

Member Newsletter

March 2024

For Your Calendar: LWWellesley's Upcoming Events

Thurs. March 21 Annual Town Meeting Prep Session 7pm at Police Station

Mon. March 25 Wellesley's 2024 Annual Town Meeting Begins 7pm at WHS

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

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

Wed. May 15 LWW ANNUAL MEETING! 7pm at the home of Marlene O'Brien ([Email to RSVP](#))

Tues. June 11 Board Meeting -12:30 - 2:30 pm at Warren Bldg. -all welcome

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

Explore these opportunities to learn more about the League of Women Voters of Wellesley.

Join us!!!



You were represented!

Your LWW president Bonny Nothern (kneeling) attended a civic engagement event for middle school, high school and college students on Saturday March 9th

at the Lynn Museum/Lynn Arts, co-sponsored by LWVMA and featuring a presentation by Freddie Kay, Founder and president of Suffrage 100 MA ([click here to see her presentation](#)), as well as a panel discussion featuring the following panelists:

- Youth Changers! with Lena Crowley, Director of Teen and Middle School Programs, Girls, Inc. of Lynn
- What it Takes to Run for Office with Nicole McClain, Councilor At-Large for the City of Lynn and Adriana Paz, Campaign Manager.
- Standing in Our Power: Women of Color Leading Change with Gail Jackson-Blount, Jackson Communications and Vice President, Eastern Region, Massachusetts Women of Color Coalition (MAWOCC)



LWW's Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Digest

In a notable collaboration, our league participated in commemorating National Women's Day, orchestrated by the WHS Diversity Club and graciously sponsored by the World of Wellesley. The event featured an enlightening address by Victoria A. Budson, Partner and Head of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Bain Capital. She leads Bain Capital's DEI strategy and execution as it relates to recruitment, development, culture, and community across the firm and in support of its portfolio companies.

At the board meeting:

One of the skills we are hoping to develop through our monthly DEI explorations is the ability to be aware of the dynamics of belonging in the various gatherings we each attend. Board members were given the opportunity to think about a time when we felt accepted and "at home" in a particular group. This exercise helped us question why we felt a sense of belonging. By extension, we hope to consider how we can cultivate an atmosphere of belonging in all our League activities.

From LWVMA's March Action Newsletter:

March is Women's History Month. Read LWVMA's tribute to Women in History. <https://lwwma.org/diversity-equity-inclusion-corner-2/>

Upcoming Programming

TODAY! Annual Town Meeting Prep Thursday March 21 @ 7pm

Huge thank you to Barbara McMahon for organizing our annual Town Meeting Prep session on Thursday March 21 at 7 pm at Wellesley's Police Station. The main goal of this event is to give Town Meeting members an opportunity to hear about the warrant articles slated for consideration at Town Meeting, on March 25-17 and April 1-3 at WHS. However, all residents are welcome. This is your chance to learn more about how our newly elected town officials and Town Meeting members are preparing for their local office.

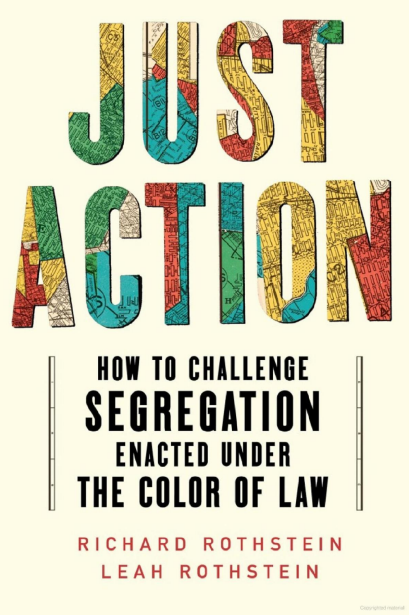
Notable warrant articles this year include:

- A request for Community Preservation Act funds for the design of the Morses Pond bathhouse and beach (Article 17).
- A request for funding for a streetscape design of Wellesley Square (Article 23).
- The MBTA Communities Zoning Bylaw amendment (Article 40).
- A Zoning map amendment to add a Residential Incentive Overlay (RIO) to 194, 196 Worcester Street and 150 Cedar Street (Article 42).
- A Citizen Petition asking Town Meeting to authorize a Special Act to provide voting rights in local elections for residents 16 and 17 years old. (Article 48).

More information about the Town Meeting warrant articles is available from the Advisory Committee. Its annual report is available [here](#). The committee is made up of 15 community members who are appointed by the Town Moderator to study warrant articles in detail and give background information and recommendations to Town Meeting members. The Advisory Committee report is sent to all Town Meeting members.

LWW Book Event -Thursday April 25 @ 7pm

Join us for wine and cheese and a community discussion of the book ***Just Action: How to Challenge Segregation Enacted Under the Color of Law*** by Leah Rothstein and Richard Rothstein. Published in June 2023, this book is written by the daughter-father team with Leah Rothstein, a 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 at the Wellesley Free Library through the Minuteman Network or consider buying it at one of our lovely local independent bookstores and join us. Together, we will gather at the home of Marguerite Chatelier, 11 Colburn Road. Did we mention that wine and cheese will be served? We're looking forward to seeing you all. [Email](#) or [call/text](#) us to RSVP.



Voter Service

Call for Volunteers! (Activists?/Democracy Defenders?)

We are looking for LWVW members who will commit to helping with one of the various Voter Services events in the upcoming May 2024-May 2025 year.

We are planning to assemble “event teams” to help implement such annual events as:

- 1) Voter Registration Drives (Sept.) Meet the Candidates Night (February)
- 2) Distributing VOTE! signs strategically around town at election time (Oct., March)
- 3) How to Run for Local Public Office (early Dec.)
- 4) Meet The Candidate Night (Feb.)

We seek your collaboration!

Join any one of our “event teams” for the 2024-25 year.

Please [email](#) or [call/text](#) us if you would like more information.

More to Be Proud of.....

Town Government Handbook

Every year, the LWV prepares and distributes an updated Town Government Handbook after the Annual Town Election to the new crop of Town Meeting Members. It really is the nuts and bolts of how Wellesley works. The editors are never publicly recognized as this is a publication LWVW produces for our town government, but just for members' info, the editorial team of LWVW members this year included Gig Babson, Marjorie Freiman and Erry Johnson. Gig was one of the original authors/editors in 1976. See their handiwork [on our website in our publications section](#).



"How do I get a LWVW VOTE yard sign?"

- Please let us know if you would like a LWVW VOTE sign by [emailing](#) us or by [calling/texting](#) us at 781-591-2033. Do you need a new frame? (It's easy to bend them!) Let us know about your sign needs and we will deliver whatever you need.
- Do you have a vintage sign? Email or text us a picture to share in future newsletters and on our website.
- **REMINDER:** League signs can't be put in the yard if there are any candidate signs of any kind. If you have signs in your yard concerning an issue, it's best to check with the board or president by [email](#) or [phone/text](#) at 781-591-2033 to see about whether LWVW/LWVMA/LWVUS have taken affirmative positions on your issue before putting out the LWV sign.

LWVUS 2024 Convention - REGISTRATION IS OPEN

LWVUS Convention is taking place in Washington, DC June 27 - June 30, 2024 and will be a hybrid event. [HERE](#) is the Convention webpage where you will find all of the information including registration costs (\$550 for in-person and \$125 for virtual), hotel blocks, etc., and [HERE](#) is the registration page. Based on the size of our membership, LWV of Wellesley is entitled to send three voting delegates. But we would love to have even more attendees from Wellesley. Many members who have attended the national convention in the past report that it was a life-changing experience. Please [email](#) or [call/text](#) us if you would like more information about joining our LWVW contingent, either in-person or remotely.

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

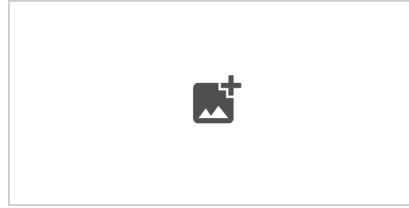
Laura Brown-MacKinnon, Newsletter/Website

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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