

# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONCORD-CARLISLE

Founded 1930



# BULLETIN

LWVCC Website: [www.lwvcc.org](http://www.lwvcc.org)

Summer 2018

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## CALENDAR

### JUNE

19 Tue. Town Government Committee 2-4 pm  
22-23 Fri/Sat. Carlisle Old Home Day Weekend  
28 - July 1 LWVUS National Convention – Chicago

### JULY

17 Tue. Town Government Committee 2-4 pm  
20 Fri. LWVMA Voter Guide Rollout  
26 Thu. Agenda Setting Committee

### AUGUST

1 Wed. Board Mtg., 9 am (social), 9:30 am - 12 pm (business)  
14 Tue. Town Government Committee 2-4 pm

### SEPTEMBER

4 Tue. State Primary Election, 7 am – 8 pm  
5 Wed. Board Mtg., 9 am (social), 9:30-12 pm (business)  
12 Wed. Fall Gathering  
14 Fri. Education Committee, 9:30 – 11 am  
17 Mon. Observer Corps Mtg., 7:30-9 pm  
18 Tue. Town Government Committee 2-4 pm

*Members are invited to attend monthly Board meetings.  
Please contact Diane if you would like to attend any of them.*

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization of men and women formed in 1920 and dedicated to the principles of self-government established by the Constitution of the United States. The League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



### Is our democracy in danger?

"Harvard Professors Daniel Ziblatt and Steven Levitsky think it is. In their collaborative work, *How Democracies Die*, they provide four indicators of worrisome "authoritarian behavior":

1. Rejection of (or weak commitment to) democratic rules of the game. *For example, challenging the authenticity of a vote or undermining voting rights.*
2. Denial of the legitimacy of political opponents. *For example, suggesting their partisan rivals are criminals, whose violation of the law disqualifies them from participation in the political arena.*
3. Toleration or encouragement of violence. *For example, tacitly endorsing violence by their supporters or refusing to condemn it.*
4. Readiness to curtail civil liberties of opponents, including media. *For*

*example, praising repressive measures taken by other governments.*

You can decide for yourself. But if you find this small sample of the authors' argument persuasive, then there is one clear League response: act and register voters.

Clearly, League members cannot afford to become quiescent or complacent.

Besides voter registration, other steps are equally, critically important if we are to support the League's long cherished positions.

For example, women's rights are under siege. The Mississippi legislature has voted, and their Governor has signed, a law to ban abortions after 15 weeks, with exceptions only for "medical emergency and severe cases of abnormality." It does not take into account incest or rape. Kentucky's newest law prevents abortions after only 11 weeks. And Iowa's Governor has just signed, according to the *Des Moines Iowa Register*, "the most

restrictive abortion ban in the nation," outlawing all abortions when a fetal heartbeat can be detected (around 6 weeks)—often before a woman knows she is pregnant. Each of these bills faces court challenges, but they reflect the vulnerable situation for women in those states.

And then there is the EPA, undoing the previous, important work of many previous—Republican and Democratic—administrations. Denying that climate change exists, the Head of the EPA argues that the Paris Climate Agreement "would slow the U.S. economy by hindering America's God-given right to mine, export and burn fossil fuels." The EPA's recent actions negatively impact the future and our grandchildren's health by loosening regulations on clean air, clean water, and chemical testing.

We understand—for Concordians recently supported a Petition Article promoting resiliency—that our planet's vitality faces huge challenges. Our oceans are not self-renewable; our waters cannot clean themselves; our air—even with every plant trying its hardest—cannot purify itself. As Pope Francis recently commented, "We have plundered her, abused her, and no one can say, 'I am not responsible.'"

We must guard this earth, for it is a precious gift.

It is encouraging that many Americans are addressing the current political situation with action. Look at the behemoth the students at Parkland have awakened. Note the marches on climate and for women, in which we have participated, that so ardently reflect our values. As summer approaches it is tempting to quote two recent Presidents (George W. Bush and Donald Trump): "Mission accomplished." But just as they were wrong, so would we be to retreat to our lakes and beaches believing our work is done.

Even as surveys by Harvard's Kennedy School report that most citizens believe "participation in government yields few positive results," we know that vigilant engagement and knowledge are our best allies and can make a difference. Connect with our state and national representatives; participate in LWVMA Lobbying Days; and actively lobby for issues important to you. By remaining informed, resilient, positive, and determined we can and must make a difference."

Respectfully, Diane Proctor

## **MEMBERS' PAGES**

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Our League membership has reached 232 members, making it the largest chapter in Massachusetts. On July 1<sup>st</sup> our new membership year will begin. You can renew your membership by going to our website, [www.lwvcc.org](http://www.lwvcc.org), print out the membership form and send it in with a check for either \$55 (single membership) or \$80 (household membership). Or you can join through PayPal on our website. You can also renew at the LWVCC table at one of our programs listed on the Bulletin Calendar. *Anne Hayden, Membership Chair*

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The committee will start the year off with meetings on September 14, October 12, and November 9, from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Areas of focus for next year:

- 1) Civics education (K-12) and civil discourse: This effort is just starting, and looking for interested members.
- 2) Budget and Finance: Following the local budget development process and other issues of school finance, including efforts to reform state funding.
- 3) Tracking plans for facilities, including Concord Middle School and recommendations of the CCHS Campus Advisory Committee.

Meetings are open to all LWVCC members. For more information, please contact Edie Lipinski, [education@lwvcc.org](mailto:education@lwvcc.org). *Edie Lipinski, Education Committee Chair*

### **IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE**

The LWVCC Immigration Committee has been learning from speakers about action being taken in our area on immigration. We

have heard from the Massachusetts League's immigration specialist; a League member who volunteers with refugees and asylum seekers; a Concord resident who has volunteered at a detention center in Texas; and an immigration lawyer who is a member of the Needham Task Force on Immigration. The LWVCC Immigration Committee will develop immigration questions to ask Congressional and state legislative candidates and will contact immigration task forces in other towns to explore how we can work together. All League members are invited to attend. For more information please contact Nancy Cronin at [immigration@lwvcc.org](mailto:immigration@lwvcc.org). *Nancy Cronin, Immigration Committee Chair*

### **EVENTS COMMITTEE**

Well, here it is, the beginning of summer ... almost ... and I am sure all of you are looking forward to some sun, fun and relaxation with friends and families. Maybe you have a trip or reunion ahead of you, maybe you just want to take some time and read on the beach. Great!

Whatever you plan on doing this summer, remember to keep your calendars tuned for our upcoming events, including a Fall Gathering, the Holiday Pot Luck, our January Breakfast, and our next Annual Meeting. Enjoy! *Stephan Bader, Events Committee Chair*

### **VOTER SERVICE REPORT**

The Voter Service Committee completed its work on the March 27 Concord Town elections, crafting a voter guide and conducting a candidate forum on March 18.

On April 22, several League members held a Carlisle Town-election Candidate Forum in the Clark Room of the Carlisle Town Hall.

Cindy Nock, Barbara Lewis, Launa Zimmaro and Anne Rarich organized and moderated the program. Ten candidates gave short opening statements and then fielded moderator and audience questions for an hour and a half. The forum is available on-demand at CCTV, "LWV Presents: Carlisle Candidates Forum,"

<http://www.concordtv.org/watch/video-on-demand>.

Also, the State League will be rolling out a new Online Voters' Guide on July 20 to voters throughout Massachusetts for the September 4 state primary. The Voters' Guide for the November 7 general election will be ready by September 17. The LWVMA Voters' Guide is a customizable digital resource that uses the BallotReady platform, replacing the Vote 411 online guide in Massachusetts. BallotReady has been purchased by LWVMA and is available at no cost to our local League. For more information see:

<https://lwmva.org/new-lwmva-online-voters-guide-is-coming-in-july/>.

Please contact Judy Zaunbrecher at [VoterService@lwvcc.org](mailto:VoterService@lwvcc.org) if you would like to volunteer for the Voter Service Committee. *Judy Zaunbrecher, Voter Service Chair*

### **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Communications Committee's goal is to ensure that League members get timely information about League activities and community events that are of particular interest to League members. In addition, we reach out to Concord and Carlisle residents to inform them of the work of the League and to encourage them to attend the many meetings and events which the League sponsors throughout the year.

This summer we will be focusing on voter service activities as we prepare for the September 4th Primary right after Labor Day. At the Annual Meeting we surveyed the attendees and found that members are eager to see improvements to the website. Upgrading our website will be a major focus of our work this summer.

The work of the Communications Committee is critical to the success of our League. With an election at the end of summer, we are going to need help this summer. If you would be interested in helping us develop our social media or just working on more old fashioned kinds of communication, please contact [communications@lwvcc.org](mailto:communications@lwvcc.org). *Nancy Brown, Communications Chair*

### **2018 RIVER STEWARD AWARD Sponsored by The League of Women Voters and the Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council - 17<sup>th</sup> Annual River Steward Awards**

On Thursday, June 15, the League of Women Voters, in partnership with the Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council, presented its annual River Stewardship Award as part of Riverfest. This year, five nominees received the River Steward Award.

The River Stewardship Award is given to individuals, organizations, youth, teachers, businesses, government employees and others whose work has inspired children, families, town and school leaders to protect and preserve the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic Rivers today, and for future generations.

Contact Janet Rothrock if you have questions. *Janet Rothrock, Chair, River Steward Award Nominations Committee*

### **LWVCC BOOK GROUP**

The LWVCC Book Group Steering Committee will meet in June to select the books for next year. The time, date and place of our September Book Club meeting, along with the book selections for the next year, will be announced in MMN. LWVCC Book Group meetings are open to all. Come join us!

*Anne Hayden, Janet Miller, Diane Proctor and Mary Sterling, Book Group Steering Committee*



## **THE LWVCC OBSERVER CORPS**

### ***Welcome to the LWVCC***

***Observer Corps page*** – This Bulletin contains short summaries about five of the Concord and Carlisle Town Committees. Please let the committee Observer or me know if you have any questions about a particular committee. *Janet Rothrock, Observer Corps Chair*



### **Concord Select Board**

The Concord Select Board is a five-person elected board: Tom McKean (Chair), Michael Lawson (Clerk), Alice Kaufman, Jane Hotchkiss, and Linda Escobedo. The Select Board acts as the primary policy-making body for the Town of Concord, appoints more than 20 committees, recommends the budget, approves Town department reorganizations, oversees litigation, and acts as the licensing authority for various licenses. The Select Board meets on Monday nights, 7:00 p.m., 22 Monument Square, Select Board Room. Website:

<http://www.concordma.gov/1180/Select-Board>. *Diane Proctor & Louise Haldeman, Observers.*

### **Carlisle Board of Selectmen**

The Carlisle Board of Selectmen is a five-person elected board: Nathan Brown (Chairman), Kate Reid (Vice Chairman), Alan Lewis (Clerk), Luke Ascolillo, and Kerry Kissinger. The Board of Selectmen is charged with the general direction and management of the property and affairs of the Town of Carlisle. The Board meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month, 7:00 p.m., in the Clark Room, Carlisle Town Hall, 66 Westford Street. Website:

[http://www.carlislema.gov/Pages/CarlisleMA\\_BOS/index](http://www.carlislema.gov/Pages/CarlisleMA_BOS/index). *Cindy Nock, Observer.*

### **Concord Finance Committee (FinCom)**

The Finance Committee has fifteen members, appointed by the Town Moderator, to serve for up to two, 3-year terms. A deliberative, rather than a decision-making, body, FinCom is the principal financial advisor to the Town Meeting. FinCom establishes budget guidelines for Town and School Committees, conducts public hearings on finance-related warrant articles, publishes an annual report on finance-related warrant articles, publishes a 5-year projection on the total tax burden, and manages the Town's reserve fund. FinCom works with the Town Finance Department, with Finance Director Kerry Lafleur as direct staff liaison. This committee meets at least once a month on Thursdays; meeting dates and times fluctuate throughout the year.

Meetings begin at 7:00 PM, 22 Monument Square, Select Board Room. Members are: Thomas Tarpey (Chair), Dean Banfield (Vice Chair), Brian Taylor (Clerk), Mary Hartman (Guidelines Clerk), Peter Fischelis, Mishthi Grace Hanson, John Hickling, Richard Jamison, Karle Packard, Scott Randall, Christine Reynolds, June Rzepczynski, Philip Swain, Andrea Zall. Anita S. Tekle, not a Committee member, is Recording Secretary. Website:

<http://www.concordma.gov/235/Finance-Committee>. *Maureen Kemeza, Observer.*

### **Concord Municipal Light Board**

The Light Board is a five-person committee: Gordon Brockway (Chair), Wendy Rovelli (Clerk), Dan Gainsboro, Peggy Briggs, and Lyn Salinger. This committee works with the Concord Municipal Light Plant and sets the electricity and municipal broadband rates, terms, and service. The Light Board meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month, 7:30 a.m., 1175 Elm Street. Website:

<http://www.concordma.gov/1106/Municipal-Light-Board>. *Karlen Reed, Observer.*

### **Concord Public Works Commission**

The PWC is a five-person committee: KC Winslow (Chair), Peter Wallis, Andrew Boardman, Jim Terry, and Stephen Ng. This committee works with the Concord Public Works Department and its divisions: highways and grounds, engineering, water, sewer, and solid waste disposal.

This is a rate setting committee. This committee meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7:15 p.m., 141 Keyes Road. Website: <http://www.concordma.gov/529/Public-Works-Commission>. *Robert Hilsinger, Observer.*

### **SPECIAL OBSERVER CORPS REPORT: LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

Meeting – Library Committee February 20, 2018 and April 17, 2018. Reporter: Ingrid Detweiler. Date of Report: April 28, 2018.

Library Committee includes: Carl Vause, chair; Matt Boger, Tara Edelman, Beverly Gauthier, Lindsay Howard, Mav Pardee, and Sandy Shen.

There are two openings on the Library Committee and residents are asked to submit a green card. The committee reviewed about a dozen green cards from interested residents with a plan to reach out to those with an interest in the library. One of the Committee focuses is assisting the Library Corporation with outreach related to the library building plan to connect the Corporation-owned 151 Main Street house with the main library and undertake renovations to the main library building.

Tara Edelman provided an update on the Capital Campaign at both the February and April meetings noting there have been gatherings with many interest groups including neighbors, library staff, Friends of the Library and residents. The intent is to engage different groups in

town and meet with them to explain the renovation / expansion plans. The campaign staff is developing a social media strategy to inform people about the project.

Library Director Kerry Cronin reported in February on plans for National Library Week—April 8-14—and shared bookmarks that were created from interviews of Concord residents, business owners, and officials—all in the interest of promoting reading. She also reported that there is a budget request for \$150,000 to install energy efficient lighting in the main library. A second request for an additional \$550,000 for lighting will be made next year.

At the April meeting the committee was treated to a private tour of the Ada Shepard “Hawthornes in Florence” exhibit by curator Leslie Wilson who will soon be retiring. The Committee is exploring additional collaboration with the Concord Bookshop. Kerry Cronin reported on some training the library staff received from the Concord Police Department on how to respond to an active shooter. *Ingrid Detweiler, Observer.*

### **CONCORD TOWN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

At our annual meeting in May, the membership voted to continue the work of our committee which includes continuing our First Friday series with speakers on timely town government questions or plans. Sub-committees will focus on low and moderate housing in Concord and possibly water resources, ranging from questions or plans on the Nagog Pond treatment plant to protection of groundwater and our rivers. We monitored the development of the Long Range Plan and the work of the Community Preservation Committee and urged more videotaping of regulatory boards and committees which meet at Keyes Road.

Any action that evolves from this committee (and the Education Committee) is based on National, State or Local League positions, adopted by the appropriate League membership after studies and consensus based on those studies. For example, when our C-C League writes to our Select Board, School Committees, or to local boards and committees or our state and federal representatives, it is a form of action based on our "positions." If we write that we cannot hear at public meetings or that minutes are not available, the comments are based on the "Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation--Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making." To support low and moderate housing in town, we turn to "Housing Supply -- Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family."

An important distinction to note is that, while any League member can be active or support any personal beliefs in their own way, only the League Board of Directors can direct any action in the name of the League, and then only in connection with positions emanating from League studies and consensus (agreement) over the years.

In so many social and economic issues affecting our country and its citizens, the League has already studied and voted to support or oppose local, state and national situations. Gun control? We have been there since 1990. "Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety." Natural Resources? We have been there since the

1920s and 1930s (a study of flood control, erosion and the development of the Tennessee Valley Authority) to our position today: "Protect an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest." "The League believes natural resources should be managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Resources should be conserved and protected in order to preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of ecosystems and to protect public health." This last position was reached through a National study and consensus in 1985-1986. Could it be any more relevant today, as restrictions are being weakened or removed?

The League of Women Voters of the United States convention will start June 28, and Concord-Carlisle will be well represented. It is a sure way to meet with reps from other states. Conversations will start with, What are you doing in your league? Are you conducting civic bees or civic curriculum awareness? What is happening with water resource protections? What is the effect of recent changes in environmental policies in your state or city or town? Questions may be regional, such as asking a Californian what will be the effect of ocean water entering the groundwater in the Salinas Valley because the water table has dropped so low due to wells?

We invite you to join our committee. We usually meet in the Concord Main Library Trustees room. I think you will find our meetings lively! *Ardis Bordman, Concord Town Government Committee Chair*

### **CARLISLE TOWN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

On May 15, the Carlisle Board of Selectmen reviewed several municipal electricity aggregation plans (town-wide "green energy" plans) that would help the Town of Carlisle use electricity generated 100% from renewable energy sources, and would reduce the Town's carbon footprint by up to 15%. This big step toward reducing the Town's reliance on fossil fuels was authorized during the 2016 Town Meeting. After receiving the final bid prices on May 22, the Town Administrator, Tim Goddard, signed the energy contract on behalf of the Selectmen.

Approximately 1,670 Carlisle households who currently get electricity through the Eversource Basic Service Plan will be enrolled automatically in the new "Renewable Energy Product" unless they opt-out of this default option. This contract is a 30-month agreement with a rate plan which is lower than the Eversource Basic Service Plan. Carlisle customers will continue to receive service from Eversource, but at the green energy price.

While not all "green" energy is equal in terms of impact on our environment, this contract is a major improvement. Carlisle's choice of a 100% renewable energy default plan for the town will "green" the overall power supply and reduce Carlisle's annual greenhouse gas emissions by about 7000 tons, the equivalent of removing 1400 cars from the road – a win for our pocketbooks and for the environment. For more information on Carlisle's new green energy decision, see: <https://carlislemosquito.org/index.php/news/33044>. *Cindy Nock, Carlisle Town Government Chair; Launa Zimmario, Carlisle member and LWVMA Legislative Specialist on Environment and Energy*

## **2018 LWVCC ANNUAL MEETING IN REVIEW**

The 2018 LWVCC Annual Meeting was held on May 23 at Temple Kerem Shalom in Concord and was attended by members and non-members. Our guest speaker was Hon. Cory Atkins, State Representative for the 14<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District, who spoke about her years as our state representative and regaled the audience with stories about what it is like to work in the State House. After Cory finished, the League got down to business. Anne Hayden, Membership Chair, gave the Credentials Report, and Treasurer Robert Hilsinger presented the Treasurer's Report. Ardis Bordman, Budget Committee Co-Chair, explained the Budget Report.

President Diane Proctor offered her President's Remarks:

"The League of Women Voters' non-partisanship stance can seem complicated to non-League people, until we say: "We support policies, not people." It seems simple. Yet, who would have imagined that we needed a "policy" upholding the Constitution and the fundamental laws and moral presumptions of our land?

Yet, astonishingly, that re-affirmation is precisely what is needed. The honorable and honest pursuit of the rule of law is in daily jeopardy. Obstruction of justice, violation of the domestic and foreign-emoluments clause, abuse of power, and an assault on the media each represents, particularly in combination, an unprecedented disregard for the laws—both structural and moral—of our land.

A first-term House member from Maryland, James Raskin, serves as a vice-ranking member of the Judiciary Committee. He is the only constitutional-law professor who is a voting member of Congress. He recently declared, "It's only because we're waist-deep in the [present] era that we forget how completely radical and beyond the pale it is to have [a] President directly threatening the people who are involved in a criminal investigation of him." He went on to enumerate a broad menu of legal concerns.

Additionally, in the last weeks, we have seen an assault on Planned Parenthood, a determination to compromise the census, a depredation of national park lands, and increasing support for rules that restrict voters rights and defy the critical 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, an act that guarantees that in America, citizenship does not depend on whether your ancestors arrived on the Mayflower or are recent immigrants to the United States—every citizen has the right to vote. These concerns are not partisan values—they are fundamental to the essential beliefs of the League. Therefore, when determining a program for next year, we

must remain flexible...open and alert to the concerns pressing our democracy daily. Voting is at the heart of our work—it always has been and always shall be—but supporting principled policies follows in swift order. As we craft our gatherings next year, we intend to keep local, state, and national issues at the center of our collective discourse, knowing that through collaborative conversation we can understand issues more fully, and we can act more thoughtfully. Our voices may be small, but together—when we write, when we march, when we register students, when they vote, when we speak—they echo as if from a loudspeaker. Let us always be united in our determination and courage."

Next, Diane gave the Affirmation of the 2018-2019 Program and thanked numerous volunteers. Following Diane, Deena Whitfield, Nominating Committee Chair, presented the Nominating Report and proposed Slate of Officers and Directors. Thereafter, the League membership elected our new Board members.



**New and former Board members.** Standing: Ingrid Detweiler, Judy Zaunbrecher, Marge Daggett, Nancy Cronin, Robert Hilsinger, Nancy Brown, Dorrie Kehoe, Ardis Bordman, Nancy Beeuwkes, Ruth Lauer, Cindy Nock, Maureen Kemeza, Janet Rothrock, Edie Lipinski, and Julie Rohwein. Seated: Susan Frey, Stephan Bader, Anne Hayden, Karlen Reed, and Diane Proctor. Not pictured: Cynthia Rainey.

## MEET YOUR LWVCC BOARD MEMBERS

*President, Diane Proctor*



*Clerk/Secretary*  
**Ruth Lauer**



*Treasurer*  
**Robert Hilsinger**



*First Vice President &  
Voter Service Chair*  
**Judy Zaunbrecher**



*Second Vice President & Local  
Program & Action Chair*  
**Julie Rohwein**



*Third Vice President &  
Communications Chair*  
**Nancy Brown**



*Events Chair, Stephan Bader*



*Bulletin, Karlen Reed*



*Observer Corps Chair*  
**Janet Rothrock**



*Concord Town Government  
Committee Chair, Ardis Bordman*



*Membership Chair, Anne Hayden*



*Parliamentarian, Ingrid Detweiler*



*State Program & Action Committee  
Chair, Nancy Beeuwkes*



*National Program & Action  
Committee Chair, Nancy Cronin*



*Education Committee Chair  
Edie Lipinski*

*Carlisle Town Government  
Committee Chair  
Cindy Nock*



*At-Large, Maureen Kemeza*



*At-Large, Dorrie Kehoe*



*At-Large, Susan Frey*



In comments at the Annual Meeting, Diane Proctor thanked Judy Zaunbrecher, Ardis Bordman, Nancy Beeuwkes, and Anne Hayden for their exceptional contributions this year. She then highlighted two individuals who are stepping off the Board:

"Cynthia Rainey is at home this evening, nursing a cold. Last year we had an opportunity to celebrate her Presidency of the League, and this year she has been the brains (and brawn) behind every MMN message, alert, and has served as the mastermind of our soon to be transformed Website. Her talents are amazing. Although she will not be on the Board next year, we shall continue to rely on her intelligent communication skills as we head into the coming years!

And finally, but never least, is our own Marge Daggett. You may not realize that Marge is the architect of our very successful First Friday program. She has served many roles, besides being our intrepid scribe, she was Treasurer for many years, anchored the Budget Committee, and most importantly, asked incisive, penetrating questions at meeting after meeting—wherever clarity was lacking. At the recent Town Meeting, she brought the house down by noting that the marijuana-use map seemed to include Newbury Court! I mean, really. She says she will miss "the random insights she gathers at Board Meetings about Concord & Carlisle." We shall miss her acute and precise insights into all things sensible, and will look for her as she studies literature (I had the privilege of teaching *Gatsby* to Marge through the Village University program) and history at various Life-Long Learning Programs. Her intellect and engagement will not readily decrease, as she has promised to step-in for Ruth Lauer when a substitute amanuensis-of-sorts is needed."

The new officers and board members were introduced as the 2018-2019 Board and given their directions by the membership. Several members suggested the Board explore the extent of barriers to vote within and beyond the Concord-Carlisle borders. Under New Business, President Diane Proctor announced the June 1 First Friday program on the June 12 Special Town Election regarding the proposed ban on retail marijuana establishments. The annual meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

### **June 6 Board Retreat**

The new Board members met on June 6 for an in-depth discussion of the goals and events for the upcoming League year, and Nancy Beeuwkes generously hosted the event. The Board discussed several housekeeping matters, noted the upcoming National Convention, and heard from each standing committee Chair about the plans for the coming year. Plans for the Fall Membership Meeting on September 12, a broad forum in late September [perhaps September 27], the December Pot Luck and the January Breakfast were carefully considered.

## **FIRST FRIDAYS**

### **May 4 First Friday -- Comprehensive Long Range Plan**

Our First Fridays—a Marge Daggett invention—have been exceptional this year. Organized by Ardis Bordman and inspired by the Observer Corps and LWVCC Board members, we have enjoyed significant insights into varied town boards and issues.

Our penultimate (we thought it would be the last until the Concord Select Board chose to forward a vote on retail marijuana for the 12<sup>th</sup> of June) First Friday was a bookend to one of our first: a presentation by the Concord Long Range Planning (CLRP) Co-Heads: Elise Woodward and Gary Kleiman.

They began the May meeting by outlining the committee's next step: in May, recommend actions that support these goals. Their work, to-date, has been reviewed by all Town Boards with certain issues identified as missing or perhaps underemphasized, including:

1. 2229 Main Street urgently needs support for specific plans for the redevelopment of that site;
2. Walden Street landfill land is valuable and needs careful development consideration;
3. We need to continue to reduce the carbon footprint of our “built” (inhabited) environment in accordance with the Town’s goal to develop utility-scale solar.
4. The role of technology and modeling in future Town development needs fuller consideration;
5. Formalize communication across departments and projects so that we reduce duplication and refine our focus; and
6. Parking issues at the schools.

The attendees (about 30) raised several questions. The first concerned formula

businesses in Concord center and a hope that the CLRPC would recommend a position against formula businesses, similar to West Concord’s. This concern was reconsidered, later in the discussion, with Elise Woodward noting that some formula businesses work well in Town and create a valuable synergy.

The second comment concerned an action plan for a healthy, natural environment, given the increase in tick-borne diseases. The next urged more energy efficiencies in our already “built” environment while maintaining our Town character, recognizing that retrofitting in older structures is complex and often expensive.

The Court House may be phased-out by the State and another participant expressed interest in how this facility might be used by the Town. Readily acknowledging that there would be many official competitors for this space, Elise explained that a public bidding process would determine its use. Thus, it is a bit premature to plan for its use.

Nonetheless, contingency planning for state, federal, and municipal land in and around Concord is important to consider.

Another participant expressed concern about ground transportation between the two Concord centers for both Concordians and visitors. Edie Lipinski, in response to this discussion, presented a model for ground transportation in Lexington called Lexpress for the CLRPC to consider. A group of dedicated residents created Lexpress in 1979; it was one of the first community bus services in the country. After over three decades of operation, Lexpress remains an important form of transportation, making intercity travel efficient and convenient—e.g., regular buses from Lexington City Center to the Burlington Mall. Gary

Kleiman noted that they had asked the consultants to look for such examples.

It was uniformly agreed that creating Town centers, where people come, spend time together, and that remain “livable,” is a central goal—while preserving our historic character. Nonetheless, when reading the rough draft of the CLRP’s document, everyone acknowledged that: the language is often dense, the priorities are not easily discernible, and many of the visuals (charts and maps) need editing and clarifying. Both

Elise and Gary seemed ready to undertake these challenges.

The last Long Range Plan was in 2005. Over 60% of the 350 action items have been completed or are underway. Some goals became obsolescent over time as fresh priorities emerged. This new plan, which will be presented first to the Planning Board for approval and then the Select Board for acceptance in June, will inform and direct Concord’s future initiatives and growth.  
*Diane Proctor*



### **June 1 First Friday – Special Election on June 12 – Proposed Ban on Retail Marijuana Sales in Concord**

On Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, from 9:15-11:30 a.m. at Fowler Library, the League of Women Voters held a First Friday Forum on the pros and cons of retail marijuana development in Concord, with an eye to informing citizens about the June 12 special ballot. Select Board Chair Tom McKean moderated the panel and provided a perspective on the legal issues involved in this vote, while Dr. Eden Evins, the director of the Center for Addiction Medicine at Mass. General Hospital, presented the Board of Health’s position. Dr. Deborah Greene, Emerson Hospital Emergency Room, and Dean Banfield spoke about their views on the prospects of increased teen drug use. Karle Packard of the Concord Finance Committee provided the potential tax revenue implications from marijuana sales. Much of the discussion focused on zoning issues, concerns about teen access to marijuana and increased teen drug use. As a result of the June 12 Special Election, the proposal to ban retail marijuana establishments passed with 67% of the 1,789 votes cast, representing a turnout of 13.55% of Concord’s registered voters.

## **STATE PROGRAM AND ACTION**

### **Get Ready for the Next LWVMA Study!**

The LWVMA study of the ballot question process in Massachusetts will be ready for local League and member-at-large consensus meetings starting Dec. 1, 2018, until Jan. 31, 2019.

Since its appointment last August, the LWVMA study committee has completed the bulk of its research and is compiling the consensus questions and study guide. In addition to getting the advice and consent of the LWVMA board, the study committee will pilot the consensus questions with two or three local Massachusetts Leagues.

The scope of the study is to review the Massachusetts laws and regulations that govern statewide citizen-initiated ballot questions (initiative and referendum process); consider the consequences of current laws and regulations; and propose concrete next steps that LWVMA could take to enact change, if the study results in recommended change.

Those concrete steps could include drafts of legislation and/or Constitutional amendments needed to implement any recommended changes. By proposing concrete steps, the League will be ready to take action based on the study's positions.

Examples of areas of study include the goals of the initiative and referendum process; funding; signature requirements; the length, subject matter and complexity of ballot questions; and the regulations around accepting and rejecting signatures. Research will include procedures in other states, past Massachusetts ballot questions, funds expended, and procedures for changing current laws and regulations.

The final consensus questions, study guide, and related materials will be available to local Leagues and members this fall. Here is the LWVMA link for additional information on the study: <https://lwmva.org/the-lwmva-study-on-the-massachusetts-ballot-question-process/>.

For more information, please contact Nancy Beeuwkes at 978-371-7293. *Nancy Beeuwkes, State Program & Action Chair*

## **NATIONAL PROGRAM AND ACTION**

### **LWVUS CONVENTION JUNE 28 – JULY 1 IN CHICAGO**

The 53<sup>rd</sup> National League convention will be held in Chicago from June 28 to July 1 this year. Nine members of LWVCC will be attending. The convention builds on the League's collaborative strengths to learn from one another at this national gathering of League leaders where members elect officers and directors, update League bylaws and adopt the program and budget for the coming biennium.



2016 LWVUS National Convention – the Massachusetts delegation

Information about the convention is available on the League Management site at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). Registration is opening in February. For more information please contact Nancy Cronin at [nrcronin@verizon.net](mailto:nrcronin@verizon.net). *Nancy Cronin, National Program & Action Chair*

## **Beyond the March: Women Leading the Way in Massachusetts**

On April 28, the LWVMA held its Spring Conference at Clark University, Worcester, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The theme was “Beyond the March: Women Leading the Way in Massachusetts.” Nine LWVCC members attended this program.

The first speaker, Barbara Berenson, targeted the activist roots of Massachusetts suffragists and the “Power of Persistence.” U.S. Representative Niki Tsongas (3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District, Massachusetts) spoke after lunch, giving her reflections on her years of service as a Congresswoman representing Massachusetts.

Next, Lisa Wong, the former Mayor of Fitchburg and the current Deputy Director of the Asian American Civic Association, moderated a panel discussion about how all politics is local and making democracy work in cities. Panelists included three women municipal leaders: Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor of Newton; Yvonne Spicer, Mayor of Framingham, and Sarai Rivera, Worcester City Councilor.

Following Congressman Tsongas, Harvard University Professor of Government Daniel Ziblatt led a discussion on action steps for change. Professor Ziblatt is co-author of “How Democracies Die.” *Anne Hayden*



## **SEPTEMBER / NOVEMBER ELECTION INFO**



**THE PRIMARY ELECTION IS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, AND THE GENERAL ELECTION IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6. READY, SET, GET INFORMED!**

**LWVMA Voter Guide:** LWVMA will introduce a new Online Voters' Guide on July 20 to educate voters throughout Massachusetts for the 2018 state primary election. The guide will allow Massachusetts voters to access personalized ballot information for all candidates on the ballot plus all the ballot questions.

### ***Key 2018 Election Dates:***

**Primary Election:** Tuesday, September 4. There may be early voting. Last date to register to vote is August 15. LWVMA on-line Voter Guide is ready July 20.

**General Election:** Tuesday, November 6. There will be early voting. Last date to register to vote is October 17. LWVMA on-line Voter Guide is ready September 17.

**Candidate Forums:**

LWVCC anticipates working with other local leagues (e.g., Acton League, Chelmsford League) to sponsor candidate forums. Forums may be videotaped by CCTV for on-line viewing.

<b>Election</b>	<b>Candidate Seat</b>	<b>Targeted weeks</b>
<b>Primary Election</b>		
	MA 3 <sup>rd</sup> Congressional District (US Rep. Tsongas' seat)	July 24 or 31
	Middlesex County offices (District Attorney)	August 6 or 13
	MA State House (State Rep. Atkins' seat)	August 6 or 13
	Governor's Council	August 6 or 13
<b>General Election</b>		
	MA 3 <sup>rd</sup> Congressional District (US Rep. Tsongas' seat)	October 1, 8 or 15
	Middlesex County offices (District Attorney)	October 1, 8, or 15
	MA State House (State Rep. Atkins' seat)	October 1, 8 or 15
	Governor's Council	October 1, 8 or 15

For more information on registering to vote, finding your polling place, helping out at the polls, checking your voting registration, absentee voting, sample ballots, and general voting documents, visit: <http://www.concordma.gov/375/Elections-Voting>, or [http://www.carlislema.gov/Pages/CarlisleMA\\_Clerk/index](http://www.carlislema.gov/Pages/CarlisleMA_Clerk/index).

To keep track of who will be on the ballot, visit the Secretary of the Commonwealth "Elections and Voting" webpage for the official information, including key dates for candidates to file and be verified for the ballot (<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/2018-State-Primary-Calendar-New-Date.pdf>). You can check for updates at: <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elerecentelections.htm>.

**Reminder:** The League does not endorse candidates; only issues. While individual League members may be active in campaigns, they may not act as League representatives. Be clear in your support during this campaign season.

If you want to assist in these election forums, contact Judy Zaunbrecher at [VoterService@lwvcc.org](mailto:VoterService@lwvcc.org). *Judy Zaunbrecher, LWVMA State Director and Voter Service Committee Co-Chair and LWVCC Voter Service Chair*

## **BALLOT READY**

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts will introduce a new online Voters' Guide to voters throughout Massachusetts for the 2018 Primary and State elections. The LWVMA

Voters' Guide is a customizable digital resource based on the BallotReady platform, replacing Vote411. BallotReady has been licensed by LWVMA and is available at no cost to our local Leagues!

BallotReady will allow Massachusetts voters to access personalized ballot information – for all candidates on the ballot from US Senator down through county positions, such as District Attorney, plus ballot questions – simply by entering a street address. Voters will also be able to access in-depth information about candidates (including candidates' responses to questions created by LWVMA) and ballot measures, an online voter registration tool, local and state voting requirements and rules, and videos of candidate debates.

Voters can “Make a Plan to Vote” with this new platform. It will show voters where and when to vote, email or text calendar reminders to show up and vote, and is easily sharable on social media.

The Voters' Guide will be custom branded for the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts and available in both desktop and mobile platforms.

Look for more information soon about LWVMA online Voters' Guide and our bigger effort to engage and educate voters in 2018. Please contact Judy Zaunbrecher at [VoterService@lwvcc.org](mailto:VoterService@lwvcc.org) if you have any questions. *Judy Zaunbrecher*

## **Get out the Vote VOLUNTEER Opportunities**

### **Voter Registration**

The LWV is renowned for its voter registration activities. Many League members have expressed interest in doing more in this area, particularly leading up to the 2018 federal and state primary and general elections.

LWVCC will register voters at Back to School nights, July 4<sup>th</sup> Picnic in the Park, Carlisle's Old Home Day, and other public events in Concord and Carlisle. Additionally, LWVCC will be organizing interested members to conduct voter registration drives in Massachusetts focused on groups with low registration rates, such as among young people and nearby towns.

Registering voters is a great way to be active in the community and make a difference. You can volunteer as much as you want—be it one time or several times. Every hour volunteered matters.

Voter registration drives will be announced in MMN. Keep a look out for these opportunities to volunteer throughout the summer and fall.

### **Candidate Forums**

LWVCC Candidate forums provide an invaluable service to our community by bringing the candidates together and giving the public an opportunity to hear them address their questions in

person. LWV Candidate Forums are successful due to the many volunteers who fulfill the many, well-defined roles required to organize and conduct a forum. Roles include:

- Arranging the venue
- Question development
- Question collection and sorting during the event
- Time keeping during the forum
- Contacting candidates
- Greeters
- Arranging videotaping
- Setting and cleaning up for the event
- Inviter of local Town Officials and the press

Candidate forums provide those who help organize and conduct them wonderful insight into the election process, the role of the offices being sought, and opportunity to interact with the candidates and their campaigns.

Contact Judy Zaunbrecher at [VoterService@lwvcc.org](mailto:VoterService@lwvcc.org) if you are interested in volunteering.

## NOTES

**Note:** The Town of Concord is advertising for volunteers for the following committees: Concord Housing Development Corporation, Personnel Board, Pollinator Health Advisory Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals, Youth Coordinator Advisory Board, Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee, and PEG Access Advisory Committee. If interested, please fill out a green card: <http://www.concordma.gov/739/Vacancies---Member-Positions>.

**Note:** The Town of Carlisle is advertising for volunteers for the following committees: Board of Registrars, Finance Committee. If interested, please contact the Town Clerk at (978) 369-6155 or [townhall@carlislema.gov](mailto:townhall@carlislema.gov).

**Note:** The Town of Concord elected six officials on March 27: Select Board members Jane Hotchkiss and Linda Escobedo, Town Moderator Carmin Reiss, School Committee members Heather Bout and Court Booth, and Concord Housing Authority member Todd Benjamin. Their terms of office began on April 13, the day after the last day of Concord's Town Meeting. For the official results of the Concord Town Election, see: <http://concordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13438/3272018-Town-Election-OFFICIAL-Tally>.

**Note:** The Town of Carlisle held its 2018 Town Meeting on April 30 at the Corey Building in Carlisle. The Town voters were faced with 25 Warrant Articles, ranging from elected officials' salaries to Town operating budget, animal control (dogs) bylaw changes, speed limits, conservation preservation funds, PEG access, and a temporary marijuana moratorium. For more

information on the Carlisle Town Meeting and Warrant, see:  
[http://www.carlislema.gov/Pages/CarlisleMA\\_Townmeetings/index](http://www.carlislema.gov/Pages/CarlisleMA_Townmeetings/index).

**Note:** On May 8, the Town of Carlisle held its Town Elections, and chose Wayne Davis for Moderator, Mary de Alderete for Town Clerk, Alan Lewis for Board of Selectmen, Kenneth Mostello for Board of Assessors, Donna Margolies and Todd Thorsen for Board of Health, Christine Stevens for Library Trustee, Jonathan Stevens and Peter Yelle for Planning Board, Melynda Gambino for School Committee, and Morgen Bearse for Housing Authority.

**Note:** On June 13, the Concord Municipal Light Board approved a \$0.01/kWh rate increase to the electricity energy rate for all Concord residential and commercial customers. This charge is designed to cover the expense of purchasing Renewable Energy Credits for “green power” and is expected to take effect September 1, 2018.

**Note:** CCTV on-demand videos may be found either on the current CCTV website:  
<http://www.concordtv.org> or on the new CCTV / Concord You Tube webpage:  
[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=cctv+concord+ma](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=cctv+concord+ma).

**Note:** If you want to see what’s happening in Concord and Carlisle, check out the Event Juggler website: <https://www.eventjuggler.com/>.

**Note:** If you want to receive emails from the Town of Concord on Town-related activities, sign up on the Town’s “Notify Me” web page and select the events/committees you want to hear about: <http://www.concordma.gov/list.aspx>.

**Note:** The next Bulletin is expected to be released on November 16; all submissions are due to the Editor by November 2. Thank you. *Karlen Reed*

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**TO:**

Dick Goodwin (December 1931-May 2018), a renowned speechwriter, sage Presidential advisor, and Concordian, wrote the following words for Robert Kennedy, ones by which we can all live: "Each time a [person] stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope. Multiplied a million times, these ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."