

NEWSLETTER

September 7, 2017

LWVW Calendar (September - November)



Please bookmark the LWVW website calendar for the most up-to-date calendar information, which includes important dates for the full 2017-2018 year. Information about selected State and neighboring League events (interesting lectures, lobbying days on Beacon Hill etc.) may be also be found on our website.

Tuesday, September 26, **National Voter Registration Day** (See details below.)

Thursday, September 28, 6:30-9 pm, **Opening LWVW Meeting** at the Wellesley Community Center, Henderson Room. Our speaker will be Mira Bernstein from Tufts
University who is lecturing on "Gerrymandering: Why It's More Complicated Than Most People Think." Join us in learning about efforts to improve fairness in our election process. Light



refreshments will be served at 6:30 and the lecture will begin promptly at 7. All are welcome to attend. (Scroll down for more details.)

Tuesday, October 3, 10 am - noon, **Board Meeting** at Catherine Johnson's home. All members welcome to attend.

Thursday, October 12, 7 pm, Wellesley Meet-Up: Informal discussions with your local officials at the Hills Branch Library, sponsored by the LWVW. Get a chance to meet and ask questions of town officials from a variety of boards (including the Selectmen, School Committee, Planning Board, DPW, and Library Trustees) in a low-key setting. Parking is available across the street at the Congregational Church as well as at the Hills Branch.

Sunday, October 22, 4-6 pm, **LWVW Wine and Cheese Social,** Location TBD. Join us for wine and cheese and learn about the League's activities!

Thursday November 2, 7-9 pm, **Special Town Meeting Preparation Session**, Community Room of the Wellesley Police Station. Learn about the issues coming before Town Meeting. All Town Meeting Members and Wellesley

residents are welcome to attend either this event or the Sunday afternoon session.

Wednesday, November 3 (tentative), **Tour of Tolles Parsons Center** at 500 Washington Street. The League is invited to tour Wellesley's new senior center. More details will be posted on the LWVW's website calendar as they become available.



Sunday, November 5, 1:30-3:30 pm, **Special Town Meeting Preparation Session,** Community Room of the Wellesley Police Station. Learn about the issues coming before Town Meeting. All Town Meeting Members and Wellesley residents are welcome to attend either this event or the Thursday evening session.

November 7, 8, 13, 14: Special Town Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, **Board Meeting** at Ann Rappaport's home. All members welcome to attend.

LVW Volunteers are Needed!

Voter Registration Day on September 26th and our LWVW Opening Meeting on September 28th are coming up fast and we need people to provide refreshments for both events. Please contact Erry Johnson if you can provide baked goods for Voter Registration Day, which will be held at Wellesley High School, or Anne Rippy Turtle to bring cookies and/or cider for the Opening Meeting, held at the Wellesley Community Center.

Erry is also looking for volunteers for Voter Service, one of the core League missions. Please contact her if you are interested.

We are also currently looking for someone to chair the Membership Committee, responsible for directing the LWVW's efforts to recruit and retain members. Please contact Anne Rippy Turtle if you are interested in this position.

Voters Registration Day



In conjunction with National Voter Registration Day, the League of Women Voters of Wellesley will have representatives on site at Wellesley High School on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 to register eligible students.

To be eligible to register to vote, residents must be 18 years of age on or before Tuesday, March 8, 2018 (the next Town of Wellesley election). The Commonwealth

also allows those who are 16 and older to pre-register which, upon the 18th birthday, will automatically convert to registration to vote.

Students must provide a valid driver's licence number or the last four digits of SSN, or a copy of a current and valid photo ID showing name and address. For students living outside of Wellesley, the League will provide mail-in registration forms and instructions to access online registration.

Please encourage your WHS family members and friends to stop by the League's table outside of the cafeteria during their lunch periods!

If you are able to provide baked goods (e.g., brownies or cookies) or would like to help at this event, please contact Erry Johnson.

League of Women Voters of Wellesley Opening Meeting

The League's Opening Meeting will be held on September 28, 6:30 - 9 pm at the Wellesley Community Center, Henderson Room (second floor).



Our featured speaker will be Mira Bernstein; her talk, "Gerrymandering: Why It's More Complicated Than Most People Think" will help us learn about efforts to improve fairness in the election process. Mira holds a research faculty position in the interdisciplinary program Science, Technology and Society at Tufts University where she is a founding member of the Metric Geometry and



Gerrymandering Group (MGGG) which believes that gerrymandering is a fundamental threat to our democracy. Mira studied mathematics at Yale and was a Churchill Scholar at Cambridge, after which she received her doctorate from Harvard in algebraic gometry. She coordinated a research team from Harvard, MIT, the National Bureau of Economic Research and Portland, Oregon to assess the effects of extending health insurance to a low-income uninsured population, during which time she developed novel sampling framework and statistical weighting procedures. She was also the director of a summer program for mathematically-talented high school

With the Supreme Court preparing to hear oral arguments on October 3 in Gill v. Whitford, a challenge to the redistricting plan passed by Wisconsin's legislature in 2011, this talk is an extremely relevant look at how voting is affected by gerrymandering. For more information about this important case, which Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has called perhaps the most important of the upcoming term, click here. The New Yorker also has an interesting recent piece about a new MGGG summer symposium at Tufts aimed at bring together people with expertise in the legal, historical, civil rights, and mathematical aspects of redistricting.

Light refreshments will be served at 6:30 and the lecture will begin promptly at 7. All members and Wellesley residents are invited to attend.

News from State and Other Local Leagues

Events

students for over 15 years.

Thursday, September 14, 7 pm, LWVMA Climate Forum at New England Aquarium: "Extreme Events and Climate Change: What We Know and What We Can Do" with Ellen Marie Douglas, Associate Professor of Hydrology, School for the Environmnet, UMass Boston. This event is free and open to the public but registration is required through the Aquarium's website

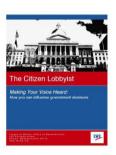
Wednesday, October 4, 7 pm (6:30 refreshments), **LWVMA Climate Forum at Winchester Town Hall**: "The Health Benefits of Renewable Energy Choices: A Role for Carbon Pricing"; Speaker: Dr. Jonathan Buonocore (Harvard School of Public Health)

Thursday, October 19, 7 pm, **LWVMA Climate Forum at Lexington Public Library**: "Greening the Grid: Preparing for Our Clean Energy Future"; Speakers: Dr. Ariel Horowitz (Synapse) and Megan Herzog (Conservation Law Foundation)

Stay Informed

The Citizen Lobbyist Handbook Available

LWVMA has created a new handbook, The Citizen Lobbyist, explaining the legislative process in Massachusetts and detailing the most effective ways to communicate with legislators at all levels - local, state and federal. Check it out here.



2017-2018 Board of Directors

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