



August 2020

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CALENDAR

Thursday, August 6, 2020 9:30-11:30	ZOOM BOARD MEETING	Zoom – meeting link to come
Wednesday, August 22, 2020	Last Day to register for State Primary	
Thursday, August 20 , 6-7:00 Rain date Aug 21	Under the Rock - Celebration of Racial Healing and Learning – Indivisible Plymouth, LWV and Plymouth No Place for Hate join together for this event recognizing the 401st anniversary of first enslaved Africans & Plymouth's historical involvement with enslaving Black, Brown, and Indigenous people. (See poster)	Brewster Gardens
Tuesday, September 1, 2020	Massachusetts State Primary	All Precincts
TENTATIVE Thursday, Sept 17, 2020	Annual Meeting 5:30-6:00 – chat 6:00-7:00 - Meeting	Zoom meeting link
Wednesday, October 14, 2020	Last Day to Register for State/Presidential Election	
Tuesday, November 3, 2020	State and Presidential Election Day	All Precincts

Note: What was to be a big year of celebrations of the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage, many planned events have been cancelled or postponed. Hopefully we'll be filling the calendar with these events as our country gets a handle on public health.

DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT

This is a very important time in our history. With the critical presidential election only three months away, we need to support voting access, awareness, and participation.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER FOR THE VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE
Help LWV Empower Voters & Defend Democracy

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LWV New Voting Laws PSA

The Town manager Melissa Arrighi asked if our League would produce a PSA to run on PACTV to explain the new laws passed on July 6th related to voting in the next two elections. Several Board members provided PACTV with sample graphics and the text for the piece, and PACTV produced the PSA. We are also showing it on several FaceBook pages, Twitter and sharing it with the Library and COA. Here it is:

<https://youtu.be/kMHaFcOX0RU>



How the New Law Will Affect Fall Elections and League Work

Governor Baker signed [H.4820](#), An Act relative to voting options in response to COVID-19, into law Monday, July 6. The League congratulates everyone involved in passing this important measure to assure that our Sept. 1 primary election and Nov. 3 general election are held in a way that increases the safety of voters and poll workers, eases the workload on local election officials, and creates confidence in the conduct of these elections. The final bill passed unanimously in the Senate and by a 157-1 vote in the House. Thanks to all of you who urged your legislators to act on this bill.

We urge League members and local Leagues to take note of the law's provisions below, to take action to inform voters of the changes and how to vote by mail if they wish to do so, and to offer to assist your local election officials in dealing with the expected increase in mailed ballots and the shortage of poll workers.

Here are the major provisions of the law that directly affect voters:

- An application for a mail ballot will be sent by July 15 to every voter registered by July 1 before the primary election and by Sept. 14 to every voter registered by Sept. 1 before the general election.
- Applications must be returned to local election officials by four business days before the election. That is a very tight deadline to receive and return a ballot. Encourage voters to apply for ballots early. Voters who apply but do not receive a ballot or who receive a ballot but do not return it can still vote in person.
- Voters can request which language they would like for their mailed ballot.
- Election officials must send an acknowledgement notice and application for a mail ballot to any voter who registers or changes their address between July 1 and Aug. 22, and between Sept. 1 and Oct. 24.
- In-person early voting is Aug. 22-28 before the primary and Oct. 17-30 before the November election and must include some weekend hours.
- Voter registration deadline is 10 days before the election instead of 20 days, so Aug. 22 for the primary election and Oct. 24 for the general election.
- Postage-paid return will be provided for applications and mailed ballots.
- An online portal where a voter can request a mail ballot instead of submitting a paper application

will be created by the Secretary of the Commonwealth by Oct. 1 at the latest.

Here are the major provisions that directly affect local election officials and how elections will be held:

- Local election officials can process mailed ballots in a central location before Election Day. No results will be tabulated or reported until polls close. Mailed ballots will not have to be delivered to individual precinct polling places.
- Voters can deposit ballots in secure drop boxes where provided. Ballots can also be returned in person to local election official offices. Encourage your town to provide such a drop box.
- If polling locations are changed, those changes must be made and the public notified 20 days before the election.
- For November election, ballots will be counted if mailed on or before Election Day and received by Nov. 6. For the primary election, ballots must be received by Election Day to be counted.
- Removes some restrictions for poll workers, including political party affiliation, voter status and residence.
- Allows elimination of checkout table at polls to reduce the number of poll workers needed.
- Authorizes electronic poll books.
- Secretary of the Commonwealth will establish regulations with the Department of Public Health to safeguard health of voters and election workers at polls.

Our partners at the Massachusetts Voter Table have created a fantastic toolkit with timelines and information for educating voters about these changes and have made it available to the League. Take a look at the [toolkit here](#) and see how you can use it in your League work. Thank you, Voter Table!

The Secretary of the Commonwealth's office has a list of FAQs on voting by mail [here](#), and there's an application for mailed ballots online [here](#) to download and return.

The Voter Table will also be operating phone banks to contact residents in areas with historically low voter turnout and urge people to register and vote. They need people to make those calls. The first phone banks are scheduled for Wednesday, July 15, and more will be added going forward. If you would like to volunteer, click [here](#).

5 Reasons to Have Confidence in Mail-in Voting

<https://www.lwv.org/blog/5-reasons-have-confidence-mail-voting#.XyHKkJO6C8M.email>



Black Lives Matter

LWV members Kathy Dunn, Yaxsarie Velázquez, and Henrietta Cosentino were interviewed by Emily Clark for the Old Colony Memorial's series on the Black Lives Matter movement. You can read those interviews here:



<https://plymouth.wickedlocal.com/news/20200621/black-lives-matter-yaxsarie-velazquez>



<https://plymouth.wickedlocal.com/news/20200706/black-lives-matter-plymouth-area-league-of-women-voters-member-kathy-dunn>



<https://plymouth.wickedlocal.com/news/20200713/black-lives-matter-henrietta-cosentino-speaks-out>

CENSUS PROJECT UPDATE - DISAPPOINTING

The outcome of this effort was not what I had hoped. The amount of work that went into this project was not rewarded by any appreciable jump in the Census completion numbers.

Multiple facets of the Town of Plymouth were very helpful in the promotion but except for one or two interactions with Marshfield and Duxbury, I received no feedback from the other towns and so have no evidence that they used our material. Both State Reps were involved in the get out the message campaign as was Indivisible Plymouth. So thank you to them. The banner, suggested by and half paid for by the Library, is now posted on the gate to the Library.

Thanks to Lyle over 250 flyers were handed out at a recent Food Pantry special event. We have more to distribute and Lyle is handling that task. Thanks to Bobbie Clark for her help in getting us on WATD for the kickoff. And very special thanks to Dave Buckman for his jingle and to the Plymouth Poet Laureate, Stephan Delbos for his original poem. Both helped spice up the Facebook postings.

Here is the increase from May 10 to July 12th - Bourne is the only one with a sizable difference and the one town I never even got the first acceptance from so we can't take credit for that.

The mid July results are as follows:

Plympton	4.2%
Kingston	1.9%
Duxbury	4.3%
Carver	3.2%
Pembroke	2.7%
Plymouth	3.1%
Marshfield	4.9%
Bourne	7.7%

The door to door Census workers will be mobilized in Mid-August. I had hoped we would have cut down on the amount of door knocking they would have to do, but alas, not by much.

Deb Etzel

WE NEED A VOLUNTEER FOR THE WEBSITE

Our website has not changed its address PlymouthLWV.org but it has moved to a new home. The format is a bit different (Check it out!) and it is now done in WordPress. Our League is desperately searching for someone to administer the website in its new format. We do have technical support and that person will train you to do what needs to be done. Step up and help us stay connected.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



July 2020

Dear Plymouth Area League of Women Voters Member,

About one third of our past membership has renewed their membership by sending their dues to our treasurer. If you are part of that group, skip to the next newsletter item. If not, please consider sending in your dues now. See below for the form and options. If you have decided not to remain a member of our League, we will miss you and please take a moment to email Deb Etzel at daetzel@gmail.com to let her know. Come August Deb will be sending out individual emails asking for dues and she wishes not to annoy you if you are not rejoining.

Remember, this is the League's 100th year Anniversary and we look forward to another year full of worthwhile activities. But we need **your** renewed membership now to ensure that we can continue planning and executing more exciting activities in the coming year.

We continue to hold our base dues, at \$60 annually (\$90 for a family), to encourage maximum participation from the community. **We are hoping, however, that you — as many of our members did last year — will consider adding a donation amount to your dues, to provide much needed additional funding for our work in 2020-21.** At our current dues rate, we net \$5.00 per membership for our local work. Any amount you can "donate" would allow us to continue our community activities without dipping into our savings. The Budget for the coming year is also found in this email so you can see where your money was spent.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the League of Women Voters. We are counting on you to renew today! As our Annual meeting has been postponed to later this summer, Please send a check made out to:

Plymouth Area LWV to Deb Etzel, 31 Island Rock, Plymouth MA 02360 with the completed the form attached.

NEW THIS YEAR: You can use PayPal to send your dues to me by using this link but you must add \$5.00 to your dues to offset the fees charged:

[PayPal.Me/PlymouthAreaLWV](https://www.paypal.com/plymoutharealwv)

Deb Etzel, Treasurer



2020-2021 Plymouth Area League of Women Voters Membership Renewal

Name: _____

If Family Membership Spouse's Name: _____

Dues:	Single Member	\$60
	Family member (add to single)	\$30 (add to single membership)
	Optional Donation*	\$ _____
	TOTAL INCLOSED	\$ _____

*Please note: Plymouth Area League of Women Voters IS NOT a 501(c)3 organization and therefore your donation is not tax deductible.

Complete below ONLY IF your contact information has changed complete below otherwise leave blank

New Address: _____

New Phone Number: _____

New Email Address: _____

Mail this form with your check to:

Deb Etzel, 31 Island Rock, Plymouth, MA 02360

Or use PayPal and this link (please add \$5 - \$65 for single, \$95 for family - to help defray transaction fees.)

<https://PayPal.Me/PlymouthAreaLWV>

TAKE ACTION

POLICE REFORM BILLS - Massachusetts policing bill differences remain unresolved as negotiations continue.

<https://www.masslive.com/politics/2020/08/massachusetts-policing-bill-differences-remain-unresolved-as-negotiations-stretch-into-august.html>

House and Senate Leadership have appointed a conference committee to reconcile their respective bills. The conference committee -- Sen. Brownsberger, Sen. Sonia Chang Diaz, Sen. Tarr, Rep. Cronin, Rep. Gonzalez, and Rep. Whelan -- will work on a consensus bill, which will have to be voted on and then sent to the Governor.

S. 2820 <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S2820/Amendments/Executive>

Please urge your legislators and Governor Charlie Baker to support the strongest bill possible.

From the SENATE Bill:

- (1) Section 10, which enables victims of police abuse to seek redress in the courts
- (2) Sections 34-40, which require transparency and public decision-making about local police acquisition of military equipment such as tanks, grenade launchers, and armored vehicles
- (3) Section 37, which establishes a Justice Workforce Reinvestment Fund
- (4) Section 49, which prohibits schools from transmitting to law enforcement personal information about students or their family members
- (5) Section 50, which permits school superintendents to determine whether or not police should be assigned to local schools.
- (6) Section 52, which bans racial and other profiling, requires data collection for all stops, frisks, and searches with, analysis, reporting, and accountability if the data demonstrates profiling
- (7) Sections 59-61, which clarify that individuals petitioning for expungement may do so for more than one record and creates a limited, rather than indefinite, lookback period for expungement eligibility.
- (8) Language in Section 55 - 2(f) that requires police to plan for de-escalation in advance of protests or gatherings

From the HOUSE bill:

- (1) Section 2, which clarifies that law enforcement misconduct records are public records
- (2) Section 25, which restricts government use of facial surveillance
- (3) Section 78, which establishes reasonable safeguards around the use of no-knock warrants
- (4) The definition of "choke hold" in Section 29

(List from Progressive MA)



UNDER THE ROCK CELEBRATION

of Racial Healing, Learning & Good Trouble

Thursday, August 20, 2020
6:00-7:00

(rain date August 21)

at Brewster Garden

130 Court Street, Plymouth, MA

Socially-distanced - Please wear a mask, and bring a sign.



For more info visit <https://undertherock.squarespace.com> or scan the QR code.

A celebration honoring all Native People and People of Color who were enslaved and exploited since the first slaves were brought ashore in 1619, and Women Suffragettes who fought for the Vote.

#UndertheRock



INDIVISIBLE PLYMOUTH



Standing Together for the Rights of All



COMMITTEE REPORTS

VOTER SERVICES

Voter Services still needs a leader! Of all the important LWV committees, Voter Services is the most important. Projects like the New Voter Rules PSA, Candidates' Nights, Voter Registration efforts, etc. need an organizer. Please step up to fill this important position as we move closer to November's election. It is a strong committee with lots of seasoned members to help you learn to lead it.



The fight for equality continues.

Plymouth Area LWV Committees

We encourage each of you to join at least one committee.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Follow Local efforts to provide Affordable Housing and encourage local government to do so.

Chair Kathy Dunn (gordod1@comcast.net or 508-747-0039)

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Focus on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. Event being planned in conjunction with other Plymouth organization for late winter

Chair Kathy Dunn (gordod1@comcast.net or 508-747-0039)

COMUNICATIONS

Bulletin: Monthly(ish) publication to keep membership informed. Sent by email and posted on the website. Heidi Mayo (LWVBulletin@heidimayo.com or 508-747-5467)

Website: Maintain the PlymouthLWV.org website. Deb Etzel, Editor (daetzel@gmail.com or 508- 224-1667)

Facebook Page – Maintain the Plymouth Area League of Women Voters Facebook page Deb Etzel, Editor (daetzel@gmail.com or 508-224-1667)

EDUCATION

Civics Bee: Organizes the annual high school competition based on civics questions. March 29, 2020 is the next Bee. Contact Erin Palladino if you are interested in helping.

Chair Erin Palladino (epalladino@mpsd.org or 617-827-8285)

HEALTH & WELL BEING - Currently inactive

MEMBERSHIP

Finding and welcoming new members.

Chair Deanna Nealey (deannap-1@verizon.net or 508-224-3797)

NATIONAL OR STATE STUDIES

Currently inactive as there are no studies ongoing

NUCLEAR

Follows what is current regarding the Pilgrim Energy Plant and reports to the membership and suggests action to local government

Chair Henrietta Cosentino (Henrietta.cosentino@gmail.com or 508-224-3251)

OBSERVER CORPS

Currently inactive

SUSTAINABILITY/WATER

The Sustainability Committee is focusing on the potential adverse impacts of Climate Change & Pollution on our water systems - fresh and salt.

Chair Mary LeSueur (hclesueur@yahoo.com or 508-746-4252)

VOTER SERVICES

Chair is VACANT – Please volunteer for this position!

All of our committees are very important, and support the work of the League. Voters Services is the MOST important, so please consider it. A committee exists that needs a leader, and they will guide anyone who is new to the activity. Everyone should be on at least one committee!

Please contact the chair(s) listed above to loan your time and talents to these important issues OR VOLUNTEER to lead the VOTER SERVICES committee!

Current Plymouth Area LWV Board of Directors

updated 10-1-19

Lois Post, secretary	lois@mayflowerweb.com	508-224-7294
Deb Etzel, treasurer	daetzel@gmail.com	508-224-1667
Deanna Nealey, membership	deannap1@verizon.net	508-224-3797
Henrietta Cosentino	henriettacosentino@gmail.com	(508) 224-3251
Vedna Heywood	yklacombe@gmail.com	508-743-5568
Lyle Lawrence	lyle.lawrence@comcast.net	774-343-5548
Mary LeSueur	hclesueur@yahoo.com	508-746-4252
Judy Savage	savagejudym@gmail.com	(774) 454-8908
Martha Vautrain	cvautrain@verizon.net	508-746-8606

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

U. S. Senator

Elizabeth Warren

317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510
202-224-4543
or
2400 JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury St.
Boston, MA 02203
617-565-3170

U.S. Congressman District 9

William Keating

315 Cannon HOB
Washington, D. C. 20515
202-225-3111
or
2 Court St. Plymouth, MA 02360
508-746-9000

State Rep Precincts 1, 11, 13

Kathy LaNatra

24 Beacon St.
Room B1
Boston, MA, 02133
617-722-2425
kathleen.lanatra@mahouse.gov

State Rep Precincts 2-8, 10, 12, 14, 15

Mathew Muratore

State House Room 39 Boston, MA 02133
617-722-2014 Mathew.Muratore@mahouse.gov

Plymouth Board of Selectmen

26 Court St., Plymouth, MA 02360
TownManager-Selectmen@townhall.plymouth.ma.us
(508) 747-1620 ext. 10106
Chair: Kenneth Tavares kennethtavares@gmail.com
Vice: Richard J. Quintal, Jr. dickquintal@comcast.net
Patrick Flaherty flaherty@townhall.plymouth.ma.us
Betty Cavacco bettyc369@msn.com
Shelagh Joyce joyce@townhall.plvmouth.ma.us

Town Meeting Precinct Rep Chairs

1 Christine K. Pratt, 242 Court St.
prattck1@verizon.net
2 Richard M. Serkey, 60 Allerton St rserkev@lwvwr.com
3 Gerald E. Sirrico, 38 Mayflower St
lhsges@verizon.net
4 Clare A. Montanari, 71 Harborlight
cmontanari@iaol.com

U.S. Senator

Edward Markey

218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510
202-224-2742
or
975 JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury St. Boston, MA 02203
617-565-8519

State Senator

Susan Moran

State House, Room 506
Boston, MA 02133
Phone # 617-722-1330
susan.moran@ma@masenate.gov

State Rep Precinct 9

Randy Hunt

State House Room 136
Boston, MA 02133
617-722-2396
Randy.Hunt@mahouse.gov

Town Meeting Precinct Rep Chairs (con't)

5 W. Wrestling Brewster, 39 Forge Drive
wwb@bpcs.us
6 Cheryl King Fischer, 802-272-9805
7 Mark Schmidt - 508-224-2726
8 Kathryn Holmes - 978-395-5678
9 Francis E. Lydon, 74 Raymond Rd
frankolyd@aol.com
10 Alan M. Costello, 41 Huntington
costellotownrep10@comcast.net
11 Ronald Reilly, 242 Plympton
reilly67@verizon.net
12 Betsy R. Hall, 43 West Long Pond Rd
bh2746@yahoo.com
13 Anita J. Hadley, 235 Carver Road
nonni7111@verizon.net
14 Karen M. Keane, 87 Ellisville Green
kmkcjk04@aol.com
15 Michael J. Hanlon III, 2 Wayside Path
mjhanlon3@verizon.net