



BULLETIN, January, 2022

Happy New Year!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

**FIRST FRIDAY FORUM, JANUARY 7, 2022:
2021 REDISTRICTING IN MASSACHUSETTS**

At our January First Friday Forum, beginning at 9:30 am on Zoom, the League will host **Will Brownsberger**, President Pro Tempore of the Massachusetts Senate and Chair of the Senate Committee on Redistricting, to discuss the challenges faced in redrawing voter districts across the state. Presenting an intellectual road map for redistricting, he will address the elements that contribute to better representation of constituencies. Senator Brownsberger has represented Second Suffolk and Middlesex Districts (Belmont, Watertown, parts of Boston) in the Senate since 2012, and previously served as a State Representative from 2007 to 2012. He also serves on the Senate Committee on Bills in the Third Reading, and on the Senate and Joint Committees on Rules. There will be time for questions after his presentation.

This program is the fourth in the 2021-2022 First Friday Forum series hosted by the League of Women Voters to promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues. For more information about the webinar, assistance using Zoom, or more information about the League, go to <http://www.lwvlexington.org/FirstFriday.html>

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization dedicated to the principles of self-government established in the Constitution of the United States. The League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. For more information, contact League convener Margaret Coppe at mecoppe@gmail.com. All League forums are free and open to the public.

LEAGUE CANDIDATES' NIGHT, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022.

Town Elections are coming up on March 7, 2022. Candidates Night, on February 10, will again be virtual this year. Precinct Meetings will begin at 7:00 pm on Zoom and will require registration to assure that everyone finds the right precinct. This is a chance to meet candidates for Town Meeting in your precinct and to speak directly with them about issues that concern you. Beginning at 8:15 pm, the general meeting regarding Townwide offices will be conducted as a webinar, which will allow for presentations from candidates for the Select Board, School Committee, and Planning Board. Where there are contested races, there will be time for questions. For details on registration, and for information on all candidates, go to the LWV Lexington website: www.lwvlexington.org.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION TASK FORCE

The State League is forming a joint DEI/Membership Task Force to work on membership goals with a focus on the League's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. If you are interested in joining this task force, contact Executive Director Pattye Comfort at pcomfort@lwmvma.org.

LWVMA ADVOCACY

OPENINGS FOR LEGISLATIVE ENVOYS

A large part of the state League's advocacy work is conducted through direct contacts with our legislators by topic Specialists and member activists. Throughout the legislative year they monitor bills of specific interest to the LWV and advocate for passage or amendment. The information link between this ongoing work and local Leagues is provided by Legislative Envoys, who keep members apprised of the progress of bills and provide feedback from members to our League representatives on Beacon Hill. Envoys are connected to the LWVMA Legislative Action Committee for periodic updates and receive training in the Massachusetts legislative process and best

practices for advocacy. Like League topic specialists, Envoys develop a working relationship with State Senators and Representatives and track the progress of League priorities in the Legislature. If you are interested in being a Legislative Envoy for the Lexington League, or training to be a topic Specialist, please contact Margaret Coppe, League Convenor, at mecoppe@gmail.com or Envoy Coordinator Mary Cummings at mcummings@lwwma.org.

ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

In March 2021, after long and determined advocacy by our own Senator Mike Barrett, the Massachusetts legislature passed milestone legislation setting out a “road map” and time table for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions over the next 30 years and the development of clean energy sources in our state. As always, the key is implementation, which has been predictably slow.

With the fate of the federal Build Back Better Act uncertain, it is all the more important to take action at the state level. League-supported bills dealing with implementation actions are currently in committee, and must be reported out by February 2 to stay alive. Below is a list of League priority bills, all currently in the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (TUE). Please call or email our legislators to urge them to report these bills out before the deadline. (See contact information at end of this Bulletin.)

[H.3302](#): An Act to promote offshore wind energy and renewables and **[S.2155](#): An Act relative to enhancing reliability of renewable resources in the Commonwealth** (Same bill; different titles).

A clean energy future depends on a clean source of energy. The New England coast has a bountiful supply of wind energy, and boosting clean renewable energy sources will boost efforts to decarbonize our economy.

[H.3350/S.2202](#): An Act relative to building energy and decarbonization
Buildings represent the second largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, a close second to emissions from transportation. Massachusetts is way behind in reaching its goal to decarbonize the building sector and needs to significantly ramp up its efforts around energy efficiency of new and existing buildings and electrification of the building sector.

[H.3298/S.2148](#): An Act relative to the future of heat in the Commonwealth
This bill offers a path forward for gas utilities by allowing them to become clean energy distribution utilities as they transition off gas. Several pilots have already been approved, and major cities are asking for pilots in their jurisdictions.

ACTION ON BASIC HUMAN SERVICES

[Bills in Committee](#). Three small but consequential bills need support. Please contact the committee chairs for each bill and request that the bill be voted swiftly and favorably out of committee.

H.2341/S.1519 Out of Hospital Births: (Bill corrects a “catch- 22” so a woman is allowed to use her health insurance for an at-home birth.

Joint Committee on Public Health Chairs:

- Marjorie.Decker@mahouse.gov (617-722-2130)
- Jo.Comerford@masenate.gov (617-722-1532)

H.2979/S.788 Family Care Givers Tax Credit:

Joint Committee on Revenue Chairs:

- Mark.Cusack@mahouse.gov (617-722-2320)
- Adam.Hinds@masenate.gov (617-722-1625)

H.2271/S.1517 Community Immunity Bill (A process bill that changes no laws)

Joint Committee for Public Health Chairs:

- Marjorie.Decker@mahouse.gov (617-722-2130)
- Jo.Comerford@masenate.gov (617-722-1532)

More information on these bills can be found on a December 8 recording on YouTube: Meet the Health Care Specialists at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pPMg2Xy--4>

Bills Seeking Co-sponsors. A **Right to Counsel bill** ([S.874/H.1436](#)), which is currently in the Joint Committee on Housing, would ensure that when facing eviction, low-income tenants and owner-occupants of 1 to 3 family homes receive full legal representation. Representative Michelle Ciccolo is a co-sponsor of this bill. Please urge Senator Mike Barrett and Senator Cindy Friedman to co-sponsor it as well. The League submitted written testimony noting the devastating effects of evictions on women, particularly mothers and women of color, and the relief that a right to counsel program could provide. Large property owners, teachers, and public health professionals are all weighing in to support a right to counsel program. The fact sheet on the Right to Counsel and women can be found at https://www.massrtc.org/uploads/2/7/0/4/27042339/fact_sheet_women_9.16.21_final.pdf

UPDATE ON OTHER LEAGUE SUPPORTED BILLS

Signed into law by Governor:

H.715/S.298—An act to promote student nutrition October 14, 2021. This law outlines how schools handle student meal debt.

Bills passing one chamber:

S.2554—The VOTES Act, passed the Senate and is in the House Ways & Means Committee.

Bills referred to House Ways and Means:

H.1290—An Act to streamline access to critical public health and safety-net programs through common applications.

H.3157—An Act to ensure gender parity on public boards and commissions 12/30/21'

Bills referred to Senate Ways and Means:

S.2077—An Act to ensure gender parity on public boards and commissions 12/27/21.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

LWVUS EVENTS

FIRST CALL: LWVUS 55TH NATIONAL CONVENTION SHERATON DOWNTOWN DENVER (CO) AND ONLINE JUNE 23-26, 2022.

All League members are invited to attend our biennial national gathering, to be held in Denver, CO and online in 2022. Voting delegates will participate in plenary sessions dealing with the League budget, programs and election of officers. In addition, there will be opportunities to network with fellow League members from all areas of the country, attend large and small group training and education sessions, and be informed and inspired by League and invited speakers. The sessions will be fully hybrid with combined in-person and virtual experiences. Stay tuned for more details.

NATIONAL CONVERENCE ON CITIZENSHIP: “Democracy, Disinformation and Distrust” January 19, 2022

Join the National Conference on Citizenship for a conversation online, about how to tackle mis- and disinformation in our election system and our democracy. “Democracy, Disinformation and Distrust: Building Citizen Capacity to Impact Mis-/Disinformation” will be conducted January 19, at 1 pm by Matt Leighninger, Head of Democracy Innovation with the National Conference on Citizenship, and Cameron Hickey , Director of Algorithmic Transparency Institute of the National Conference on Citizenship. Register at:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/democracy-disinformation-and-distrust-building-citizen-capacity-to-impact-tickets-222618878057>

LWVUS ADVOCACY

LWVUS VOTING RIGHTS FIELD CALL JANUARY 13, 2022

Get updates on key federal voting rights legislation and learn what other Leagues have planned in their states and localities. Register for the January webinar at
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUucumgrT4uGdHG1jCbgZ0IPIIZg258_xQ.

Contact Information for Legislators

U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren	309 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 202 244-4543
U.S. Senator Edward Markey	255 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 202 224-2742
U.S. Representative Katherine Clark	2448 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 202 225-2836
MA Senator Michael Barrett	Mike.Barrett@masenate.gov 617 722-1572
MA Senator Cindy Friedman	Cindy.Friedman@masenate.gov 617 722-1432
MA Representative Michelle Ciccolo	Michelle.Ciccolo@mahouse.gov 617 722-2210

SAVE THE DATE

January 7, 2022	First Friday Forum (on Zoom)	State redistricting
February 4, 2022	First Friday Forum (on Zoom)	TBA
February 10, 2022	Candidates Night (on Zoom)	
June 23-26, 2023	LWVUS Biannual Convention on Zoom & in Denver, CO	

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The League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

For more information, contact the Lexington League Convener Margaret Coppe at mecoppe@gmail.com.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

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We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the February, 2022 LWV LEXINGTON Bulletin, please send it to Wendy Manz at wendy_manz@yahoo.com prior to January 28, 2022.