

## August 2025

### For Your Calendar: LWV of Wellesley's Upcoming Events

Thurs. Sept 18, 11:00am LWVMA Day on the Hill, Room 428 at the State House. See below.

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#### NATION-WIDE INITIATIVE FOR MIDTERM ELECTION VOTING

##### UNITE & RISE 8.5

LWV of Wellesley is committed to participating in Unite & Rise 8.5, an initiative launched by LWVUS on May 1, 2025, and running until the 2026 midterm elections. In short, as a national organization, LWV will mobilize eight and a half (8.5) million voters to participate in the 2026 midterm elections, through a multi-faceted approach including legal and policy advocacy, public mobilization and coalition building, and civic education and engagement.

**What makes this plan different from past voter engagement initiatives?** The urgency of this moment in our nation's history makes the need for voter engagement a stark reality. On April 17, LWV CEO Celina Stewart and President Dianna Wynn released a statement declaring that the country is in a constitutional crisis, and announced Unite & Rise 8.5: [LWV Declares United States in a "Constitutional Crisis," Announces New Initiative to Mobilize Voters](#).

We welcome members and concerned citizens to join us in this campaign. Those who haven't had a chance to join LWV are encouraged to support us by [clicking here](#) to lend their names to the growing list of Americans who believe in and want to participate in a non-partisan approach to preserving our democracy.

#### **Who can participate in Unite and Rise 8.5?**

Absolutely anyone! LWV encourages Americans — no matter their political party — to join the Unite and Rise 8.5 initiative.

You do not need to be a prior LWV member or affiliated with a League chapter to participate; in fact, we welcome new faces to the movement!

#### **Where does the 8.5 number come from?**

Given the democratic crisis America is facing, it is incumbent upon Americans to make their voices heard. And according to Harvard political scientist Erica Chenoweth, historically, nonviolent protest of at least 3.5% of a population can successfully pressure a government to accommodate the movement, leading to policy change. America has roughly 245 million eligible voters; 245\*3.5% is roughly 8.5 million voters.

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#### LWV ANNUAL BOOK AWARDS AT WHS

On Tuesday June 3<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday June 11<sup>th</sup>, steering committee member Jessica Graham presented the annual LWV of Wellesley book awards at Wellesley High School. This year's senior award winners were Armita Hamrah and Victoria Bekker, and the underclassmen awards went to Rachel Lui and Kavan Shah. Every year, Guidance Office staff identify outstanding students who have made substantial contributions to the school community and recommend them to us to receive our book awards. We gave *The Small and the Mighty: Twelve Unsung Americans Who Changed the Course of History, from the Founding to the Civil Rights*

*Movement*. A #1 New York Times bestseller by leading educator Sharon McMahon, this book presents engaging portraits of ordinary people who didn't make it into textbooks but none the less are important to our country's continued existence as a democratic nation, striving to protect and promote freedom and dignity for all its citizens.

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## BE A LOBBYIST ON BEACON HILL!

LWV members will have seen the email in their inboxes about LWVMA's biannual lobby day **Day on the Hill, Thursday September 18, 2025 in Room 428 on the Massachusetts State House on Beacon Hill**. LWV of Wellesley members will be going together for this exciting event. Join us and find out what it feels like to be a "lobbyist"! After gathering with League representatives from all over the commonwealth to hear from LWVMA Legislative Action Committee members and legislative leaders, we will visit Rep. Alice Peisch and Senator Cindy Creem in their offices, armed with talking points, to discuss the bills that LWVMA is focusing on during this legislative session.

Register [HERE](#) to become part of what we hope will be our biggest lobby day yet! We have strength in numbers. With only 90 days to rally and get as many Leaguers there as possible, LWV of Wellesley will be helping to exceed the current record of 100+ LWV attendees from around Massachusetts.

Email [LWVWellesley2@gmail.com](mailto:LWVWellesley2@gmail.com) for carpooling and other information.

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### Good Trouble Lives On

Concerned citizens in Wellesley are organizing a follow up to the highly successful "No Kings" rally in June. This new rally entitled "Good Trouble Lives On" in honor of John Lewis, renowned civil rights leader and US Congressman from Georgia, will take place on Saturday July 17 5:00-6:30 PM at the Wellesley Town Hall. The rally is organized by Wellesley neighbors and is supported by the League of Women Voters of Wellesley, Neighbors United Indivisible, Immigration Justice Group of Temple Beth Elohim, UU Wellesley Hills, and World of Wellesley.

All are welcome to participate in the rally, and attendees are encouraged to bring both signs and friends!

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## THE LWV OF MASSACHUSETTS STATE CONVENTION

June 14, 2025 in Mansfield

On Saturday June 14th, three LWVW board members attended the biennial LWVMA State Convention, including Rama K. Ramaswamy who was a featured speaker at the breakout panel on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging. Outgoing board members Bonny Nothern and Marguerite Chatelier attended as voting delegates and took part in the discussion and vote regarding the study on reparations for black Americans, which LWV of Wellesley was part of in 2024-2025.

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### Steering Committee Summer Planning Meeting

Monday, July 14, 1-5pm

**At the home of Ann-Mara Lanza, 18 Oakland St.**

Everyone is welcome! We will be discussing our priorities and programming for 2025-26. Is there a speaker you'd like to hear? Do you want to help us increase voter turnout? Do you have thoughts on how to engage young people and create future voters? Bring your ideas! [Please let us know](#) you are coming so we can plan.

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

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