



Amherst League of Women Voters

A Voice for Citizens, a Force for Change
e-bulletin

January 2025

January 7th, 7:00 PM - Reparations Pre-Consensus Meeting Information and Q&A, on Zoom. [Please register here.](#) MEMBERS ONLY

January 12th, 1:30-3:30 PM - Reparations Consensus Meeting, in the Jones Library Woodbury Room. MEMBERS ONLY.

January 23rd, 7:00-9:00 PM - Affordable Housing in Amherst, Town Hall, Town Room - attend by Zoom or in person. Details below.

January 28th, 6:30-7:30 PM - Steering Committee Meeting. [Email Rebecca Fricke](#) for more details.

Membership Renewal Time

THIS IS THE LAST MONTH BEFORE NATIONAL TAKES OVER THE PROCESS.
ALL MEMBERS MUST RENEW BEFORE PARTICIPATING IN THE
REPARATIONS CONSENSUS MEETING.

Last year we had to work very hard to get all of our members to click and renew. Thank you to those of you who have already renewed for this year.

When you become a member, you are actually obtaining three memberships: LWVUS, LWVMA, and LWV Amherst! Get the most value from your membership: Participate in and help with League events and programs.

This membership will be good for one year, and then will be renewed on a rolling basis; so look for your renewal email at this same time next year.

[Click here for the membership page on our website](#), or if the link doesn't work for you, use: <https://www.lwvamherst.org/join>.

Reparations Study Group

January 7th, 7:00 PM - Reparations Consensus Meeting Q&A, on Zoom. [Please register here.](#) At this members-only event, the Reparations Consensus Study facilitators will preview the questions, give some background information, and allow plenty of time for members to talk, ask questions and think about the consensus process.

January 12th, 1:30-3:30 - Reparations Consensus Meeting, Jones Library Woodbury Room. This members-only event is the one and only reparations consensus meeting for the Amherst League. Come and deliberate with the group about reparations and the LWV.

The LWVMA has prepared a Study Guide on Reparations with Consensus Questions. A local committee is discussing the best way to help our Amherst members prepare for the consensus meetings which will be held in the new year. You will be hearing from them soon. In the meantime, you can look at the materials.

[Click here for more information about the Reparations Study](#)

As part of the study process, the Reparations Study Committee is offering a series of group discussions on Zoom throughout the fall of 2024, facilitated by Debra Dagwan and Jeffrey Gold, centered on Ta-Nehisi Coates' foundational essay, "The Case for Reparations." Click the link above and **look for the heading called Reparations Study Committee Events & Google Group**.

Affordable Housing

Building Homes and Breaking Barriers:

Constructing Affordable Housing in Amherst

January 23, 7-9 PM

Amherst Town Hall or Zoom link

(<https://amherstma.zoom.us/j/83686070098>)

Panelists:

Gaston de los Reyes, Chair Amherst Affordable Housing Trust
Allegra Clark, Amherst Affordable Housing Trust, and Co-Chair
Community Safety and Social Justice Committee
Laura Baker, Real Estate Manager, Valley Community Development
Tom Kegelman, Executive Director Home City Housing
Keith Fairey, President and Executive Director, Wayfinders
John Hornik, former chair, Amherst Affordable Housing Trust

Q&A facilitated by Representative Mindy Domb

Questions our panel of experts will answer:

- a) What's happening now?**
- b) What needs to happen to meet unmet needs?**
- c) What actions can individuals take to support the development of affordable housing ?**



TOWN OF
AMHERST
MASSACHUSETTS



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF AMHERST

Come to the meeting in the Town Room in the Amherst Town Hall or Zoom in using this link (<https://amherstma.zoom.us/j/83686070098>)

Health Care Committee

The Health Care Committee has high hopes for happy holidays and we wish you all joy. Hopes for Health Care Reform in 2025 are harder to muster.

Reform should be easier now. The December 4th murder of a corporate health insurance executive on a street in New York has touched off an explosion of rage and has added people from all over the country to our activist-choir.

A colleague's letter to the editor in the December 18th *San Francisco Chronicle* outlines the problem succinctly. He claims that the assassin:

- aimed at the wrong target;
- used the wrong weapon; and
- wasn't the right person to do the job.

But will we be able to connect the dots? How many Davids can we recruit to fight our Goliath? Will the upsurge of people who clearly know something is very wrong realize that it's not just the CEO, but the whole profit-first business model for healthcare we live with in the U.S. that has blood on its hands? As my colleague's letter went on to explain, the weapon "must be legislation to replace private health insurance with universal health insurance through a **fair, publicly financed program.**"

That's where our local health care committee comes in. The reform movement we are a part of **has** a well-documented solution in hand. We have done the research, developed the policies, written the legislation, shown the cost savings, and more. We just need to abolish the multi-billion-dollar private for-profit health insurance industry and establish SinglePayer/Improved Medicare for All.

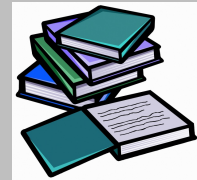
Won't you resolve to join us in the New Year?!

(We would also like to hear from people who disagree with our diagnosis.)

For more information and to join the Health Care Committee, please [contact Barbara Pearson](#).

Book Group

The LWV Book Group meets the second Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise indicated, at 1:30 PM at Applewood, 1 Spencer Drive, Amherst. The building is handicapped accessible. Everyone is welcome.



The schedule:

Twilight Territory, Andrew Pham, Jan. 15th (3rd Wednesday)

North Woods, Daniel Mason, Feb. 12th

All in Her Head, Elizabeth Comen, March 12th

Ministry of Truth, Steven Benen, April 9th

Please call ahead to verify the time and date. We may have to cancel for weather or emergency appointments. Email [Phyllis Lehrer](#) or call 253-5179.

FORWARD THIS MESSAGE!

This monthly message is for anyone interested in the League, not just members. If you know someone who might be interested, forward this message and invite them to subscribe themselves, using the link below.

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Rebecca Fricke, Spokesperson & E-Bulletin
Susan Lowery, Membership
Caroline Murray, At Large
Jessica Ryan, Voter Engagement
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*Rebecca Fricke can be contacted [here](#).
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[Click here to contact the Steering Committee.](#)

LWV Amherst



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