

BULLETIN

LWVCC Website: www.lwvcc.org
 Spring 2020 P.O. Box 34 Concord, Massachusetts 01742-0034 Vol. 24 2019-20 #3

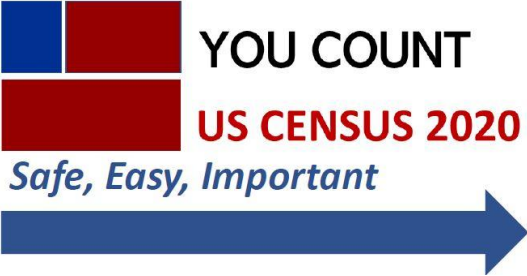
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CALENDAR

The League and the Towns of Concord and Carlisle are working to determine when and how to conduct meetings during the coronavirus / COVID-19 situation. More information will be provided as soon as it is available.

Please read your Monday Member News emails for more updates.



YOU COUNT
US CENSUS 2020
Safe, Easy, Important

**CONCORD TOWN
MEETING POSTPONED**

**CARLISLE TOWN
MEETING POSTPONED**

**CONCORD TOWN ELECTION:
RESCHEDULED TO
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020**

*Members are welcome at monthly Board meetings.
Please contact the President if you would like to attend.*

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization of men and women formed in 1920 and dedicated to the principles of self-government established by the Constitution of the United States. The League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

President	Julie Rohwein	President@lwvcc.org
Membership	Anne Hayden	Membership@lwvcc.org
Communications	Karlen Reed	Communications@lwvcc.org
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Julie Rohwein



On March 10, Governor Baker declared a State of Emergency for Massachusetts to support the fight against COVID-19. Since then decisions have been made by government entities, businesses and citizens about how to proceed. The situation changes by the day and sometimes by the hour, and we are all unsure about what the future holds. Like many organizations, our League is endeavoring to continue essential work during this challenging time. It is most important to follow and support practices that will slow the spread of this virus and protect both public health at large and the health and safety of our communities, our members, and their families.

There are many cancellations. We will be working on League business that can be conducted remotely, but for the present, all in-person gatherings are suspended. If you are part of a committee or other activity, please contact the chair for further information. Monday Member News will

also provide updates as they are available.

Town officials are making emergency meetings available through Zoom and Minuteman Media Network. Both Concord and Carlisle have reverse 911 systems for emergency notifications: CodeRED in Concord and RAVE/Smart911 in Carlisle You will find below a list of web and social media resources for getting up-to-date local and League information.

This is going to be an isolating time for many members of our community, and although we may not gather in person, we can connect via phone and email. You can also keep track of League activity at the state and national level through their websites, newsletters, and on Twitter and Facebook. The work to protect elections, ensure voter access, and support the 2020 Census continues. You can reach me at President@lwvcc.org. I know that for me as well as for many of you, the League of Women Voters is an essential part of our community.

Julie Rohwein, President

Where to Find Information and Updates

League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle:

Monday Member News; Website: lwvcc.org; Facebook: @lwvccma

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts:

Website: lwvma.org; Twitter: @LWVMA; Facebook: @lwvmass

League of Women Voters U.S.:

Website: lwv.org; Twitter @LWV; Facebook: @leagueofwomenvoters

Concord: Website: concordma.gov;

Register up for Emergency Notification (CodeRED):

<https://concordma.gov/1328/Communications>

Carlisle: Website: carlislema.gov;

Register for Emergency Notification (RAVE/Smart911):

<https://www.carlislema.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=106>

VICE-PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Nancy Brown



The League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle (LWVCC) is a powerful voice in our local communities, but sometimes we forget that the League is also a respected voice at the state and national level. In Concord, the League reviews the Annual Town Meeting warrant and analyzes articles in relation to relevant League studies of the past. Those study conclusions are known as positions. The League will consider supporting a particular article only if we have a related position, whether at the national, state, or local level.

So there are many warrant articles that LWVCC simply does not address. But where such a position exists and consensus is reached at the Board level to support or oppose a particular warrant article, the League's voice is heard loud and clear. This year, with the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be exploring how we can prepare for annual town meetings with possibly no in-person meetings. Stay tuned for opportunities to participate.

Most of us are familiar with our League's efforts at town meeting and perhaps less aware of our work in the state and national arena. In the course of its 100-year history, LWVUS has adopted numerous positions at both the state and national level. Positions are adopted after careful study in which members in local Leagues across the country (or the Commonwealth if it is a Massachusetts study) have the opportunity to participate. If you are interested in League positions, you can find *LWVUS Impact on Issues* and *LWVMA Where We Stand* on our website.

Based on these positions, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, with a corps of volunteer lobbyists, lobbies at the State House on issues as varied as election day registration, the environment, women's reproductive rights, and education funding reform. LWVMA is always looking for volunteer lobbyists and regularly issues appeals to League members to contact their legislators when issues of importance to the League are being heard.

The League state and national conventions are where priorities for lobbying are set. Local Leagues and League members have a vote in setting these priorities. An excellent example of the ability of League members to establish these priorities occurred at the 2019 LWVMA state convention, where delegates unanimously adopted the following resolution:

“We as delegates of Massachusetts local Leagues assembled at the 2019 LWVMA Convention call upon the LWVMA Board and local Leagues to advocate for declarations of ‘Climate Emergency’ and urgent relevant action by state and local governments.”

This winter, local Leagues across the nation engaged in program planning in preparation for the LWVUS convention scheduled for June 25-28th in Washington, D.C. As a starting point for program planning, the decision was made at the LWVUS convention in 2018 to focus on the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® with Leagues throughout the country working on (i) redistricting, (ii) voting rights, (iii) improving elections, and (iv) campaign finance/money in politics. In light of the issues presented by the coronavirus, ensuring fair elections where all citizens can vote without threatening their health takes on added urgency.

These are the bread and butter issues of the League and where the voice of the League is especially respected. At the same time, there is a strong belief that we must address the climate crisis. The Massachusetts League and our local League urged LWVUS to adopt the Climate Emergency resolution adopted by LWVMA and other state Leagues and make it a priority item for LWVUS lobbying and action.

We await decisions by LWVUS as to how it will conduct the business of the national convention in these challenging times. In the meantime, you can help set the priorities for our local League program for next year. What would you like to see LWVCC do in 2020 – 2021? Should we emphasize voting, the environment, civility, or something else? Should we be more or less engaged in local issues, state issues, or national issues? Please send your thoughts to Vice-President@LWVCC.org. This is your opportunity to help shape the direction of your League. *Nancy Brown, LWVCC Vice-President.*

VOTER SERVICE

The Voter Service committee will continue to focus its efforts on the 2020 elections for local, district, state, and federal elections. LWVCC wants to make sure all eligible voters in Concord and Carlisle are registered to vote, know who will be on the ballot, and are aware of voting dates and the available voting options.

Judy Zaunbrecher



On March 26, the Concord Select Board rescheduled the March 31 Town Election to June 11, 2020. The Town Clerk's office has posted a notice on its webpage with deadlines for absentee and early voting ballots. This information is also contained in the March 30th Monday Member News message. The League encourages all to take advantage of these voting systems to protect our community by minimizing unnecessary social interaction.

In addition to the rescheduled Concord town election, the following elections are still scheduled for 2020:

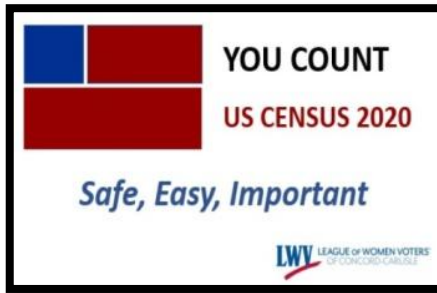
- State primary: September 1;
- General elections: November 3; early voting is October 19th to 30th;
- Carlisle Town Election: May 5 date was postponed, and the new date will be determined.

On March 30th, Concord Town Moderator Carmin Reiss postponed the April 27 Concord Town Meeting to at least May 18, with further postponement possible. The Carlisle Board of Selectmen has postponed the April 27 Carlisle Town Meeting to a future date. Also, emergency legislation is expected to provide additional flexibility for Town Meetings.

Opportunities to volunteer over the next two months will be posted in the Monday Member News. Please contact Judy or Susan at VoterService@lwvcc.org if you would like to volunteer for these or other voter service opportunities. *Judy Zaunbrecher and Susan Frey, Voter Service Co-Chairs.*

US CENSUS 2020

As you drive around town, you are likely to see LWVCC Census signs popping up like spring crocuses along the roadside. The Complete Count committee has had to change our approach due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The committee is using road signs to generate



awareness and Zoom to train the Census help desk volunteers. These volunteers will be key when important resources, such as the Concord and Carlisle libraries, and resident groups, such as Open Table in Maynard and Council on Aging in Concord, re-open to the public.

Given this unexpected situation, the committee would like to expand its abilities to inform the public about the Census through social media and online activities in which all League members can participate. This could include creating messages that an organization's members, including the League, can send to their email address book, and scripting a series of short articles that can appear on the LWVCC Facebook page as well as other Facebook pages of groups in Concord and Carlisle. The committee is currently looking for League members to work on this activity via Zoom.

In addition, the LWVCC website has been updated to include a US Census 2020 web page, which provides key resources detailing why the Census is important, how to complete the Census, and how you can volunteer to help the committee with this important task. All League members should have received a notification from the Census Bureau with a 12-digit Census ID.

- It takes ten minutes to complete the Census online.
 - Start here: <https://my2020census.gov/>
- For those not comfortable with the online format, the Census offers a phone help line in English and 11 other languages.
 - Get dial-ins by language here: <https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond/responding-by-phone.html>

Ellen Quackenbush



The LWVCC Board asked the committee to reach out to area Leagues and support their Census public education efforts. The committee has distributed Census signs to each of the nearby Leagues, and the committee hopes to continue this effort by sharing social media and online materials. If you would like to assist in any of these census activities, please contact Anne Hayden or Ellen Quackenbush, Co-Chairs of the Complete Count committee, at Membership@lwvcc.org.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

100TH ANNIVERSARY

It will come as news to no one that many celebratory activities for the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the League of Women Voters planned for this spring have been cancelled. There will be no Patriot's Day Parade in April in Concord for us to march in (though we may still get to march in Carlisle's Old Home Day in June). Other activities will be rescheduled for a future date, once our current crisis recedes. These include a public showing of *Iron Jawed Angels*, the Women's Suffrage Centennial Celebration hosted by The Women's Parish Association, and the LWVMA 100th Birthday Gala. Please watch Monday Member News for updates on these and other events currently still planned for the early summer. *Julie Rohwein, 100th Anniversary Chair.*

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications committee focuses on the League's communication efforts via the League's weekly Monday Member News, website, postcards, flyers, Town postings, special messages, and Facebook.

The committee regularly discusses upcoming events and reviews ways to inform League members and the community about programs such as First Friday, Winter Breakfast, Complete Count/2020 Census, 100th Anniversary, and the local town elections. This Bulletin provides a brief look into these events, memorializing the members' efforts while offering new insights into current events. Please contact Karlen if you have any questions at communications@lwwcc.org. *Karlen Reed, Communications Chair.*

Karlen Reed



EDUCATION

The Education committee collaborated with the Town Government committee to present a First Friday Forum on February 7th. The topic was *Building a Middle School for the 21st Century*. Panelists included Dr. Laurie Hunter, Superintendent of Concord Public Schools; Mike Carroll, Owner's Project Manager for the Middle School Project; Matt Root, a member of the Concord Middle School Building Committee and a professional in sustainability; and Kate Hanley, Director of Sustainability for the Town.

Edie Lipinski with Julie Rohwein



In February, the committee focused on the Middle School Building Committee's work. The design subcommittee viewed several siting and design options for the new school, which will inform the schematic design phase which began in March. Also in February, Edie Lipinski, Judy Zaunbrecher, and Susan Frey taught eleven eighth-grade classes at Concord Middle School about the history of voting rights in America. The committee is considering ways to share this lesson with the Concord community and the LWVMA.

The committee is reviewing the budget books from both Concord Public Schools and the Concord-Carlisle Regional High School and will meet with Jared Stanton, regional school finance officer, in order to make recommendations to the League Board before Town Meeting. The Civics Bee was cancelled, but all team members agreed their study sessions were a unique learning experience. Teams got together for three different sessions: town government, landmark cases involving women's rights, and a session on women's suffrage. Susan Frey organized and led the entire project and agreed the team experience and intergenerational discussions were most memorable. For more information, please contact Edie at education@lwwcc.org. *Edie Lipinski, Education Chair.*

THE CIVICS BEE THAT ALMOST HAPPENED

For the second year, Concord and Carlisle residents fielded a Civics Bee team to compete against teams from Sudbury, Wayland and Weston. Over the span of six weeks prior to the Civics Bee, the team met for three workshops in preparation for the March 8th Civics Bee. During these

coaching sessions, the adults and students got to know each other while they learned about the fascinating, and sometimes dismaying, facts about the long fight for women’s suffrage.

At a coaching session presented by Cindy Nock, the team discussed Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s *Declaration of Sentiments*, and then closely examined landmark Supreme Court cases observing how women’s rights slowly evolved from a time when married women were considered “civilly dead” in the 1840s to the present day. Town governance and voting rights --the topic of the third coaching session – was presented by Anita Teckle, former town clerk and former Civics Bee teammate.

Susan Frey



The day before the Civics Bee, the League of Women Voters committee responsible for organizing the Bee cancelled the Bee due to the pandemic. On the bright

Civics Bee team practicing at Beede Center



side, Concord-Carlisle continues to be the reigning Civic Bee champion. Special thanks to the team for your interest and enthusiasm: **8th Graders:** Kaima Fong, Darian Issac, Penn Rogers; **CCHS Students:** Sarah Bagasra, Sarrah Cherawala, Allan Crouse, Anna O'Sullivan, Livi Jelin, Evelyn Reidy, Katharine Richardson; **Adults:** Cindy Nock, Meg Gaudet, Eric Van Loon, and Judy Zaunbrecher;

Coach/Coordinator: Susan Frey; **Coach:** Anita Teckle; **Student Coach:** Luke McCrory. *Susan Frey, Civics Bee Chair.*

Janet Rothrock



ENVIRONMENT

In January, the Environment committee drafted a Statement of Support for Article 40 – Prohibition on Expansion of Fossil Fuel Infrastructure for New Construction and is seeking the LWVCC Board’s endorsement of the statement. The committee could find no League support for similar legislation in any other town, so the committee researched the LWVUS and LWVMA. The committee also created a resource document of the relevant League positions and will make it available to other Leagues to use in support of

similar legislation in their towns and cities. *Janet Rothrock and Alice Kaufman, Environment Co-chairs.*

IMMIGRATION

The committee heard from many immigrant rights organizations and contacted our legislators in support of several immigrant rights bills. The committee decided to be involved in legislative action and more direct action rather than hold regular meetings.

Committee members attended the State House hearing on the Safe Communities Act, which limits ways in which local and state law enforcement officers can cooperate with federal I.C.E. officers. The auditorium was overflowing with supporters in favor of the bill, all wearing the color blue. It was encouraging to hear the police officers' organization testify in favor of the bill.

A LWVCC member who has been going on 'Jericho walks' in the area around the I.C.E. headquarters in Burlington on the third Tuesday of each month invited committee members to join her for the February 18th walk. The walks, sponsored by the Burlington Area Clergy for Justice, included members of many faith communities carrying handmade signs.

Committee members plan to attend the citizen naturalization ceremonies held periodically in Lowell. The Haverhill League organizes members of various Leagues to hand out voter registration cards and help the new citizens with filling them out. One League member went to the ceremony on February 19th and reported that there were 995 immigrants who became new citizens there. She reported that, while handing out voter registration cards, she congratulated nearly 500 people and enjoyed their many happy smiles. *Nancy Cronin, Immigration Chair.*

Nancy Cronin



Anne Hayden



MEMBERSHIP

Have you renewed your LWVCC membership? We hope you want to maintain your membership so that you will be updated regularly on our activities, informed about current issues through Monday Member News and the Bulletin, and get involved in those League activities and concerns that are important to you.

You can renew your membership through PayPal on our League website or you can send a check for dues (\$55 for single membership, \$80 for household) to LWVCC Treasurer, P.O. Box 34, Concord, MA 01742. Have you been a member of the League for 50 years (any combination of chapter or National memberships)? If so, please contact Anne at Membership@lwvcc.org. *Anne Hayden, Membership Chair.*

OBSERVER CORPS

The League Observer Corps monitors the work of many town and school committees. The Observer Corps is looking for more people to serve as Observers or as substitute Observers who can watch the meetings either in person, on TV, or on their computers. If you are interested, please contact Diane at observercorps@lwvcc.org. The following is a report by one of our observers. *Diane Proctor, Observer Corps Chair.*

Diane Proctor



Observer Report:

The Concord Historic Districts Commission (CHDC) met on March 5th. The CHDC heard a proposal to create a Neighborhood Conservation District (NCD) in the Jennie Dugan Road area to preserve the history and significance of Deck Houses (mid-century homes). The committee discussed presenting this option to town, which would need a new law to start introducing NCDs in Concord. Committee members said that NCDs are popular and controversial, and that zoning and planning boards are desperate for more guidelines for developers. One example of an NCD approach is being done in Lincoln.

Joan Geoghegan



The committee noted that an NCD would take longer to secure than an historic district designation, and Jennie Dugan Road residents at the meeting said Deck Houses will be coming on market soon. To make their neighborhood an historic district would need a strong argument that it is worth being part of the history of Concord. The committee would need to put together its own advocacy presentation. Some committee members suggested getting a presentation ready for a Concord Special Town Meeting in September.

Next the committee said it is looking for nominations for the 2020 Preservation Awards and intends to nominate Concord Academy for the institutional lifetime achievement award. Two positions are open on the committee. Finally, the committee looked at Town Warrant Article 48 – By Petition: Historic Districts By-Law Nominating Organizations. The committee talked about proposing an amendment to research how people are appointed. Both the Museum and Library currently make recommendations on appointments, and this can be an appearance of conflict of interest. *Joan Geoghegan, Observer.*

TOWN GOVERNMENT-CONCORD

Ardis Bordman



The committee began reviewing the Warrant in preparation for the 2020 Annual Town Meeting on March 6th with a meeting open to members. As of that date, the Select Board and the Planning board hearings had been held and the Finance Committee hearings were pending. This year there are several articles related to supporting more affordable housing in Concord – two Planning Board Articles (Articles 32 and 33) recommend zoning changes, and Article 16 provides additional financial support for the Grantham/Junction Village assisted living project.

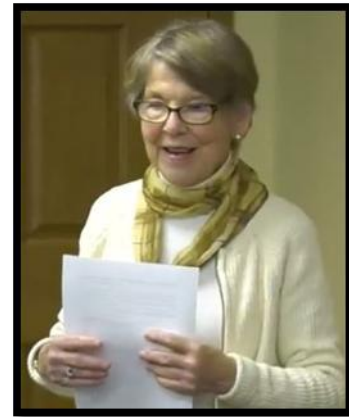
Article 29 establishes a stabilization fund for the proposed new Middle School. The School Committee may ask for a special town meeting in the fall to approve funding for the project. Article 40 is of interest to the League as it proposes a fossil fuel ban for new construction. This article has been revised from what was printed in the Warrant.

The League has growing concern about the financial stability of town expenditures, particularly the use of excluded debt outside the tax rate. This also relates to retaining residents of all financial capabilities. The League raised this concern at last year's town meeting and asked the town to establish a long range capital planning committee. The Select Board appointed a capital planning task force that will make recommendations. Article 11 would appropriate funds for the recently purchased Gerow land (\$600,000), Warner's Pond dredging (\$500,000) and White Pond

improvements (\$600,000). It was noted that the Community Preservation Committee, under Article 44, also recommends approving another \$500,000 for Gerow Park and \$500,000 for Warner's Pond dredging for a total expenditure of \$2,700,000.

Much Town Meeting business and evaluation of the Warrant awaits -- Finance Committee hearings, reading the Town Annual Report and the Finance Committee Report. When appropriate, the League will pick up its review of warrant articles where we left off. *Ardis Bordman and Dorrie Kehoe, Concord Town Government Co-Chairs.*

Dorrie Kehoe



WINTER BREAKFAST REVIEW

“A Woman’s Voice” scene from the musical “The Perfect 36”



One by one, as the chorus of “A Woman’s Voice” ran its course, the women were silenced. Red silk gags were tied around their mouths to show the impact of not having the right to vote, without the 19th Amendment’s passage in Tennessee.

The League’s Winter Breakfast was held on Saturday, January 25th, at the Colonial Inn in Concord. The guest speaker, Laura Harrington, showed the video teaser of her musical, “Perfect 36,” which included “A Woman’s Voice” and the all-male chorus who belted out “We Love the Power.” League member Nancy Beeuwkes introduced Harrington as an award winning playwright and librettist who is also a member of the Cape Ann, MA League of Women Voters.

Harrington began her dialogue by reading a short story about Harry Burn, a young Tennessee legislator who changed his vote on the 19th Amendment in 1920 from “nay” to “yea” on the advice of his mother. This was the single extra vote that helped pass the Amendment and ensure ratification.

Harrington recounted her struggles to make the musical in 1996, and then having to shelve the near-finished bootleg film for 20 years, when the political climate swerved to a more receptive tone. Later in the talk, League members distributed sheet lyrics of the two lead musical pieces so that the audience could follow along as the voices swelled and then died. Harrington then showed the

Nancy Beeuwkes introduces Laura Harrington at Winter Breakfast in the Colonial Inn, Concord



“Perfect 36” video teaser and noted that the updated musical anticipates its first official performance later this summer.

Laura Harrington



Leaguer Cindy Nock also distributed Yellow Rose bookmarks to each table, reminding the attendees of the efforts of suffragists Abigail Alcott, Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and others. This program, plus the teaser, was videotaped by Minuteman Media Network and is available on-line and on TV Channel 8. *Karlen Reed.*

SPOTLIGHT ON LWVCC MEMBER: CLARE GORDON

Clarice (“Clare”) Gordon is a life-time member of the League of Women Voters and a member of the Concord-Carlisle League since 2011. Clare is quite active in the League’s work. She observes Concord’s Natural Resources Commission, she is part of the Housing Issues subcommittee of Town Government, and she is a regular attendee at the League’s First Friday programs. When she offers her opinion, people listen.

Clare is a legislative specialist for the State League (LWVMA), where she focuses on affordable housing and meeting basic human needs. She joined the LWVMA legislative action committee in 2005 and still enjoys monitoring legislation. “I work with excellent people,” said Clare, “and we are looking at 100 bills or more this year. This year, I have eight bills to watch, involving the state earned income credit, housing, homelessness rights, rental arrearage programs, and building more housing.”

She is a retired social worker, but says, “Once a social worker, always a social worker.” She graduated from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota with a degree in sociology and psychology, and then she attended Columbia University on a full-ride scholarship. There she met her future husband, George, who was pursuing his master’s degree in physics. After their marriage, they moved to Cambridge so George could get his doctoral degree in physics at MIT. Clare and George have been married for 60 years and have raised five children.

Clare Gordon



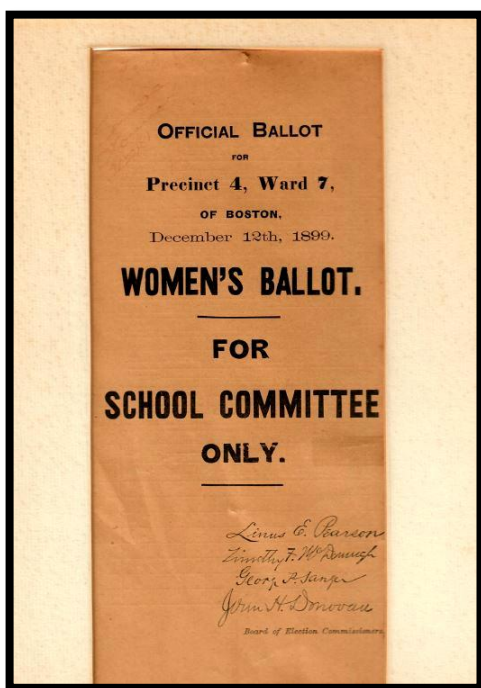
Home with her children, Clare joined the League. “The League kept me alive intellectually,” says Clare, and she noted that she has been a member of the Leagues in Wilmington, Lexington, Arlington, and Concord. Clare loves to quilt and has exhibited her works at Newbury Court, where she lives with her husband George. She is sending her quilts to the Lutheran World Relief, her favorite charity. When asked about her world view, she replied, “Think about what that person is living through. I have a lot of empathy for people.” *Karlen Reed.*

League of Women Voters of Concord Carlisle
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Concord, MA 01742-0034



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TO:



In 1899, Massachusetts women were allowed to vote only for school committee. This 1899 ballot was autographed in the top left corner by US Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in September 1981. Photo courtesy of Nancy James.