



Amherst League of Women Voters

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

December 2024

I'm keeping my message even simpler than last month.

PLEASE Renew your membership - Click [HERE](#).

Join a local committee and get involved. We cannot and should not just sit back and throw up our hands. There is a lot we can and must do for democracy right here in our own community.

Interested in learning how to be part of our League's leadership team? PLEASE let me know.

Rebecca Fricke
Spokesperson, LWVA
Have questions? [Email me](#)

December 7th, 2:30-4:00 PM - LWVA Holiday Party, at Applewood.
Potluck finger food - see the invitation below.

December 18th - Steering Committee meeting. [Email Rebecca](#) for more information.

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 to be announced soon.

You're Invited!

A festive holiday-themed graphic with a white background and a border of green and red line-art illustrations of leaves, berries, and holly. The text is centered and reads:

Holiday Party

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

7
DECEMBER

2:30-4 PM
APPLEWOOD-
THE TAVERN

1 SPENCER DRIVE
AMHERST, MA

CARPOOLING RECOMMENDED

**BRING FINGER FOOD TO SHARE,
OR JUST COME!**

Please park on Spencer Drive, enter the front entrance and take the elevator down to the Tavern.

Membership Renewal Time

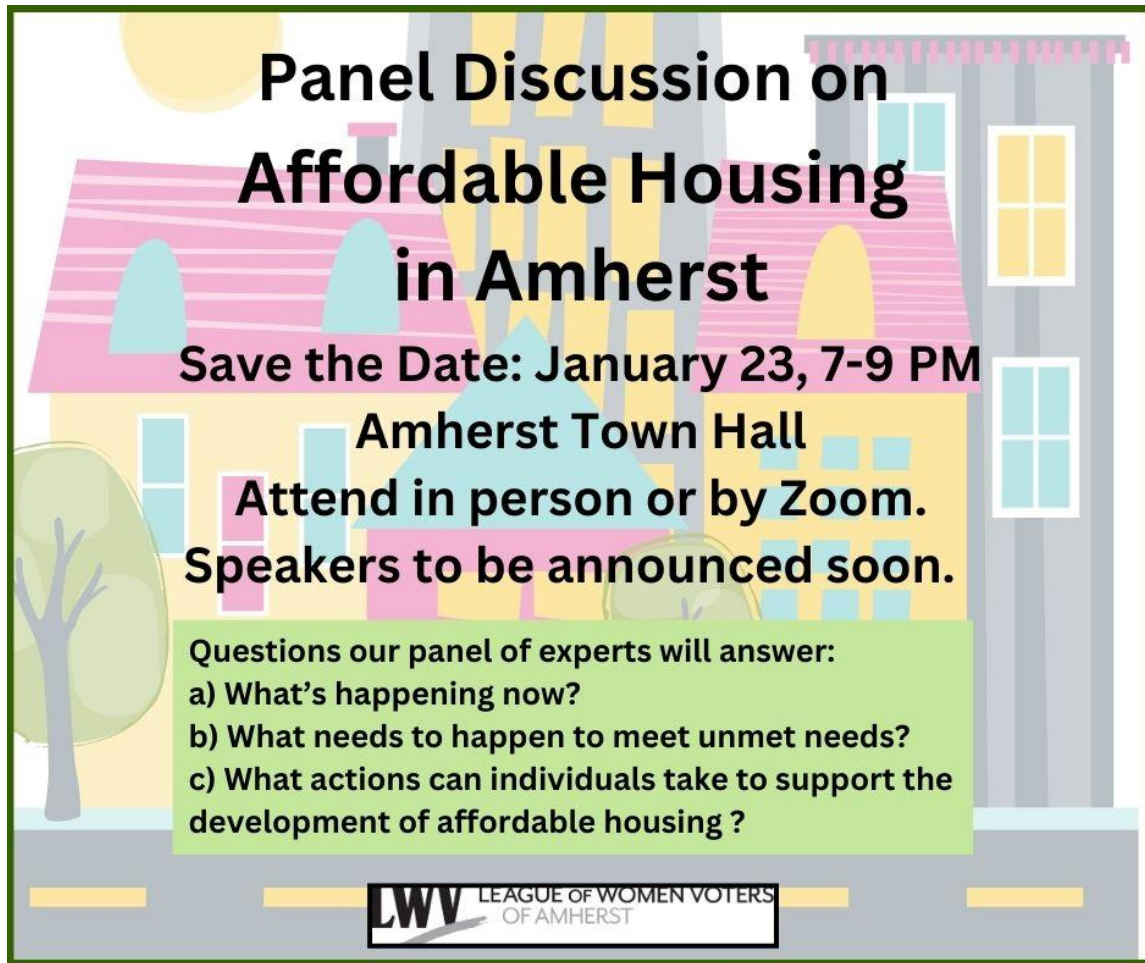
Last year we had to work really hard to get all of our members to click and renew. Thank you to those of you who have already renewed for this year. When you become a member, you are actually obtaining three memberships: LWWUS, LWWMA, and LWW Amherst!

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](https://www.lwvamherst.org/join), or if the link doesn't work for you, use: <https://www.lwvamherst.org/join>.

Voter Services

Thank you again to all of the volunteers who worked so hard this 2024 election season. Our work ahead of us is clear. We are the League of Women Voters; we've been working to educate citizens and encourage civic participation and voting for over 100 years, and we will continue to do so by remaining focused on the work that we do best.



**Panel Discussion on
Affordable Housing
in Amherst**

Save the Date: January 23, 7-9 PM
Amherst Town Hall
Attend in person or by Zoom.
Speakers to be announced soon.

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 ?

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF AMHERST

The Town of Amherst Municipal Housing Trust just released its draft five-year strategic action plan. If you'd like a preview, the draft plan is available [here](#). If you'd like to provide feedback, please go [here](#). The LWVA is in the process of setting up a committee to follow this important issue. Please [email](#) if you are interested in helping out.

The LWVMA Reparations Study

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 in the process of meeting to discuss 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.**

Health Care

The Health Care Committee (HCC) is trying to thread a non-partisan path through a political minefield.

With the shellacking that LWV priority, Making Democracy Work, took at the polls Nov 5, it's only a small step to cynicism and defeat. However, the President-elect's repeated campaign promises to disregard the Constitution, combined with our desire to continue our health care mission, make it clear that, even against strong odds, there is much we must do, *if* we can find the energy to "keep on keeping on."

In the words of **Joe Hill**,



(graphic from Healthcare-NOW!)

According to the **November newsletter** of the Health Care Reform Interest Group (HCR-IG), we might find direction in this message to the President-Elect published November 8 in a **full-page ad in the NY Times**:

From the ACLU: *In case you had any doubt, **we are not moving to Canada.** When you target immigrants, dissidents, and your political opponents, we will challenge you every step of the way: in the courts, in the states, and in the streets.*

The HCC would add, **when you and your allies tell us** that you will accelerate the transfer of public healthcare funds to private investors, and further, that you will take no steps to prepare for another pandemic nor health hazards from climate change, and will do nothing to protect reproductive rights or women's health--we hear you.

The HCC is especially interested in ways **the ACLU suggests** that one can use the infrastructure of state government to protect Massachusetts from harmful federal policies. Using **LWVUS guidelines** for engaging with highly-partisan proposals that we discussed in the October eBulletin, we are in the process of selecting actions that are consistent with LWV principles of non-partisanship and DEI and that respect the guidelines in Impact on Issues **(pp8-9)** for "Taking Action" at **local and state levels**. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Copy and paste these links for the highlighted text above:

1. Joe Hill: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don%27t_mourn,_organize!
2. HCR Newsletter (November): <https://lwwhealthcarereform.org/#latest-newsletter>
3. New York Times:
https://www.instagram.com/aclu_nationwide/p/DCH2HZjNt3m/
4. Project 2025:
https://static.project2025.org/2025_MandateForLeadership_FULLL.pdf
5. ACLU Town Hall: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZ1vZG05KS4&t=21s>

6. LWVUS messaging guidelines: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/talking-points/project-2025-messaging-guidance>
7. Impact on Issues guidelines: <https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues>

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

Racial Justice Committee

Greetings from the Racial Justice Committee (RJC)

The RJC is examining the local historical connection of the abolitionist movement to the women's rights movement. After visiting the David Ruggles Center, the committee members are interested in learning more about which influential figures were active in the area. The RJC plans to host a League-wide visit to the Ruggles Center in the spring.

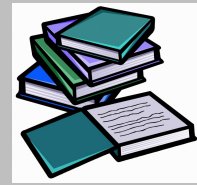
[Milan Clark](#) for the Racial Justice Committee

Click Milan's name to request more information about RJC.

Below is a photo of members of the RJC at the life-size bronze figure of Sojourner Truth statue in Florence, MA.



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. 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](mailto:Phyllis.Lehrer@lwv.org) 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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Milan Clark, At-Large
Rebecca Fricke, Spokesperson & E-Bulletin
Susan Lowery, Membership
Caroline Murray, At Large
Jessica Ryan, Voter Engagement
David Shanabrook, Treasurer

[Click here to contact the Steering Committee.](#)

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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