



BULLETIN
/lwva.com

October 2024

Calendar

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|-------------|-----------------------------|--|
| October 8 | Tuesday 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. |
| October 8 | Tuesday 7 p.m. | LWVMA forum on Ballot Question 1, on Zoom. See below for details. |
| October 19 | Saturday noon | Early voting for the General Election begins at the Town Hall Auditorium, 730 Mass. Ave.; it runs till noon Friday, Nov. 1. |
| October 26 | Saturday 5 p.m. | Voter registration deadline for the General Election. See https://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/elections-voting for more election information. |
| October 29 | Tuesday 5 p.m. | Deadline to apply for a mail-in ballot for the General Election. |
| November 5 | Tuesday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. | General Election. |
| December 10 | Tuesday 6 p.m. | Save the date for our annual holiday potluck! Our guest speaker this year will be Town Clerk Juli Brazile. |

LWVMA Sponsors Zoom Forum on Question 1

Join us on Tuesday, October 8 at 7:00 PM via Zoom for an education forum on Ballot Question 1: *State Auditor's Authority to Audit the Legislature*. We will be briefed on arguments for and against the measure and then take your questions. Register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZlPd-2urDwuEtJEQmn7jcoXEWbcHChQsSB5#/registration>.

The LWVMA statement on the November 2024 ballot questions is on pages 7-8 of this Bulletin.

View more voter education forums via the LWVMA calendar, at <https://lwvma.org/events/>.

Visit Vote411 at <https://www.vote411.org/massachusetts> for everything you need to prepare for election 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

Fall is my favorite time of the year. I love the cool nights and warm, but not too warm, days. Pumpkins, gourds, and cider donuts are great, also.

On National Voter registration Day, September 17, the LWVA registered citizens at Arlington EATS. A few voter registration forms were brought home to family members. Contact with Arlington EATS was facilitated through the efforts of Sue Fish, a LWVA member. Thank you to Sue Fish, Colleen Kirby, Kim Haase, Merri Lea Shaw and Bruce Carroll, Merri Lea's husband, for volunteering their time. Susan Dorson, Program Director for Arlington EATS, also agreed to the placement of an Arlington Votes sign outside her building. Placement of signs in East Arlington is rather sparse, and no sign announcing an upcoming election had been on Broadway in the past.

A few LWVA members are participating with other groups in the planning of a voter registration/panel discussions/mock election event on October 15 at Arlington High School. Michael Kozuch, Arlington Public Schools History and Social Science Coordinator, is leading this effort. Maggie Carey, from the Unitarian Universalist church, contacted the LWVA to see if we were interested. I was quite impressed with all the ideas to make this day of voter awareness/participation be a successful event.

Happy fall!

Carolyn Parsons

LWVA Welcomes New Members

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members, Taylor Jackson and Mary Beth Clack.



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.

Town Day 2024: Sodden, but Spirited

By Carolyn Parsons

This year, fall ushered in the Town Day festivities, which were dampened by drizzle, and, at times, wind-driven rain. Not a nice fall day at all! Thank heavens for our tent that also has sides. The LWVA registered citizens of Arlington and other towns, provided contact information for our representatives and senators at both the federal and state levels, provided an overview of the ballot questions, and provided a listing of the legislative priorities of the LWVMA. A lot of questions were answered.

Having a booth at Town Day required the efforts of several league members and, hopefully, a new LWVA member. Thank you to Marina Popova, Meredith Zona, Ann FitzGerald, Kim Haase, Joan Martin, Patti Muldoon, Lu Leveille, Colleen Kirby, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, and Vicki Ford for volunteering their time.



Ann FitzGerald and Colleen Kirby greet voters at the LWVA booth on a wet and breezy Town Day. A sheet on the west side protects them from the wind-blown rain.

Photo by Elisabeth Carr-Jones



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In Memoriam: Jane Howard, 1937-2024

By Kim Haase

Jane Howard, a member of the League of Women Voters of Arlington for almost 50 years, died September 7. She was one of Arlington's most active and distinguished citizens for many years, as a Town Meeting member and a co-founder of Vision 2020 (now Envision Arlington).

Two events will be held in Jane's memory on October 6: a remembrance at Keefe Funeral Home, 5 Chestnut St., from 1 to 4 p.m., and a reception at the Jason Russell House, 7 Jason St., from 4 to 6 p.m.

Keefe Funeral Home has a very informative obituary on its website:

<https://www.keefefuneralhome.com/memorials/jane-l-howard/5484043/index.php>

YourArlington has an excellent piece, too, at

<https://yourarlington.com/arlington-archives/residents/people/current/22477-howard-092324.html>

Some LWVA members have memories of Jane:

Janice Bakey: Jane Howard was a pillar of our Town. She was involved in or led so many projects for the improvement of our community. For example, she was a leader in Vision 2020, the Annual Town Survey, the Human Rights Commission, the schools, overrides, and our libraries.

She believed everyone should volunteer to help and was driven to involve as many residents as possible, and she was meticulous in getting a job done right. She will be sorely missed.

Meredith Zona: Back in the early 1990s, LWVA was actively involved in incorporating recycling in Arlington's curbside waste pickup program. I hand-delivered a letter to then-Town Manager Don Marquis at his home. This letter obligated LWVA to pay for the cost of printing, and then dropping off, a notice about the upcoming recycling program, with assistance from non-LWVA members, to every residence in Arlington, excluding apartment buildings. Jane and her husband Pete were very interested in the proposed recycling program, and I remember going to their home to personally tell them about the letter to Mr. Marquis; they were very pleased.

Carolyn Parsons: It was my first night as a newly elected Town Meeting Member. I was prepared. I had read all of the initial and subsequent reports from the various town committees. All of the information was in a loose-leaf binder and labelled for easy access. I had looked over the warrant and made notes. Having arrived from a side door, I sat behind Jane and Pete Howard. Opening remarks were made and we sang the national anthem. Jane turned around to greet me and asked if I had checked in and if I had gotten the latest updated material from various committees or individual Town Meeting Members on the back table. I was not prepared.



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Initial consultation is free for LWVA members

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LWVMA Takes No Positions on 2024 Ballot Questions

From the State League

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is “taking no position” on Ballot Questions 1-5 for the November 5, 2024 election. This means that League members may participate in Yes or No campaigns for Ballot Questions 1-5 as individuals but should not do anything to make the public think that LWVMA or a Local League has endorsed a Yes or No campaign.

Local Leagues may hold informational forums on these ballot questions and LWVMA is happy to partner on these as we did in 2022.

More details on the ballot questions can be found in the Information for Voters guide sent to households, which can also be found online.

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/research-and-statistics/info-for-voters-2024.htm>

How Does The Board Decide?

The LWVMA Board votes to support, oppose, or take no position on specific ballot questions based on positions or goals previously researched and adopted by the League, which are described in Impact on Issues (LWVUS) or Where We Stand (LWVMA):

https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/LWV_ImpactOnIssues2022-2024.pdf

<https://lwvma.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Where-We-Stand.2023.pdf>

Question 1: State Auditor’s Authority to Audit the Legislature

Ballot Question 1 would give explicit authority to the State Auditor to audit the Legislature.

Transparency is a key tenet of the League. The League has worked for the public’s right to know and for broad public participation in government as a necessary component of decision-making at all levels of government since its founding. LWVMA believes in an effective state government with a strong executive branch with lines of authority and responsibility clearly defined. It also believes in a strong and highly visible legislative branch that maintains its traditional role as a democratic forum.

However, LWVMA takes no position on Ballot Question 1 because existing law does not authorize it and it may be unconstitutional. The proposed “audit” is defined to include “information regarding active and pending legislation, the process for appointing committees, the adoption and suspension of legislative rules and policies and procedures of the Legislature.” In a letter from the Attorney General’s Office (AGO) dated November 3, 2023, citing the Massachusetts Constitution and Massachusetts General Laws, she concluded that the State Auditor does not currently have the authority to audit the legislature without the Legislature’s consent. (see page 2, emphasis added). See

<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2023/11/02/2023.11.02%20AGO%20Letter%20to%20SAO.pdf>.

Additionally, the proposed audit may violate the separation of powers doctrine. Citing the relevant statute, the AGO letter states “Section 12 directs the State Auditor to audit the “accounts,

Continued on next page

LWVMA on Ballot Questions (Continued)

programs, activities and functions ... of all departments, offices, commissions, institutions and activities of the commonwealth ..." (emphasis added). "The key question is whether the Legislature is a 'department' as that term is used in Section 12.10. Applying well-established rules for interpreting statutes, we conclude that it is not." (see pages 3 & 4)

The AGO letter further states "An unqualified auditing power sufficient to audit the Legislature over its objection would be difficult to reconcile with the powers vested exclusively in the Legislature by various parts of Chapter 1 of Part II of the Massachusetts Constitution, and protected from encroachment by Articles 21 and 30 of the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights." (see page 16)

Question 2: Elimination of MCAS as High School Graduation Requirement

Ballot Question 2 would eliminate the requirement that a student pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests in order to receive a high school diploma.

The League believes the state Board of Education should set minimum educational standards for local public school systems with reasonable criteria for implementation and it should also provide services to assist local schools and to motivate them to improve the quality of education.

LWVMA believes members would need to reach consensus on an alternative to MCAS before deciding to support or oppose this ballot measure and therefore takes no position on this question.

Question 3: Unionization for Transportation Network Drivers

Ballot Question 3 would provide transportation network drivers with the right to form unions. The League has no positions on this topic, so LWVMA takes no position on this question.

Question 4: Limited Legalization and Regulation of Certain Natural Psychedelic Substances

Ballot Question 4 would allow people aged 21 and older to possess and use certain natural psychedelic substances within specific parameters. The League has no positions on this topic, so LWVMA takes no position on this question.

Question 5: Minimum Wage for Tipped Workers

Ballot Question 5 would gradually increase the minimum hourly wage an employer must pay a tipped worker to 100% of the state minimum wage over five years.

While the LWVUS Meeting Basic Human Needs position includes support for a living wage, it also states, "Specific issues in relation to a living wage and income levels should be decided by Leagues working in their communities." LWVMA believes members would need to study and reach consensus on this issue and therefore takes no position on this Ballot Question.

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.

October 2024

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

