



BULLETIN, September, 2026

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Greetings from the Convenor's Desk.

The state primaries are over and we are now on to the national mid-terms. Voter turnout in Lexington was 30%, (2024-22% and 2022-29%) better than municipal elections. The Town is initiating a new task force to work on increasing voter turnout in local elections, but this could also increase turnout in other elections.

- The Lexington Select Board is seeking community members to serve on the newly created Local Election Voter Turnout Task Force.

The Task Force has been established to assist the Select Board in developing practical guidance and strategies to increase voter participation in Lexington's local elections and address barriers to voting. The goal is to help make participation in local elections a stronger social and civic expectation throughout our community.

The Select Board will appoint seven community members to the Task Force for three-year terms. The Board is seeking applicants representing a broad and diverse cross-section of the Lexington community. Residents with a variety of experiences, perspectives, and interests are encouraged to apply.

All interested and qualified candidates should submit their application for the Local Election Voter Turnout Task Force no later than Wednesday, September 16, 2026.

- **Attend Burlington ICE Actions**

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

- In addition, there are **stand outs every Friday at 1:00 -2:30 PM at Hanscom Field Rotary** (intersection of Hanscom Dr. and Old Bedford Rd. in Lincoln, MA.) to protest

the transport of ICE detainees. from Hanscom Field. Please park along Old Bedford Road or Hanscom Drive without impeding traffic or blocking bike lanes.

Go to [De-ICE Hanscom](#) –for more information.

Margaret Coppe
Convenor

SHAPING LEXINGTON'S NEW WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM **LWV FIRST FRIDAY FORUM, SEPTEMBER 4, 2026**

Lexington LWV's initial First Friday Forum of the season was held on **September 4 at the Lexington Community Center**. **Maggie Peard, Lexington's Sustainability and Resilience Officer** introduced attendees to the Town's new **LexSortSmart!** App, a custom app and web widget that will serve as a one-stop shop for waste disposal information in Lexington. Through the app, residents can

- Schedule a pickup for special collection items,
- Find local disposal guidance for any item (trash or recycling?),
- View the waste collection schedule for their address, and
- Sign up for collection reminders and delay notifications.

The app can be downloaded and the widget accessed at [Lexingtonma.gov/Trash](https://lexingtonma.gov/Trash) ,

Ms. Peard explained that Lexington's trash is hauled away and largely disposed of out of state by professional trash haulers who charge the Town by volume. The cost of this service has been steadily rising with the amount of trash, and reducing the amount will save the Town substantial money which must be paid out of tax revenue. Mandating the use of barrels which can be lifted and emptied by mechanized arms on trash trucks makes the process quicker, safer for the haulers, and more efficient. The Town is currently deciding on the size of the trash barrels to be distributed free to residents, along with provisions for obtaining an additional barrel or bag at a modest cost for households that generate more than the average amount of trash. The program is expected to reduce the amount of trash generated while providing for special situations (like disposal of bulk items), encourage recycling, save the Town money, and contribute to a cleaner environment.

LWV FIRST FRIDAY FORUM, OCTOBER 2, 2026: **VOTERS TO CONSIDER 9 BALLOT QUESTIONS ON NOVEMBER 3**

The **October 2 First Friday Forum** will be held at 9:15 am at the **Lexington Community Center**, and will review each of the **Ballot Questions** which have been certified to appear on the **November ballot**:

Since May, when the Bulletin first wrote about proposed ballot questions, the original list of twelve has been reduced to nine, which will appear on the ballot in the following order:

- Question 1: Expanding the Public Records Law
- Question 2: Collective Bargaining for CPCS Employees
- Question 3: State Primary Elections
- Question 4: Election Day Registration
- Question 5: State Revenue Limit & Rebate
- Question 6: Natural Resource Conservation Fund
- Question 7: Single Family Homes
- Question 8: Prohibit Retail Sale of Adult Recreational Use Marijuana
- Question 9: Firearms Regulation.

The LWVMA Board votes to support, oppose, or take no position on specific ballot questions based on positions or goals previously researched and adopted by the League. As a nonpartisan political organization, LWVMA does not endorse political parties or candidates, but does advocate for issues that the organization has studied and taken a position on.

LWVMA supports the following Ballot Questions:

- Expanding the Public Records Law (to improve public access);
- Election Day Registration (to make voting easier for all eligible voters);
- Zoning of Single-Family Homes (permitting single family homes on smaller lots);
- Firearms Regulation (rejection of repeal of firearms laws passed in the last legislative session).

LWVMA opposes the following Ballot Questions:

- State Revenue Limit and Rebate (Limiting state tax collection growth and returning surpluses to taxpayers);

LWVMA takes no position on the following Ballot Questions:

- State Primary Elections (to implement all-party state primaries with top 2 candidates to advance to the general election);
- #Natural Resource Conservation Fund;
- Collective Bargaining for all CPCS Employees (Committee for Public Counsel Services);
- Prohibit Retail Sale of Adult Recreational Use Marijuana.

This program is the second in the 2026-2027 LWV First Friday Forum series hosted by the Lexington League of Women Voters to promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues. Lex Media will record the program for future viewing. As always, the League forum is free and open to the public, and there will be time for questions and answers. For more information about the League and this program go to:

<https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/lexington>.

LEXINGTON LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING DATE DEFERRED

The Lexington League's Annual Meeting, previously planned for September, will be deferred to later in the fall. Stay tuned for more details.

OF INTEREST:

REFERENDUM ON GUN SAFETY

On Wednesday, **September 9 from 7:00 pm to 8 pm on Zoom**, **Janet Goldenberg**, **Executive Committee member of the Vote Yes for a Safe MA campaign** and **co-founder of the MA Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence**, will be speaking about **Ballot Initiative 9: Save our Gun Safety Law**. Ms. Goldenberg works closely with Ruth Zakarin who appeared at the League's May First Friday discussing the same topic. She will walk us through what's at stake with Question 9, and why a "Yes" vote matters for preserving our current gun law and keeping our communities safe. This is an excellent opportunity for those who missed the First Friday presentation, or would simply like to brush up on the issue.

Register here:

<http://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJ1NbhmCGuVXB3nIb7SSvDpxzFeuA77zilyPWP4wkH10SOQQ/viewform>.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

LWVMA ADVOCACY

MASSACHUSETTS DISTRICT COURT

ISSUES PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION BLOCKING USPS

IMPLEMENTATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER ON MAIL-IN VOTING

On September 5, U.S. District Court Judge Indira Talwani issued a preliminary injunction blocking the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) from enforcing key parts of a rule that would have implemented President Trump's March 31 executive order restricting mail voting. Under the rule, the postal service would have refused to deliver mail-in ballots to voters who did not appear on federally approved lists, even if they did appear on certified lists from their respective states.

On June 2, the Court in Boston had heard arguments from lead plaintiff League of Women Voters and a number of voting rights organizations, represented by the American Civil Liberties Union, and a group of 37 states, all opposing the executive order on constitutional and practical grounds. (See June Bulletin.). On August 11, the Court issued a temporary restraining order, stating, in part, that any attempt to carry out the President's scheme so close to the November midterm elections was not practically feasible and would only create confusion and uncertainty among state election authorities and voters. She rejected the government's argument that because the implementation details had not been finalized, the issue was not ripe for decision, even though states had already begun to try to revamp their voting procedures to comply, should the order be upheld. She indicated that the central

argument made by the LWV and others, that the Constitution places election administration within the authority of the states and not the federal government, was likely to prevail.

That order was appealed through the federal Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court, which agreed with the government that the case was not ripe for decision until the proposed rule was fully detailed, but returned the case to the District Court for further hearing on the issue of constitutionality. That follow up hearing was held on September 3, and two days later Judge Talwani dissolved her temporary restraining order and replaced it with a **preliminary injunction effective through the November 3 election**. The court found that the proposed rule was likely unconstitutional and unlawful — and that enforcing it would make voter disenfranchisement “practically inevitable.”

The preliminary injunction blocks the USPS from refusing to deliver ballots that do not comply with the many requirements in the rule, although it allows states to voluntarily comply with certain parts of it. The USPS rule requires states to follow specific guidelines for designing their mail ballot envelopes, create unique bar codes for every ballot, and upload an advance list of all mail voters to a new and untested federal portal, which is not yet operational. Dozens of state and local officials explained to the court in detail how it would be impossible to comply with the rule for the November elections, while only one state submitted a declaration that claimed it would “likely” be able to comply.

In the ruling, the court recognized that plaintiffs and their members would suffer immediate and irreparable harm if the USPS rule were to be enforced: “Members are threatened with grave harm, namely disenfranchisement, if they do not receive a mail-in ballot from their local election official. This threat, moreover, is imminent.” The court noted that there is no evidence on record of fraud in mail-in ballots.

This ruling is now being appealed. The U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals will next consider the case, and it could soon be back before the Supreme Court. LWVUS will continue monitoring developments and share updated guidance as needed.

STILL TIME TO SIGN UP TO JOIN THE LWVMA TEAM **BOSTON 10K FOR WOMEN ON OCTOBER 10**

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is fielding a team: ***Team Civic Pacers*** for the 50th anniversary of the **Boston 10k for Women, held at the Boston Common on October 10, 2026**. This year, the League has been selected as a **charity partner**, so participation makes an impact not just on race day, but on sustaining our civic education, youth leadership, and internship programming – ensuring the League’s impact sustains us for another 106 years.

Sign up to become a part of a multigenerational team of runners, walkers, and joggers, united by our civic responsibility! Participants are asked to raise a minimum of \$500.00 for the League, with a suggested amount of \$1,000.00 to receive special League merch! For more information and to sign up: www.lwvma.org/2026-boston-10k-for-women/ .

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

LWVUS EVENTS

2026 Civic Holidays

- **September 15:** [National Voter Registration Day](#)
| The League has been the number one recruiting partner.
- **October 5 – 9:** [National Voter Education Week](#)
We give voters the tools they need to cast their ballots with confidence.
- **October 20:** [Election Hero Day](#)
Thank the election workers in your community who make elections run safely. LWV is the Managing Partner of EHD this year.
- **October 24:** [Vote Early Day](#)
Lexington has the tools to vote early.

VOTE411 is LIVE!

VOTE411 is the League's "one-stop-shop" for election related information. Voters can use the following features on VOTE411 to educate themselves ahead of the November 3rd elections:

- Receive personalized ballot and candidate information.
www.vote411.org/ballot
- Check their voter registration. www.vote411.org/check-registration
- Make a voting plan. www.vote411.org/make-your-plan
- Learn more about voting rules and options in Massachusetts.
www.vote411.org/massachusetts

LWVUS JOINS WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT FOUNDATION

In celebration of Women's Equality Day and as the nation celebrates the historic 250th anniversary year for the United States, the national League of Women Voters is joining the **Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation** as an official partner in the effort to build the first monument on the National Mall dedicated to the history of American

women and the suffrage movement. To support this historic partnership, **Celina Stewart, CEO of the LWV, has been named to serve on the Women's Suffrage Monument Foundation's Council of Ambassadors**, where she will join other leaders and honor the League's historic roots in the suffrage movement. Supporters can learn more about the monument effort and ways to help bring this historic project to life by visiting this link:

The League of Women Voters was founded by suffragist leader Carrie Chapman Catt six months before the ratification of the 19th Amendment on August 26, 1920. Designed to perpetuate a multi-generational suffrage coalition as an enduring force for voter education and civic participation, the League now joins the Foundation as an official partner to bring the story of the suffragists to the National Mall. Commemorating the August 26th certification of the 19th Amendment, Women's Equality Day highlights the enduring legacy of the suffrage movement—and is an opportunity to recognize our foremothers alongside our forefathers as the nation celebrates its 250th anniversary.

"The League of Women Voters was born from the suffrage movement," said Ceina Stewart. "To help build a monument to those women on the National Mall is to do more than honor the past—it is to plant their legacy in the heart of our democracy. Every generation should be able to stand here, know their names, remember their courage, and understand that the rights we inherit were won by women who refused to stop fighting."

"We often say the suffrage movement was a multi-generational relay race—passed from hand to hand, from mother to daughter, until the finish line was reached," said **Anna Laymon, president and CEO of the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation**. "The League of Women Voters has carried that baton for over a hundred years, and today we are honored to have this generation of League members join us in celebrating their predecessors on the National Mall."



LWV CEO Celina Stewart and WSNMF President & CEO Anna Laymon on the future site of the monument.

Like most monuments and memorials, the Women's Suffrage National Monument will be funded entirely through private donations, and your support is essential to telling the stories of generations of women who waged and won the battle for the ballot. The Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation has been authorized by Congress to lead the effort to fund, design, develop, and construct the Women's Suffrage National Monument on the National Mall. It will foster a deeper understanding of the women who shaped American

democracy, and inspire the continued pursuit of liberty and equality for all by telling the stories of generations of women who waged and won the battle for the ballot.

Learn more about the movement, and how you can donate to support it at:

<https://womensmonument.org/lwv-donation-campaign/>.

STATUS OF BILLS IN CONGRESS REGARDING VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING

The House and Senate are back in session after August recess. The Senate will have a couple of weeks to vote on the *SAVE Act* before they leave for October recess, and we expect them to try.

As previously reported, this bill would require citizenship documentation to register to vote, even though voters in every state are already required to affirm or verify their citizenship status when registering. Additionally, the bill would make voting more difficult by mandating that voters prove their identity using a photo ID from a strict list when casting a ballot. If passed, the *SAVE Act* could create major hurdles to registering and accessing the ballot in the 2026 midterm election.

The untiring efforts of the League of Women Voters and their coalition partners have helped to block previous efforts to pass the Act. This renewed attempt is part of a long list of tactics that seek to make it more difficult for voters of color and naturalized citizens to vote. Americans do not need MORE obstacles to vote. Massachusetts Senators oppose the *SAVE Act*, but hearing from their constituents supports their ability to stand firm. Let them hear from you.

DEI: COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP AND SYSTEMS THINKING

How can we honor the League's traditions while making space for new ways of working, leading, and engaging? On **September 16 at 3:00 pm**, the next session in our DEI Transformation Learning Community series will be held on Zoom. We'll explore how long-standing practices can sometimes create barriers to participation, belonging, or equitable decision-making, and consider how we can navigate change and resistance while staying grounded in our shared League values.



SAVE THE DATE

September 9, 2026

September 16, 2026 DEI Zoom meeting

October 2, 2026 LWVLex First Friday Forum

October 10, 2026 Boston 10K for Women

November 3, 2026 National Midterm Election

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

2025-2026 BOARD

Convenor: Margaret Coppe:

Communications: Jeanne Canale

Bulletin Editor: Wendy Manz

Voter Registration: Eileen Zalisk

Webmaster: Charles Hornig

Board Member: Pam Lyons

Board Member: Melanie Thompson

P.O. Box 233, Lexington, MA

www.lwvlexington.org/

lwv.lexington@gmail.com

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 Convenor Margaret Coppe at [**mecoppe@gmail.com**](mailto:mecoppe@gmail.com).