



Amherst League of Women Voters

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

September / October 2023

CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 26. 7 PM - Judy Brooks Conversation, Guest Speaker Matthew Charity, *The Role of Race in Voting Rights and Education*. [Click for link.](#)

Wednesday, October 4. 7PM [No Time to Fail, Amherst Cinema.](#)
LWVA Co-sponsoring this important movie about poll workers in America. Get your tickets in advance!

Thursday, Oct 5. 7–8 PM: Candidates for Town Council District
Thursday, Oct 5. 8–9 PM: Candidates for Town Council At-Large

Thursday, Oct 12. 7–8pm: Candidates for Jones Library
Thursday, Oct 12, 8–9pm: Candidates for School Committee

Dear Members and Friends,

It was wonderful to see so many new and long time league members at Opening Meeting. Thank you to Bill Newman for his interesting talk on gun control and the legal challenges to book banning.

This month of LWVA learning ends with a fascinating zoom talk by Matthew Charity, Professor of Law. This is the first Judy Brooks event of the 2023-24 calendar year and we hope to pack the zoom room.

The month of October is going to be one of the busiest for the LWVA. In the first week of October the LWVA is co-sponsoring a movie showing at the Amherst Cinema. Please check out the trailer for *No Time To Fail* (see link below). The LWVA will be represented and Sue Audette, Amherst's Town Clerk will be joining a moderated panel discussion with a few other speakers.

And of course our Voters Service Committee, led by Jessica Ryan, is pushing hard to have all of the LWVA candidate forums, Election Guides and website material all set up in time for election time. The window between the time when signatures are turned in and early voting starts is very narrow. If you would like to be part of the excitement, please contact [Jessica](#).

Please contact me or one of the Steering Committee members listed at the bottom of this newsletter if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Happy Fall everyone,

Rebecca Fricke

LWVA Membership Renewal Time
This year we've made it easy.
Click below to start.

Membership Renewal

Voter Service Committee News

Yes, it *is* the most exciting time of year. Voting season! And as Amherst has its biennial election approaching at warp speed, here are some important dates:

Register to vote by Friday, October 27th 5:00 in-person, 11:59 p.m. [online](#), or postmarked 10/27 for mail.

Remember: you must apply every year to vote by mail. You can apply [online](#) or paper.

Voting day: November 7th 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Find your voting precinct [here](#).

Stay tuned for our Voters Guide coming soon!

Come ask the candidates your questions at our Candidate Forums. All will take place at Amherst Regional Middle School (ARMS):

Thursday, Oct 5. 7–8 PM: Candidates for Town Council District

Thursday, Oct 5. 8–9 PM: Candidates for Town Council At-Large

Thursday, Oct 12. 7–8pm: Candidates for Jones Library

Thursday, Oct 12, 8–9pm: Candidates for School Committee

Fill out a question card at the forums or submit them ahead of time to voterservices@lwwamherst.org

Visit our Voter Information page on [our website](#).

Town of Amherst Biennial Election Candidate Forums

Thursday, Oct 5, 7–8pm: Candidates for Town Council District
Oct 5, 8–9pm: Candidates for Town Council At-Large

Thursday, Oct 12, 7–8pm: Candidates for Library Trustee
Oct 12, 8–9pm: Candidates for School Committee

Join us to ask your candidates questions!

All forums held at Amherst Regional Middle School Auditorium

Submit questions at the forums or ahead of time at voterservices@lwwamherst.org

Racial Justice Committee News



JUDY BROOKS SERIES

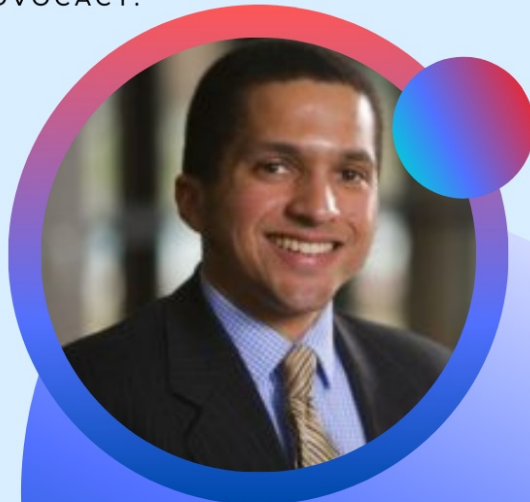
EDUCATIONAL AND VOTING RIGHTS

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, A NONPARTISAN POLITICAL ORGANIZATION, ENCOURAGES THE INFORMED AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS IN GOVERNMENT, WORKS TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF MAJOR PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES AND INFLUENCES PUBLIC POLICY THROUGH EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY.

**TUESDAY
26 SEPTEMBER 2023
7.00 PM**



**[LWVAMHERST.ORG](https://www.lwvamherst.org)
FOR ZOOM LINK**



WITH MATTHEW CHARITY,
PROF. OF LAW (CUNY) AND
FORMER AMHERST HRC CHAIR

ONLINE



JUDY HARRIS BROOKS (1944-2018) WILL BE LONG REMEMBERED AS AN EDUCATOR AND CIVIC LEADER WHO WAS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN FINDING SOLUTIONS TO COMPLEX ISSUES IN HER COMMUNITY.

Voters Service in Community

Amherst Cinema Movie Showing, Co-Sponsored by the LWVA

No Time to Fail

<https://amherstcinema.org/films-and-events/no-time-to-fai>

October 4th, 7 PM

Election administrators were once invisible to the general public. Despite the unbelievable challenges and desperate attempts to disrupt and upend the 2020 election, they pulled off the most secure election in our history; and they did it amidst a global pandemic. Rather than receiving a hero's welcome, they have become the focus of an ongoing coordinated campaign of disinformation. NO TIME TO FAIL gives voice to the experiences of this largely invisible, yet completely indispensable workforce, at this critical time in our country's relationship with election management.

Go to Amherst Cinema to purchase tickets.

<https://amherstcinema.org/films-and-events/no-time-to-fail>

Civic Action Grants

The LWV Amherst is now accepting applications for 2023 Civic Action Grants

Up to \$2,500 for projects that are directly related to the League's priority programs

Read more [here](#).

Health Care For All

The Health Care Committee is preparing for two events in October.

1. Monday Oct 2, the Town Council will hear a resolution in favor of improved Medicare for All and we expect they will vote in favor of it. If so, Amherst will join towns with local endorsements all around the country, including Ann Arbor (thank you Jackie Wolf!) and thoroughly "red" Dunn County WI. We are all adding to a grassroots groundswell of support for a public system of universal, comprehensive, cost-efficient health care that furthers our goals of social justice.

More details of the event when we know them. For more details of the resolution--[just email me](#).

2. Masscare.org announces training for testifying before the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing--either virtually, in person, or in writing. Last year, the hearing for M4A was held in the end of October (and was announced with very little notice). This year, they want to be prepared and are offering training for both written and oral testimony. All are welcome.

Masscare is a coalition of 86 organizations in the Commonwealth, including LWVMA, whose positions in "Where We Stand" and in the Legislative Action Committee are squarely in favor of the state bills. Are you a member of another organization (faith-based, civic, etc.) that would be interested in joining the coalition?! [Email me for that, too](#).

CT River News

Connecticut River Relicensing Of Dams

We are still in the middle of the lengthy process by which dams on the Connecticut River come up for relicensing every 40-50 years. The last relicensing process took place in the 1960's; the Leagues of Western Massachusetts did a study at that time and produced "Connecticut River Basin Inter-League Program 1965, 1966". That position was used in December 2022 in our statement about the relicensing applications submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). There are five dams in the current relicensing process: Turners Falls Dam and Northfield Pumped Storage in MA; Vernon Dam, Bellows Falls Dam, and Wilder Dam on the Vermont/New Hampshire border.

The relicensing process is on hold until FERC notifies the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that it is time for the state to open for public comments pertaining to the state's role in regulating the dams and the state's water under Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act. Stay tuned for that.

Elizabeth Davis

LWVA Book Group Schedule

The LWV Book Group will meet the second Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at Applewood. The building is handicapped accessible.

Here is the schedule and books:

Oct. - Resetting the Table, Robert Pearlberg

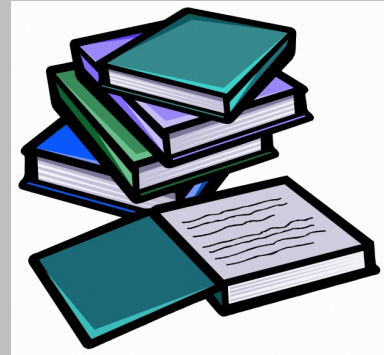
Nov. - Lab Girl, Hope Jahra

Jan. - Cloud Cuckooland, Anthony Dorr

Feb.- How the Word is Passed, Clint Smith

March - American Character, Colin Woodard

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



LWV MA



Featuring
Senate President
Karen E. Spilka

LWV Day on the Hill

ACT FOR THE FUTURE: VOTING, WOMEN'S HEALTH, FIREARMS, AND PFAS



OCTOBER 11, 2023



9:30 AM



MASSACHUSETTS STATE HOUSE

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.

SUBSCRIBE TO e-BULLETIN!

STEERING COMMITTEE

Andrea Battle, At-Large
Nancy DiMattio, At-Large
Rebecca Fricke, Spokesperson & E-Bulletin
Marla Jamate, Social Media
Susan Lowery, Membership
Jessica Ryan, Voter Engagement
David Shanabrook, Treasurer
[Click here for email links.](#)

e-BULLETIN STAFF

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

LWV Amherst



League of Women Voters Amherst | P.O. Box 2372, Amherst, MA 01004

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