

# Member Newsletter

## January 2024

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### For Your Calendar: LWVWellesley's Upcoming Events

Mon. Jan. 15 MLK Day Breakfast and Lecture presented by World of Wellesley  
Sat. Jan. 20 LWV MetroWest Service Meeting via Zoom  
Sat. Jan. 27 Voter Education Session/ Vote16 10 - 11:30 am -Warren Bldg. Room 008  
Sun. Jan. 28 Book signing *What Works in Community News* at Lasell Village  
Tues. Jan. 30 LWVUS Advocacy 101 via Zoom  
Tues. Feb. 13 Board Meeting -12:30 - 2:30 pm at Warren Bldg.  
Thurs. Feb. 15 Meet the Candidates Night - 6:30 pm at Wakelin Room, WPL  
Tues. March 5 Presidential Primary & Town Election Day  
Tues. March 12 Board Meeting -12:30 - 2:30 pm at Warren Bldg.  
Fri. March 15 Brown Bag Lunch - Town Meeting topic (TBD)  
Tues. April 9 Board Meeting -12:30 - 2:30 pm at Warren Bldg.  
Thurs. April 25 Book Discussion of *Just Action* with wine & cheese 7 - 9 pm  
Wed. May 15 ANNUAL MEETING! Place and time TBD  
-For all scheduled events, please visit our website [calendar](#) .

New year, new opportunities to learn more about the League of Women Voters and how to get involved....Join us!!!

### LWVUS National Event: ADVOCACY 101 FOR LOCAL LEAGUES

How can your local League take action at the local, state and national levels on issues that matter? When can your League weigh in on town warrant articles or city council petitions? Do you need to conduct a study? What are the guidelines for working on state bills? How do you advocate on national issues? Join us on Tuesday, January 30, at 7:00 PM via Zoom for **Advocacy 101 for Local Leagues** featuring Jessica Jones Capparell, Director of Government Affairs for the League of Women Voters of the US (LWVUS). Whether you are a new or a longstanding LWVMA member, this can't-miss program promises to answer all of your questions. [Register here.](#)


**LWVMA's Meet the Specialists programs** offer members the chance to take a deep dive into the state level bills we support in a topic area


- Affordable Housing: January 17
- Health Care: January 31

For more information and to register to join these events [read more here.](#)


**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF MASSACHUSETTS

# BOOK SIGNING








**Ellen Clegg**  
Former Editor,  
The Boston Globe



**Dan Kennedy**  
Professor of Journalism,  
Northeastern University

**Sunday, January 28 | 3-4:30 PM**  
Lasell Village, 120 Seminary Ave, Aburndale, MA 02466

Space is limited. Register: [www.tinyurl.com/3zef7rf3](http://www.tinyurl.com/3zef7rf3)  
Suggested donation to LWVMA is \$20 per attendee.  
\*Snow date: Sunday, February, 25th

## LWVMA: Jan. 28 Book Signing Event

“What Works in Community  
News”

Please join us at Lasell Village on Sunday, January 28th from 3-4:30pm for a book signing event featuring Ellen Clegg and Dan Kennedy. Space is limited. Click [here](#) to register now. A \$20 donation per attendee is suggested.

## Reports from your LWVWellesley Executive Board:

### January 2024 is busy for the League of Women Voters!

Many of us will be attending the MLK Day breakfast and speaker event organized by our own Rama Ramaswamy for World of Wellesley. We have all the major age demographics covered this month, with some of our youngest members presenting a Saturday morning information session on lowering the voting age to 16 and our co-sponsorship of a Sunday afternoon book-signing event at the Lasell Village senior living. If you are going to either event and would maybe like to carpool, [let us know](#). As we all know, everything is more fun together. LWVMA will be sponsoring Zoom events including sessions on **affordable housing** and **off-shore wind**, among others. If you would like to attend this virtual meeting and find out what our neighboring Leagues are doing, just [let us know](#) and we will send you a link.

It's not too soon to be looking ahead to February. The board meeting on Tuesday February 13 (bring your lunch at noon and stay for the meeting starting at 12:30) is a great opportunity to enjoy the company of your fellow Leaguers. **Meet the Candidates Night on Thursday February 15th** in the Wakelin Room should be a major draw with many contested races. Note that we will be starting a half hour early at 6:30 P.M. to help accommodate the impressive field of candidates. [Contact us](#) if you would like to help with the logistics of this very important League event.

Are you signed up to work at the polls on March 5<sup>th</sup> for the state and national primaries and town election? There is a record number of contested seats for town-wide office and there are Town Meeting members to be voted in. Bravo to everyone who is participating in local politics by running for the important committees and boards that keep Wellesley government operating. We are hoping for a good turn out and help will be needed at the polls. Please [contact Jill Dube](#) in the Town Clerk's office to volunteer.

In short, we are starting 2024 off with plenty of opportunities to learn and get involved in the important work of empowering voters and defending democracy. We hope to see you in January.

Bonny Nothern  
President

[Click here to email me.](#)

## LWW Membership Updates

Welcome to our new member:

Owen Shorris

Baya Wozny

Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch,  
Director, Membership

## Empowerment Through Inclusion: LWW's Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Digest

Monday 1/15/24 8-10:30 A.M. Breakfast with speaker  
Wellesley College Timmons Common  
\$30 at door or reserve at [worldofwellesley.org](http://worldofwellesley.org).  
Free seats available



LWW is very excited to support World of Wellesley's important work in our community in any way we can. WOW's annual MLK day breakfast and family program is today, January 15, 8 am-10:30 am and 10:30 am- 12 noon, respectively (for more details please see [worldofwellesley.org](http://worldofwellesley.org)).

It's not just an event; it is a shared commitment towards community-wide inclusion and belonging. Bonny Nothern, our LWW president will be sharing a statement about what Dr. King's legacy means to us, crafted with the assistance of LWW's Executive Board.

Warmly,  
Rama K. Ramaswamy  
Director, DEI

## January Programing

**Vote16** Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024 from 10 - 11:30 am at the Warren Building/

Are you curious about the movement to lower the voting age to 16? LWW Wellesley is sponsoring an informational presentation for League members and their friends to hear from two very knowledgeable and ardent supporters of the movement, Anya Khera and Skye Jacobs. They have put together a slide show detailing the arguments for extending voting rights to residents ages 16 and up.

As you may know, younger residents of our town are Town Meeting Members and as such have voting rights in that chamber of our town government. Come hear about the progress of the Vote16 movement locally and nationally.

As you may also know, LWV Massachusetts and LWVUS have not yet taken any position on this matter, nor has LWV Wellesley. However, our neighbor to the north **LWV Maine has taken a position in support of this movement**. We look forward to hearing from Allyson Gardner from LWV Maine about their process and results. **CLICK HERE** to read about LWV Maine's Voting Age and results.

This is our golden opportunity to become more educated about the Vote16 movement, as well as to find out what is important to these young residents as they work to have a positive impact on the town, state, and country they are inheriting.

Topics to be covered include

- The Case for Change
- Debunking Myths
- Case Studies
- The Advocacy Process in Massachusetts
- Experiences of Other Leagues
- The Path Forward

Bring your friends to this quick, concise introduction to the Vote16 movement. Light refreshments and coffee will be offered.

For more information, contact LWVW [by email](#) or call 781-591-2033.

## 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.

Thank you!  
Marguerite Chatelier, VP Program

## [Voter Services](#)

### [Video for 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.

## LWVW: MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT

Thursday February 15, from 6:30pm - 8:30pm, LWVW will host our annual *MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT in-person* at the Wellesley Free Library's Wakelin Room. Don't miss the opportunity to join us for an information-filled evening as our candidates running for local office in Wellesley make presentations and answer questions from the audience. For more information, please see our [website](#).

## Annual Town Election/Presidential Primary March 5, 2024

For candidate and voter information including key registration dates, early voting and vote-by-mail options please see our town clerk's [website](#).

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

Please join us for any of these events. We can't wait to learn more about you and what issues you care most about.

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### 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.lvw.org/massachusetts/wellesley>



League of Women Voters of Wellesley | 130 Oakland Street, Wellesley, MA 02481

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