



Amherst League of Women Voters

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

August 2024

It is time to think ahead! Fall is rapidly approaching and we have quite the to-do list for this coming year. Check out all the ways you can become involved in the League of Women Voters this year. Working on a committee or study (or both) is an excellent way to meet new people, learn about one or more issues, and become civically engaged.

Opening Meeting - Hold the date: Thursday, September 12th at 7:00 PM. A UMass Professor will give a talk about the Electoral College.

More to come soon,
Rebecca Fricke
Spokesperson, LWVA

The LWVMA Reparations Study and Amherst's Local Study Committee

[Click here for more information about the Reparations Study Committee that the LWVA will be forming this summer.](#)

The LWVMA is preparing a Study Guide on Reparations with Consensus Questions. A State Study Report and a webinar guide should be available by the end of the summer. The results of the local consensus meetings are due by February 16, 2025.

If you are interested in serving on this study committee, please email: lwva@lwwamherst.org.

Town Charter Further Study

At the LWVA Annual meeting, members voted to conduct a study that would consider two ways the Town Charter could be changed. The committee will study:

1. Changing to a Council/Mayor form of government, with or without a town manager, in order to have an elected executive (ARTICLE 1).
2. If a voter veto resident vote should be required to be the same percentage in the affirmative as the original vote being challenged in order to pass (ARTICLE 8).

If you are interested in serving on this study committee, please email: lwva@lwwamherst.org.

[Click here for town charter recommendations passed by membership consensus at Annual Meeting.](#)

Connecticut River Study

The Amherst League of Women Voters voted to conduct a re-study/update of our existing position entitled “Connecticut River Basin Inter-League Program” The current position that was adopted in 1965 and 1966 does not reference climate change or the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Facility.

Please [email Elizabeth Davis](#) if you are interested in participating in this study.

Voter Services

The LWVA is often asked to register voters at local events. Join this committee and learn how to instruct future voters and talk about the many important positions the LWV advocates for.

We have tabling opportunities in Amherst on Friday, September 6 Amherst College Quad (12:00 - 2:00 PM) and in Northampton on Saturday, September 14 (11:00 AM – 2:00 PM) at the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence for the **Democracy Fair**— at which we will be tabling with the Northampton LWV! This will be a fun event everyone should attend even if they can't table with us!

If you are interested in helping with either of these events [please email Jessica Ryan](#).

Health Care

Join the Health Care Committee and learn how to advocate for health care for all. Work includes participating in local events, educating the public and our legislators about health care issues, and working on advocacy in conjunction with allied groups.

If you are interested in serving on this committee [please email: Barbara Pearson.](#)

You can read [Barbara's National Convention Report](#) and the [HCR Network July Newsletter](#).



Barbara Pearson at the LWVUS Convention in DC and modeling the hatband made to publicize the message - HC is a PUBLIC GOOD, not for PRIVATE PROFIT.

Affordable Housing

Help the LWVA follow the local and state committees working on affordable housing in our area and at the state level. Members of this committee can help the LWVA Steering Committee know when to advocate and whom to lobby on this important issue.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please email: lwva@lwvamherst.org.

2023-2024 Civic Action Grants

This past year, the LWVA gave two civic grants totaling \$4,000. Join the committee that helps to review the civic grant applications, and/or encourage groups you know working on civic action to apply for funding. Our application is simple and quick!

The grant review committee does most of its work online.

If you are interested in serving on this committee please email: lwva@lwvamherst.org.

The LWV Amherst is now accepting applications for 2024-2025 Civic Action Grants.

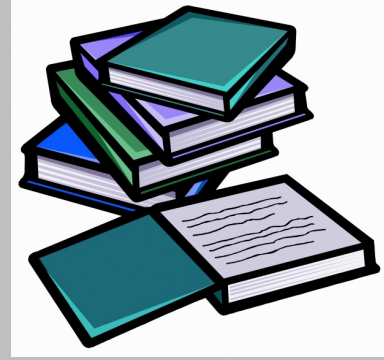
Read [here](#) for how to apply. Contact [Rebecca Fricke](#) for more information or questions.

LWVA Book Group Schedule

Join the 2024-2025 LWV Book Group

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

The September book is Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver. At the September gathering, members will vote on the next batch.



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

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.](#)

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LWV Amherst



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