



BULLETIN
lwva.com

September 2024

Calendar

Tuesday September 3 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	State Primary Election. Early voting began Aug. 24 and ends Aug. 30.
Tuesday September 10 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting via Zoom teleconference. The meeting URL will be sent to attendees; email one of the Co-Presidents if you would like to attend.
Saturday September 21 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Arlington’s Town Day on Massachusetts Ave. Volunteer for our booth (see below) or just stop by to visit!
Tuesday November 5 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	General Election.

**COME AND HELP OUT!
 LEAGUE TOWN DAY BOOTH
 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024**

The end of summer means it’s time to get ready for Arlington’s Town Day. LWV Arlington will have a booth at this event that will be packed with information about voter registration, the November election, precinct maps, proposed legislation, League membership, policies, and activities, and other voter service literature. We are looking for volunteers to work in 1- or 2-hour increments from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This is a great, fast-paced event, with two to three people at the booth at all times, so both seasoned and new League members are welcome to participate. If you can help out, please call Meredith Zona at 781-648-2753, or send an email to her at meredith.zona@stantec.com. We look forward to seeing you on Town Day!

Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski: Co-Presidents
CarolynMParsons@msn.com, amolszewski@gmail.com
Ann FitzGerald: Membership AnnFitz@rcn.com

Kim Haase: Bulletin Editor c.haase@comcast.net
Margaret Reiners: Bulletin Mailing mlreiners@gmail.com

Co-President's Message

It seems like just last week we were listening to Beth Locke's presentation and enjoying a potluck dinner at our annual meeting. Time flies! Here we are, almost at Labor Day, organizing for Town Day and planning upcoming programming.

We are looking forward to celebrating the semiquincentennial in 2025. A group met over the summer to begin preliminary planning for the League's participation in the commemoration. We will resume work on this in September. Beyond the festivities, it is important to recognize that the seeds of revolution were planted and grew because of a fight for voting rights. These fights continued over the years, through suffrage and the Civil Rights Movement, and now voting rights are being challenged because of restrictive laws in some states. This reminds of us the important role of the League in preserving voters' rights.

Please consider volunteering at the LWVA Town Day booth. It's a great way to get involved with the League and connect with our community.

Angela Olszewski

LWVA Welcomes New Member

We extend a warm welcome to our newest member, Gloria Krusemeyer.



LWVA LEADERSHIP 2024-2025

Carolyn Parsons, Co-President	781-646-9309
Angela Olszewski, Co-President	781-648-8649
Meredith Zona, Organization VP	781-648-2753
Patricia Muldoon, Action VP	339-223-3300
Joan Martin, Treasurer	617-966-4521
Anne Linn, Secretary	781-643-0356
Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director	781-646-9711
Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Voter Service	781-648-9026
Jo Anne Preston, Voter Service	781-643-5431
Marina Popova, Voter Service	339-707-0740
Laura Ahner, Candidates Night	360-907-2056
Kim Haase, Bulletin Editor/Ads	781-643-3429
Margaret Reiners, Bulletin Mailing	781-646-9611
Pamela Meister, Email Coordinator	781-646-8024
Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Webmistress	781-648-9026

The BULLETIN is published monthly except during the summer and December by the League of Women Voters of Arlington, PO Box 461, Arlington, MA 02476.

Area Leagues Co-Sponsor Governor's Council Forum

The League of Women Voters of Newton hosted a forum for the District 3 candidates for Governor's Council on Thursday, August 15, 2024. The event took place at Newton's local cable studio (NewTV). The moderator was Jenn Adams, NewTV News Director.

Every League in the District co-sponsored the forum, including Arlington.

The candidates on the ballot for the September 3 primary are Marilyn Petitto Devaney, incumbent, and Mara Dolan, challenger; both are Democrats. The recording of the 56-minute forum is available on Newton's cable website.

Here is the YouTube link for the forum: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsVQ68BFzsI>



Who Governs the Governor's Council? education event

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA), in partnership with the advocacy organization Who Governs the Governor's Council (WGGC, at <https://whogovernsthegc.org/>), hosted the Zoom event, "Who Governs the Governor's Council?" to educate voters on what the Governor's Council is and does, and how it affects the legal system.

Watch the recording at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StO2ri1XcWU>.


View the presentation slides at <https://lwvma.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/WGGC-8.13.24-slides.pdf>.

Panelists were David Harris, Emeritus Managing Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School; Jean Trounstone, author, activist and professor who writes about the Governor's Council and Parole for the Boston Institute of Nonprofit Journalism; and Nancy Bettinger, LWVMA criminal legal system legislative specialist.

Modeled after the 2022 ACLU public education program, *What a Difference a DA Makes*, this event explained the role of the Governor's Council in lifetime judicial appointments, the Parole Board, and commutations and pardons.



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Annual Meeting Hosts Beth Locke, Elects Officers

By Kim Haase

Beth Locke, Executive Director of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, spoke to League members and friends after a scrumptious potluck on June 10.

The Chamber, Locke reported, publicizes Arlington businesses and sponsors activities to promote the Town's civic life. It's currently taking ads for the fourth edition of its magazine *Visit Arlington*, one of the few opportunities for storefront and home businesses to advertise in print. The Chamber's website is <https://arlcc.org>, and the online *Visit Arlington* site is <https://www.visitarlingtonma.org/>.

Some activities sponsored by the Chamber include the summer concerts in Whittemore Park, Halloween activities with Town businesses, Christmas tree lighting in Whittemore Park, and a Health and Wellness Expo. They work on business district beautification with plantings and better lighting. They have a strong relationship with Town government. Their challenges include the number of vacant storefronts (a longstanding problem) as well as our long main street that results in three main business districts instead of a single town center. Locke spends a good deal of time recruiting out-of-town businesses to open branches here.

Locke fielded a number of questions from attendees, many about the vacant storefronts and some of the developments going up in town.

After our guest speaker, the League held its annual business meeting to approve a budget and leadership for the 2025 fiscal year. Both Board and off-Board positions were approved. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to serve!

Board Positions

Co-Presidents: Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski
Vice President for Organization: Meredith Zona
Action: Patricia Muldoon
Secretary: Anne Linn
Treasurer: Joan Martin
Membership Director: Ann FitzGerald
Bulletin Editor/Bulletin Ad Coordinator: Kim Haase
Webmistress: Elisabeth Carr-Jones
E-mail Coordinator: Pamela Meister

Off-Board Positions

Bulletin Mailing: Margaret Reiners
Voters Service: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jo Anne Preston, Marina Popova
Candidates Night Coordinator: Laura Ahner
Rides to the Polls: Carolyn Parsons



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Initial consultation is free for LWVA members

A promotional graphic for Arlington Community Media, Inc. (ACMi). The background consists of vertical stripes in shades of green, blue, and red. A dark green rounded rectangle is centered on the page. Inside this rectangle, the ACMi logo is at the top, followed by the text "Arlington Community Media, Inc. is YOUR local television station". Below this, the word "SCHEDULES" is written in large white letters with a horizontal line underneath. At the bottom, the word "DONATE" is written in large yellow letters, with the website "www.ACMi.tv" in yellow below it.

ACMi
Arlington Community Media, Inc.
is YOUR local television station
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League Member Asks for Help Saving Century-old Scotch Pine

By Marina Popova

A 100-year-old Scotch pine is slated for removal in the current redevelopment plan for the historic Atwood House at 821 Massachusetts Ave, near CVS in the Center. There are viable and more environmentally beneficial alternatives to this plan that preserve the tree without reducing the housing capacity.

Protecting all trees is extremely important for us to have a chance to withstand climate change, and mature trees are especially valuable.

According to the Tree Benefit Calculator, <https://www.arboday.org/calculator/>, this Scotch pine, 22 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH), provides the following benefits per year, among others:

- It reduces atmospheric carbon by 397 pounds
- It intercepts 2,609 gallons of stormwater runoff

Newly planted trees will not provide this level of benefits until at least 50 years later!

You can find the petition to save the tree at <https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/save-the-centennial-scottish-pine-from-being-destroyed.html>.

Gov. Healey Signs League-endorsed Gun Safety Law

On July 25, Governor Maura T. Healey signed into law *An Act Modernizing Firearms Laws* (H.4885), the state's most significant gun safety legislation in a decade. The bill was passed by the Legislature as a result of the Supreme Court's decision in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*, which sought to weaken states' ability to protect their residents through gun safety laws.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts supported the bill.

The bill signed today modernizes Massachusetts' existing firearms laws to address issues such as untraceable "ghost guns" and 3-D printed guns, enhance the "Red Flag Law," further protect safety in public spaces and increase violence prevention programming in the state. As Attorney General, Governor Healey was a strong advocate for stricter regulation of ghost guns and 3-D guns.

"Massachusetts is proud of our strong gun laws, but there is always more work to be done to keep our communities safe from violence. This legislation updates our firearms laws in response to the Supreme Court's misguided Bruen decision," said Governor Healey. "It cracks down on ghost guns and 3-D printed weapons, which I have long advocated for, enhances our ability to prevent guns from falling into dangerous hands, and invests in our communities to address the root causes of violence. This law will save lives, and I'm grateful to the Legislature and gun safety advocates for their hard work to see this through."

"Gun technology and trends are constantly evolving, and it's important that our laws evolve along with them," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "This law will make our communities safer by preventing violence in the first place and improving law enforcement's ability to respond to gun crimes."

"As a former prosecutor, I have experienced firsthand the devastating impacts of gun violence on victims, families, and communities. Untraceable firearms like ghost guns and 3-D printed weapons pose a tremendous risk to public safety, and our laws must evolve to stop the proliferation of these dangerous weapons," said Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy. "This new legislation strengthens our ability to combat gun violence, hold violent offenders accountable, and enhance community safety. The law also advances Massachusetts' position as a national leader in strong and effective gun laws."

The legislation enhances the firearms statute to combat ghost guns by requiring the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services (DCJIS) to develop and maintain a real time electronic firearms registration system and requiring that all firearms manufactured or assembled in Massachusetts be registered.

The legislation also strengthens the state's "Extreme Risk Protective Order" (ERPO) statute, or "Red Flag Law," and takes additional steps to prevent guns from falling into the wrong hands. It clarifies that, under the Red Flag Law, a person who has had their firearm license revoked cannot obtain any new firearm licenses or identification cards while the ERPO is still in place. It also expands who can seek an ERPO to include licensing authorities, law enforcement agencies, and health care providers, in addition to a family or household member.

To better protect Massachusetts communities from dangerous weapons, the legislation updates the state's assault weapons ban by expanding the definition of "assault weapons" to include known assault weapons and other weapons that function like them with respect to certain features.

We welcome new members and renewals at all times. Join online (see next page for instructions) or by using this form. Thank you!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ARLINGTON
Membership Application/Renewal Form

Fiscal Year runs from April 1 to March 31

Name _____ Precinct _____ Date _____
Address _____ Zip _____ Occupation _____
Telephone _____ Email _____

_____ Please indicate if you do NOT want your contact information sent to Arlington League members

_____ Basic Membership Dues..... \$60
_____ 2nd member in household \$23
_____ Student (full-time) \$20
_____ Contribution to help the LWV in Arlington, add \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

If \$60 is a hardship, please pay what you can and let us know that this is your dues payment.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: League of Women Voters of Arlington
MAIL TO: Ann FitzGerald, 162 Summer St., Unit 1, Arlington, MA 02474

Please check areas of interest and activity even if you can't be actively involved THIS year.

SPECIAL LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

- _____ Action: phone calls _____ letters _____
_____ Bulletin: mailing _____ soliciting ads _____
_____ Membership
_____ Nominating Committee
_____ Publicity
_____ Voter Service: Rides to the polls _____
_____ Candidates Night
_____ Voters' Guide
_____ Host a meeting in my home

FOLLOW ISSUES, KEEP LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY INFORMED

- _____ Congress/Presidency/Election Process
_____ Discrimination/Equal Employment/Civil Rights
_____ Education
_____ Environment/Climate Change
_____ Health Care
_____ Justice/Courts/Prisons
_____ Housing/Zoning/Community Development
_____ Taxation/Budgets/Deficits
_____ Transportation/Urban Policy
_____ Voting Rights
_____ Basic Human Needs
_____ Women's Issues/Gender Issues
_____ Housing/Zoning/Community Development
_____ Other

OBSERVE AT TOWN BOARD MEETINGS*

- _____ Select Board (Mondays)
_____ Redevelopment Board (Mondays)
_____ School Committee (2nd & 4th Thursdays)
_____ Conservation Commission
_____ Housing Authority

SKILLS LEAGUE COULD DRAW ON

- _____ Writing articles
_____ Computer spreadsheet
_____ Desktop publishing
_____ Website management
_____ Moderating meetings
_____ Membership development

*Some of these can be seen on cable TV

Please add my name, street address, phone number, and email address to the LWVA mailing list: _____ Yes _____ No

(Note: This information will not be sent to anyone outside the LWVA)

Renew Your League Membership Online!

You can use the League of Women Voters of Arlington website to renew your membership or join the League. Follow these steps:

1. Go to <https://www.lwva.com> and click **Join the Arlington League**.
2. On the Join page, click the **Join or Renew using PayPal, debit or credit card** button
3. On the Membership page, fill in the form and click the **Submit and Proceed to PayPal for Payment** button.
4. On the Payment page, click the option you want (Basic Membership, etc.).
5. Choose **Donate with PayPal** (if you have an account) or **Donate with your Debit or Credit Card**.
6. On the PayPal site, fill in the form and click **Donate Now**.

You can still renew by printing the form on page 9 and mailing it to the LWVA with your check.

September 2024

League of Women Voters of Arlington
Post Office Box 461
Arlington, MA 02476

