

Member Newsletter

September 2023

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, September 27, LWVW Opening Meeting (7pm)
Sunday, October 1, Wellesley Volunteer Fair (2pm - 4pm)
Monday, October 2, Wellesley Volunteer Fair (10am - 12pm)
Tuesday, October 10, LWVW Board Meeting (12:30-2:30 pm)
Wednesday, October 11, LWVMA Day on the Hill (9:30am - 12pm)
Tuesday, November 14, LWVW Board Meeting (12:30pm)

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

Hello, League of Women Voters of Wellesley!

It's finally that time of year -the kids are back in school, the leaves are starting to change, and maybe the temperature will dip into the 60s one day soon...

Your loyal Board Members have been hard at work this summer plotting and planning for a program year full of great topics for discussion and lots of opportunities for you to join us in providing education and support for all voters in Wellesley.

Join us and see what's happening this year.

Opening Meeting Wednesday, September 27 @ 7PM

(Program starts promptly at 7:30pm)

League of Women Voters of Wellesley and Wellesley Free Library present:

Who Is Protecting Your Right to Read?

A Discussion with: Mary Ann Cluggish, Mass Board of Library Commissioners, and Jamie Jurgensen, Director, Wellesley Free Library

Across the nation, libraries are dealing with an increasing number of book challenges - demands to remove one or often multiple books from a library's collection, to prevent the books from being read or even accessed. The American Library Association reports a record number of 2,571 unique titles were challenged in 2022, a 38% increase from 2021. In Massachusetts, library disruptions and book challenges have quadrupled. The challenges are happening both in public and school libraries. Libraries have long been a cherished resource for any person to find information on any topic. Who decides what materials are on the shelves in our local and school libraries? What is the role of the State in ensuring our right to read? Legislation has been filed in Massachusetts to help limit book challenges and book banning in our state.

Join us in the Wakelin Room, Wellesley Free Library, 520 Washington Street, at 7:30 PM to

learn more about the disturbing trend of book banning as well as what libraries and the State legislature can do about it.

For more information, please visit our [website](#).

If you'd like to help set up and/or bring some treats to share, please [email](#) us here.

Wellesley Volunteer Fair - We need volunteers for our table!

Sunday, October 1 (2-4pm) & Monday, October 2 (10a-12p)

Wellesley Free Library, Wakelin Room

We are seeking to connect Wellesley-based organizations with residents interested in volunteering their time. League of Women Voters of Wellesley will have a table at this event. If you would be willing to join us at the table and help share information about the League, please let us know. We are looking for the following number of volunteers for this event:

Sunday, October 1, 1:45-4pm: Four volunteers

Monday, October 2, 9:45-12pm, Two volunteers

Email us at lwwellesley2@gmail.com.

LWVMA: DAY ON THE HILL, Wednesday October 11, 9:30am to 12pm

It's time to act together and raise our collective voice on Beacon Hill.

Please join all our MA Leagues for *Act for the Future: Voting, Maternal Health, Firearms, and PFAS*, at the Massachusetts State House.

Day on the Hill is the League's own lobby day each legislative session. Your advocacy this session has already led to victories for LWVMA policy priorities. Let's keep up the momentum by advocating for voting rights including same day registration, maternal health, gun violence prevention, and protection from forever chemicals known as PFAS. We will be briefed on the bills and then go to our legislators' offices to meet with them.

Read more and register [here](#) by Wednesday, October 4 at 5 PM.

LWVW Membership Renewal:

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. 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.

Education Opportunities for All League of Women Voters Members

With 45 local Leagues throughout the state and over 3,000 members, LWVMA has been at the forefront of efforts to empower and educate Massachusetts voters and effect change on a wide range of issues, including election laws and campaign finance, natural resources and the environment, women's health, children's issues, state budget and finances, public education, and public safety. If you are interested in learning more about how our state league is run, how decisions are made and who's involved in making these decisions, we recommend you check out the following sources of information:

Online: League of Women Voters of Massachusetts <https://lwwma.org/>

Monthly Legislative Newsletter: *Mass. League Action* [August Issue](#).

- Read to the bottom of the page to subscribe to this monthly newsletter.

Would you like to be on the League Leaders' Email Distribution List?

The communication hub for leaders of our 45 local Leagues, this is a great resource for learning what's involved in leadership for LWVMA as well as for seeing how the many extremely talented and dedicated women support each other in defending democracy all over our state. If you'd like to be added to this email group, please email [Brynne Gorman at LWVMA](mailto:Brynnegorman@lww.org) directly.

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

Welcome, all LWW members! We are looking forward to our best year yet of registering voters, providing voter information, and advocating for voting rights. We have worked diligently to update and improve our members' League experience and we invite each of you to attend our board meetings on the second Tuesday of every month. At the beginning of every board meeting, we engage in robust discussions about diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, social justice, and accountability; and about how these ideas dovetail with the League's mission. These meetings serve as a dynamic platform where curiosity transforms into knowledge and passive interest evolves into active engagement. By participating, members gain insight into the practical applications of these principles. They witness firsthand how diversity amplifies our voices, equity ensures fairness in our actions, and inclusion deepens into belonging for all. Additionally, discussions on social justice and accountability underscore our commitment to addressing systemic issues. In essence, board meetings serve as the crucible where theory meets practice, fostering a deeper connection to the League's work and its unyielding dedication to empowering all voters and promoting democracy. Your presence is not just encouraged; it is essential to collectively shaping a better future. All Board Meeting times and locations can be found [here](#) on our website. Questions? [Email us](#).

Thank you for your consideration and I hope to see you at our October 10th 12:30-2:30 PM board meeting in room 008 at the Warren Building.

Warmly,
Rama K. Ramaswamy
(Director, DEI)

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.lww.org/massachusetts/wellesley>

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