



### 2019-2020 LWVW Calendar (through March)



**Tuesday, January 7, 2020, 1 - 3 pm: Board Meeting** at the home of Anne Rippe Turtle. All members welcome!

**Friday, January 24, noon - 2 pm: Brown Bag Lunch with Sean Barnicle, Director of the Wellesley Housing Authority** (snow date:

January 31). Location TBD. All members welcome!



**Thursday, January 30, 7 pm, No Place Like Home: Attainable, Affordable and Sustainable Housing - in Our Town?** at the Wakelin Room, Wellesley Free Library (see below).

**Tuesday, February 11, 1 - 3 pm: Board Meeting** at the home of Tanya Roy. All members welcome!

**Wednesday, February 12: Deadline to register to vote in the Presidential Primary**

**Tuesday, March 3: Presidential Primary**

**Tuesday, March 10, 1 - 3 pm: Board Meeting** at the home of Ann-Mara Lanza. All members welcome!

**Thursday, March 12, 6:30 - 8:30 pm: Meet the Candidates Night** at the Wellesley Middle School auditorium (new location this year). Free and open to the public.



**Tuesday, March 17: Town Elections**

**Monday, March 30, 7 pm: First night of Annual Town Meeting** at the Wellesley Middle School Auditorium

**No Place Like Home: Attainable, Affordable, and Sustainable Housing - in Our Town?**

**January 30, 7 pm**  
**Wellesley Free Library, Wakelin Room**

Join the LWVW and Wellesley Free Library with co-sponsors Building Better Wellesley; TBE Racial Justice Initiative; Sustainable Wellesley; World of Wellesley; Wellesley Council on Aging; Wellesley Village Church; Our Affordable Wellesley and UU Wellesley Hills for an expert panel which will give **an overview of the state of attainable housing in Massachusetts**.



Young families, seniors, and people of moderate incomes are unable to move to – or stay in – our town. What does this mean for Wellesley’s future? Hear different perspectives on the challenges and benefits of creating diverse housing. Then, join in the community conversation on what we can do to create a broader range of housing choices in Wellesley for the long-term health of our community.

**Panelists:**

- Eric Shupin, Director of Public Policy, Citizens Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA) - Describing the state of housing in MA
- Amy Dain, Consultant, Dain Research - Reporting on two years of research into the regulations, plans and permits in the 100 cities and towns surrounding Boston
- Shelly Goehring, Senior Program Manager, Massachusetts Housing Partnership - Sharing the benefits and challenges for our community
- Rebecca Winterich-Knox, Net Zero Organizer, Massachusetts Climate Action Network - Focusing on sustainable considerations and impact on climate

***LWVW: Making a Difference in Lowell***



**By Erry Johnson**

(Selfie, back row L to R: Tanya Roy, Kim Maire, Erry Johnson, Ellen Hallett, Ellie Perkins; Front Row: Raina McManus, Kathie Clay; Missing: Melissa Martin)

On November 19, eight volunteers from LWV of Wellesley brought their experience and energy to the naturalization ceremony in Lowell, organizing a team of twelve to welcome 748 new citizens. As these new Americans achieve the constitutional rights of citizenship, the League is there to help them accomplish their first act as new citizens: registering to vote. The citizenship candidates represented ninety-four countries ("Afghanistan to Zimbabwe"). While some opted to take their forms home and others took information for online voter registration, 56% returned paper forms, which the League then forwards town clerks in the nearly 70 communities across the state.

Nearly half of the Wellesley league's 117 members actively help out with voter service events, and twenty-five members regularly volunteer for voter registration events, either locally in Wellesley or in Lowell. Wellesley volunteers were present in Lowell when *Time Magazine* came to photograph newly sworn-in citizens for an article on immigration, "We do not come to America empty-handed", June 3-10, 2019, and the *Townsmen* covered the LWV Wellesley's work at a naturalization ceremony last January. For volunteers, witnessing the ceremonies is a deeply moving experience.

2020 will be a busy election year with four elections (presidential primary, town election, state primary and general election). The deadline to register to vote in the presidential primary is February 12.

Upcoming voter registration events:

- Monday, January 27, 10 – 11:30 am, Waterstone at Wellesley, River Room (open to the public)
- Tuesday, February 4, student registration at Wellesley High School Cafeteria, 10:45 am – 12:30 pm
- Lowell naturalization ceremonies in 2020: February 19, June 10 and August 19.

Please let me know if you're interested in any particular dates. Thanks to our many volunteers for their enthusiastic support!

### ***Wellesley League's Holiday Party***





Many thanks to Susan for hosting the LWVW's annual holiday party!  
Photo credit: Tanya Roy

### ***Thank You, Kim!***



Many thanks to Kim Maire for all her great work to get the word out about LWVW activities, including producing newspaper stories and colorful flyers for upcoming events, and enabling LWVW events to be recorded for broader use. The Board has regretfully accepted Kim's resignation as Director of Marketing & Publicity; her family travel schedule has made it challenging to manage her board responsibilities from the other side of the world. The Marketing & Publicity position is a great opportunity to be involved with the LWVW, to put your writing and communication skills to use, and to help keep our League current and meaningful. If you might be interested in this position, please contact [Susan Clapham](#) or [Ellen Hallett](#), or another board member, and we can give you more information about what is involved.

### ***Local and State League Events and Information***

#### **Interested in Moderator Training?**

LWVMA is planning to hold training sessions for members interested in becoming moderators in January and February. One session will be on the South Shore; the other will be where demand is greatest. If you would be interested in participating in such a training session, please contact board member [Elizabeth Foster-Nolan](#), who is coordinating our moderator program.

#### **Progress Update**

Two of our bills passed both chambers of the legislature just before they recessed for the holidays and, at press time, Governor Baker has signed these bills:

- The Student Opportunity Act reforms the education funding formula and significantly increases the amount of state money available for school districts. This bill from the Joint Committee on Education replaced the Promise Act, which we initially supported.
- The distracted driving bill bans the use of handheld devices while driving. The version that passed replaced [S2120](#) which we initially supported.

A third bill, [H591/S267](#), to offer "breakfast after the bell," so more students receive breakfast at school, passed the House and was sent to the Senate.

## People Powered Fair Maps successes this fall

Leagues across the country **are working state-by-state** to close the door on federal challenges to partisan gerrymandering—the practice of drawing districts with an overwhelming voter registration advantage to minimize competitive elections.

- LWV of Oklahoma **filed an initiative petition to end gerrymandering** in the state, saying that Oklahomans deserve to have fair and equal representation across the state, and partisan gerrymandering is keeping that from happening.
- LWV of Oregon **filed three redistricting petitions** that would create a nonpartisan citizens panel to handle redistricting for congressional and legislative seats in Oregon. “The Legislature has a conflict of interest in the process,” said the president of LWV of Oregon, “and they would be tempted to bias the results to favor one party or another.”
- LWV of Nevada **filed a constitutional amendment** with the Nevada secretary of state that, if approved by voters in 2020 and again in 2022, would create a bipartisan independent redistricting commission. Moving the power of redistricting to a bipartisan board and out of the hands of the Legislature would create a more stable system, avoid potential future litigation over gerrymandering, and give more people a reason to cast a ballot.

### *2019-2020 Board of Directors*

**Susan Clapham** - Co-President  
**Ellen Hallett** - Co-President/Secretary  
**Ann-Mara Lanza** - Vice-President, Program  
**Erica (Erry) Johnson** - Vice-President, Voter Service  
**Jenny Zannetos** - Treasurer  
**Irene Flint** - Director, Program & Calendar  
**TBD** - Director, Marketing & Publicity  
**Ann Rappaport** - Director, Newsletter & Website  
**Tanya Roy** - Legislative Envoy  
**Anne Rippy Turtle** - Membership