



BULLETIN, September, 2025

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Greetings from the Convenor's Desk

Welcome to the beginning of a new League year.

- Congratulations to the seven local League members who were honored by **LexSeeHer** in a ceremony on August 23, with **visibility banners** that are now displayed in Lexington Center. They are Margaret Coppe, Pat Costello (deceased), Wendy Manz, Natalie Riffin, Sandy Shaw, Shirley Stolz, and Martha Wood. Check the banners out and go to www.lexseeher.com to learn more about the contributions of these women.
- There is an exciting event planned by the State League for the spring. The League has bought 125 **tickets to the musical "Suffs"** for the evening performance on **March 19, 2026**. Tickets will be in the \$150 range; more information will be coming soon, so save the date. We hear from those who have seen it in New York that is a great performance.

Suffs is a musical with music, lyrics, and a book by Shaina Taub, based on the American **women's suffrage movement**. It focuses primarily on the historical events leading up to the ratification of the **Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1920** that gave some women the right to vote.

- The Massachusetts **State League is launching a partnership with the Girl Scouts of America** to actively promote Vote 411 as part of their civic leadership

program. The partnership will connect local Leagues and Girl Scout councils to support Girl Scout troops participating in Promote the Vote, as well as in completing civics badges, earning the Gold Award and more. Stay tuned for more information as we look to work with local Girl Scouts.

- 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.
- And don't forget that **First Fridays** are starting September 5, 2025. We will be discussing transportation in Lexington with updates on Lexpress and MBTA schedules and changes.

Best wishes for the upcoming fall.

Margaret Coppe

Convener

LWV LEXINGTON SEPTEMBER FIRST FRIDAY FORUM: **THERE'S A NEW BUS!**

On Sunday, August 23, a celebratory group of Lexingtonians boarded the MBTA #62 bus running between Alewife and the Veterans' Hospital in Bedford for its inaugural Sunday run. In a reorganization of local bus routes, the Sunday route has been added. Route 62 operates consistently on weekdays and Saturdays, and it adds new Sunday service to Lexington and Bedford. Frequency improves throughout the day as Route 62 service replaces combined Route 62/76 to provide faster and more direct service to [Alewife](#). Separated routes 62 and 76 are replacing previously combined Route 62/76 on weekdays and Saturdays.

At the **opening LWV First Friday Forum of the 2025-2026 year**, the LWV will welcome **Susan Barrett, Transportation Manager for the Town of Lexington**, and **Sandy Johnson, Deputy Director of Regional Transit Planning for the MBTA**. Discussion will focus on public transportation in Lexington, with transit information about the new MBTA routes, and also about Lexpress and its history, as well as current and future plans. The forum will be held on **Friday, September 5, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at the Lexington Community Center, Room 237, 39 Marrett Road, Lexington**.

The First Friday Forum series is hosted by the League of Women Voters to promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues. As always, Lexington League forums are free and open to the public, and there will be time for questions and answers. LexMedia will also 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/PROGRAMS

LEAGUE MEMBERS JOIN THE BOSTON WOMEN'S 10K

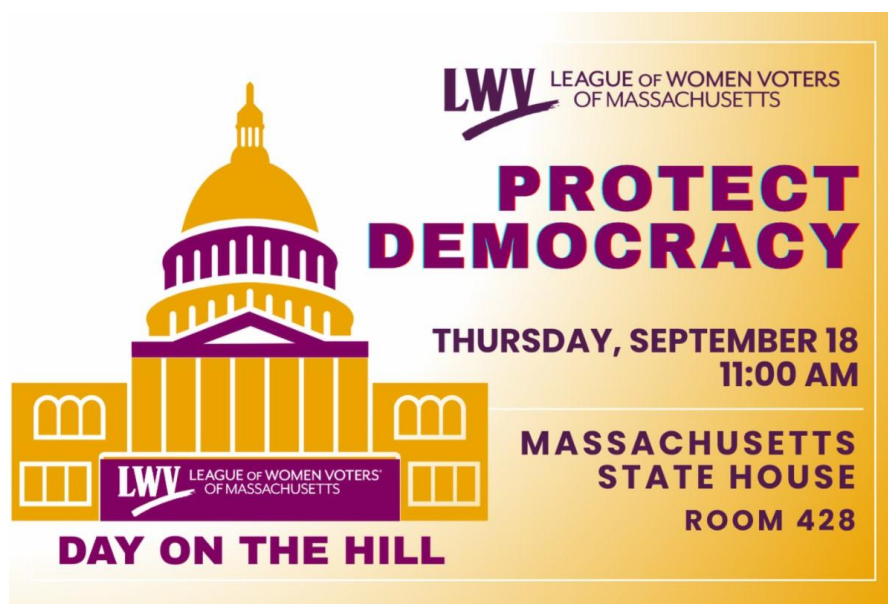
COME RACE WITH US



The deadline to sign up as a League participant in the **Boston 10K for Women** is here: **August 31**. ALL League members are asked to help us spread the word about our team, and to get your friends who walk, run, or jog to commit to joining our team. This is an opportunity to support the state League, and local Leagues that have a team member representing their area or come to support our team on race day, will be eligible for prizes for their support!

Join members of our Board and local Leagues in running for democracy on October 11, 2025, ***because we all know that year 105 is not the finish line***. Each runner is asked to raise \$1,000.00 to help us continue to support our civic engagement and education work. We hope to see you and your local League there as we cheer on our runners on the day of the race! ***Deadline to sign up to run with our team is August 31st – so don't walk, RUN to register!***

LWVMA ANNUAL DAY ON THE HILL



Join us in person for our **League lobby day, *Day on the Hill: Protect Democracy*, Thursday, September 18 at 11:00 AM** in Room 428 at the State House. We will be focusing our advocacy in the key areas of Voting, Immigration, and Health Care Protections. Our legislative specialists will outline the reasons that these are our key focus points for this Day on the Hill, and we hope members will share these reasons with their senators and representatives. Now more than ever, it is critical that advocates and activists focus their sights on state-level action. And nothing makes a bigger impression on legislators than their constituents showing up in person.

Our **keynote speaker will be Senator Joan Lovely**, who has served in the Massachusetts Senate since January 2013, representing the Second Essex District of Beverly, Danvers Peabody and Salem. She is currently the Assistant Majority Leader and Chair of the Senate and Joint Committees on Rules, while also serving as Senate Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on Emergency Preparedness and Management, a

member of the Senate Committee on Climate Change and Global Warming, and a member of the Joint Committees on Aging and Independence, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Community Development and Small Businesses. Outside of her committee work, Senator Lovely is the Senate Vice Chair of the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators.

We'd like to take this **Jen Muroff, the Chair of our Legislative Action Committee, and the LWVMA Legislative Specialists** opportunity to thank who make up our Legislative Action Committee. Their hard work over the two-year legislative session makes the League's voice effective on Beacon Hill. They identify key legislation, track it over the entire session, testify at hearings, issue calls for action when action is important, and participate in coalitions. Their work is essential. The League salutes them.

Register at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe8q70EZdnIbV5KP-IMOT9JFbp7EYI2YPbLh5d1XRZWInr5dw/viewform>. And find more detailed information at: <https://lwmma.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Member-packet-2025.pdf>.

LWVMA EDUCATION FORUM: **IMMIGRATION DETENTION IN THE COMMONWEALTH**

The Fifth Amendment of the US Constitution guarantees the right to due process. The League of Women Voters supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, the right to counsel, the right of appeal, and the right to humane treatment, without discrimination.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts and the League of Women Voters of Plymouth are hosting an in-person public education forum on ***Immigration Detention in the Commonwealth*** on **Monday, September 8 at 7:00 PM at Plymouth Town Hall**. The evening will feature Laura Rótolo, Field Director for the ACLU-MA, and Leah Hastings, Immigrant Detention Conditions Project Legal Fellow and Staff Attorney at Prisoners' Legal Services. The panel discussion will cover:

- What does ICE detention look like here and across the country?
- How will the federal government scale up to 160,000 beds nationwide?
- What are the conditions at Plymouth and Burlington?
- Why are 85% of men at Plymouth incarcerated without being charged with a crime?

Join us to learn more about the Intergovernmental Service Agreement signed by the Plymouth County Sheriff's Office with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE). The discussion will also cover proposed state legislation to end immigrant detention agreements and how it impacts Plymouth County. Come to learn more about ICE detention facts and myths.

STANDING UP FOR DUE PROCESS: **WITNESS WEDNESDAYS**

Starting in July and continuing into the fall, LWVMA members are conducting ***Witness Wednesdays standouts*** in front of the Plymouth County Correctional Facility on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm to defend the rights of immigrants and other detainees.

For League members closer to Burlington, MA, **Bearing Witness** stands in solidarity outside the ICE Operations Office in Burlington every Wednesday from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. The League is not an official sponsor of this event but encourages attendance. Register at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe8q70EZdnIbV5KP-IM0T9JFbp7EYI2YPbLh5d1XRZWInr5dw/viewform>.

LWVMA ADVOCACY

LWVMA PRIORITY LEGISLATION 2025-26

For a complete list of League Supported Legislation for 2025-2026, go to:

<https://lwmvma.org/league-supported-opposed-legislation-2025-2026/>.

The following bills are the focus of the state League's advocacy for this session:

Elections and Voting

H834/S505, An Act establishing same day registration of voters

Sponsors: Sen. Cynthia Stone Creem and Rep. Carmine Gentile

During in-person early voting or on Election Day, allows eligible individuals to register to vote, update their voter registration, or correct administrative errors so that they can then vote - on the same day.

Immigration

H2580/S1681, An Act to protect the civil rights and safety of all Massachusetts residents (Safe Communities Act)

Sponsors: Rep. Manny Cruz, Rep. Priscila Sousa, and Sen. Jamie Eldridge

Limits voluntary police and court involvement in civil immigration matters, protects basic rights, and keeps law enforcement agencies focused on public safety.

H1588/S1122, An Act relative to immigration detention and collaboration agreements (Dignity not Deportations)

Sponsors: Rep. Christine Barber, Rep. David Rogers, and Sen. Adam Gomez

Ends all detention and collaboration agreements with ICE, including 287(g)s, which deputizes local, county, and state law enforcement personnel to act as ICE agents and ISGAs, which allows the renting of jail space for immigration detention.

H1954/S1127, An Act ensuring access to equitable representation in immigration proceedings (Immigrant Legal Defense Fund)

Sponsors: Rep. David Rogers, Rep. Frank Moran, and Sen. Adam Gomez

Creates a public and privately funded Immigrant Legal Defense program to provide no-cost legal defense for immigrants who are at imminent risk of deportation.

Health Care

H2370/S1563, An Act prioritizing patient access to care

Sponsors: Rep. Christine Barber and Sen. Robyn Kennedy

Allows an individual seeking an abortion after 24 weeks to obtain their health care based solely on the professional judgement of their physician.

Good Governance

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)

Sponsors: Rep. Kate Lipper-Garabedian, Rep. David T. Vieira and Sen. Cynthia Stone Creem

Bans companies from selling cellphone location data. Needed to protect people seeking reproductive or gender-affirming health care, domestic violence victims, and people in targeted professions such as judges, journalists, physicians, election workers, and state legislators and other public figures

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF UNITED STATES

LWVUS EVENTS/PROGRAMS

CHECKLIST:

WHAT HAS THE LWVUS BEEN DOING IN 2025?

With the support of its members across the country, the League of Women Voters of the United States was able to accomplish the following in 2025 thus far:

- Launched **Unite and Rise 8.5**, a bold campaign to engage and mobilize 8.5 million voters in defense of democracy and constitutional protections
- Filed a **lawsuit to stop an unlawful executive order** that would impose burdensome barriers to voter registration, especially for women, voters of color, and naturalized citizens
- Lead **Light for our Democracy**, a national vigil with over a dozen **partner organizations** to defend democracy and elevate the power of the people
- **Called on Congress to act against dangerous abuses of power** threatening civil rights, federal oversight, and the rule of law.
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LWVUS ADVOCACY

LWVUS SUPPORTS THE JOHN R. LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT (JLVRAA)

Sixty years ago this month, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the ***Voting Rights Act (VRA)*** into law, outlawing discriminatory barriers that prevented voters of color from exercising their right to vote.

In the decades since it was passed into law, the VRA has been reauthorized with bipartisan support and signed by presidents of both political parties. The VRA remains necessary to this day to prevent voter discrimination for all of us, no matter the language we speak, the color of our skin, or the zip code we live in.

Yet since the Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* that gutted section 5 of the VRA, discriminatory voting laws have been enacted across the country. We must restore and strengthen the full protections of the VRA.

The U.S. Senate has just reintroduced the **John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (JLVRAA)**, which will fully modernize and restore the VRA to protect voters against discrimination.

The JLVRAA will ensure renewed oversight, accountability, and justice in our democracy so all voters can exercise their right to vote. Every voter deserves to be treated fairly at the ballot box, and everyone must be able to make their voice heard. We cannot stand for a democracy that enables regressive and dangerous attacks on the right to cast one's ballot, disproportionately suppressing voters of color.

At this critical moment in our nation's history, we need the JLVRAA! Urge your Representatives and Senators to support the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and live up to the full promise of American democracy. (See contact information for Massachusetts Senators and Representatives at the end of this Bulletin.)

SAVE THE DATE

August 31, 2025 Deadline to sign up for the Boston Women's 10K

September 5, 2025 LWV Lexington First Friday Forum, 9:30 am, in person,
Lexington Community Center

September 8, 2025 LWMA panel discussion on *Restoring Due Process*,
7:00 pm, in person, Plymouth MA Town Hall

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

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

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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

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(617) 722-1572

MA Senator Cindy Friedman

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

MA Rep. Michelle Ciccolo

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MA Rep. Ken Gordon

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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 October 2025 Lexington LWV Bulletin, please send it to Wendy Manz at wendy_manz@yahoo.com by September 26, 2025.

