

Member Newsletter October 2023

TODAY! NOW! Call our state Representative Alice Peisch's office (617) 722-2070 or [click here to email Alice](#) in support of **HD4607, An Act Modernizing Firearm Laws.**

Alice firmly supports this gun safety bill which regulates ghost guns, updates the assault weapons ban, streamlines the licensing process, and prohibits firearms in schools, polling places and government buildings, among other measures BUT she needs to be able to point to the numbers. BE COUNTED! Send a very brief email now, expressing your desire to see our commonwealth become even safer for our children and grandchildren.

For Your Calendar: Upcoming LWV Wellesley Events:

Friday, October 27, Brown Bag Lunch - *Strengthening Community* (11:45 a.m.)

Wednesday, November 1, Special Town Meeting Prep (7 p.m.)

Tuesday, November 14, LWVW Board Meeting (12:30 p.m.) All members welcome!

Friday, November 17, Brown Bag Lunch - *Charles River Regional Chamber of Commerce* (12 p.m.)

Thursday, November 30, Public Forum - *MBTA Communities Legislation* (7 p.m.)

Wednesday, December 6, LWVW: *How to Run for Public Office* (7 p.m.)

Tuesday, December 12, LWVW Board Meeting (12:30 p.m.) All members welcome!

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

Brown Bag Lunch and Round Table Discussion - *Strengthening Community*

Friday, October 27, 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. (Note slightly earlier start time than usual.)

Location: Home of LWVW Board Member Margie Palladino, 37 Boulder Road

LWVW member, and member of the Board of Public Works and the Municipal Light Plant Board, Ellen Korpi, will share a Welcome Ambassador pilot program she is launching with the DPW and

MLP. Welcoming new residents and building community has always been central to the LWVW. Our recent Volunteer Fair and our upcoming *How to Run for Office* are two examples. There are many issues dividing residents. What commonalities do we share? How can we help to bring neighbors together to strengthen our sense of community? And, how can we welcome and include new residents at housing developments such as Barton Road and The Nines? Bring your own brown bag lunch and join us for this dialog.

What is a Brown Bag Lunch?

Remember when you were a kid and used to take your lunch to school? Before lunch boxes, Moms would pack them in ...small brown bags. Years ago, when the League started “Lunch with...” meetings, it was an easy way to indicate that everyone should supply their own food -so described as a “brown bag lunch.” Our host will supply something to drink like coffee, tea or lemonade and maybe dessert and participants should bring their own main course, be it a sandwich or salad bar choice. Join us. We can't wait to see you!

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

Brown Bag Lunch and Round Table Discussion with Greg Reibman of the Charles River Regional Chamber

Friday, November 17, 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Location: Home of LWVW member Barbara McMahon, 7 Amherst Road

Did you know that there is a new Chamber of Commerce in town? The Charles River Regional Chamber covers Wellesley, Newton, Needham and Watertown. Their mission is *to champion our communities' economic and cultural vitality through education, advocacy, and networking*. We will learn more about the Charles River Regional Chamber and their role in helping Wellesley to thrive. How does the Chamber support a diverse work force? Why is affordable housing so important to our business community? How can the League partner with the Chamber to make Wellesley more inclusive and welcoming?

Bring your own brown bag lunch and join us for this discussion.

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

Public Forum: MBTA Communities Legislation

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.

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

CommunityEvent:

JUST DESSERTS

Hosted Monthly by the UU Society of Wellesley Hills
309 Washington Street

STRIVING FOR HOUSING JUSTICE

Thursday, October 26, 7 p.m.

Learn more about how the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) works for public good by coalescing, training and organizing people across religious, racial, ethnic, class and neighborhood lines. All are welcome! Dessert will be served at 7 p.m. Program from 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Contact info@uuwellesley.org for more information.

Reports from your LWVW Executive Board:

Day On the Hill: the annual LWVMA lobbying event, was exciting for our LWVW representatives Bonny Nothern and Tanya Roy. The day started with presentations concerning the four legislative targets: voter rights, maternal health, gun safety, and PFAS ("Forever Chemicals") in drinking water. Senator Cynthia Creem filled in for Speaker Karen Spilka as keynote speaker. In her speech, Cindy reiterated her staunch support for women's health issues as well as for gun safety. When the morning's presentations concluded, the crew of about fifty League members from around the state headed to separate meetings with their local senators and representatives. Tanya and Bonny discussed the particulars of some of the bills, including Medicaid reimbursements for doulas and the question of restricting off-duty police officers carrying guns, with Senator Cynthia Creem and Representative Alice Peisch.



After the morning of lobbying, our local representatives were invited to a luncheon sponsored by a generous member of the LWV Concord to discuss fundraising and other local issues. Both Bonny and Tanya were inspired by the lively exchange of ideas in all their interactions. Next year, we hope to bring more LWVW members to Day On the Hill. Would you be interested in a field trip to Beacon Hill for a tour of the Massachusetts State House? **Click here to let us know via email.** lwwellesley2@gmail.com

LWVW Membership Updates:

Now is the time to renew your League of Women Voters of Wellesley membership for 2023-2024! When you renew LWVW membership, you renew your commitment to defending democracy through the empowerment of all voters. You make it happen with your dues on local, state and national stages, as well as with your participation in all the amazing League events here in Wellesley and Massachusetts! It's time to affirm your support and show your pride in being a part of the LWVW. Click here to renew **Click here to renew online.** It only takes 4 minutes yet provides a years' worth of brilliant fellowship and a chance to make a real difference in educating voters in our town.

Welcome to our new members: Mary Prosnitz, Jay Prosnitz, Natalie Kiss, Marie Kemmler

Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch,
Director, Membership

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

The League of Women Voters, nationally and locally, is committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion/ belonging within its ranks. DEI is not just a buzzword but an integral part of who we are. It means acknowledging our differences, addressing systemic inequities, and providing opportunities for growth and representation to every member of our diverse community.

Creating a sense of belonging is the cornerstone of a thriving community, and it is essential for the League's continued success. We aim to create a sense of belonging by:

1. Encouraging Open Dialogue
2. Promoting Inclusivity in Leadership
3. Embracing Education
4. Celebrating Differences

In our quest to strengthen our sense of belonging, we invite all League of Women Voters members to actively engage in our inclusion and belonging initiative by sharing information about their birthdays, so that we can celebrate our milestones by extending warm wishes personally and collectively. If you would be comfortable sharing the month of your birth via email with us, we will celebrate you. By doing so, we can foster connections, and build camaraderie, making the League an even more welcoming space.

Other suggestions for building community? We would love to hear from you.
lwwellesley2@gmail.com

Rama K. Ramaswamy
Director, DEI

Legislative Updates:

It has been a busy fall at the State House as committees began holding hearings on every bill filed in this session (approximately 7000 bills!). Very few bills actually make it out of committee to continue to move through the legislative process so this is an important step.

We have good news to report on bills followed by the State League, in addition to the gun reform bill as explained above:

-The Wage Equity Bill passed in the House and is now in the Senate Ways and Means Committee

-SAPHE 2.0 public health bill was reported out of committee favorably

-Parts of the Coercive Control bill (expanding the definition of domestic violence to include non-physical acts such as financial, emotional and technological abuse) has been combined with some other bills, including the non-consensual distribution of intimate photos. It is now Bill H4115 and was reported out of committee.

-The Civics Project Trust Fund veto by Governor Healey (reducing the funding by \$1 million) was overridden by the Legislature.

Margie Paladino
Legislative Envoy

LWW 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.

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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.lwv.org/massachusetts/wellesley>

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

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