

Member Newsletter

December 2023

For Your Calendar: LWVWellesley's Upcoming Events

Tues. Jan. 9 Board Meeting -12:30 - 2:30 pm Warren Bldg.

Sat. Jan. 27 Voter Education Session/ Vote16 10 - 11:30 am -Warren Bldg. Room 008

Tues. Feb. 13 Board Meeting -12:30 - 2:30 pm Warren Bldg.

Thurs. Feb. 15 Meet the Candidates Night - 7 pm - Wakelin Room, Main Library

Tues. March 5 Presidential Primary & Town Election Day

Tues. March 12 Board Meeting -12:30 - 2:30 pm Warren Bldg.

Fri. March 15 Brown Bag Lunch - Town Meeting topic (TBD)

Tues. April 9 Board Meeting -12:30 - 2:30 pm Warren Bldg.

Thurs. April 25 Book Discussion of *Just Action* with wine & cheese 7 - 9 pm

-For all scheduled events, please visit our website [calendar](#) .

Vote16

SAVE THE DATE - Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024 from 10 - 11:30 am at the Warren Building

Join us to learn about VOTE16, a relatively new national movement about reducing the voting age to 16. This will also be an opportunity to meet several of our HS student members.

More information in the January newsletter.

LWVW Book Event -Save the Date & Read the Book

This coming April, our League will read the book *Just Action: How to Challenge Segregation Enacted Under the Color of Law* by Leah Rothstein (Author), Richard Rothstein (Author) and then come together in community to discuss it. Published in June 2023, this book is written by the daughter-father team of Leah Rothstein, housing policy expert, and Richard Rothstein, author of the highly influential book *The Color of Law* which refutes the segregation myth that white and black Americans live separately by choice. *Just Action..* explores the solutions to the entrenched inequality that still exists today. Borrow it through the Minuteman network or consider buying it at one of our lovely local independent bookstores. Give it to yourself for Christmas and then join us this spring to talk about it!

Please stay tuned for more information on the where and when of this event. And check our website [calendar](#) for updates.

Reports from your LWVW Executive Board:

Come to Our Next LWVW Board Meeting!

Join us for our next board meeting on Tuesday January 9, 12:30-2:30 p.m. We meet in Room 008 at the Warren Building 90 Washington Street and all members are welcome. The business of the meeting starts at 12:30 but many of us get there at noon with our lunches for social time and informal discussions of League events. It really is lots of fun! Give me a call or text at 978-621-6021 if you have any questions.

Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy!
Bonny Nothorn
President
[Click here to email me.](#)

[LWW Membership Updates](#)

Welcome to our new member: Ann Sattler-Walker

Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch,
Director, Membership

[Empowerment Through Inclusion: LWW's Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Digest](#)

In our recent board meeting, we passionately delved into a meaningful DEI discussion, a culmination of months of dedicated learning. With authenticity as our guide, members shared transformative experiences in weaving newfound knowledge into their League-related endeavors. From abandoning the pressure to conform and embracing wearing one's hair in natural curls at board meetings, our board members are forging an authentic sense of belonging within our community.

Our commitment extends beyond self-expression; it resonates in tangible actions. We've transcended mere discussions, for example by ensuring equitable access for the Barton Road neighborhood to voter registration and same-day early voting— a testament to our league's dedication to creating access for people in an areas in which these essential rights are challenging to pursue.

As our league expands its tapestry of diversity and amplifies advocacy, our members are fervently engaging with various Wellesley organizations, catalyzing a profound sense of belonging.

A testament to this collaboration is our upcoming participation in **World of Wellesley's annual MLK day breakfast and family program on January 15, 8 am-10:30 am and 10:30 am- 12 noon, respectively (for more details please see worldofwellesley.org).** It's not just an event; it's a shared commitment towards community-wide inclusion and belonging. Please save the date and consider attending, as we collectively shape a future that reflects the richness of diversity and the ideals of social justice.

Warmly,
Rama K. Ramaswamy
Director, DEI

[November-December Programs](#)

Public Forum: MBTA Communities Requirements 11/30/23

In response to our state's housing crisis, the State passed legislation in 2021 that requires each community with access to mass transit, to create zones where multifamily housing can be built. Why is this an important State initiative? How is Wellesley responding to this new requirement? Where will these multifamily zones be located? What changes will we need to make to our current zoning? Wellesley is facing the 2024 deadline to comply. Meghan and Eric will share their draft plan, answer questions, and solicit comments from the community. The Town goal is to submit the plan for approval at the March 2024 Annual Town Meeting.

Meghan Jop, Executive Director of General Government Services, and Eric Arbeene, Planning Director, were our key-note speakers in this important community dialogue. We had a great turn out. Seventy people attended live. If you missed this event, you can view it [here](#) (thanks to Wellesley Media.)

We are looking forward to seeing you all at our upcoming programs. Please [click here to email me](#) your ideas for field trips, coffees, more book discussions, and other community building events.

Thank you!
Marguerite Chatelier, VP Program

December Voter Services

LWVW: How to Run for Public Office

The League of Women Voters of Wellesley held an information session for anyone interested in running for Town Meeting or one of Wellesley's Boards on Dec 6, 2023. Our moderator Jennifer Fallon (LWVW VP Voter Services) was joined by Christina Horner (School Committee), Michael D'Ortenzio (Natural Resource Commission), and Jeff Wechsler (Board of Public Works). Each of these folks have run successfully for office in our Town Election. They shared how and why they did this so that you can too. If you missed this event (it was awesome) then please view the video [here](#). Share it with anyone else you think should run for office in our town. Volunteers for Voter Services are always needed. We have some really exciting events coming up. Get involved! We would love to have you. Please [click here to email me](#) to volunteer.

Thank you!
Jenn Fallon, VP Voter Service

Legislative Progress

As of mid-November, most of the 173 bills that are being followed by the LWVMA legislative specialists had hearings before the relevant committees. We are now expecting a major uptick in action in January, especially before the February 7 reporting deadline (though committees may request and are often granted additional time). As we are asked by the state league to contact our state legislators (Rep. Alice Peisch and Sen. Cynthia Creem) to support specific bills starting in January, we will reach out to our Wellesley chapter members who have expressed interest in those areas of legislation to do the same. It is important that we reach out to our legislators as soon as we are asked; and that we personalize our communication to our legislators as much as possible, though any communication is better than none. We look forward to a flurry of advocacy activity continuing through the spring and summer of 2024 with a rush to the finish line by the end of the formal session on July 31, 2024. If you have any questions or want to become more involved in legislative advocacy, feel free to contact me. [Click here to email me.](#)

Thank you!
Margie Palladino, Legislative Envoy

LWVW Creative Opportunity:

We are seeking members to take pictures at our live events to help support the creative content of our newsletter and website. When you are able to attend our gatherings, please take some snaps and email them to us. We're more than happy to give photo credits. Email all submissions to lwwellesley2@gmail.com.

League of Women Voters of Wellesley Executive Board

Bonny Nothern, President

Ellie Perkins, Secretary

Marguerite Chatelier, VP Program

Jenn Fallon, VP Voter Services

Debra Codispoti, Treasurer

League of Women Voters of Wellesley Elected/Appointed Directors

Rama K. Ramaswamy, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging
Margie Palladino, Legislative Envoy
Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch, Membership
Laura Brown-MacKinnon, Newsletter/Website
Irene Flint, Program
Ann-Mara Lanza, Program
Tanvi Venkata, Publicity & Marketing
Ivy Wang, Social Media
Marlene O'Brien, At Large

For more information, visit us at <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/wellesley>

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