



Amherst League of Women Voters

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

June 2024

CALENDAR

Wednesday, May 29th, 7:00 PM- Steering Committee meeting. Email [Rebecca Fricke](#) for Zoom details.

Sunday, June 2nd, 2:00 - 4:00 PM- LWVA Member Consensus on Town Charter Amendments to lobby for. You must register for the Zoom link [here](#). Members of LWVA only.

Tuesday, June 4th, 7:00 - 8:00 PM- LWVA Member Budget Review in preparation for the Annual Meeting. Register for the Zoom link [here](#). Members of LWVA only.

Thursday, June 13th, 6:30 - 8:30 PM- LWVA Annual Meeting. Munson Library, South Amherst. 6:30 PM: Meet and greet; Bring finger food to share. 6:50 PM: Rebecca Todd, Director of the Connecticut River Conservancy, will give a brief update on the state of the river.

Sunday, June 30th, 4:00 - 6:00 PM -Community Celebration (see the News Flash below for details).

Racial Justice Committee

Greetings from the Racial Justice Committee (RJC)

Jacqueline Wallace was our Judy Brooks Conversation guest on May 14th. She spoke about her work as a therapist as well as the Gospel Choir, and how she maintains an attitude of joy. It was clear that singing infuses all of her life. Truly she has a song in her heart! The link to the recording is on our website, at www.lwvamherst.org

June is a busy month of celebrations. Sunday, June 9th, is Race Amity Day, co-sponsored by the LWVA. Come join the celebration at Mill River Recreation Area, beginning with the basketball tournament at 10:00 AM, lunch at noon, and then, at 1:00 PM, the ceremony and Youth Hero Awards.

NEWS FLASH: The LWVA will host a town-wide Community Celebration on Sunday, June 30th, 4:00 - 6:00 PM, to welcome our new CRESS Director, Camille Theriaque, and our new Police Chief, Gabriel Ting, and to honor our retiring Fire Chief, Tim Nelson. The location will be announced soon. If you can help with planning, please contact [Martha Hanner](#).

Amherst Home Rule Charter Review

The LWVA Charter Review Task Force is continuing its review of the Amherst Home Rule Charter in relation to League good government principles. This meeting is for members only. We are hoping a large group of interested and dedicated League members will work to come to consensus on which changes we will lobby the Amherst Town Task Force to consider and recommend.

Sunday, June 2nd, 2:00 - 4:00 PM - Member Consensus Meeting.

Please register for the Zoom link on website and [here](#).

For members only.

The public is cordially invited to participate or just listen in to the public discussion. The first part of the discussion will be the presentation of potential amendments to the Charter, how they may relate to good government principles, and how five years of experience has demonstrated whether an amendment is or is not needed. We will then open to public comments.

The LWVA'S "Good Government" Principles

1. **Widespread and inclusive** participation
2. **Diversity** in the community reflected in government
3. **Openness** and full disclosure
4. **Checks and balances** of power among the executive, legislative and administrative branches of government and the electorate
5. **Honesty and non-corruptibility** in all decision-making
6. **Efficiency**, based on professional management and timely decision making
7. **Accountability** for political and fiscal decisions

At our Annual Meeting on June 13th, we vote whether to accept the LWVUS revised policy on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Please view this informative and brief (23-minute) recording which outlines the reasons behind the revisions and how the revised policy relates to the League's overall work, including the "moonshot" goal of abolishing the electoral college.

[Transformation: Are You Ready to Move the League Forward?](#)(passcode: L3Q%n\$2k)

VOTE411 Questions

A LWVMA Voter Services sub-group is working on questions for this voting season's VOTE411. We want to hear from you! Please fill out this [very short survey](#) to indicate priorities that you would like the committee to consider as we form questions that we will pose to candidates.

Health Care

An On-Line Petition to Support the State-based Universal Health Care Act (SBUHCA)

Exciting news this month in our Health Care Reform community is an on-line petition. If you are like me, you NEVER sign on-line petitions. But with this one, I feel safe and hope you will, too. We have a direct connection to the organizers -- through LWVMA and its membership in the [Mass-Care Coalition](#) which co-sponsors the petition developed by [One Payer States](#). The petition is on the [Action Network](#) platform, which is a model for shared ownership and development of web tools for social justice advocacy.

I have been amazed at what a good organizing tool the petition has been. It follows the principle of creating a broad coalition of like-minded (non-partisan) groups, and in One Payer States' case, it has taken their **mailing list from around 750 in March to over 13,000 today** (with a goal of 50,000).

The topic of the petition is the [State-based Universal Health Care Act](#), a federal law to help states (like MA) implement [health care bills at the state level](#). This version was introduced last year by CA Rep Ro Khanna and is about to be introduced in the Senate by our own Ed Markey. The petition site explains what "SBUHCA" aims to accomplish and connects you to your federal Senators and Representative. (Ours -- Warren, Markey, and McGovern -- are already on board, so we just have to thank them and encourage them that it's an act that matters to us.)

An LWV caution: Local League members can lobby only their state officials. To lobby federal elected officials representing ourselves as members of the League, we need either a direct request from LWVUS (an official "[action alert](#)") or a request to LWVUS (a [Federal Action Request Form](#)). There are no restrictions on the League educating you about federal advocacy and then having you act on it as a private citizen. I urge you to do so. Please use these links to add your voice (and then share the links with your networks):

House petition: <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/contact-congress-today-to-pass-the-state-based-universal-health-care-act/>

Senate Petition: <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/sbuhca-2024-senate-introduction/>

To learn more about the bill, check out the [LWV HCR Interest Group's Toolkit](#), or contact its webmaster -- me!

Barbara Pearson, Chair HCC- [Email](#)

CONNECTICUT RIVER RELICENSING PROJECTS

The Amherst League of Women Voters together with the Northampton League and the Franklin County League successfully filed their statement with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). This statement pertained to the relicensing of the Turners Falls dam and the Northfield Mountain pumped storage facility. FERC had extended the filing time to May 22nd. This statement is based on League's local position entitled "[Connecticut River Basin Inter-League Program \(1965, 1966\)](#)". Read [this statement submitted to FERC](#) and the existing Connecticut River position.

Please contact Elizabeth Davis by [email](#) for more information.



LWVA Book Sale

Book Sale 2024

Spring Ahead to Prep for Our Big Event

Keep collecting the books and media we need to pull off our only fundraiser of the year... the one the community eagerly awaits.

Collection dates are July 5-15.

Sorting dates are July 5-22.

Sale dates are July 26-28, August 3-4.

For more details, go to LWVAmherst.org

2023-2024 Civic Action Grants

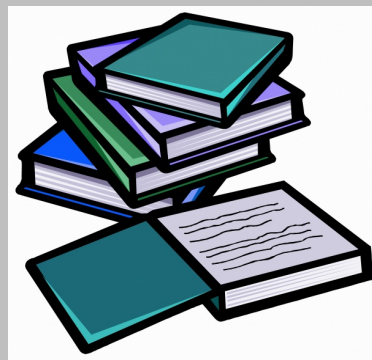
The LWV Amherst is still accepting applications for 2023-2024 Civic Action Grants.

Read [here](#) for how to apply. Contact [Rebecca Fricke](#) for more information or questions.

LWVA Book Group Schedule

The LWV Book Group will meet the second Wednesday of the month at 1:30 PM at Applewood, 1 Spencer Drive, Amherst. The building is handicapped accessible.

Here are the schedule and books:
June: *Prequel*, Rachel Maddow, 416 pages
July: *Master Slave Husband Wife*, Ilyon Woo, 416 pages



For information, call Phyllis Lehrer 413-253-5179 or [email her](#).

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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[Click here for email links.](#)

e-BULLETIN STAFF

The Editor of the LWVAmherst e-Bulletin, Rebecca Fricke can be contacted [here](#). Link checker is Kay Fite and Proofreader is Rebecca Curzon.

LWV Amherst



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