

# Member Newsletter

## May 2024

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

Wed. May 29 LWVMA Town Hall Parliamentarian Training (see below).

Tues. June 11 Board Meeting -12:30 - 2:30 pm at Warren Bldg. -all welcome, [contact Bonnie Nothern](#) for details and for Zoom link.

Sat. June 22 LWVMA Council Meeting, Virtual (see below).

Thurs. June 27 - Sun June 30 LWVUS Convention, Washington DC & Virtual (see below).

Thurs. July 18 LWVW Board Planning Meeting .

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

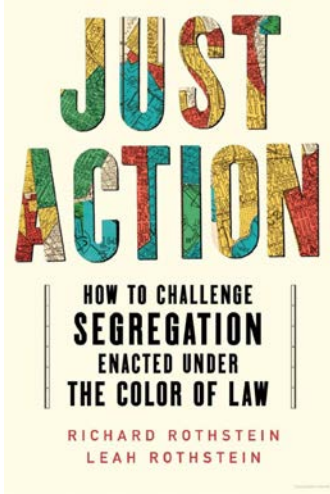


### Thank you for coming to Annual Meeting!

It was wonderful to see everyone at the Annual Meeting. Marlene O'Brien is an amazing host and we owe her a great debt of gratitude. Irene Flint kept track of the guest list and the potluck sign up, Laura sent out the Annual Meeting Workbook....it was very much a group effort. Thank you all..

### LWVWellesley 2023-2024 Wrap Up

Your League was represented at events around the state and our in-town event schedule was robust, including coffees and our signature How to Run and Meet the Candidates Night.



Thank you to Marguerite Chatelier for hosting a lively book discussion with help from Marlene O'Brien.



We are particularly proud of increasing the participation of high school students and are looking forward to building on this success in 2024-2025.



**THANK YOU FOR A LOVELY YEAR!**

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## WE VOTED TO DO ANOTHER STUDY!

League of Women Voters of Wellesley 2024-2025 Voting Age Study

### Type of Study: Consensus

Scope: Our study will investigate the benefits and drawbacks of lowering the voting age in Wellesley, including topics suggested by the discussion at the 2024 Annual Town Meeting.

At Annual Meeting on May 15, 2024, the membership voted to undertake a study relating to lowering the local minimum voting age. This study was inspired by a citizen's petition brought to the 2024 Annual Town Meeting by two student members of our League, asking that the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court to enact "an act providing for voting by qualified residents aged 16 and 17 in town elections in the town of Wellesley." The petition failed 60%-40% after a robust discussion with several key objections stated. The board suggested and the membership agreed that a study is needed to clarify important points that came up at Town Meeting.

The study committee will refine the study scope as information develops.

Questions to be considered may include:

- Should the age be lowered to 16, or only to 17?
- Should voters under age 18 be allowed to run for Boards and positions which currently restrict membership to "Registered Voter": Select Board, Assessors, Health, School Committee, Moderator, and Town Clerk?
- How will younger voters be educated on topics/candidates on the ballot?
- How does voting age relate to other rights granted at certain ages?
- Will lowering the voting age increase voter turnout, both in the short and long term?

For more information, please visit the *Voting Age Study* page on our [website](#).

We'd love to have you join our study committee -all members are welcome. Stay tuned for more information and updates on how to get involved.

If you have any questions, please **email** our president, Bonny Nothern.

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## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS UPCOMING EVENTS

### LWVMA Town Hall: Parliamentary Training, Wednesday

**May 29 7:00 P.M.** (Virtual)

Please join our Governance Committee on Wednesday, May 29 at 7:00 PM on Zoom for a Parliamentary training. We hope this training is coming in time to be useful for your local League's annual meeting! Register [here](#).

### LWVMA Council, Saturday June 22 9:00 A.M.(Virtual)

**Council 2024: The Future of the League: Building the Leadership Pipeline**



A leadership pipeline discussion and Q&A featuring Beth Chandler, CEO of YW Boston, and a brief business meeting where we'll receive an update from LWVMA's leadership and elect 2024-2026 LWVMA officers and directors. Register [here](#) to attend virtually.

Each League has an allotted number of voting delegates which corresponds to your League's membership count as of February 1, 2024. You can review [here](#) how many delegates your League has. Local League presidents and steering committee chairs must register their League delegates by June 3, 2024. There are no restrictions to the number of observers your League can send to Council. Observers may not vote but can participate in all other Council activities. Please [email our president, Bonny Nothern](#), if you'd like to attend.

## LWVUS Convention Thursday June 27 - Sunday June 30

(Virtual & In-Person Options)

LWVUS Convention is taking place in Washington, DC 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) and hotel blocks. Financial support is available so please [email our president, Bonny Nothern](#), if you are interested in attending.

The number of local League delegates to Convention are determined by League size. Click [here](#) for a chart showing how many delegates each League in Massachusetts is allotted. Any member is welcome to attend Convention, but voting during Convention is reserved for delegates.



### League of Women Voters of Wellesley Executive Board

Bonny Nothern, President  
Marguerite Chatelier, VP Voter Services  
Diane Hemond, VP Voter Services  
Irene Flint, VP Programs  
Ann-Mara Lanza, VP Programs  
Ellie Perkins, Secretary  
Debra Codispoti, Treasurer

### League of Women Voters of Wellesley Appointed Directors

Rama K. Ramaswamy, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging  
Rekha Sampath, Membership  
Laura Brown-MacKinnon, Newsletter/Website  
Marlene O'Brien, At Large

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



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