

## September 2025

### Welcome Back!

We hope your summer was filled with rest, reflection and rejuvenation. As we dive into the fall season, it's the perfect time to re-engage in our shared mission of empowering voters and defending democracy. This time of year brings new opportunities to be active in the democratic process and to continue the important work we do together.

Whether you're advocating for voting rights, educating fellow citizens, or taking part in local events, every action you take helps strengthen the League and our democracy. Let's keep the momentum going and make this a year of impactful engagement! Together, can we create positive change, one vote at a time.

#### **September Highlights (details, below)**

September 8: Board Meeting: All welcome! 3:30-5:30pm, Upham School  
September 18: Day on the Hill  
September 21: Sun-Day Rally  
September 29: Opening Meeting  
Volunteer Opportunity: Student Engagement!  
Book Read: Invisible Women

### LWV Wellesley Engagement

#### **Opening Meeting**

September 29, 7:00pm  
Wakelin Room, Wellesley Free Library

**Courts and Consequences: Understanding Legal Power In the U.S. Today**  
**Speaker: Tom Burke, Professor of Political Science, Wellesley College**



Join us for an engaging evening with Wellesley College Professor Tom Burke as we explore the pivotal role courts play in shaping public policy. In an era of increasingly polarized legal conflict, Professor Burke will review how courts have responded to the current administration, and some of the consequences for critical policy areas like education, immigration and civil rights. In the Federalist Papers, Alexander Hamilton called the judiciary "the least dangerous

branch" because of its lack of power--but how powerful are courts today? What can judges do if they are worried that their decisions will be ignored or circumvented by other branches of government? Finally, we'll discuss the vital role organizations like the League of Women Voters play in educating the public about court decisions and their real-world impact. This timely conversation will illuminate the intersection of law, democracy, and civic engagement.

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## SunDay Rally

September 21, 4:00pm  
Wellesley Town Hall Green

The League of Women Voters has a long history advocacy for environmental protections and the conservation of natural resources. Join fellow residents of Wellesley for a day of action to celebrate the power of clean energy and defend our planet. Please contact the league [here](#) for additional information.

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## Volunteer Opportunity

Do you enjoy working with students and empowering the younger generation to fully participate in the democratic process? We are seeking a volunteer to act as a liaison with our student League Members here in Wellesley.

If this interests you, please contact Sue at [smangiacotti@yahoo.com](mailto:smangiacotti@yahoo.com)

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## Membership Renewal

Many members will receive **membership renewal** notifications in the coming weeks via email. Please be sure to keep an eye out & renew your League membership. Or, click below to renew membership now.

We appreciate your support and continued commitment to the work of our league.

[Renew Membership](#)

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## LWVW Book Read

### Invisible Women, by Caroline Criado Perez

We invite you to join us as we discuss **Invisible Women: Exploring Data Bias in A World Designed By Men**.

Details of the March discussion will be forthcoming, but now is a good time to start reading!

## Engage in LWV beyond Wellesley

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### Day on the Hill

#### Be a Lobbyist on Beacon Hill

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Wondering how you can channel your concerns about the state of our nation to create meaningful change? With your help, we can pass laws in the Commonwealth to guard against federal threats. Now more than ever, it is critical that advocates and activists focus their sights on state-level action.

Join us in person for our biennial L WVMA lobby day, *Day on the Hill*, Thursday, September 18 at 11:00 AM in Room 428 at the State House, and turn it into something meaningful.

Register [below](#) to become part of what we hope will be our biggest lobby day yet! We have strength in numbers. With less than 30 days to rally support, can you help us exceed our record of 100+ members?

**To register, click here AND let LWV of Wellesley know you are going** so we can sit together, and even carpool!

We will be visiting the offices of our legislators **Representative Alice Peisch** (House Assistant Majority Leader, former Wellesley Town Clerk and longtime LWV of Wellesley member) and **Senator Cindy Creem** (Senate Majority Leader). **Armed with talking points**, we will be promoting the following bills

[H834/S505](#), An Act establishing same day registration of voters

[H2580/S1681](#), An Act to protect the civil rights and safety of all Massachusetts residents

[H1588/S1122](#), An Act relative to immigration detention and collaboration agreements

[H1954/S1127](#), An Act ensuring access to equitable representation in immigration proceedings

[H2370/S1563](#), An Act prioritizing patient access to care

[H86/S197](#), An Act to protect location privacy/An Act to protect safety and privacy by stopping the sale of location data

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### Democracy in Your Hands

Join us in attending the virtual training series entitled Democracy in Your Hands, June - October 2025. This educational opportunity is part of the Unite and Rise initiative announced by L WVUS president Dianna Wynn in her 6/13/2025 email. This virtual training series will outline how Leagues can activate and mobilize their

communities in this rapidly changing political environment and make a lasting impact.

The first three sessions of this five part series were held in June, July and August and were entitled Understanding Media Literacy, Championing Issues That Matter Most to You, and Understand the Three Branches of Government. [To watch the YouTube video of Understanding Media Literacy, click here.](#)

The remaining two sessions include:

Sept. 17, 11am ET | Working With Local Election Officials to Anchor Change  
Oct. 22, 3:30pm ET | Building Coalitions to Amplify Action

Find the upcoming agendas and more information on each session [HERE](#).

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## LWVMA & Boston Women's 10K

### Run Like a Girl..

Or run like a woman...with LWVMA! We are excited to announce that LWVMA will have a team this year with the Boston Women's 10k, which will take place on October 11, 2025. Our team, LWV@105, will be a chance for you to connect with other League members and support our work! Want to join members of LWV of Massachusetts Board in running? Sign up below. Not able to run the race? No problem! Mark your calendars and support the team with your signs, noisemakers, and cheer on the day of the race!

Whether you run, walk, jog, or choose to bring some friends, this is an excellent opportunity to get visibility for the 105 years of empowering voters and defending democracy that we continue to celebrate throughout this year.

Each runner is asked to raise \$1,000 to support LWVMA's civic engagement and education work. Learn more about the current roster of runners and how to sign up for the team [HERE](#). It would be wonderful if LWV of Wellesley could send at least one runner. Deadline to sign up to run with the LWVMA team is August 31st – so don't walk, RUN to register!

**Do you recognize a familiar face in the picture of runners above? HINT: She is a LWV of Wellesley member, a former LWVW Legislative Envoy, and is presently Treasurer of LWVMA.**

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## Decoding the MA Legislative Process: Bringing Savvy and Strategy to our Advocacy.

Wednesday, September 17, 6:30-8:30 PM  
Temple Beth Elohim, 10 Bethel Road, Wellesley

Sponsored by the Racial Justice Initiative of Temple Beth Elohim and others.

more info at:

[Decoding the MA Legislative Process](#)

# Update on the Coercive Control Bill



Former LWVW board member Margie Palladino's non-profit Mass Family Advocacy Coalition (MFAC) held a Zoom presentation with the Massachusetts League of Women Voters on August 19th where some of their members shared their experiences with abusive litigation in family court. The presentation was reminiscent of the one that L WVMA and MFAC did for the Coercive Control bill which was signed into law by Governor Maura Healey on June 24, 2024. This bill, which was backed by LWVW, L WVMA, and a coalition of women's rights groups including Jane Doe, Inc., cracks down on coercive control by domestic abusers and bans revenge pornography in Massachusetts. With this bill, Massachusetts became just the seventh state in the country to pass legislation classifying coercive control as a form of domestic violence.

Margie comments:

*"It is so inefficient for the divorce process to work this way and is costing families and taxpayers a tremendous amount. Most importantly for me, it leaves lasting scars on the children who are caught up in it. Bottom line: The system is way too adversarial, and the judges need tools and education to curb out-of-control adversarial conduct."*

MFAC will be sponsoring a family law symposium on November 14, 2025 at Suffolk University Law School entitled *Unequal Aftermath: Women's Economic Vulnerability During and Post Divorce*. [Click here for further information and to register.](#)

We are incredibly proud of Margie and all the work she has done to support women and families who have been subject to this form of emotional violence.

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## **SAVE THE DATE**

October 11: Boston 10K for Women - run with the L WVMA Team!

October 17: Tour of the Boston Public Library

October 14: LWVW Board Meeting, 3:30-5:30PM, Upham School

November 3: Fall Special Town Meeting starts

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League of Women Voters of Wellesley Steering Committee

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Diane Hemond  
Luisa Herrmann  
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For more information, visit us at <https://my.lww.org/massachusetts/wellesley>  
Contact League of Women Voters of Wellesley at [lwwellesley2@gmail.com](mailto:lwwellesley2@gmail.com)

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