go to the polls on December 8, 2025 to vote.

We are off to a good start with First Fridays. We strive to get the information out to both The Lexington Times and The Lexington Observer in a timely manner, as well as sending it by email to members and featuring it in this Bulletin. Lex Media records the events. Check their website for times.

Usually this is the time of the year when you would be receiving a renewal letter for membership. That will not be happening this year. I want to remind you that renewing your League membership will now be done by LWVUS. You will receive an email before the end of the year notifying you of the need to renew. Look for it. And, as always you can contact me with questions or help.

There are still tickets available for the musical "Suffs" on March 19, 2026. I have purchased my ticket and plan to attend. See the item below for more information and a link to buy tickets.

Wendy Manz and I attended Day on the Hill on September 18 at the Massachusetts State House. See item below. We met with Senator Michael Barrett's staff and Senator Cindy Friedman to discuss legislative agenda items that are supported by the League.

Unfortunately, we were unable to meet with representative Michelle Ciccolo or her staff member this time due to a combination of scheduling and Covid.

.Best wishes,

Margaret Coppe
Convenor

LWV LEXINGTON OCTOBER FIRST FRIDAY FORUM: LAWNS IN LEXINGTON

. On Friday, October 3, 2025, at the Lexington Community Center, Room 237, the Lexington League's October First Friday will present **Alex Tsouvalas**, a Lexington resident, dog walker and observer, who will talk to us about lawns in town, the care they require, what pesticides and other chemicals go into them, and how we might wish to rethink our American passion for neighborhood green. We'll learn more about the role they play in the larger ecosystem and the public policy implications of our landscaping practices.

The program is the second in the League's 2025-2026 First Friday Forum series, which is presented to promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues. As always it will be open to the public and provide time for questions and answers. It will also be recorded by LexMedia for later viewing. For more information about this program or the League, go to: <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/lexington>.

BEARING WITNESS: STAND OUTS AT ICE FACILITIES IN SUPPORT OF DETAINEES

On "**Witness Wednesdays**" members of the League and others peacefully protest the reported due process violations of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and show support for ICE detainees. The standouts take place at the Plymouth County Correction Facility from 1:00–2:00 pm and the **Burlington ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Office** from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. The League is not an official sponsor of these events, but encourages attendance.

The Standouts show support for immigrants, express shame at the actions of ICE, and bear witness to cruel and unconstitutional actions of our government.

Regardless of political views, all who support immigrants and their constitutional rights and are committed to nonviolence are welcome to join.

Location: ICE Enforcement & Removal Operations Office, 1000 District Avenue Burlington MA, parking in the Macy's overflow lot, 75 Burlington Mall Road.

Schedule (every Wednesday)

11:00-11:30, Welcome chat; announcements; sign-making. Signs should be specific and focused on immigration issues.

11:30-12:30, Stand or sit with signs; option to read the U.S. Constitution to ICE. Participants should bring sunscreen and hydration.

12:30-1:00, A short walk along the sidewalk on District Ave

What happens at this ICE office?

At this central facility for the New England region, ICE agents are deployed in unmarked vehicles to abduct immigrants across Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont. When an immigrant in Massachusetts is arrested, they are often taken to this facility for processing, where they are denied due process. Immigrants may be detained for days in cells with no beds, no windows, no clocks, no soap, no showers, and little food or water. Each cell is filled with dozens of immigrants, who are allowed no outdoor time. In addition to those being imprisoned, throughout the day immigrants arrive at this office for mandatory appointments. The building has tinted windows, no signage, and is situated in a large office park. Department of Homeland Security officers and Burlington Police, respectively, have affirmed the right to protest peacefully outside this facility.

What to expect when bearing witness?

Participants are committed to nonviolence, and stand peacefully with signs outside the facility. They do not block the entrance, physically approach ICE agents as they walk to/from the parking lot, or block traffic on District Ave. Immigrants who are fortunate to leave the facility have shown gratitude for the protester's presence, and some share their stories. ICE agents tend to cover their faces with masks and may record the protesters with their phones. The security officers stationed at the front of the building have not hassled protesters, and passersby from nearby businesses often thank the protesters for being there.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS

LWVMA EVENTS

EFFECTIVE PACKAGING PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY POLICY

Join LWVMA and LWV Salem on **Thursday, October 9 at 7:00 pm via Zoom** for ***Advocating for Effective Packaging Producer Responsibility Policy***. We will learn about the environmental impacts of excess packaging and unwanted mail (over a million tons of recyclables thrown in the trash every year), the basics of packaging stewardship, and how to take action to reduce this environmental threat from **South Shore Recycling Cooperative Executive Director** and LWVMA member **Claire Galkowski**, an expert in this field and a longtime Leaguer. Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/OeRnUEd0Qh-44gtvnhSbww#/registration>.

REMINDER: BOSTON 10K FOR WOMEN LWVMA TEAM 105 ON OCTOBER 11, 2025

The goal for the LWVMA Team running in the Boston 10K for Women on October 11 is \$13,000 to support the League and the Lotte E. Scharfman Fund. To donate to support our runners go to: <https://lwmma.org/team-lwmma105/>.



JOIN FELLOW LEAGUE MEMBERS FOR A NIGHT AT THE THEATER: “SUFFS, THE MUSICAL”



The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is hosting a special night at **Suffs the Musical** on **Thursday, March 19, 2026** at the **Emerson Colonial Theater** in Boston.

From the Chicago Tribune: *Direct from Broadway comes the acclaimed Tony Award®-winning musical Suffr about the brilliant, passionate, and funny American women who fought tirelessly for the right to vote. Created by Shaina Taub, the first woman to ever independently win Tony Awards for Best Book and Best Score in the same season, this “thrilling, inspiring and dazzlingly entertaining” (Variety) new musical boldly explores the triumphs and failures of a struggle for equality that’s far from over. Winner of the Outer Critics’ Circle Award for Best New Musical.*

LWVMA night at Suffr is open to League members and the general public so share this opportunity with your network and **secure your tickets today!** Bring family members, friends, neighbors, and join us in Boston on March 19th for a night at the theater.

Tickets purchased through the [LWVMA.org](https://lwvma.org) website include a donation to the state League to help us continue our work here in the Commonwealth. Our LWVMA-designated tickets (available at a discount) also grant access to a special post show talk-back with cast members at the theater. Because tickets are limited, register here: <https://lwvma.org/lwvma-night-at-suffs-registration-form/>.

LWVMA ADVOCACY.

LWVMA ANNUAL DAY ON THE HILL



LWVMA Legislative Action Committee Chair Jennifer Muroff opens 2025 Day on the Hill, Lexington Attendees Margaret Coppe and Wendy Manz, Keynote Speaker Senator Joan Lovely

On September 18, the LWVMA annual **League lobby day, *Day on the Hill: Protect Democracy***, brought a healthy turnout of League members from across Massachusetts to the State House in Boston. **Keynote speaker Senator Joan Lovely**, who represents the Second Essex District (Beverly, Danvers, Peabody and Salem), noted the effectiveness of the League's longstanding efforts and urged us to continue to make our voices heard. We also heard from LWVMA Executive Director Celia Canavan, an energetic cheerleader, and from specialists who reviewed League positions which we would take to our individual legislators.

League priority legislation for this lobby day included:

- **H834/S505** An Act establishing same day registration of voters;
- **H2580/S1681** An Act to protect the civil rights and safety of all Massachusetts residents (**Safe Communities Act**);
- **H1588/S1122** An Act relative to immigration detention and collaboration agreements (**Dignity not Deportations**);
- **H1954/S1127** An Act ensuring access to equitable representation in immigration proceedings (**Immigrant Legal Defense Fund**);
- **H2370/S1563** An Act prioritizing patient access to care (including maternal health and abortion care);
- **H86/S197** An Act to protect location privacy/An Act to protect safety and privacy by stopping the sale of location data (**Location Shield Act**).

We were able to meet with Senator Mike Barrett's staff in his absence, and directly with Senator Cindy Friedman. Senator Friedman confirmed her support for each of the League priorities. Representative Michelle Ciccolo had another commitment off

the Hill, and her staff representative untimely developed Covid, so we will meet with them another time. We appreciate the accessibility and responsiveness of each of our legislators.

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE UNANIMOUSLY PASSES THE MASSACHUSETTS DATA PRIVACY ACT

On September 25, the MA Senate unanimously approved the **Massachusetts Data Privacy Act**, landmark legislation which leads the nation in consumer protection for personal data in the digital landscape. The Act, as approved, folds in **S197, The Location Shield Act**, which was one of the League's stated priorities during the September 18 Day on the Hill.

The Act, **S.2608**, establishes clear rights for Massachusetts residents regarding their personal data, including the right to know what information is being collected and the ability to opt out of having their data used for targeted advertising or sold to other companies.

Protected data includes health care information; face scans and fingerprints; precise geolocation; information about a person's religion or ethnicity; information related to a person's immigration status; and information pertaining to a child. Additional enhanced protections apply to minors, including a full ban on the sale of a young person's personal data.

"Consumer data is the new digital gold, with technology companies tracking and selling all sorts of data that have no impact on their products or operations," said Senator Cindy Friedman (D-Arlington), Chair of the Senate Committee on Steering and Policy. *"Loose restrictions on the compilation and resale of personal data leaves Massachusetts residents vulnerable to bad actors nationwide and even worldwide. * * * [T]he passage of the Massachusetts Data Privacy Act shows the Senate's commitment to ensuring anyone located in Massachusetts has a right to privacy and should be able to feel safe in our Commonwealth. I am especially thankful to see the adoption of an amendment I filed which ensures that affiliates of larger businesses that transfer sensitive data are captured under this new Act."*

Key provisions of the Act include:

- *Guarantees the consumer's right to know* if their personal data is being collected, to see what data was collected, and to find out who their data has been shared with;

- Gives Massachusetts residents new guaranteed rights to correct inaccurate data, delete personal information, and opt out of having their personal data sold to others,
- Gives the Office of the Attorney General broad regulatory authority to enforce the provisions of the Act.
- Limits companies' to only collecting what is reasonably necessary to provide their product or service, and for sensitive types of data, including biometrics, precise GPS location, and health care data, to only collecting the information if it is strictly necessary.
- Prohibits any kind of entity, including businesses and nonprofits, from selling a person's sensitive data. Protected categories of sensitive data include precise geolocation; health care information; biometric_data, such as face and fingerprint scans; citizenship or immigration status; information revealing someone's sex life, and any information about a person's race, color, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin; and information that pertains to a child.
- Limits entities from transferring sensitive data without the consumer's affirmative consent.
- Gives consumers the right to opt out of having their personal data collected or processed for the purpose of targeted advertising or for sale to third parties.
- Prohibits all entities from selling minors' personal data.
- Prohibits companies from collecting or processing a child's personal information for the purposes of targeting ads.
- Extends the ban on sales of geolocation data to cover anyone who visits Massachusetts for any reason, including travel to the state to pursue personal health care.
- Ensures that businesses cannot sell sensitive data, regardless of whether they are otherwise exempt under the act.

The legislation now moves to the House of Representatives for consideration. Sale and misuse of sensitive personal data has become an increasingly critical consumer protection and civil liberties issue. Please contact Representative Michelle Ciccolo to urge her to support it in the House.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF UNITED STATES

LWVUS EVENTS/PROGRAMS

LWVUS EDUCATION FUND TO BE MANAGING PARTNER OF ELECTION HERO DAY (EHD)

LWVUS is pleased to announce that the League Education Fund is the new managing partner of **Election Hero Day (EHD)**.

Election Hero Day is a nonpartisan, national celebration recognizing the tremendous contributions that election officials, their staff, and poll workers make to ensure a safe, secure voting experience for all Americans. Taking place on **November 3, 2025**, nonprofits, business leaders, brands, public officials, and more will unite to honor the election heroes in our communities. Since its founding, the League has partnered with EHD to celebrate poll workers, election officials, and the other people who keep our elections fair and efficient.

“Civic Responsibility Project is excited for the League of Women Voters to step into the role of Managing Partner of Election Hero Day,” said Ashley Spillane, director of the Civic Responsibility Project. “The staff and volunteers at the hundreds of Leagues across the country have built strong nonpartisan relationships with election officials who serve voters in their communities and join with hundreds of our partners to uplift election heroes on this holiday.”

With your support, Election Hero Day will help boost election official morale ahead of Election Day and send a clear message to the public that we support the friends and neighbors who play such a vital role in preserving our democracy:

Poll Workers provide on-site support to voters at Election Day polling places and during early voting. They are responsible for everything from checking voters in to making sure voting machines are working in proper order. These folks are on the front lines of elections and will interact with hundreds of voters throughout their work.

Election Office Staff manage the day-to-day of election responsibilities, including processing voter registration and mail ballot applications, procuring and testing voting machines and tabulators, and responding to questions from the public. In many cases, this team is quite small, leading to a heavy and time-sensitive workload for these workers in this critical time.

County/Municipal Election Clerks and Directors are responsible for overseeing and executing nearly every aspect of election administration.

State and Territorial Election Officials Implement election laws and policies, maintain voter registration databases, and work collaboratively with local election officials to ensure a successful voting experience for all eligible voters.

LWVUS ADVOCACY

LWVUS STATEMENT ON IMMIGRATION ISSUES

The national League has issued this guidance to state and local Leagues for responding to continuing harassment and detentions in their communities:

The most important messaging tactic for Leagues on the issue of immigration is to identify local and statewide organizations who lead on immigration and civil rights issues and amplify their messages.

Strong national partners representing and defending immigrants include the American Civil Liberties Union ([ACLU https://www.aclu.org/](https://www.aclu.org/)) and the League of United Latin American Citizens ([LULAC https://lulac.org/](https://lulac.org/))

The following are recommended talking points representing the League position:

Due Process

- As a nonpartisan, pro-democracy organization, the League is deeply alarmed by the ongoing ICE detentions, which too often fly in the face of due process and other fundamental rights.
- These actions undermine the democratic values of fairness, equal treatment under the law, and government transparency and accountability.
- The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal, and right to humane treatment.

Value of Immigrants

- Immigrants are part of the fabric of our communities — they make our country strong.
- Immigrants are your neighbors, co-workers, and fellow community members.
- All immigrants in our country deserve due process and fair treatment.
- The League does not support deporting undocumented immigrants who have no history of major and/or violent criminal activity.

LWVMA GUIDANCE ON DEPLOYMENT OF FEDERAL TROOPS IN U.S. CITIES

In recent months, the federal government has taken steps to execute a federal takeover of the District of Columbia and Los Angeles, CA using the US military, including the National Guard, and has publicized plans to do this in other major cities including Memphis, Portland and Chicago. These actions present threats to constitutional rights, state sovereignty, and DC autonomy. Below are LWVUS' recommendations (as of September 12, 2025) to state and local Leagues planning to engage in advocacy and organizing to challenge these actions.

Deployments. The circumstances surrounding these deployments will vary with factors in each jurisdiction like the positions of a state's governor, a city's mayor, whether the area is an immigration sanctuary jurisdiction, and the justification behind the deployment. Deployments may be executed as follows:

- ICE/federal immigration enforcement officers may be sent to immigration sanctuary jurisdictions, including Boston, targeting immigrants; Black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC); and non-native English speakers;
- National Guard members may be deployed when civilians protest, as was done in Los Angeles.
- The federal government has agreed to deploy National Guard members from other states against the local jurisdiction's wishes, as was done in DC.
- The President has threatened to additionally invoke the *Insurrection Act* to deploy federalized National Guard and other military members to engage in civilian law enforcement.

Laws Governing National Guard Deployment : The National Guard is a reserve force of the US military under state and federal command that responds to domestic crises and international conflicts. With units in all 50 states, DC, and some US territories, National Guard members are usually activated and commanded by their state governor. The President can federalize members under certain circumstances. If federalized, the *Posse Comitatus Act* prohibits the President from using federal troops for civilian law enforcement (e.g. performing searches, seizures, arrests) without explicit legislative authorization. This restriction can be suspended if the President invokes the *Insurrection Act*, which allows the President to deploy federal troops to assist with civilian law enforcement under specific circumstances, like suppressing a rebellion or insurrection.

League Positions.

- The League opposes the deployment of the federalized National Guard and other military forces against the wishes of state officials in response to largely peaceful protests and unsubstantiated claims of rampant crime. This is an inappropriate and unprecedented interpretation of Title 10, and a misuse of the military to intimidate civilians from exercising their First Amendment rights.
- The League opposes the deployment of National Guard units to local jurisdictions to support unsubstantiated claims of rampant crime, against the wishes of local officials.
- The League opposes the federalized National Guard and other military units implementing civilian law. This is a violation of the *Posse Comitatus Act*.
- The League opposes the deployment of National Guard units from other states against the wishes of state officials. This is a violation of states' constitutional right to sovereignty (the Tenth Amendment).
- The League opposes illegal invocations of the *Insurrection Act*.

League Principles.

The following LWVUS public policy positions and principles underlie LWVUS' opposition to these actions:

- Individual Liberties- LWV believes in the individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. Individual rights now protected by the Constitution should not be weakened or abridged.
- Immigration- LWV supports due process for all persons, including the right to notice and a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal, and right to humane treatment. The League does not support deporting immigrants who have no history of major and/or violent criminal activity.
- Government: LWV believes that all powers of the US government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial.
- DEI Note: The deployment of federal officials and military members across the country poses disproportionate threats of intimidation, fundamental rights violations, and physical harm to historically marginalized communities including immigrants; Black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC); non-native English speakers and LGBTQIA+ individuals. In responding to this situation, focus on the harm that will come to these communities, by centering diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in your work.

For more detailed guidance, go to <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/policies-guidance/federal-military-deployment-us-cities>.

LWVUS IS JOINING NO KINGS 2 AS A NATIONAL PARTNER

On Saturday, October 18, LWVUS will join the No Kings 2 movement as an **official partner** on this day of mobilization. It is time for us to stand in solidarity with partners and to stand up against hate and authoritarianism. LWVUS has consistently spoken up in the face of rising authoritarianism, and we want to put words into action by acting as an effective ally in defense of democracy. Local Leagues are encouraged to participate in mobilizations with partners in a non-partisan manner. They are encouraged to identify as League members and to wear League T shirts or other identifiers, always remembering League principles of fairness and non-partisanship when joining chants or using signs. **Democracy cannot be a spectator sport.**

For information on the local mobilization of No Kings, go to <https://www.nokings.org/>

LWVUS VOTER SERVICE

NATIONAL VOTERS EDUCATION WEEK

LWV is a proud partner of **National Voter Education Week (NVEW)**, coming up **October 6 – 10, 2025**. This is a great opportunity to promote [VOTE411.org](https://vote411.org), our nonpartisan voter education resource, to equip voters with the information they need to cast their ballot with confidence. Check out [VOTE411.org](https://vote411.org) on Facebook and Instagram.

Join the **ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge** and the League of Women Voters for a virtual conversation **Oct 7, 2025 03:00 PM in Eastern Time** highlighting the ways that college and university campuses and LWV chapters are partnering to increase nonpartisan civic engagement among college students. You'll hear directly from representatives on campuses, and LWV chapters who have fostered working relationships to support nonpartisan student voter registration, education, and voting. We will also discuss best practices for building and maintaining relationships between LWV chapters and local college campuses.

VOTER REGISTRATION **AT NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES**

Naturalization ceremonies are administered either by a **federal court** or by the **United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS)**. On August 29, USCIS issued new policy guidance stating that only state or local election officials will be permitted to offer voter registration services at the end of administrative naturalization ceremonies held at USCIS facilities. This updated guidance upends years of work that nonpartisan, nongovernmental organizations like the League of Women Voters have done in concert with USCIS officials.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of immigrants become US citizens after participating in naturalization ceremonies — increasing the voting-eligible population. Naturalization ceremonies provide a key opportunity for Leagues to engage new voters and start them on a path to lifelong interest and participation in our democracy by registering and educating new citizens. The USCIS decision to bar nongovernmental organizations from providing voter registration services at naturalization ceremonies is an attempt to keep new citizens from accessing their full rights and to deny third-party voter engagement organizations an opportunity to do their work. T

Naturalization Ceremonies Administered by Federal Courts

- The updated policy guidance from USCIS does not pertain to naturalization ceremonies conducted by federal courts.
- Leagues should work with their contacts at federal courts to offer voter registration and education opportunities at naturalization ceremonies administered by a federal court. Courts should be encouraged to begin hosting or to expand the number of naturalization ceremonies they administer.

Naturalization Ceremonies Administered by USCIS

- Leagues should monitor when naturalization ceremonies occur and set up voter registration and education opportunities outside the USCIS venues in a public space, while complying with any local rules.
- Leagues are encouraged to meet with their local election officials to determine if they can use an existing procedure to deputize League volunteers so they may provide voter registration and education opportunities at USCIS administered ceremonies as representatives of the

local elections office. If not, Leagues should determine whether local officials would be willing to pursue this.

- Leagues should work with immigrant rights groups to reach newly naturalized citizens in their networks, especially by providing voter registration materials and voter education resources. This may include groups that support people working towards naturalization or those providing ESL (English as a second language) services. League members will need to be clear on eligibility requirements for prospective voters. For people who are not immediately eligible, share information on how to connect with the League in the future.

Members of the League participating in voter registration and education should attend voter services training on how to register voters. They should safeguard all personal information provided by new citizens and collect contact information only in accordance with laws and regulations. If allowed, they should provide information regarding upcoming elections and how to stay connected with the League.

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesdays, 2025 1:00 pm, in person Plymouth County Correctional Facility

11:00 am-1:00 pm, in person, Burlington ICE Office

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR LEGISLATORS

U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren

JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street, Boston, MA 2203
(617) 565-3170

311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-4543

U.S. Senator Edward Markey

JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street, Boston, MA 2203
(617) 565-8519

255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-2742

U.S. Representative Katherine M. Clark

2368 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2836

MA Senator Michael Barrett

24 Beacon Street, Room 312B
Boston, MA 02133
(617) 722-1572

MA Senator Cindy Friedman

24 Beacon Street, Room 313
Boston, MA 02133
(617) 722-1432

MA Rep. Michelle Ciccolo

24 Beacon Street, Room 473F
Boston, MA 02133
(781) 330-0730

MA Rep. Ken Gordon

24 Beacon Street, Room 473G
Boston, MA 02133
(617) 722-2070

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

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P.O. Box 233, Lexington, MA

www.lwvlexington.org/

lwv.lexington@gmail.com

We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you would like to submit an article for the November 2025 Lexington LWV Bulletin, please send it to Wendy Manz at wendy_manz@yahoo.com by October 26, 2025.

