

Member Newsletter

November 2023

For Your Calendar: Upcoming LWV Wellesley Events:

- Thursday, November 30, Public Forum - *MBTA Communities Legislation* (7 p.m.) SEE BELOW
- Wednesday, December 6, *LWVW: How to Run for Public Office* (7 p.m.) SEE BELOW
- Tuesday, December 12, LWVW Board Meeting (12:30 p.m.) All members welcome! SEE BELOW

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

Public Forum: *MBTA Communities Legislation* **COMING UP NEXT WEEK!**

Thursday, November 30, 7:00 p.m.
Location: Wakelin Room, Wellesley Free Library

Meghan Jop, Executive Director of General Government Services, and Eric Arbeene, Planning Director, will be our keynote speakers at this important community dialog. In 2021, the State passed legislation that requires each community with access to mass transit, to create zones where multifamily housing can be built as of right. Why is this an important State initiative? How is Wellesley responding to this new requirement? What changes will we need to make to our current zoning? Where will these multifamily zones be located? Meghan and Eric will share their draft plan and solicit feedback from the community.

This event is co-sponsored by Building a Better Wellesley, Sustainable Wellesley, and The Charles River Regional Chamber of Commerce, among other community organizations.

If you have any questions, please email us at lwwellesley2@gmail.com
For more information, please visit our [LWVW Website](#)

LWVW: How to Run for Public Office

December 6th 7-8:30pm
Warren Building, Room 8

The League of Women Voters of Wellesley will be holding an information session for those interested in running for Town Meeting or one of Wellesley's Boards. Please join us in person or online.

DID YOU KNOW?

- * The Select Board is the executive branch of Wellesley
- * Town Meeting is the legislative body of Wellesley
- * Only Town Meeting Members can vote at Town Meeting
- * There are 29,550 people in Wellesley, but only 240 Town Meeting Members.
- * Wellesley has a decentralized form of government with more than 50 Town boards and committees and their staff conducting the business of the Town

Our town runs thanks to a group of dedicated citizen volunteers along with the wonderful town staff. There are volunteer opportunities large and small where you can run to help keep Wellesley working - from Town Meeting to Select Board.

Learn from Wellesley residents who ran and who won:

- How Wellesley Town Government is structured & the boards that make it up
- How to run a campaign & timing for March 2024 election [papers can be obtained in person from the Town Clerk starting December 6 through January 11.]
- Time commitment for Town Meeting as well as some other boards

FOR MORE INFO or to RSVP PLEASE EMAIL LWVWVoterService@gmail.com

This event will be taped and available on Wellesley Media shortly after 12/6/23

For more information, please visit our [LWVW Website](#)

LWVW Upcoming Book Event

This coming January, 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 winter 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!](#)

Why do many board members keep coming back for years, doing every possible job from planning events to doing research on issues? Come to our board meeting on Tuesday December 12th 12:30-2:30 p.m. and find out. We meet in Room 008 at the Warren Building 90 Washington Street. 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.

Vote16

Our new member Anya Khera has already jumped in with both feet, with her recent presentation to the Communications Committee regarding the Vote16 initiative. We are in the process of brainstorming about the best way to offer voters information about the interesting idea of extending voting privileges to sixteen and seventeen year olds. All comments and suggestions are welcome.

Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy!

Bonny Nothern

President

[Click here to email me.](#)

LWW Membership Updates

Welcome to our new members: Anya Khera, Deirdre Donovan.

Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch,

Director, Membership

Empowerment Through Inclusion: LWW's Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Digest Including an Interview with LWW Past President Wendy Garber

November is National Native American Heritage Month and I would like to acknowledge its significance, not just to celebrate the legacy that Indigenous history makers have left, but also to celebrate those of us who continue to shape our society, lead our communities, and impact our culture today. As a Wellesley Leaguer, I continue to prioritize diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, justice, and accountability as I engage in the activities of my daily life in town, especially emphasizing these values during November; which is a critical time for all us to come together in gratitude. Recognizing and celebrating diversity fosters a more representative, inclusive and equitable democracy.

Please join me in extending our gratitude to former LWW president Wendy Garber, whose leadership has played a vital role in advancing these principles within the League.

About serving on the board as president, Wendy tells us that her favorite memories include, “meeting and learning from the many women who have been part of the Wellesley League of Women Voters for many years. It was always helpful to hear and respect that history while at the same time moving the group forward. I think the League’s work to encourage and educate residents on how to run for office, provide an opportunity for all candidates to share their positions with residents by answering well thought out questions at our MTCN, and encourage voter participation was a highlight for me”.

Wendy added, “I particularly think including 15 minutes for DEI on our monthly board meeting agenda not only encouraged all members to self-reflect on a topic but then as we shared with each other we could appreciate our differences, and show empathy and respect for each other as we thought about our positions in the League”.

She loves to ski and will be traveling with her husband in January to the Dolomites in Italy to celebrate their 25th anniversary and watch their son’s World Cup Telemark ski race in Carezza. She wishes us all a happy Thanksgiving.

With gratitude,
Rama K. Ramaswamy
Director, DEI.

October-November Program Events

Brown Bag Lunch October 27, 2023: We had a good turn out at Margie Palladino's house for Ellen Korpi's presentation on a new community building initiative from the DPW. Ellen is a strong activist for environmental justice so there was a lively discussion about the latest issues facing the town. And five people on the Board and on the committees had birthdays in late October-early November so there was a special dessert and singing.

Brown Bag Lunch November 17, 2023 with Greg Reibman, Charles River Regional Chamber of Commerce. Fourteen members attended this meeting at the Warren Building, including some new members. We were interested to hear Greg link the lack of affordable housing, transportation problems, lack of childcare and sustainability issues with small business hiring problems. We also learned that the Chamber is the fifth largest in Massachusetts, with just over 1000 members. The conversation also included a discussion of how to proceed in community building without local news resources.

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. And visit the LWVW website for more details and photos from our events. Thank you!

Marguerite Chatelier, VP Program

October-November Voter Service

Special Town Meeting Prep November 1, 2023 : The Special Town Meeting Prep went very well. There were 54 attendees which is an excellent number, historically, and good questions were asked. The Tolles-Parson Center space was lovely and the panel was strong, including Mark Kaplan, Tom Ulfelder, Tom Taylor, Eric Arbeene, Ann Rappaport, and Megan Jop.

Volunteers are always needed and 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

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>

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

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