



Annual Meeting Workbook

May 2023

LWVWellesley.org | LWVMA.org | LWV.org

The League of Women Voters of Wellesley

invites you to its

85th Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Home of Marlene O'Brien

158 Glen Road, Wellesley

Letter from the President

The 2022-2023 year was a busy one for the LWV Wellesley. While still offering a robust schedule of virtual offerings, our members transitioned back to many “in-person” events. In fact, even on the coldest day of the year we had a great turnout at the library to hear from Representative Alice Peisch. Our board members have worked hard and enthusiastically on a wide range of projects, the highlights of which appear throughout this report. This years’ activities included:



Supreme Court and our Health: Our fall kickoff event featured Wendy Parmet’s talk about the decisions of the Supreme Court and the consequences to our health at a time when we see how the Court is shaping the future of American life.

Voter Service: Our voter service team enthusiastically resumed in-person voter registration drives this year, cosponsored candidate forums, organized sessions for “How to Run for Public Office”, “Meet the Candidates Night”, and Town Meeting Prep Sessions. We continued to update and produce our publications such as the *Election Guide Handbook* and the *Town Government Handbook*. An online candidate guide, a printable candidates list by district and a postcard mailed to all households in Wellesley provided voters with much needed information about elections.

Coffees/Brown Bag Lunches: With a mix of in-person and virtual meetings, we shared our coffee or lunch with various local officials, league members, and employees of the town. Michael Reidy, the Social Studies Department Chair, gave us some insight on the High School Civics Education Curriculum. We also got to meet Deborah Brown from the *Swelllesley Report* over Zoom and hear her strategies for capturing and disseminating the local news in Wellesley.

Community Book Event: Meeting in person to hear from the author Ari Berman discuss *Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America* gave us the opportunity to discuss why the right to vote is still under debate and the importance of civic engagement at all levels.

Collaboration with Other Town Groups: We partnered with the Town’s DEI Taskforce to promote a workshop led by Bird Guess: “Bigger Than Racism: Understanding Racialization and Structural Advantage in Wellesley and Beyond”. We also advocated for passage of the anti-bias resolution and equity audit proposed to Annual Town Meeting. The Book Event mentioned above gave us the chance to partner on an event with World of Wellesley. We continue to seek opportunities to work with local groups on a wide range of issues.

This year the LWV Wellesley Board instituted some changes to our board meetings and our board worth noting here. Board members each month open our meetings with a Land Acknowledgement, meant to keep us aware of our local history and those who have come before us, and also to keep us accountable to continue learning and to take action on what we learn. The statements come from a variety of sources (religious organizations, colleges, theatre productions, and books). We now have planned to hold our meetings in a public space (Wellesley Recreation Building) in order to be more inclusive. As always, all meetings are open to all members. Finally, as a board, we voted to add a position to our Elected Directors: DEI Initiatives.

As the new Board takes office, I urge all of our members to become involved as time and interest permits. Remember that we depend partially on word-of-mouth to add new members. We continue to be grateful for the support we receive from our local cable network, Wellesley Public Media, making it possible to record and occasionally live-stream our public meetings.

Thank you to this year’s Board members for your energy and hard work during the past year.

Yours for democracy,
Wendy Garber
LWVW President, 2022-2023

Annual Meeting Agenda 2023

6 pm—7 pm: Social Gathering with Pot Luck Dinner

7:15—9 pm : Business Meeting

1. Welcome & Meeting Overview
2. Appoint Committee of Three Members to Review Annual Meeting Minutes
3. Election of FY24 Officers, Directors and Nominating Committee Members (p. 4, VOTE)
4. Adoption of Local Program (p. 4, VOTE)
5. Adoption of FY24 Budget (p. 5-6, VOTE)
6. Highlights from Annual Reports (p. 7-15)
7. Directions to the Board from Members
8. Closing Remarks by New President
9. Adjournment



Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that Wellesley is part of the ancestral and traditional land of the Massachusetts people.

We commit to strengthen our understanding of the history and contemporary lives of Indigenous peoples and to steward this land.

Adapted from Wellesley College Land Acknowledgement, approved by the Wellesley College Board of Trustees in October 2021, <https://www.wellesley.edu/about/campus/landacknowledgment>

Current FY23 LWVW Board

President	Wendy Garber	Membership	Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch
Vice-President/Voter Service	Erry Johnson	Newsletter/Website	Laura Brown-MacKinnon
Vice-President/Program	Irene Flint	Social Media	Ivy Wang
Treasurer	Jenny Zannetos	Community Development	Margie Palladino
Secretary	Ellie Perkins	Legislative Envoy	Margie Palladino
Director, Program	Ann-Mara Lanza	Legislative Envoy	Bonny Nothern
Director, Program	Marguerite Chatelier	DEI	Rama K. Ramaswamy

Election of FY24 Board and Nominating Committee

The following is the nomination slate for the 2023-2024 LWVW Board of Directors and Nominating Committee as recommended by the Nominating Committee. Nominations from the floor are also in order.

Executive Board		Elected Directors	
President	Bonny Nothern	Program	Irene Flint
Vice-President, Program	Marguerite Chatelier	Program	Ann-Mara Lanza
Vice-President, Voter Service	Jen Fallon	Membership	Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch
Treasurer	Debra Codispoti	Newsletter/Website	Laura Brown-MacKinnon
Secretary	Ellie Perkins	Legislative Envoy	Margie Palladino
		DEI	Rama K. Ramaswamy
		Publicity/Marketing	Tanvi Venkata
		Social Media	Ivy Wang
		At Large	Marlene O'Brien
Nominating Committee			
Ellen Hallett			
TBD (non-Board member)			
TBD (Board member)			

-Bonny Nothern, Susan Ryan and Ellen Gibbs, 2023-24 Nominating Committee

MOTION: To elect the FY24 League of Women Voters of Wellesley Board of Directors and Nominating Committee as recommended by the FY23 Nominating Committee

Adoption of LWVW Local Program

MOTION: To re-adopt the League of Women Voters of Wellesley Local Program on pages 25-35 in the Membership Guide and Directory June 2022

League of Women Voters of Wellesley
Proposed FY'24 Budget
 July 2023 through June 2024

	Jul '23 - Jun '24
Income	
Dues	6,560.00
Fundraising	
Grants	300.00
Member Donations	2,300.00
Non-Member Donations	50.00
Phonathon	300.00
Total Fundraising	2,950.00
Interest	
Bank CDs	600.00
BOA - Checking & Savings	1.20
Total Interest	601.20
Reserves Appropriation	1,891.55
Sponsorship/Donations	
Vote411/MTCN/Postcard	4,500.00
Total Sponsorship/Donations	4,500.00
Total Income	16,502.75
Expense	
Fundraising Costs/Disbursements	
Fundraising Expenses	60.00
Total Fundraising Costs/Disbursements	60.00
Meeting Expenses	
Annual	200.00
Board Meeting Rental Space	250.00
Nat'l/State	1,500.00
Opening	300.00
Programming	500.00
Town Mtg Prep Sessions	25.00
Total Meeting Expenses	2,775.00
Operating Costs	
Annual Mtg Workbook	25.00
Board	200.00
Contributions/Honoraria	500.00
Membership/Directory	500.00
PMP - National	3,472.00
PMP - State	2,420.75
Publicity/Outreach	300.00
Total Operating Costs	7,417.75
Program & Action Advocacy	
Local	100.00
Nat'l/State	50.00
Total Program & Action Advocacy	150.00
Special/Civic Projects	
Special/Civic Projects - Other	4,200.00
WHS Book Awards	100.00
Total Special/Civic Projects	4,300.00
Voter Service	
Election Guide/Vote411	600.00
Handbooks/Election Resources	150.00
Meet the Candidates Night	500.00
Vote Signs	50.00
Total Voter Service	1,300.00
Website - LWV Wellesley	500.00
Total Expense	16,502.75
Net Income	0.00

MOTION: To approve the FY24 League of Women Voters of Wellesley Budget as recommended by the Budget Committee and approved by the Board

2023-2024 Budget Notes

Income:

- **Dues** – reflects an increase in membership by three full paying Individuals and three Individual members provided with scholarships based on the membership total of 97 Individuals (out of a total of 139 total members) provided to LWVUS on January 31, 2023.
- **Grants** – We anticipate applying for a grant from the Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education Grant program administered by the LWVMA Citizen Education Fund. This grant is awarded for citizen education and voter service events and programs.
- **Non-Member Donations** – donations from non-dues paying supporters
- **Phonathon** – percentage of funds raised during winter fundraising drive (Phonathon) for LWVMA
- **Bank CDs** – interest accrued from our two MutualOne Bank CDs. We will earn interest at 4.25% for 3.5 months and project earning 3.5% for the remaining 7.5 months of the year on this \$5,500 CD when it matures in October and we reinvest in a new CD. We also project earnings of 4.0% on a second MutualOne CD (\$10,534.78) when we roll it over in July.
- **Sponsorship/Donations – Vote411/MTCN/Postcard** – contributions from Roche Bros. and other local businesses to help pay for: Vote411.org software and the Election Guide; Meet the Candidates Night (MTCN); and a town-wide postcard mailing with a reminder of the March town election, details of MTCN and Vote411.org and voter registration information.



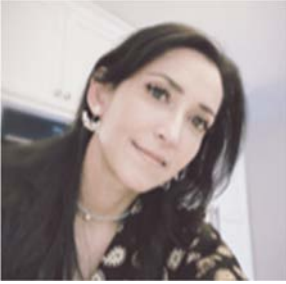
Expenses:

- **Meeting Expenses, Annual** – paper goods and rental space fee for meeting if we are unable to find a member willing to host at their home
- **Board Meeting Rental Space** – rental space for monthly board meetings at public locations such as the library should the Recreation Center not have meeting rooms available
- **Meeting Expenses, Nat'l/State** – to cover registration expenses for LWVUS Convention
- **Meeting Expenses, Program** – to cover room rental expenses for our programs/to help sponsor programs with other organizations
- **Board** – includes funds for Zoom, if needed, to hold meetings/events virtually
- **Contributions/Honoraria** – for speakers as well as a donation to State League (typically from Phonathon proceeds)
- **PMP (Per Member Payment), National/State** – based on membership as of January 31, 2023. National PMP rate remains at \$32 per individual and the State PMP rate remains at \$23 per individual.
- **Publicity/Outreach** – cost of Constant Contact (for notifications sent to members via email); publicity for events and outreach efforts to attract new members
- **Special/Civic Projects, Other** – funds for a town-wide postcard mailing to make residents aware of Vote411.org as a source for information on candidates running for town office. The postcard would also provide information about MTCN and voter registration. These funds could also be used for unforeseen needs the League would like to address.
- **Election Guide/Vote411** – to cover purchase of Vote411.org software as well as expenses to layout/print a one sheet Election Guide printout for the polls.
- **Handbooks/Election Resources** – production of Town Government Handbook provided to new Town Meeting Members and town elected officials as well as an Election Resources guide available for those running for local public office in 2024; voter registration materials.
- **Vote Signs** – cost of new sign stakes or duct tape to attach dates on VOTE yard signs
- **Website, LWV Wellesley** – includes annual cost (\$400) of MyLO, the platform for our League website, as well as annual fee for .org and .com domain names

Special thanks to the budget committee: Marguerite Chatelier, Irene Flint, Erry Johnson

-Jenny Zannetos, Treasurer

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



At the March 14, 2023 board meeting, the LWVW board added a new directorship position dedicated to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in all League activities, to begin immediately. They voted to welcome Rama K. Ramaswamy to the board as the director responsible for helping all committees integrate principles of DEI in their activities. They also voted to instruct the Nominating Committee to include the DEI position on next year's slate.

LWVW ANNUAL REPORTS

LWVW Program Report

Opening Meeting: Professor Wendy Parmet

Our Fall Opening Meeting took place on Wednesday evening, **November 7th**, on Zoom. Our speaker was Professor Wendy Parmet, co-director of the Center for Health Policy and Law at Northeastern University and a leading expert on health, disability, and public health law. The title of her talk was “Constitutional Contagion: How the Supreme Court is Making Us Unhealthy.” She discussed research for her new book on how the recent decisions of the Supreme Court are impacting healthcare, voter participation, and the environment.



Co-Sponsored Workshop: Bigger Than Racism

On **Tuesday, March 14**, we co-sponsored (with the Town of Wellesley and Babson College) a Zoom workshop titled “Bigger Than Racism: Understanding Racialization and Structural Advantage in Wellesley and Beyond.” Over 130 people joined the Zoom. The program, which featured Bird Guess of the Racial Equity Group, was also broadcast live on Wellesley Media. Mr. Guess shared the history of racialization and how historic segregation in housing has had lasting impacts on society through disparities in education, job opportunities, and exposure to the criminal justice system. A recording of the workshop has been posted on the Town of Wellesley DEI Task Force webpage.



Co-Sponsored Book Discussion: Give Us The Ballot

On **Tuesday, March 21**, we co-sponsored (with World of Wellesley, Wellesley Books, and Wellesley College) an evening with the author of *Give Us The Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America*, Ari Berman. The program took place at Wellesley College. After a brief presentation by the author, LWVW member and World of Wellesley President, Rama Ramaswamy, moderated a lively discussion with the intimate audience of 36, that included students from Wellesley High School and Wellesley College, as well as LWVW members and others.



-Ann Mara-Lanza, Program and Calendar

LWWV Program Report, continued

We had a very full year of activities for both our members and the wider community, at least twelve events. With so much to relate, we split the report into two sections.

This section covers mostly League oriented events that were for our members and any guests they might invite. We started our League year in **mid-September** with an **outdoor social event** featuring Indian food at Marguerite Chatelier's home. Next, we got down to the business of keeping our members up to date with State Climate Action legislation by having Mary Beth Martello, the Sustainability Director for the Town, at our first **Zoom Coffee**.



In **October**, our next **Zoom Coffee** was about the proposed Town Hall interior renovations. We spoke with Project Manager, Glenn Remick and Tom Ulfelder, Vice Chair of the Select Board.

One of the lamented changes in our country is the decline and disappearance of local newspapers. Across Massachusetts, both for-profit and not-for-profit enterprises have cropped up to fill the gap. In **November**, we welcomed Deborah Brown, co-editor of the *Swellesley Report*, to be our guest at our **Zoom Coffee**, for a lively discussion of the importance of local news.



As we started 2023, we decided to try an **In-Person Coffee** in **January** and met at Susan Clapham's home with Michael Reidy, Chair of the Social Studies Dept. He spoke to us about Civics Education, mostly at the High School but a bit about the 8th grade program at the Middle School.



On **February 4**, thanks to Board member Margie Palladino, the League and the Wellesley Free Library co-sponsored an **in-person meeting** in the Wakelin Room with Rep. Alice Peisch who discussed how a bill becomes a law. This was a meeting open to the general public as well as League members. The next week we did a **Zoom Coffee** with Barbara McMahon who brought League members up to date on the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). She also covered what CPC could do in the area of affordable housing in Wellesley.

March saw the return of our **Brown Bag Lunch** program when we met at Barbara McMahon's home with members of Wellesley's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force who talked about their work and Article 17 that the Select Board and School Committee are co-sponsoring at Town Meeting.



Finally, we hosted a **Zoom Coffee** on April 28 where Margie Palladino talked about Family Court Reform in Massachusetts. We also learned more about the Mass Family Advocacy Coalition, a grassroots organization based in Wellesley.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the League's activities this year!

-Irene Flint, Vice-President, Program

LWVW Voter Service Report

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS



Vote March 7th

Your vote COUNTS

Polls are open 7AM-8PM

Check our website (link in bio) to see your polling location and the link to Vote411.org for candidate statements

- Moderator
- Select Board
- Board of Assessors
- Board of Health
- Wellesley Housing Authority
- Library Trustees
- Natural Resources Commission
- Planning Board
- Board of Public Works
- Recreation Commission
- School Committee
- Town Meeting

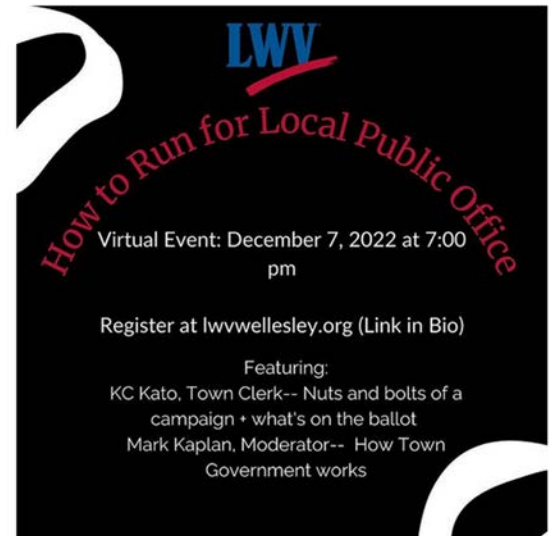
Voter Registration: To encourage voting in FY23's three elections — state primary, state midterm and the Annual Town Election in March 2023 — LWVW held in-person voter registration events at Wellesley Housing Authority sites, Waterstone, and most successfully at Wellesley High School (organized by League members Ivy Wang and Skye Jacobs, WHS'24).



Elections: The VOTES Act of June 2022 made vote-by-mail without an excuse permanent. Of Wellesley's 17,505 active voters, 26% voted in the September state primary, 69% voted in the November state election, and 25% voted in the 2023 Annual Town Election. Half of ballots were cast by mail in each election. The LWVW cosponsored three

candidate forums for Norfolk county and Governor's Council primaries and midterm elections. With the availability of Vote by Mail and improved access to public transportation, few voters took advantage of the League's Free Rides to the Polls, organized by Marguerite Chatelier. Lucy Costa organized lawn sign displays with the League logo and reminder to vote.

How to Run for Local Public Office: December 7, 2022 (virtual): featured Mark Kaplan, Moderator (how Wellesley's Town government works) and KC Kato, Town Clerk (nuts and bolts of running for office). The program was recorded and broadcast by Wellesley Media. LWVW publicized a single sheet LWV Candidate Resources 2023 with links to Town of Wellesley 2023 Election Candidate Handbook, Roadmap to Running for Office, Vote411.org and other election-related materials.



LWV

How to Run for Local Public Office

Virtual Event: December 7, 2022 at 7:00 pm

Register at lwvwellesley.org (Link in Bio)

Featuring:

- KC Kato, Town Clerk-- Nuts and bolts of a campaign + what's on the ballot
- Mark Kaplan, Moderator-- How Town Government works

Meet the Candidates Night: February 16, 2023: Meet the Candidates Night was held virtually, live-streamed and recorded for broadcast and VOD by Wellesley Media. All town-wide office candidates participated, and three retiring officials were recognized.



February 16, 2023 at 7:00 pm
Watch on cable channel 8/40 or
livestream on Wellesley Media

Do you have questions for candidates? Email
to: lwvwellesley2@gmail.com

Vote411.org Election Guide: Organized by Ann Swanson, Marguerite Chatelier and Mary Crown. Town wide and TMM candidates were profiled in Vote411.org 2023 Election Guide. The online-only Election Guide site went live just before Meet the Candidates Night.



The Election Guide, Meet the Candidates Night and general election information were publicized via an all-households postcard mailing, timed to coincide with the arrival of mail-in ballots. Funds for printing and mailing to 9500 Wellesley households were in part covered by generous corporate sponsorships from Jarvis Appliance and Roche Bros. The postcard images were posted on social media, circulated to LWVW publicity contacts and to all TMMs.



LWVW Voter Service Report, continued

Town Meeting Prep Sessions: The LWVW's Town Meeting prep session on March 25, 2023, was organized by Barbara McMahon with technical support from Brian Dupont, Wellesley's Director of IT, and publicized to TMMs by the Town Clerk. Town Meeting prep sessions are intended to be informal and conversational with no formal presentations, allowing for extended Q & A periods. The League coordinator, with input from the Advisory Committee and Town Hall, will:



- Set the agenda, identifying Town Warrant articles of greatest interest;
- Invite proponents of those articles to participate in the prep session;
- Establish a time schedule;
- Moderate the session, fielding questions and keeping time.

Town Meeting prep sessions are well attended. Not only do they help TMMs understand the issues coming before them, but the sessions are also an important tool for the proponents of articles to help understand what questions might come to them on the floor of Town Meeting.

LWVW-authored PUBLICATIONS and Voter Education Projects:

Town Government Handbook 2023: A comprehensive resource for Town Meeting Members, edited by Marjorie Freiman and Gig Babson with input from Town Departments (Fiscal Services, Human Resources, Town Clerk, Moderator) and the Select Board. The LWV sent a PDF of the Handbook to all Town Meeting Members in advance of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting. The Guide's sections cover Town organization and function, Boards and Committees, Town Meeting and the role of Advisory, the financial structure of the Town, personnel motions, how to become a public official, guidelines for committees and guidelines for conduct at Town Meeting. It is posted on the LWVW website and the Town website.

Town of Wellesley 2023 Election Candidate Handbook and Plans for FY 2024: Edited by Erry Johnson, Ellie Perkins and Jenny Zannetos with input from Town Boards, Committees and the Town Clerk. The handbook is designed to encourage participation in town government. Posted on the LWVW's website and the Town Clerk's website.

Voter Education: LWVW Video Project on Town Government: The LWV Video Project group (Lucy Costa, Erry Johnson and Ellen Gibbs, Chair) has partnered with Wellesley Media's Rama K. Ramaswamy and Paul Falcone to produce and film a new video series designed to foster a better understanding and appreciation of the role of our local Town government in the lives of Wellesley residents. Through this video series, we hope to encourage more active participation in Wellesley's town government and engagement on issues we face as a community. The first video provides a great introduction for our League's efforts: "Town Government: Why We Care." The second video, "A look back at Fuller Brook Park," focuses on the Town's Fuller Brook Park restoration project as an example of the collaborative work and results achieved by many Town entities and residents together. In the coming months, the project group expects to identify the topic of the third video, and complete production by year's end. Planning is also underway for the promotion and distribution of the series.

Plans for FY 2023:

- FY 24 Election Dates: March 5, 2024 – Presidential Primary and Annual Town Election (may be rescheduled to a different Tuesday).
- Resume live events as safety allows; expand/coordinate publicity efforts with Programs
- LWVW support for student-led initiatives at WHS
- Video project – part 3; Annual updates of LWVW publications

-Erry Johnson, Co-Vice-President, Voter Service

Treasurer's Annual Report: FY23

Account balances as of April 4, 2023:

Current Assets

Bank of America Checking/Savings

Business Advantage Fundamentals Checking \$3,174.40

Business Advantage Savings 14,365.52

MutualOne Bank CD 10,474.42 (includes interest earned through 12/31/22)

MutualOne Bank CD #2 5,500.00 (just opened 3/23/23)

Total Checking/Savings/CDs: \$33,514.34

As of April 4, 2023, the League's income year-to-date was \$11,304.60 and expenses totaled \$9,723.20 resulting in a surplus of \$1,581.39. Page 12 shows the actual income and expenses for the current fiscal year as of April 4 as well as this year's budgeted amounts.

Below are the notes regarding income and expenses for FY'23:

Income

- **Grants** – We will submit an application for a Scharfman Grant of \$300 to help cover the cost of the town-wide postcard mailing in February with town election information
- **Phonathon** – percentage of funds raised during fundraising drive for State League. Funds arrive in late spring.
- **Interest, Bank CD's** – interest earned from 1) a \$10,404.72 CD invested for 12 months earning 1.25% and 2) one \$5,234.66 CD invested for 8 months of this fiscal year at 0.65% and, upon maturity, invested in a \$5,500 CD currently earning 4.25%
- **Sponsorship/Donations - Vote 411/MTCN/Postcard** – sponsorships from Jarvis Appliance and Roche Bros. which helped cover the cost of 1) Vote411.org software, 2) an Election Guide printout available at the polls, 3) Meet the Candidates Night (MTCN) and, 4) a town-wide postcard mailing with information about the March 7, 2023 town election and related election information

Expense

- **Meeting Expenses, Nat'l /State** – these funds are available for the June 10 LWVMA Convention registrations
- **Meeting Expenses, Various Other** – expenses associated with the September Social and the *Give Us the Ballot* Community Book Read Event
- **Annual Meeting Workbook** – as Workbooks will be emailed, few, if any, expenses will be incurred
- **Board** – Zoom expenses. Currently reflects costs through mid-May
- **Contributions/Honoraria** – Donation to Northeastern University in honor of Opening Meeting speaker, Professor Wendy Parmet. Board will discuss our annual contribution to the State League at a spring board meeting.
- **Membership/Directory** – costs for dues notice mailed in fall. Membership Guide and Directory printing and mailing will likely take place and be billed in June.
- **PMP-National & State** – fourth quarter payments of \$812.00 and \$570.68 respectively will be paid this spring.
- **Publicity/Outreach** – reflects annual fee to iContact for monthly newsletter
- **Special/Civic Projects – Other** – Cost to print and mail a postcard to all Wellesley households notifying them about the town election, MTCN and Vote411.org. Cost was partially covered by sponsorships from Jarvis Appliance and Roche Bros.
- **WHS Book Awards** – book awards for two WHS juniors and two seniors
- **Election Guide/Vote411** – cost for 1) Vote411 software and 2) a one sheet Election Guide printed and available at the polls (still awaiting bill for layout work)
- **Handbooks/Election Resources** – cost for 1) handouts/publicity for voter registration event at WHS and 2) printing of Town Government Handbooks
- **Meet the Candidates Night** – most costs associated with this event were eliminated since event took place virtually
- **Naturalization Ceremonies** – ceremonies were not held in Lowell which is where we have supported past events by providing pens and flags so we will not use these funds this fiscal year
- **Website** – cost for MyLo, our website platform, as well as .com and .org domain name fees

League of Women Voters of Wellesley
Budget vs. Actual
July 1, 2022 through April 4, 2023

	Jul 1, '22 - Apr 4, '23	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Income			
Dues	5,940.00	6,400.00	-460.00
Fundraising			
Grants	0.00	300.00	-300.00
Member Donations	2,279.02	2,800.00	-520.98
Non-Member Donations	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Phonathon	10.00	300.00	-290.00
Total Fundraising	2,289.02	3,500.00	-1,210.98
Interest			
Bank CDs	74.58	60.00	14.58
BOA - Checking & Savings	1.00	1.00	0.00
Total Interest	75.58	61.00	14.58
Reserves Appropriation	0.00	434.75	-434.75
Sponsorship/Donations			
Vote411/MTCN/Postcard	3,000.00	4,500.00	-1,500.00
Total Sponsorship/Donations	3,000.00	4,500.00	-1,500.00
Total Income	11,304.60	14,895.75	-3,591.15
Expense			
Fundraising Costs/Disbursements			
Fundraising Expenses	0.00	60.00	-60.00
Total Fundraising Costs/Disbursements	0.00	60.00	-60.00
Meeting Expenses			
Annual	0.00	50.00	-50.00
Nat'l/State	0.00	530.00	-530.00
Opening	0.00	300.00	-300.00
Town Mtg Prep Sessions	0.00	25.00	-25.00
Various Other	214.42	500.00	-285.58
Total Meeting Expenses	214.42	1,405.00	-1,190.58
Operating Costs			
Annual Mtg Workbook	0.00	50.00	-50.00
Board	140.07	200.00	-59.93
Contributions/Honoraria	100.00	500.00	-400.00
Membership/Directory	190.01	500.00	-309.99
PMP - National	2,436.00	3,248.00	-812.00
PMP - State	1,712.07	2,282.75	-570.68
Publicity/Outreach	119.21	300.00	-180.79
Total Operating Costs	4,697.36	7,080.75	-2,383.39
Program & Action Advocacy			
Local	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Nat'l/State	0.00	50.00	-50.00
Total Program & Action Advocacy	0.00	150.00	-150.00
Special/Civic Projects			
Special/Civic Projects - Other	3,732.90	3,600.00	132.90
WHS Book Awards	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Total Special/Civic Projects	3,732.90	3,700.00	32.90
Voter Service			
Election Guide/Vote411	387.66	700.00	-312.34
Handbooks/Election Resources	121.89	200.00	-78.11
Meet the Candidates Night	83.00	550.00	-467.00
Naturalization Ceremonies	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Vote Signs	0.00	50.00	-50.00
Total Voter Service	592.55	2,000.00	-1,407.45
Website - LWV Wellesley	485.98	500.00	-14.02
Total Expense	9,723.21	14,895.75	-5,172.54
Net Income	1,581.39	0.00	1,581.39

League of Women Voters of Wellesley
Budget vs. Actual
 July 2021 through June 2022

	Jul '21 - Jun '22	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Income			
Dues	7,011.36	6,540.00	471.36
Fundraising			
Grants	0.00	300.00	-300.00
Member Donations	3,019.21	2,500.00	519.21
Non-Member Donations	50.00	100.00	-50.00
Phonathon	220.00	300.00	-80.00
Total Fundraising	3,289.21	3,200.00	89.21
Interest			
Bank CDs	76.21	100.00	-23.79
BOA - Checking & Savings	1.19	1.00	0.19
Total Interest	77.40	101.00	-23.60
Reserves Appropriation	0.00	3,039.23	-3,039.23
Sponsorship/Donations			
Vote411/MTCN/Postcard	4,600.00	2,000.00	2,600.00
Total Sponsorship/Donations	4,600.00	2,000.00	2,600.00
Total Income	14,977.97	14,880.23	97.74
Expense			
Fundraising Costs/Disbursements			
Fundraising Expenses	0.00	50.00	-50.00
Total Fundraising Costs/Disbursements	0.00	50.00	-50.00
Meeting Expenses			
Annual	0.00	50.00	-50.00
Nat'l/State	0.00	530.00	-530.00
Opening	100.00	200.00	-100.00
Town Mtg Prep Sessions	0.00	25.00	-25.00
Various Other	201.41	300.00	-98.59
Total Meeting Expenses	301.41	1,105.00	-803.59
Operating Costs			
Annual Mtg Workbook	0.00	150.00	-150.00
Board	160.09	200.00	-39.91
Contributions/Honoraria	300.00	500.00	-200.00
Membership/Directory	547.75	500.00	47.75
PMP - National	3,408.00	3,376.00	32.00
PMP - State	2,363.25	2,363.25	0.00
Publicity/Outreach	174.35	300.00	-125.65
Total Operating Costs	6,953.44	7,389.25	-435.81
Program & Action Advocacy			
Local	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Nat'l/State	0.00	50.00	-50.00
Total Program & Action Advocacy	0.00	150.00	-150.00
Special/Civic Projects	3,475.00	3,500.00	-25.00
Voter Service			
Election Guide/Vote411	496.25	800.00	-303.75
Handbooks	127.50	200.00	-72.50
Meet the Candidates Night	75.00	550.00	-475.00
Naturalization Ceremonies	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Vote Signs	343.98	50.00	293.98
WHS Book Awards	76.46	100.00	-23.54
Total Voter Service	1,119.19	2,200.00	-1,080.81
Website - LWV Wellesley	485.98	485.98	0.00
Total Expense	12,335.02	14,880.23	-2,545.21
Net Income	2,642.95	0.00	2,642.95

Legislative Envoy Report

Legislative Envoys serve as liaisons between their local League and the state's Legislative Action Committee (LAC). We inform local League members about League-supported state legislation and do advocacy outreach to legislators. Highlights of the League's advocacy work in the 2022-2023 legislative session ending are its support of: The VOTES Act that expanded voting access. The permanent improvements include voting by mail without an excuse, addition of early voting options, assurance that eligible incarcerated voters can request a mail ballot, the requirement that the Commonwealth join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) with 30 other states to keep voter registration rolls up-to-date, and reduction of the voter registration deadline from twenty days to ten.

- The final climate bill which has placed Massachusetts at the forefront of states working for an equitable clean energy future.
- Following the U.S. Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade in June 2022, the legislature's swift codification of protection for Massachusetts abortion providers, access to a full spectrum of pregnancy care, and making medication abortion available at public universities.
- The bill providing drivers' licenses for undocumented immigrants, which passed over the Governor's veto.
- Several basic human-needs bills that became law, including protection against students being denied hot lunches or having action taken against them due to meal debt, increased assistance to the poorest families, and establishment of a secure common application portal for all state-administered needs-based benefits and services.
- Provisions ending child marriage in the state passed as a budget amendment.

As of March 2023, the League is supporting the following bills in the 2023-2024 session: the Common Start bill to increase funding and support for childcare and early education—this bill passed in the Senate but stalled in the House last session; a bill to require public meetings which are subject to the open meeting law to include remote access and participation, as adopted during the pandemic; a bill to provide same-day voter registration that was dropped from the VOTES Act in 2022-23.

-Bonny Nothorn and Margie Palladino, Legislative Envoys

Membership Report

As of March 31, 2023, our total membership was 147: 108 Primary Members, 14 Additional Members (households with a second member), 8 Lifetime Members (LWV members for 50 years or more), and 17 Student Members. The LWV of Wellesley welcomed 35 new members, including 14 new student members, between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023. We are delighted to welcome these new members (* denotes student member):

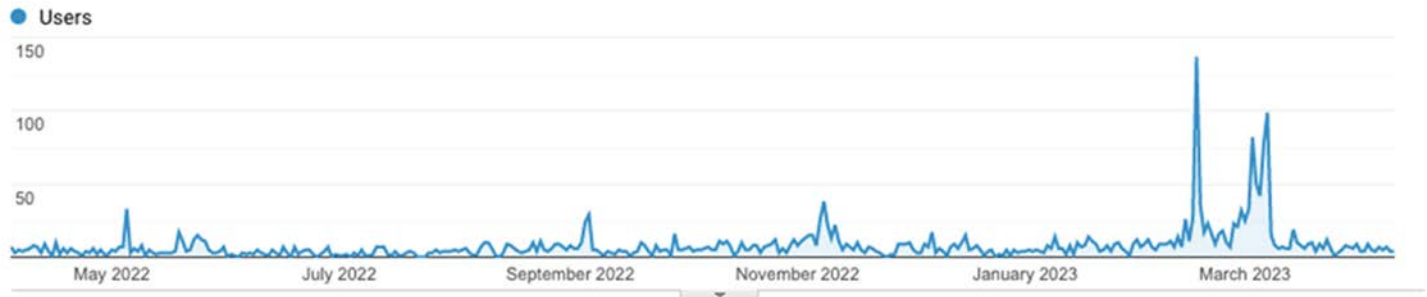
Bea Bezmalinovic Dhebar	Christina Georgakis*	Oliver Knight*	Kate Morrow*	Brooke Salasovich
Philippa Biggers	Wendy Haering	Jessica LaPlaca*	Pax Nataraja*	Richard Salasovich
Jason Bock	Diane Hemond	Emma Ling*	Laurie Ohlms	Odessa Sanchez
Bebe Cloaninger*	Sophie Hunter*	Elizabeth May	Delissa Prideaux	Emma Slibeck
Hannah Cronin*	Michelle Jacobs	Martin (Jay) McHale	Quentin Prideaux	Liz Sower
Charlotte Foreman*	Syke Jacobs*	Cade Medina*	Rama Ramaswamy	Kathleen Tumbull
Sanah Goenka*	Lori Johnson	Michelle Mollica	Emma Read*	Diana Turk

Additionally, we would like to congratulate Betsy Snyder on becoming a Life Member in 2023!

-Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch, Membership

Newsletter and Website Report

LWVW Newsletter. Our iContact newsletter is emailed approximately once per month, usually in the week following a board meeting. Currently, 207 contacts consisting of 138 Wellesley League members/students, 69 League Friends and 7 media and/or town organizations (e.g., *Wellesley Report*, *Townsmen*, Wellesley Media, Executive Director's Office) are receiving the newsletter. About 60% of the newsletter recipients open it each month. This is more than double the industry average for email newsletters. We also use iContact (and/or Evite) to publicize specific Wellesley League events, such as Opening Meeting, "Meet the Candidates Night" and our Zoom Coffees and Book Club events.



LWVW website. The Wellesley League uses the California-based MyLO platform. Any member who chooses can access the "Members Only" page, which contains private materials including member contact information and Board meeting minutes. Please contact us if you'd like to have access. The above chart is a Google Analytic depiction of the number of visitors to our website for this last year, with clear peaks observed before local elections. Our most popular pages since this past September are (in order of popularity): Home page, "Meet the Candidates Night" event/video, Elections, and Road Map to Running for Office. Special thanks to Ann Rappaport who is the originator of most of this great technology and the editor/compositor of the Annual Meeting Workbook.

-Laura Brown-MacKinnon, Newsletter & Website

Social Media Report



@LWVW_EVENTS



- Our Instagram is updated with Facebook once every few weeks, usually for our League or League-sponsored events.
- Instagram stories (temporary 24 hour posts) are a great tool for reminders and provide convenient access to links for sign ups or websites.
- The Instagram account has gained traction among the Wellesley High School community. High school teachers and students repost our graphics, especially ones about the Town Election.
- Steady monthly increase of accounts reached (people who see the posts) and accounts engaged (people who react to the posts such as liking, commenting, or sharing).
- Average of 2-5 likes per post to average of 12-15 likes per post in the span of 8 months.
- Followers increased from 102 to 120 in the span of 8 months, 7 of them are Wellesley High School students or faculty.
- Average post engages 30 followers and 30 non-followers.

-Ivy Wang, Social Media

League of Women Voters of Wellesley Annual Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2022 | 7:03-8:28 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendees:

Katie Griffith, Catherine Mirick, Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch, Wendy Garber, Margaret Palladino, Sharon Gray, Leda Eizenberg, Susan Mangiacotti, Ivy Wang, Anne Turtle, Irene Flint, Helen Stewart, Ellen Gibbs, Virginia Ferko, Lise Olney, Marlene O'Brien, Raina McManus, Kathleen Woodward, K.C. Kato, Melissa Martin, Bonny Nothorn, Katherine Kaufmann, Ellie Perkins, Jenny Zannetos, Ellen Korpi, Ellen Hallett, Laura Brown-MacKinnon, Ann-Mara Lanza, Erica Johnson, Mary Gard, Marguerite Chatelier, Elizabeth May, Andrea Lindsey, Wendy Haering. Treasurer Jenny Zannetos affirmed that there was a quorum in attendance.

1. Welcome and Meet Overview

Co-President Laura Brown-MacKinnon called the LWVW Annual Meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. She acknowledged the tragedy of gun violence and reminded attendees that the LWV has worked for decades with law enforcement and state officials to educate the public regarding the dangers of gun violence and to provide comprehensive recommendations for legislative reform, and that the work continues. She also listed the LWVMA programming priorities of:

- Fostering and promoting civic engagement,
- Improving voting access for elections,
- Addressing the climate emergency,
- Advocating for equitable access to basic human services.

Laura next explained that in order to continue advocating for justice, the LWVW Board of Directors voted in October 2021 to begin each meeting with a Land Acknowledgement. The following is the Wellesley College Land Acknowledgement as found on their website:

We acknowledge that Wellesley is built on ancestral and traditional land of the Massachusetts people. We also recognize that the United States' removal, termination, and assimilation policies and practices resulted in the forced settlement of Indigenous lands and the attempted erasure of Indigenous cultures and languages. We further acknowledge the oppression, injustice, and discrimination that Indigenous people have endured and that there is much work to be done on the important journey to reconciliation. We commit to strengthen our understanding of the history and contemporary lives of Indigenous peoples and to steward this land.

We further recognize the many Indigenous peoples living here today—including the Massachusetts, Wampanoag, and Nipmuc nations—who have rich ancestral histories in Wellesley and its surrounding communities. Today, their descendants remind us that they are still here, where they maintain a vital and visible presence. We honor and respect the enduring relationship between these peoples and this land, as well as the strength of Indigenous culture and knowledge, the continued existence of tribal sovereignty, and the principle of tribal self-determination.

Co-President Wendy Garber offered an overview of the Annual Meeting agenda, noting that Roberts' Rules of Order will be followed per the LWVW by-laws, with Ellen Hallet acting as the meeting parliamentarian. Wendy listed four action items that will be addressed at this annual meeting:

1. Formation of the Committee of Three to review the annual meeting minutes,
2. Election of FY 2023 LWVW Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee Members with amendments,
3. Adoption of the Proposed FY 2023 Budget,
4. Adoption of the Local Program with amendments.

2. Formation of the Committee of Three to review the Annual Meeting Minutes

Per tradition, a committee of three members will review the Annual Meeting minutes, taken by secretary Bonny Nothorn. Virginia Ferko, Erry Johnson, and Jenny Zannetos volunteered to review the minutes.

3. Election of FY 2023 LWVW Officers, Directors and Nominating Committee Members

LWV Wellesley Board 2022-2023 (proposed, see next page)

VOTED: to accept the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee and the current LWVW Board of Directors, with the addition of Ivy Wang as Director of Social Media.

Executive Board			
Position	Name	Email Address	Phone
Co-President	Wendy Garber	whgarber@comcast.net	781-248-4589
Co-President	TBD		
Vice President/Programs	Irene Flint	Ireneflint1@gmail.com	508-545-2374
Vice President/Voter Service	Erry Johnson	johnsonerry@gmail.com	617-571-2599
Secretary	Ellie Perkins	eperkins@wellesley.edu	781-235-2461
Treasurer	Jenny Zannetos	jzannetos@yahoo.com	781-237-0030
Elected/Appointed Directors			
Membership	Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch	nofenloch@yahoo.com	617-676-7901
Program	Marguerite Chatelier	chateliermm@yahoo.com	617-283-9016
Program	Ann-Mara Lanza	Ann-mara@comcast.net	781-235-9518
Newsletter/Website	Laura Brown-MacKinnon	lbmack98nyc@gmail.com	917-912-2625
Development/Community Outreach	Margie Palladino	mjpalladino@comcast.net	617-686-1897
Event Publicity	TBD		
Social Media Specialist	TBD		
At Large	Bonny Nothern	bonnynothern@gmail.com	978-621-6021
Membership Team			
Administrative/Membership	Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch	Nofenloch@yahoo.com	617-676-7901
Data Base Management/Membership	Deb Codispoti	Vcodispoti1@gmail.com	781-235-2316
Voter Services Team			
Meet the Candidates Night	Jenn Fallon	Jenn_fallon@yahoo.com	508-847-5775
Town Meeting Prep	Barbara McMahon	Bmh411@comcast.net	781-431-9546
Election Guide (VOTE411)	Mary Crown	mecrown@lotsoc.com	781-718-4879
Election Guide (VOTE411)	Ann Swanson	AnnsSwanson8@gmail.com	781-254-6908
Vote Sign Wrangler	Barbara McMahon	Bmh411@comcast.net	781-431-9546
Publications/Govt. Handbook	Gig Babson	k.babson@comcast.net	781-235-4081
MTCN Questions Team	Erry Johnson	johnsonerry@gmail.com	617-571-2599
Off-Board Specialists			
Nominating Committee	Susan Ryan	29ryans@gmail.com	617-872-3930
	Ellen Gibbs	efgibbs@gmail.com	781-235-7471
Legislative Envoy	TBD		
Special Project/Videos	Ellen Gibbs	efgibbs@gmail.com	781-235-7471

Laura thanked the Nominating Committee members Susan Clapham, Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch, and Katie Griffith for their work. She thanked both the new and the returning board members for their willingness to participate in the important work of LWVW. A request was made to the membership to step forward to fill the open positions of Co-President, Event Publicity, Voter Services—Candidates Guide Editor, and Legislative Envoy.

4. Adoption of FY 2023 Budget - Irene Flynn, Erry Johnson, Ann Rappaport, Jenny Zannetos.

- Projected income: \$14,895.75 from dues, donation, fundraising, investment income, and Phonathon proceeds.
- Projected expenses: \$XXXX including Per Member Payments (PMP) to national and state Leagues, operating costs such as venue fees and other program costs, Voter Services costs such as outlays for participation in naturalization ceremonies, website fees and other publicity costs.

VOTED: to accept the FY 2023 LWVW Budget as presented.

5. Adoption of Local Program

Niki proposed amending the Local Program wording to reflect the Town of Wellesley's change from Board of Selectmen to Select Board.

VOTED: To accept amending the Local Program wording to reflect the Town of Wellesley's change from Board of Selectmen to Select Board.

A brief explanation of the purpose and importance of the Local Program was offered.

VOTED: To adopt the LWVW Local Program, as amended.

6. Highlights from Annual Reports

Voter Service: Erry Johnson offered thanks to the following:

- the Vote411 Team of Ann Swanson, Marguerite Chatelier, Ann-Mara Alanza, and Mary Crowne.
- Barbara McMahon for organizing the Town Meeting Prep sessions and managing the lawn signs
- Gig Babson, editor-in-chief of the Town Government Handbook
- Marjorie Freiman for writing a new section of the Town Government Handbook
- Jenny Zannetos and Wendy Garber for editing the Candidates' Handbook
- Irene Flint for providing historical information about the League of Women Voters and the LWVW.

Erry further acknowledged that FY 2023 will be challenging due to the mid-term elections in November 2022. She reminded the membership that LWVW will co-sponsor candidate events in down-ballot races with other local Leagues. She reported that LWVUS will consider a by-law change at the up-coming national conference in Colorado which would eliminate the age restrictions around being a voting member of the League. They will discuss prioritization of a position that was adopted 52 years ago supporting the abolishment of the electoral college. She also outlined the FY 2023 Voter Services calendar. Wendy highlighted the recent consolidation of the Voter Services Steering Committee.

Programs: Marguerite Chatelier and Ann-Mara Lanza reviewed the following FY 2022 events:

- Opening Meeting featuring speaker Cathy Bueker, professor at Emmanuel College speaking on her research on immigration and citizen involvement.
- Three coffees addressing education, environment, and social issues including the debt exclusion vote for the elementary school building projects, the town water issues regarding PFAS and ground water run-off, and the role of land acknowledgements in recognizing the injustices done to Native Americans.

Video Project: Ellen Gibbs described the video series project which is part of voter education under Voter Services. The first video, "Why Town Government Matters", is in production. It is being produced by Rama Ramaswamy, and filmed and edited by Wellesley Media. The goals of the project include:

- improving voter literacy regarding Wellesley town government,
- increasing civic connection, empowerment, and engagement,
- and promoting more active participation in town government and elections.

7. Directions to the Board

There was a discussion of what responsibility LWVW has for fact checking candidates' self-reported credentials. The LWVW candidate events are not debates but are rather opportunities for the public to hear the candidates speak and to become educated about the information the candidates provide about themselves. The consensus was that no fact checking is planned at this time but a disclaimer will be emphasized regarding the role of the LWVW in providing a platform. Appreciation was expressed for LWVW's support for the recent successful Accessory Dwelling Unit by-law initiative.

8. Closing Remarks

Wendy Garber offered a memorial tribute to recently deceased LWVW member Catherine Johnson. Catherine was described as a beloved member of the League community who acted as a one-person Observers Corps providing updates on the activities of the Wellesley Planning Board, as well as providing much-valued counsel to the LWVW.

9. Adjournment

Wendy expressed her thanks to outgoing Co-President Laura for a wonderful year. The next Board Meeting will be in-person and virtual on June 14, 2022 12:30—2:30 p.m. at the home of Wendy Garber.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonny Nothern, Secretary