



BULLETIN
lwva.com

November/December 2024

Calendar

Tuesday November 5 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	General Election. Early voting continues through November 1.
Tuesday November 12 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.
Tuesday December 10 6 p.m.	Holiday potluck party at the home of Pamela Meister, 19 Village Lane, with speaker Juli Brazile. See page 3 for details. We will especially welcome our new members from the past year!

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

Early voting is reaching record levels as I write this. People are mailing in ballots and voting early in person. The opportunity still exists to vote on election day. Important questions are on the ballot in Massachusetts. It is great that people are making their voices heard. The results of the presidential race may not be known for days after the election is over.

The holiday season will follow on the heels of the election. This year, we welcome Arlington Town Clerk Juli Brazile as our speaker. The League has had close contact with the Town Clerk's office over the years on topics such as voter registration, rides to the polls, and training for town election workers. We look forward to hearing Juli's perspective on her role and views on Arlington moving to an appointed town clerk. There is sure to be great conversation and food at this event!

I wish all of you a happy and healthy holiday season!

Angela Olszewski

LWVA Welcomes New Members

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members, Alan Jones, Margaret Potter, and Ellen Sullivan.



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
Marina Popova, Secretary	339-707-0740
Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director	781-646-9711
Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Voter Service	781-648-9026
Jo Anne Preston, Voter Service	781-643-5431
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.

You're Invited to LWVA's Annual Holiday Party!

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

6:00 - 9:00 PM

Pamela & Stephen Meister's Home – 19 Village Lane, Arlington

Mark your calendars now for the Arlington League's Annual Holiday Potluck Party, in person! Appetizers and drinks will be served at 6:00 p.m. Main course will start at 6:30 p.m.

Our featured guest speaker this year will be
Arlington Town Clerk Juliana (Juli) Brazile!

Juli was elected to the position of Town Clerk of Arlington in 2020. In addition to overseeing elections, this position has many other duties, such as maintaining vital records, posting meeting notices, collecting violation fees, and annual census administration (Source: *The Study of the Office of the Town Clerk, Town of Arlington, Massachusetts*, July 2022, by Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management). LWVA members, friends and family are most welcome to come and hear Juli speak about her priorities for Arlington, and to provide comments and ask questions.

Please contact Meredith Zona (email: meredith.zona@stantec.com or telephone: 781-540-4473) if you are able to attend, and to tell her what type of food you'll bring. Meredith can also arrange for a ride to and from the event if you need that.

Directions: Village Lane is a small loop street in East Arlington, on the Belmont side of Route 2 off Lake Street. From the Heights, take Park Avenue across Route 2. Turn left onto the access road (it becomes Lake Street), cross Pleasant Street, and turn left onto Village Lane. From the Center, take Pleasant Street toward Belmont, cross Route 2 and turn left on Lake Street. Village Lane is on your left. From East Arlington, take Lake Street into Belmont. Village Lane will be on your right shortly after an on-ramp to Route 2. There is limited parking on Village Lane. You can also park on Cross Street or Albert Ave. on the Belmont side of Lake Street.



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LWVA Helps with Civics Day at Arlington High School

By Carolyn Parsons

Michael Kozuch, Arlington Public School K-12 Director of History and Social Studies, reached out to several organizations, including the LWVA, to help coordinate a day of civic engagement at Arlington High School on Tuesday, October 15. To paraphrase Mr. Kozuch, an estimate of over 30 students pre-registered or registered to vote, either by filling out a paper form or by accessing the Secretary of State's website through a QR code via their cell phone and enrolling online.

Over 600 students heard at least one panel discussion. Debates on two ballot questions, the requirement for passing the MCAS test to graduate (Question 2) and raising the minimum wage for tipped workers (Question 5), were well attended.

Almost 200 students filled out a mock ballot, which was essentially the ballot that registered voters will be filling out on November 5. A few questions about civics day were added, and the comments were overwhelmingly positive, especially the need to talk about civics more in high school. Results will not be known until after the November election.

League members Liz Blumenthal, Ann FitzGerald, Kim Haase, Joan Martin and Carolyn Parsons helped facilitate the registration process. I was quite impressed with the level of participation by the students and faculty. On another note, the dress code seems to be skinny pant legs and a hooded sweatshirt.

YourArlington Fundraiser Supports Local Journalism

By Larry Slotnick and Kim Haase (YourArlington board members)

All are invited to join supporters of local news on Wednesday, November 13, in The Back Room at Donut Villa, 319 Broadway, for a fundraising event that celebrates the launch of the new YourArlington website -- and much, much more.

YourArlington (<https://yourarlington.com/>) is Arlington's free online source of local news coverage. You are welcome to sign up for the free weekly newsletter if you haven't already.

At the event, you can enjoy plentiful savory appetizers in the Back Room starting at 7 p.m., and a lively Q&A session with Brian McGrory, columnist and former editor of the Boston Globe, about re-emergent local journalism in New England, starting at 8 p.m. You can meet Brian's former Globe colleague Carol Beggy -- veteran community journalist and Arlington resident who is now Editor of YourArlington. She is working on the website re-launch with the news site's founder, Bob Sprague, and the website team.

The consortium Institute for Nonprofit News will provide a 1:1 match for a large chunk of the event proceeds. So, if you happen to be booked up, or perhaps out of town that day, any contribution you can make will support the new website (early November) and expansion of the YourArlington newsroom's editorial coverage in 2025.

To purchase tickets or make a donation, go to <https://yourarlington.ticketspice.com/ya-gala-2024>.

The League of Women Voters of the US adopted a position in support of local journalism at its 2024 Convention; see <https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/IOI%20Supplement%20Decline%20of%20Local%20News%20%282%29.pdf> for the full text.



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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 7 and mailing it to the LWVA with your check.

November/December 2024

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

