



BULLETIN, May, 2021

## SUPPLEMENT

Dear Readers: Each month we try to pass on to you information on the activities of the LWWMA and the LWWUS as well as those of our own Lexington League. Too often information becomes available to us after our local deadline, so that it does not make it into the current month's Bulletin but becomes no longer timely by the next month's edition. While we don't anticipate that we will publish regular supplements, this month we have quite a lot of additional material to report, so we are sending it to you in this Supplement.

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS

### LWVMA EVENTS

#### LWVMA 2021 CONVENTION JUNE 26, 2021:

#### *EXPANDING THE TABLE: MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK FOR EVERYONE*

The Massachusetts state League Convention (not to be confused with the national LWWUS Council held the same weekend) will be conducted on Zoom on June 26 from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. The program is planned to be informative and interactive, and more details will be forthcoming soon. While each local League is entitled to send a number of voting delegates to the Council, based on the number of its members, ALL League members are encouraged to attend to hear from speakers and catch up on LWVMA projects. There is no charge. Register at: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_yVARh4IUT\\_hmG4yrXhFnmlQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yVARh4IUT_hmG4yrXhFnmlQ).

## Hearings on Redistricting in Massachusetts Start May 4

Now that the results of the 2020 federal census are being reported, the process of redistricting to reapportion both federal congressional seats and seats in state legislatures is beginning. While Massachusetts will retain the same number of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, adjustment of the boundaries of congressional districts are expected in order to fairly apportion population among districts. Likewise, the boundaries of districts represented by our state senators and representatives will be redrawn.

The Massachusetts Legislature Special Joint Committee on Redistricting has begun holding hearings to collect public input for re-drawing maps for congressional, state legislator, and Governor Council districts. The virtual hearings for Congressional District 5 (which includes Lexington, and is represented by Congresswoman Katherine Clark) were held on May 4. Anyone wishing to submit written testimony to the Joint Committee can do so at [malegislature.gov/Redistricting/Contact](http://malegislature.gov/Redistricting/Contact).

While the hearings are being held by Congressional District, the Committee also seeks public input regarding redistricting for the state level districts. The Committee wants to hear specific insights about local communities, such as racial, ethnic, or language groups, school districts, transportation hubs, commercial districts, watersheds, and other communities of interest that should be considered in redistricting. For more information on redistricting and the League People Powered Fair Maps initiative, the LWVMA provides a tool kit at <https://lwvma.org/toolkits-for-members/people-powered-fair-maps-toolkit/>.

## Student Video Winners Announced in LWVMA's "Democracy Challenge"

The LWVMA asked Massachusetts high school students to create 30-second videos demonstrating what they learned about our democracy in 2020. Winning videos were selected from a group of 125 entries from across the Commonwealth. Judges scored each video on criteria including clarity of message, presentation and creativity, and how memorable they were. The winners will receive awards of \$500 (first place); \$250 (second place); and \$100 (third place).

First Place: "[Democracy Will Persist](#)" by Caitlin Duffy, The Academy at Penguin Hall

Second Place: "[United is Power](#)" by Maya Baudrand, Stoneleigh Burnham School

Third Place: "[Stand Up](#)" by Julia Valanzola, The Academy at Penguin Hall

Watch these videos here: <https://lwvma.org/democracy-challenge-student-video-contest-winners-announced/>

## LWVMA ADVOCACY

### LWVMA SUPPORTED HEALTH CARE BILLS

The state League is currently supporting two health care bills in the state legislature:

[Act Relative to Accelerating Improvements in Local and Regional Public Health System to Address Disparities in the Delivery of Public Health Services \(SAPHE 2.0\) \(H.2329/S.1386\)](#)

This bill seeks to establish a viable, functioning, and equitable community/local public health system and provides for procedures to insure the laws and rules already in place in the Commonwealth are actually followed.

[Act to Move Forward Medicare for All \(H.1267/S.766\)](#)

This legislation is a longtime priority of the League. The time has come. Discussion of this bill has to begin now to allow passage in the 192nd legislative session!

Please call or email our state representative and state senators to register your support of these bills. (See contact information at the end of this Bulletin.)

### LWVMA Weighs in on Legislature Rules

House Speaker Mariano has directed the House Committee on Rules to submit proposed changes to the rules governing the House by July 1. The LWVMA has sent letters to the Massachusetts House Committee on Rules and the Joint Rules Conference Committee recommending changes to increase transparency and efficiency in the legislative process.

LWVMA asked the Rules Committee to make all committee votes and all testimony on bills before committees public, to allow 72 hours for legislators to read a bill before a vote is taken, and to record and make public all votes taken on bills in formal House sessions.

The Joint Rules Conference Committee is debating rules that will apply to the legislature's joint committees, which hold hearings on all bills, modify bills that are filed, and report final versions of bills to the floor for a vote. We asked for an advance schedule of hearings and at least one week's notice before hearings are held. We asked that all joint committee votes and submitted testimony be made public. And we asked that bills with broad support, as evidenced by the number of co-sponsors, be reported out of joint committees for floor votes.

Our recommendations were based on input from League members, action we have taken on this issue in the past, and recommendations of other advocacy organizations.

## Be Part of League Advocacy

In the Massachusetts legislature, almost 6,000 bills were given “real” numbers and assigned to committees on April 13, to be dealt with over the two-year session just beginning. You can check the LWVMA website to see bills the LWVMA is supporting this legislative session posted under [League Supported Legislation 2021-2022](https://lwwma.org/advocacy/league-supported-legislation-2/) at <https://lwwma.org/advocacy/league-supported-legislation-2/>. As LWVMA legislative specialists on the Legislation Action Committee (LAC) continue to review bills, additions to the list should be expected.

Hearings are now being scheduled. You can join the legislative specialists in advocating for League-supported bills in multiple ways. Specialists monitor where a bill is in the legislative process and you will see requests in the Action Newsletter asking you to:

- Ask your legislators to sign onto the bill as a co-sponsor;
- Attend a lobby day. These can be for a specific bill or set of bills on a topic, such as immigration or gun safety. Lobby days may be organized by a coalition to which the League belongs or by the LWVMA. Many legislators attend lobby days and your attendance shows support for the legislation;
- Ask your legislators to support a bill by writing them a letter or email or calling.

Other things you can do to help move important bills forward:

- Bring ideas to our Lexington League Board for educational programs to generate interest on issue addressed by specific bills;
- Join a League interest group, such as the LWVMA’s Criminal Justice group or the LWVMA’s Environmental Action and Advocacy Committee to receive frequent updates.
- Join the LWVMA Envoy program this summer to get briefs on all League legislative developments

During the 2019-20 legislative session, only 5% of bills filed were actually passed, and only about 1% of bills filed and passed are substantive bills. This allows the League to focus on issues of importance. See last month’s issue of this Bulletin for a review of the LWVMA’s successful advocacy last session achieved with the support of many individual members.

For more information about advocacy, try these sites:

**The Massachusetts Legislature: Who, What, When, Where, Why and How**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4XbWlqnPSw&list=PLvJISlqPXGfhBXk6FckEpL87hbP398AEH&index=5&t=82s>

**The Citizen Lobbyist Handbook** at: <https://lwwma.org/advocacy/the-citizen-lobbyist/>

## SAVE THE DATE

May 4, 2021	Immigrants' Day (on Zoom)
May 7, 2021	May First Friday (on Zoom)
May 11, 2021	VOTES Act Lobby Day (on Zoom)
June 7, 2021	Lexington League Annual Meeting (on Zoom)
June 26, 2021	LWVMA Convention (on Zoom)
June 24-27, 2021	LWVUS Council (on Zoom)

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON BOARD MEMBERS 2020-2021

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**We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the June 2021 LWV LEXINGTON Bulletin, please send it to Wendy Manz at [wendy\\_manz@yahoo.com](mailto:wendy_manz@yahoo.com) prior to May 24.**