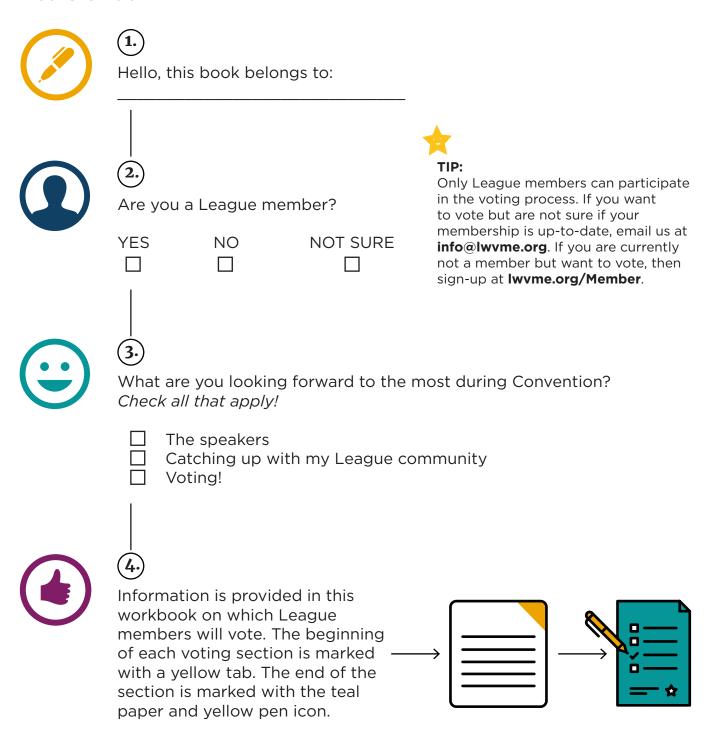


LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS*
OF MAINE

Let's check in



Contents

Welcome to Convention!	4	TIP:
Guide to the Holocaust and Human Rights Center	5	Sections that contain information that League
Convention 2023 Agenda	6	members will vote on are in bold and have the vote icon
Proposed Convention Rules	7	next to them.
LWVME Nominated Slate of Directors 2023-25	8	Like this.
LWVME Past Presidents	14	
Meet the LWVME Staff	15	
Proposed LWVME Budget	19	
Our Vision: Proposed LWVME Program	20	
How Does the LWVME Determine Its Positions?	22	
Mission Theory & Change: Program Plan for 2023-25	23	
Local League Reports	28	
Membership & Volunteer Reports	35	
Advocacy Report	37	
Report of the LWVME Education Fund	42	
Financial Report of the LWVME	45	
Convention Speaker Bios	46	
LWVME Bylaws	48	
Blank Pages for Notes	51	



2021-23 LWVME Officers

Jill Ward, President Pamela Cox, Vice President Susana Hancock, Secretary Ann Luther, Treasurer

2021-23 LWVME Directors

Maya Eichorn Benjamin Gaines Laura Christy Genese Chris Hafford Lillias Martin Melissa Hanley Murphy Alison Smith

2021-23 LWVME Education Fund Trustees

Jill Ward, President
Pamela Cox, Vice President
Susana Hancock, Secretary
Ann Luther, Treasurer
Benjamin Gaines, Trustee
Laura Christy Genese, Trustee
Chris Hafford, Trustee
Lillias Martin, Trustee
Melissa Hanley Murphy, Trustee
Alison Smith, Trustee

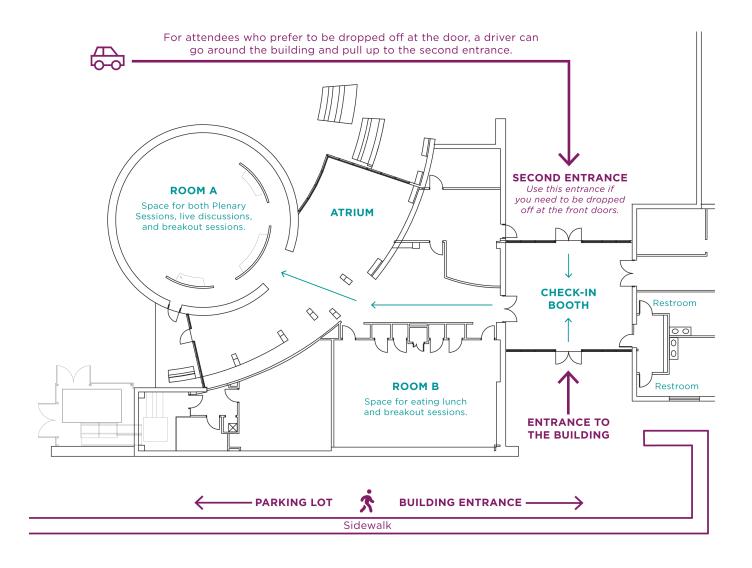
Nominating Committee

Pamela Cox, co-chair Melissa Hanley Murphy, co-chair Starr Gilmartin (Council of Local Leaders) Alison Smith (MCCE Action) Brandon Mazer

Staff

Anna Kellar Nadya Mullen Evan Murray Jen Lancaster Will Hayward Lane Sturtevant Allyson Gardner Miles Pulsford

Your Guide to the Holocaust and Human Rights Center



Agenda

8:30 am - 9:00 am Check-in period for in-person attendees 8:45 am - 9:00 am Check-in period for Zoom attendees 9:00 am - 9:15 am Welcome from Anna Kellar 9:15 am - 10:00 am Plenary Session I Presentation of Proposed Bylaws Changes Presentation of Proposed Budget Presentation of Proposed Program Presentation of Nominated Slate - Quick Break -10:15 am - 11:00 am Democracy Forum Live! discussion led by Ann Luther, with Stuart Baum and Shenna Bellows Quick Break — 11:15 am - 12:15 pm Heather Cox Richardson Keynote and Discussion Lunch. This in-person attendees will have lunch provided in the atrium. 12:15 pm - 1:00 pm Breakout Sessions. 1:00 pm - 1:45 pm 🛕 🔲 Both in-person and Zoom attendees participate! Room A: Owning the Future with LWVME Youth Council Room B: Getting Involved with the League on Local Government - Quick Break -2:00 pm - 2:45 pm Plenary Session II Discussion and Vote on Bylaws Discussion and Vote on Program

Discussion and Vote on Budget Election of Board and Officers



2:45 pm - 3:30 pm

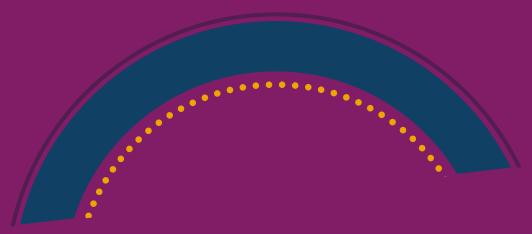
Closing with Dr. Kimberly Hamlin Ann Luther Volunteerism Award Presentation Meet the Board



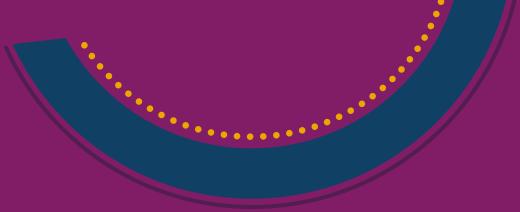
If you experience any technical difficulties with Zoom during Convention, email Jen at jen@lwvme.org or text 859-753-0425.

Proposed Convention Rules

- 1. A motion to adopt these rules will be made at Plenary Session I. Amendments may be offered at that time and require a majority vote.
- 2. Admission to Convention is open to League members, guests, and interested parties.
- 3. Any member of the League of Women Voters may participate in plenary sessions and discussions.
- 4. Only members in good standing may vote.
- 5. The Secretary or the Operations Director shall report the number of members in good standing registered at the opening session and when directed to do so.
- 6. Members wishing to speak shall signal this by using the "raise hand" feature of Zoom. When recognized, members shall give their name and the name of their local chapter or the name of their town if they are a Member at Large.
- 7. Main motions and amendments of substantial length must be in writing and emailed to the Secretary or the Operations Director so they can be shared on the screen.
- 8. The proposed program shall be presented at Plenary Session I and moved for adoption by a State Board member. Questions for clarification and limited discussion are allowed at this time. Motions to amend shall be entertained at Plenary Session II.
- 9. Members may speak once on an issue and shall not speak a second time until everyone who wishes to speak has had an opportunity to do so.
- 10. Rules of Convention may be amended, rescinded, or suspended by a 2/3 vote.
- 11. Order of Business may be amended by a 2/3 vote.
- 12. Minutes of Convention shall be reviewed, corrected, and approved by the State Board at its soonest possible regular meeting.
- 13. Plenary sessions shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.



Meet the Board





TIP:

This is the proposed slate for the 2023-25 LWVME Board. New board members are highlighted in blue.



TIP:

The Nominated Slate will be presented in Plenary Session 1 at 9:15 AM.



TID.

League members will vote on the Nominated Slate in Plenary Session II at 2:00 PM.

President



Pamela Cox (she/her)

Q Bath

Pamela is a senior international finance, trade, economic development and policy leader with over 30 years' experience in the World Bank Group. During her three decades there, she held senior operating roles in East and South Asia, Latin America and Africa, where she managed multi-billion dollar portfolios and engaged with client governments at the highest levels. Pamela has deep expertise in management, project finance, including developing innovative financing and risk management instruments and implementing high profile infrastructure investments, as well as in public sector policy formation and government relations. She is also an independent trustee and audit committee member for Baillie Gifford Overseas Ltd. US mutual funds. Pamela earned an MA and PhD from the Fletcher School. Tufts University. where she studied development economics and received a Shell Fellowship to fund her dissertation research on energy issues in Senegal. She is a graduate of Reed College, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in international studies and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Her languages include French, Spanish and Portuguese. Pamela serves on the board of the Maine Center for Economic Policy, and chairs the Bath Backpack Program.

Vice President



Susana Hancock (she/her)

Freeport

Susana is a linguist and anthropologist focusing on geopolitics of climate change in the Arctic and Middle East. She holds three degrees from the University of Oxford, most recently earning her DPhil/PhD last year. She is the recipient of many national and international fellowships and honors. She is a former international elite rower and has coached both at the University of Oxford and now with Waynflete School in Portland. Susana is a coordinator for Democracy Maine's Outreach and Education team and leads the Speakers' Bureau. This includes designing various educational curricula, which she has presented throughout Maine, and now around the world (thank you, Zoom!). She is multilingual and has delivered material in five languages. Susana has numerous and varied talents ranging from winning an international award as an amateur astrophysicist, performing as a concert cellist, and performing as a sleight of hand magician. She is on the International Council and leadership for the Association for Polar Early Career Scientists, is an expert reviewer for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and an Arctic consultant for the UN's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. Additionally, she serves on a variety of local, state and international climate, policy and academic boards.

Secretary



Melissa Hanley Murphy (she/her)

Scarborough

Melissa has been a member of LWVME since the 1980s when she moved to Maine after marrying a South Portland native, whom she met at the University of Michigan Law School, and joining Perkins Thompson, a Portland law firm. Her legal practice has centered on advising for-profit and nonprofit real estate owners, developers and lenders in governance, as well as operational and transactional, matters. Her involvement with the League waxed and waned with the demands of her legal career and child-rearing, but she is a past Board member of the Portland Area League of Women Voters and the LWVME Education Fund, which she assisted in forming. Melissa has been an active volunteer in Scarborough as a past member of the Scarborough Housing Alliance and the Open Space Committee and as the incorporator and a founding Board member of the Scarborough Education Foundation and Scarborough Baseball Boosters. Melissa is passionate about protecting voting rights and encouraging voter participation. One of her favorite LWVME activities is registering new voters at naturalization ceremonies and in schools.

Treasurer



Ann Luther (she/her)

♀ Trenton

Ann currently serves as Treasurer of the League of Women Voters of Maine and MCCE. She served as President of LWVME from 2003 to 2007 and as co-president from 2007-2009. In her work for the League, Ann has worked for greater public understanding of public policy issues and for the League's priority issues in Clean Elections & Campaign Finance Reform, Voting Rights, Ethics in Government, Ranked Choice Voting, and Repeal of Term Limits. Representing LWVME at Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, she served that coalition as co-president from 2006 to 2011. She is active in the LWV-Downeast and hosts their monthly radio show, "The Democracy Forum", on WERU FM Community Radio. She was the 2013 recipient of the Baldwin Award from the ACLU of Maine for her work on voting rights and elections and is the namesake and 2017 inaugural recipient of the LWVME's Ann L. Luther Volunteerism Award. She joined the League in 1998 when she retired as Senior Vice President at SEI Investments. Ann was a founder of the MDI Restorative Justice Program, 1999 - 2000, and served on its Executive Board.



The Nominated Slate will be presented in Plenary Session 1 at 9:15 AM.

League members will vote on the Nominated Slate in plenary Session II at 2:00 PM.



Ellen L. Dohmen (she/her)

P Bar Harbor



Benjamin Gaines (he/him)

Portland



Rick Lyles (he/him)

Ellsworth

New Member!

Ellen has been an activist since grade school when she began her life-long participation in marches and sit-ins for racial justice, reproductive justice, antinuclear proliferation and universal peace. She presently serves as founder and head of the Racial Justice Book Group for Acadia Senior College, is chair of the Appeals Board of Bar Harbor, having served before that as chair of the Planning Board of Bar Harbor, and is head of neighbor4neighbor, a subgroup of Healthy Acadia enabling senior citizens in financial crises to remain independent and healthy. Ellen did her undergraduate and first graduate work at the University of Wisconsin in English and Education, teaching both in high school and college. She then earned a MS from the University of Pennsylvania as a pediatric nurse practitioner, and practiced in Philadelphia where she became the head of pediatrics for a large HMO. Ellen is an avid hiker, having trekked all over the world, and served as a volunteer for Acadia National Park for 17 years. Her love of the mountains and rock formations is reflected in her book Rock Friends of Acadia. Ellen is also a most enthusiastic Yankee fan.

Ben Gaines is an attorney based in Cumberland County with a practice focused primarily on elder law, nonprofit organizations, and election/political law. Before coming to Maine and beginning his legal practice, he spent over a decade working on political campaigns all over the country, from the Deep South to the Pacific Northwest. Preparedness and dedication are qualities Ben has cultivated throughout his career, passionately holding his family and political beliefs close to his pursuits. With roots in local advocacy and leadership, he is committed to serving his community by working and volunteering with activist groups, including sitting on the Board of Directors for Maine League of Women Voters, Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, and Fair Elections Portland.

New Member!

Rick is an emeritus professor at Michigan State University (MSU) and has lived in Ellsworth for several years. His formal training is in civil engineering, urban/regional planning, applied statistics, and transportation planning. In addition to academic positions at MSU, he was the Deputy Planning Director of Pittsburgh's redevelopment authority, taught in urban affairs at Cleveland State University, and was a researcher at the University of Maine. He is active in local government and related activities: vice chair of the Ellsworth Planning Board and the Ellsworth Housing Authority; and a member of the city's Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee and Local Roads Committee. He is also a volunteer driver for a social service non-profit and was a major contributor to the initial citizen-led Ellsworth Green Plan. He views municipal planning and local government engagement as grass-roots exercises in democracy. A fairly new member of LWV Maine-Downeast, he has engaged in candidate events, contributed to the Democracy Forum, read/reviewed several LWV reports, and participated in Advocacy Day in Augusta among other activities.

Adikhadar Shire (he/him)

• Lewiston

New Member!

Abdikhadar grew up in Dadaab Refugee Camp in Kenya from the age of six months until he was 19 years old. On his 19th birthday, Abdikhadar graduated from high school in the refugee camp, emerging top student which earned him a scholarship spot to study at the University of Ottawa in Canada, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Economics and Social Sciences. In 2020 Abdikhadar founded AK Health and Social Services, a nonprofit organization that serves immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, BIPOC and other disadvantaged and marginalized communities in Maine. Growing the nonprofit to 13 members earned him a recognition from *Mainebiz 40 under 40* in 2020 and subsequently his work was recognized by the Mayor and the city of Lewiston. Abdikhadar is a father of two children, a four-year-old son and three-year-old daughter, and is expecting a second daughter in June of 2023. Abdikahdar is currently pursuing a master's in Business Administration from the University of Maine in Orono.



Alison Smith (she/her)

Portland

Alison has been a League member since the 1980s, and it was through the LWVME that she first got involved in Clean Elections. She was one of 1,100 Mainers who volunteered to collect signatures in 1995 to put the question on the ballot and has worked on Clean Elections in either a volunteer or professional capacity ever since. Today she serves on the League's Program Committee and Money in Politics and Advocacy teams. She values not just the League's policy and voter service work, but its important role in civic engagement and leadership development. The League provided Alison with a civic education and the opportunity to make a difference, and she is committed to strengthening our organization so that all Mainers can find and fulfill their roles as active citizens. Democracy works best when we all participate!

New Member!



Alex Newell Taylor (she/her)

Southwest Harbor

A lifelong summer resident, Alex made the permanent move to Maine in 2019. After a career in education and non-profit management, Alex turned her attention to the political landscape after the election of 2016. She was a founding member of Women's March Florida, and served as the Vice President of the state Executive Board. In 2018, Alex was the Deputy Director of Voter Engagement for the Second Chances Florida/Amendment 4 campaign, which successfully passed with 64.5% approval. Amendment 4 restored voting rights to 1.4 million people with previous felony convictions- the largest increase in US voting access since the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Currently, Alex works as a community organizer for National Nurses United, with a focus on healthcare justice. Until recently, she was the Executive Director of Summer Festival of the Arts, an arts education nonprofit serving Mount Desert Island. She also served on the board of Maine Healthcare Action. Alex is a graduate of the New Leaders Council and a magna cum laude graduate of Emory University. She lives in Southwest Harbor with her two kids, husband, and dog.



Jill Ward (she/her)

So. Portland

Jill served as President of the LWVME and MCCE from 2015-2023. Jill has been a League member since 2009 and has been involved with MCCE since 2008. She currently runs the Maine Center for Juvenile Policy and Law at the University of Maine School of Law and consults on youth policy in Maine and nationally. She recently co-chaired a statewide task force on juvenile justice reform and was appointed by the Governor to the Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group where she serves as chair. She will also be an adjunct faculty member at Maine Law this upcoming academic year teaching Juvenile Law in the fall and a practicum on changing laws in the spring. Educated at the University of Pennsylvania and Georgetown University Law Center, Jill has always had a strong interest in civic life, public service, and advocacy. She returned to her home state of Maine in 2007 after more than 15 years' experience in the public sector, including senior policy positions with Girl Scouts of the USA, the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, and the Children's Defense Fund in Washington, DC. Jill also worked in the U.S. Senate for Senators Paul S. Sarbanes (MD) and George J. Mitchell (ME). When not working or volunteering, Jill can be found running around with her boys, Michael, 16, and Nicholas, 13.

New Member!

Tobin is the Advocacy Manager for the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition. In this position, he works with government officials and community partners around Maine in advancing MIRC's policy priorities in DC, Augusta, and city halls throughout the state. His advocacy work also includes promoting the organization through both traditional media and social media. Previously, Williamson served in two U.S. Congressional Offices and two Consulates General (Japan's in Seattle and the Czech Republic's in Chicago). Williamson earned a Master's Degree in Political Science from the University of North Carolina. Outside of MIRC, he recently concluded his year in the Aspen Institute Strategy Group's Rising Leaders Program and is now part of the Leadership Portland Class of 2023. Williamson enjoys exploring all the Pine Tree State has to offer. He lives in Lewiston with his partner Kate, their cat, and their horse. In his spare time, you can find him somewhere on a hiking trail, reading a couple of books, watching soccer, trying new coffee shops, or planning his next international trips.



Tobin C.
Williamson
(he/him)

Lewiston



Maya Eichorn (she/her/they/them)

Maya is a student at York County Community College. She uses the pronouns she/her or they/them. Since earning her High School Equivalency Diploma, Maya has worked as an intern with the League and a fellow with Maine Students Vote. She now serves on the DEI committee at her college and as a member of the College Cabinet. She enjoys making art—a relaxing getaway from political activities. She hopes to one day become a journalist. For now, she is excited to bring a youth's perspective to the Board.

*Maya has been appointed to the Board by the LWVME Youth Council and is not on the nominated slate that members will vote on to approve.



LWVME Past Presidents

1920s 1920-22 1922-24 1924-26 1926-28 1928-30	Mabel Connor Roselle Huddilston Gertrude Bates Mrs. L. C. Rollins Mrs. W. L. Hayden	1970s 1969-71 1971-73 1973-74 1975-77 1977-78 1978-79	Willabelle Zabel Nancy Masterton Shirley Knowles Dolores Vail Kathy Weibel Mary Ellen Maybury
1930s 1930-34 1934-35 1935-39 1939 1939-47	Mrs. Paul Chapman Savage Mrs. Herchel E. Peabody — Mrs. J. Martin DeShon —	1980s 1979-81 1981-84 1984-88	Alice Johnson Penny Harris Marlee Turner
1940s 1947-49 1949-52	Virginia Lamb —	1990s 1988-91 1991-94 1994-95 1995-99	Jane Saxl Marion Holshouser Alvin Moss Sally Bryant
1950s 1952-53 1953-55 1955-57 1957-59	Ruth Forbes — Jean Sampson Jean Orr	2000s 1999-2001 2001-03 2003-07 2007-09	Sarah Walton Janice Carpenter Ann Luther Barbara McDade & Ann Luther
1960s 1959-61 1961-63 1963-67 1967-69	Ann Ward Margaret Woodbury Whit McEvoy Madeline Freeman	2010-2020s 2009-15 2015-2023	Barbara McDade Jill Ward





TIP:

Want to reach out to a staff member about an issue or with a question? You can look up emails at www.lwvme.org/Staff.



Anna Kellar (they/them) Executive Director

Staff Role: Reports to Board via President. Hires and manages other staff. Drafts budget. Public representative of Democracy Maine/LWVME/MCCE to press, partners, donors, etc. Manages grants and major donors. Active member of advocacy team and lobbyist, oversees project managers of other project teams. Coordinates election coalition. Serving as Board President and interim campaign manager for Fair Elections Portland organization/campaign. 40% of time on development, 30% management, 30% project work and other external relations.

Bio: Anna grew up in Maine before earning a BA in Political Science from Yale University and a Masters in Conflict Studies from the London School of Economics. Their experience with democracy and anti-corruption campaigns in Eastern Europe and Central Asia makes them all the more committed to preserving and strengthening civil society and grassroots democracy in Maine. Anna started working at MCCE in 2014 as an organizer on the Clean Elections Initiative. They ran for the state legislature as a Clean Elections candidate in 2016. In 2017, Anna was appointed as the first joint Executive Director for MCCE and the League of Women Voters of Maine.



Nadya Mullen (she/her)
Operations Director

Staff Role: Reports to ED. Staff support for Executive and Governance Committees. Keeps our organizations running smoothly. Responsible for office management, maintaining accurate database and membership records, financial management (including accounts receivable, accounts payable, and reporting), supporting grant reporting, managing HR and payroll, managing contracts, and helping with creating organizational and program budgets in collaboration with the ED.

Bio: Nadya is a returning Maine native delighted to be home and actively supporting nonpartisan democracy efforts in Maine. She spent 18 years living in the UK, working primarily in higher and further education, and most recently as Administrative Officer for the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Cambridge. Her background in not-for-profit administration and organizational transformation serves her well at the League and MCCE.



Jen Lancaster (she/her) Communications Director

Staff Role: Reports to ED. Works to increase the profiles of Democracy Maine/LWVME/MCCE with the public, provides consistent messaging and branding clarity, ensures constituents receive information, and increases engagement with program events, products, etc. Supports local Leagues as needed. Primary manager for email, social media, printed materials, websites. First contact for press.

Bio: Jen hails from the Bluegrass region of Kentucky. She's worked in public libraries, and has done communications work in the fields of environmental education & sustainability, city government, and higher education. She served as an AmeriCorps VISTA for 3 years in the London Ferrill Community Garden, a radical space where members grew healthy and free food for the community. She's taught French at the college level, English abroad in France, and piano to younger students. She has a B.A. in English and French from Transylvania University and a M.A. in French from the University of Kentucky.



Evan Murray (he/him/they/them) Civic Engagement Director

Staff Role: Reports to ED. Staff support for Program Committee. Supports volunteer leadership on project teams for Voter Guide, Voter Engagement, Election and Local Observation, RCV and Civic Education, etc. Leads program design and evaluation processes, works closely with other staff to ensure projects have the operational, technical and volunteer support necessary to succeed. Supports Youth Council.

Bio: Evan is a Mainer with a degree in sociology from USM who spent ten years on the other side of the US and came back in 2019. Their nonprofit and educational experience in equity and inclusion led them to the League and MCCE, where they can work to ensure that everyone has equal access to our government. They've been delighted to revisit their 20-year-old political roots in Maine, where they first learned what civic engagement means.



Will Hayward (he/him) Advocacy Program Coordinator

Staff Role: Supports the volunteer leadership of the advocacy team and subcommittees. Coordinator for Voting Rights and Structural Reform subcommittees. Manages grassroots advocacy strategy for voting rights, money in politics and structural reform. Host and coordinator for election webinar series. Conducts policy development and research as needed.

Bio: Will is a Virginia native who has worked in advocacy on a variety of issues including juvenile justice reform, worker's rights, and foreign policy. In 2019, he worked as an organizer on a political campaign in the Shenandoah region of Virginia. He received a Masters in Global Policy Studies from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, and is excited to apply his background and interest in civic engagement and strengthening democracy to LWVME and MCCE.



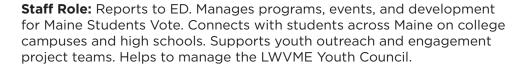
Lane Sturtevant (they/them) Organizer

Staff Role: Reports to ED. Staff support for Membership & Volunteer Committee and Council of Local Leagues. Supports local Leagues and state project teams (with a particular focus on national popular vote campaign), coordinates intake for new volunteers, and leads outreach in areas of the state without robust local League infrastructure (South Thomaston-based).

Bio: Lane is a Vermonter who came to Maine for college and never left. They have worked at nonprofit organizations in Lewiston and the Midcoast in youth programming and education roles. Most recently, they served as a youth coordinator for OUT Maine, an organization supporting and empowering LGBTQ+ youth in rural Maine. Lane has a B.A. in anthropology from Bowdoin College. They are excited to combine their passion for an equitable democratic process with their love for Maine communities in this organizing role.



Allyson Gardner (she/her)
Director of Maine
Students Vote



Bio: Allyson has based her career in working towards a liveable and just future. She has worked for the past twelve years with nonprofits whose missions ranged from growing youth leadership to fighting for equitable financial access to demanding food justice. The through line of all of these organizations has been rooted in uplifting community voice and local organizing. Allyson is excited to leverage this experience as the Director of Maine Students Vote.



Miles Pulsford (he/him) Election Administration Organizer

Staff Role: Reports to ED. Develops deeper relationships with town and city clerks across the state for legislative efforts, including 2022 federal funding for election administration and a permanent expansion of ongoing absentee voting in Maine in 2023. Works with Maine town and city clerks' voice to fight election dis- and misinformation.

Bio: Miles is an organizer and writer from rural Appalachia. First a wildlife ecologist, then an investigative journalist, his career has followed a multidisciplinary trajectory centered around advocating for justice and community empowerment. Miles has a BA in Biology from Oberlin College and an MA in Creative Publishing and Critical Journalism from The New School. He spends his spare time quilting, reading, and rock climbing.

LWVME Proposed Budget 2023-2025

	LWVME Budget* — Vote	For Reference — Combined C3 and C3, including MCCE
Estimated starting cash on hand:	25,000	158,833
Income: Individual Donors Membership Dues Grants Other - Maineshare	100,000 50,000 84,173	615,000 50,000 841,730 60,000 6,000
TOTAL INCOME:	259,173	1,731,563
Expense: Staff Salary and Benefits Consultants** Overhead and Administration Program Expenses Per Member Payment	115,248 11,800 15,209 45,626 18,000	1,137,481 102,100 61,745 185,235 18,000
TOTAL EXPENSE:	205,882	1,504,561
Net:	53,291	227,002
Reserves:		182,267



The Proposed Budget will be presented in Plenary Session 1 at 9:15 AM.

League members will vote on the Proposed Budget in plenary Session II at 2:00 PM.

^{*} This budget represents the operating budget of the League of Women Voters of Maine. The combined budget includes this budget, plus the budgets of the LWVME Education Fund, Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, and MCCE Action.

^{**} Consultants include Accounting, Lobbying, Legal, Translation, Database, etc.





TIP:

This is our program direction for 2021-23. The Proposed Program will be presented in Plenary Session 1 at 9:15 AM.



TIP

League members will vote on the Proposed Program in Plenary Session II at 2:00 PM.

Proposed 2023-2025 Program

Sustain emphasis on the Making Democracy Work agenda:

Making Democracy Work: engaging and informing voters, protecting and improving elections, fighting big money in politics, and advancing equity and racial justice.

As we look ahead to the 2024 elections, the 2025 legislative session, and beyond, we anticipate both threats to the stability of our democratic norms and institutions, and opportunities to continue Maine's leadership toward a truly representative government.

We reaffirm our existing policy positions (available at lwvme.org/policies) and will continue to work toward consensus on our in-progress study of proportional Ranked Choice Voting.

One New Topic Proposed for Study to Determine New Policy Positions for LWVME:

For 2023-2024, the Board of Directors is proposing one new topic for study over the next year. We also are asking the convention for non-binding feedback on other potential study topics for future years.

Proposed Study:

Whether to amend our positions on ranked choice voting and primary election systems to support a top-four or top-five system, consisting of a single nonpartisan (vote for one) primary where the top vote-getters of any party advance to an RCV general election.



Please rank, in the order of importance, which of the following topics you would like to see the League of Women Voters of Maine conduct a study on:

 Universal (mandatory) voting: whether to require eligible citizens to vote as a duty of citizenship.
 Direct election of Maine's Constitutional Officers: whether to elect the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, and the State Treasurer by direct popular election, rather than electing them by the Legislature.
 Digital democracy: whether and how to address threats to democracy posed in the digital realm
 Noncitizen voting: whether to allow permanent, legal residents to vote, either at the local level, at the state level, or both
 Constitutional right to vote: adding an explicit right to vote in the Maine State Constitution.

How Does the League Determine Its Positions?

The League of Women Voters uses studies to determine public policy and programming. The League cannot take action without a position and cannot formulate a position without some form of study by the national League or a state or local League. Because the League studies all sides of each issue and approaches new policy based on evidence and the public interest in a nonpartisan way, the organization has developed a respected reputation and voice in American politics.

What is a study?

League studies follow a consensus model based on education, readings, and discussion. A study committee appointed by the Board designs the study, including scope, process, and timeline. Once the Board approves the study design, the Committee compiles study materials and creates the Consensus or Concurrence questions. Then, facilitated study meetings are arranged with chapters and members so that any member can participate even if they are not affiliated with a local League.

Consensus and Concurrence

There are two forms of study: Consensus and Concurrence. A Concurrence study is based on a study or policy done by or adopted by another state League. The resources may be adapted from the original study, and the Concurrence question is a vote on whether or not to adopt the policy developed by the other chapter. This may be done by the Board on its own authority, or it may be done by engaging the entire membership.

A Consensus study is one that starts from scratch. If neither LWVUS nor any other chapter has an official position on a topic, a Consensus study is conducted to formulate new policy. League members read the study material, discuss and debate the questions, and decide the outcome.

The decision is not by simple majority or vote — it is the "overall sense of the group and a judgement about whether member understanding and agreement have been achieved."

The goal is for the new position to reflect as broad a portion of the membership as possible.

What does this mean for you?

All LWVME members (any League members in Maine) are urged to participate in the study by:

- + Voting on the proposed topics at Convention.
- + Volunteering for the Study Committee.
- +Participating in the study (or studies).
 This includes reading the program
 material, participating in discussions, and
 answering study questions.
- + Volunteering for study-related tasks.



MISSION AND THEORY OF CHANGE Program Plan for 2023-25

The League stands for the right of all people to be active participants in their government. We educate voters, empower people to participate in civic life and advocate for policies that strengthen our democracy. Empowered and engaged people are both our 'means' and our 'end'.

We are living in a time when many of our most treasured democratic norms and civil rights are under threat. We acknowledge the full truth of our history, including many ways our highest principles contrast with the lived experiences of many Americans. We are proud of the progress Maine has made to enshrine voting rights and expand civic participation. Nonetheless, far too many Mainers are estranged from their government and the decision-making processes that impact their lives. Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), young and low-income Mainers, and people with disabilities, among others, continue to face disproportionate barriers. As we enter our second century, the League's programs and goals reflect our commitment to equity in all aspects of our democracy.

As we enter our next biennium we are recommitting to work for a government truly of, by, and for Maine people. We believe in the role that our state can play to build the path toward a more perfect democracy.

OUR THREE GOALS FOR MAINE'S DEMOCRACY

1. Everyone Votes: Approach 100% voter turnout

Our short-term goal: break the 2020 record for voter turnout in 2024

2. Everyone Participates, and Everyone's Participation Matters: Ensure everyone has the skills, knowledge, and opportunities for meaningful participation in democratic self-governance, and that government is responsive to all voices.

Our short-term goals: strengthen democracy by combating misinformation; expand access to information about local politics and government; advance policies that reduce the influence of money in politics, promote racial equity, and result in more representative voting systems.

3. Everyone Means Everyone: Reduce and eliminate inequities in voter turnout and public participation.

Our short-term goals: increase civic participation in the ten communities with the lowest voter turnout (which are also towns with some of the highest poverty rates and greatest racial diversity¹); sustain the surge in youth voter engagement; advance Wabanaki sovereignty.

¹ Based on our State of Democracy research, these are Biddeford, Portland, Lewiston, Augusta, Waterville, Skowhegan, Bangor, Orono, Old Town/Indian Island and Presque Isle

OUR STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

How do we achieve these ambitious goals? Our strategies are based on our organizational experience and best practices, as well as the evidence gathered by political scientists and sociologists.



POLICY | PRO-DEMOCRACY POLICIES

Alignment in means and ends: We promote policies that increase civic activism; we win those policies through civic activism.

- + Advocacy
- + Research
- + Litigation as needed



CULTURE | COMMUNITY CULTURE OF PARTICIPATION

Relationships and community are what sustain activism and the most impactful path to get out the vote.

- + Individual Outreach (Neighbor to Neighbor)
- + The League itself and affinity groups like Youth Council
- + Relational Organizing
- + Community Partnerships



NON-PARTISAN INFORMATION AND CIVIC EDUCATION

We are trusted providers of quality information; we can always improve access to and range of offerings to meet community needs.

- + Voter Guides and Vote411.org
- + School-based Civics
- + Skills Training
- + Issue Education
- + Observation Programs



SERVICE | DIRECTLY NAVIGATING BARRIERS

While still needed, we are increasingly trying to meet direct needs through community relationships and policy implementation.

- + Voter Registration
- + Absentee Ballot Requests
- + Voter Hotline

Pro-democracy policies.

We advocate for policies and legislation that facilitate access to the ballot and true representation for all people. For example, same-day voter registration, public meeting laws, fair redistricting, and Clean Elections each play an important role. This is the focus of our robust, strategic, advocacy work.

Strong community and culture of voting and participation.

Personal relationships, social and peer examples, and community support are important determinants of who participates in democracy and who grows their engagement beyond Election Day.

Skills and information.

Whether it is understanding the roles of elected officials and the issues at stake, how to get an absentee ballot, or where to submit a comment on a piece of legislation, voters need information they can trust and must encounter that information in their daily lives.

Direct Service and Assistance.

Some voters benefit from support with voter registration, getting to the polling place, etc. Where possible, we are working to integrate these services into community networks or to institute policies (such as online voter registration) that reduce the effort needed for a nonprofit organization to run large voter assistance programs.

Each of our programs incorporates one or more of these strategic goals, adapted to the specific needs of the communities we work with.

League of Women Voters of Maine Programs and Projects for 2023-2025

To increase equitable voter turnout and civic participation, we need to reduce systemic barriers to voting, improve access to clear, nonpartisan information, and build a supportive culture of engagement within communities.

[1.] Advocating for a Better Democracy — Advocacy as a Means and an End

- a.) Leadership development and organizing the advocacy team and subcommittees, lobby days, Under the Dome newsletter, training programs, legislative scorecard, supporting partners in advocacy.
- b.) Our policy goals:
 - + Voting Rights: defend existing rights, improve proactive voter education
 - + Money in Politics: defend and expand Clean Elections, improve disclosure, strengthen contribution limits
 - + Structural Reform: Ranked Choice Voting, National Popular Vote
 - + Racial Justice: tribal sovereignty, racial impact statements, legislator compensation
- c.) Expanding Ranked Choice Voting in our municipal elections
- d.) State of Maine Democracy report
- e.) Studies
 - + Youth Voting (finishing)
 - + Proportional Representation (in progress)
 - + Proposed: Open Primaries/Top Four RCV

[2.] Voter Education and Engagement

- a.) Our flagship voter education program, the printed Easy-to-Read Voter Guide and the Vote411.org website are used by Mainers to learn about how to register and vote, to see what will be on their ballot, and to read candidate questionnaires and nonpartisan descriptions of ballot initiatives. We will cover every municipal election held in the state through Vote411.org, filling a major gap in voter information, and ensuring no matter where a voter lives, they can access comprehensive voter information. Vote411.org also links voters to upcoming and recorded candidate forums hosted by our local Leagues. Goal for readership: At least 50,000 print guides distributed in 2024, and at least 50,000 users of Vote411.
- b.) Candidate and Issue Forums: A local League program supported by LWVME as needed, through technical support and moderator training.
- c.) Speakers' Bureau
- d.) Voter Engagement / GOTV
 - + Voter Registration (naturalization ceremonies, schools, prisons, etc)
 - + Neighbor to Neighbor (creating the "program in a box")
 - + Support to partners in developing GOTV plans

[3.] Election Protection and Combating Disinformation

We conduct election observation and protection activities to increase public confidence in our elections and identify areas for future voting process improvements.

a.) Election Observation: By sending trained volunteers to observe on Election Day, we have been able to report on the voting process and resolve issues as they arise.

- b.) Voter Hotline: We also will staff a voter hotline, where trained volunteers can answer questions and help resolve barriers to voting.
- c.) Misinformation: The most effective way to combat misinformation and disinformation about our elections is to share accurate information. In addition to our main voter education activities, we are also training and supporting our members to spread positive messages in their networks. We will conduct trainings on effective messaging and relational organizing, as well as creating easy to share content for distribution on social media.

[4.] Youth and School-Based Programming

Our youth programming combines education with leadership development and community building. With our sibling organization, Maine Students Vote, we provide a suite of services to middle, high school, and college students, teachers, and administrators. These services include specialized curriculum and lesson plans around ranked-choice voting, local government, and other Maine-specific civics topics; voter registration and registration training in partnership with student organizations; speakers and workshops on voting and civics topics; and membership in the League's Youth Council.

- a.) Youth Council and High School Interns
 - + The Youth Council brings together teenagers from around the state who have an interest in activism and making a difference in their communities. Many are already leading efforts on issues they care about, and the Youth Council gives them a space to learn new skills, such as facilitation, project planning, and public speaking. It also connects these young people with a supportive cohort beyond their own schools. The Youth Council appoints a member of the LWVME board of directors to ensure youth perspectives

- are represented in all our decisionmaking.
- + The core Youth Council leadership is made up of LWVME High School Interns, who plan peer educational events, manage communication with the wider Youth Council, and build their civic leadership skills. We are committed to funding and supporting at least three interns in the fall, spring, and summer.
- b.) Youth Engagement Team (YEP)
 - + The YEP team is made of up of adult allies who are passionate about building stronger civic education opportunities for youth. This is team develops an educator newsletter, builds stronger relationships with schools across the state, develops new resources for teachers, and coordinates with local leagues to run voter registration drives in high schools.
 - + This team is made up of three committees
 - Civic Education Advocacy & Curriculum
 - Outreach & Communication
 - Civic Digest

[5.] Local Government Engagement

Local governments make many crucial decisions that impact Mainers' everyday lives and future well-being. However, local elections have low turnout, most people know very little about local government roles and systems, and local organizing efforts are siloed. Compounding the problem, there is no central source for local election information. We are using aspects of our specific programming outlined above to increase local civic engagement, and additionally:

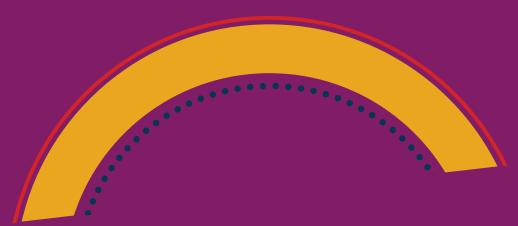
a.) Using our Guide to Local Government to hold community discussions, engaging local Leagues, libraries, schools, town governments, etc.

- b.) Expanding the Guide with additional resources about town meetings, charter commissions etc.
- c.) Providing educators with lesson plans on local government and how to make an impact on local issues; connecting municipal governments, students and teachers in active programming.

[6.] The League as Program

We believe that the League should be a training ground for leadership and a place where we actively build the culture of grassroots democracy and civic engagement in a supportive and inclusive community.

- a.) Supporting the strength and development of local Leagues
- b.) The Youth Council (see above)
- c.) State support for Council of Local Leaders projects and leadership development
- d.) State League to support additional organizing in Bangor and Lewiston



Local League Reports







Bangor

Since the last LWVME biennial convention, the Bangor Area League has done the following:

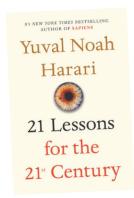
- Resuming voter registration at the Naturalization Ceremonies in Bangor after COVID.
- League Walk and Talk Every nice Sunday afternoon (year round) at least two League members meet to have a nice stroll and stimulating conversation in Bangor or nearby towns.
- · Monthly book discussions.
- Candidate Forums for both local candidates in Bangor an nearby towns and candidates for the State legislature.
- Members participated in a Vigil at the Federal Building.



Capital Area

Since the last LWVME biennial convention, the Capital Area League has done the following:

- Held two consensus meetings for the "Voting Age" consensus study.
- Participated in the Council of Local Leaders.
- Co-sponsored and moderated "Candidate Meet and Greet" sessions for House and Senate seats in Capital Area League's catchment area.
- Co-sponsored and moderated an issue forum, "The Future of Maine's Electric Utilities."
- Participated in LWVME's Advocacy Committee.
- Participated in voter registration at a Naturalization Ceremony.
- · Monthly book group meetings.
- Capital Area League member Susan Parks joined forces with the state-wide LWV Council of Local Leaders to hold a four-part series entitled: Understanding Dawnland Today: The Wabanaki and the State of Maine.







Pictured: Maryann Ogonowski, who passed away in April 2023.

Downeast

Our monthly radio show, the Democracy Forum, continues to be the centerpiece of Downeast activities. Between July 21, 2022, and June 23, 2023, we produced 20 shows featuring national and local guests in conversation on topics concerning participatory democracy in Maine. All these shows are available as podcasts or archived at WERU.org.

Members of the League Downeast meet weekly on Zoom, and now monthly in a hybrid format, to discuss the planning of the radio show, League news, League initiatives, and other activities.

Among the newer projects are lunchtime quarterly meetings to which all LWV members are invited. These occur in a hybrid format (Zoom and in person) and include League business followed by a guest speaker on a topic recently featured in either the book group or the radio show.

One of these quarterly meetings was a very popular event called "Meet your Legislators." Again over lunch, six members of Hancock County's legislative delegation were able to meet and talk to their constituents, and answer questions. Participating were: Sens. Nicole

Grohoski and Marianne Moore, along with Reps. Nina Milliken, Ron Russell, Lynn Williams, and Mark Worth, along with over twenty League members and supporters.

Another very successful program has been the organization of candidate forums, usually with the sponsorship and participation of local newspapers. We did nine legislative forums in the fall of 2022 with over 3,000 viewers; and we will do four local forums in the spring of 2023 for Bar Harbor, Sullivan, and Trenton.

Our book club continues to meet monthly. In March 2023 we read *Uniting America* and were lucky enough to be joined in our discussion by the book's author, Peter Shinkle.

Downeast activity around voting continues. With the help of the state League, in 2022 we distributed over 350 voter guides and assisted in collating information for Vote411. Observers fanned out to polling places all around Hancock County to attest to the smooth conduct of elections. Many town clerks were thanked for their role in safe, free and fair elections.





Highlands Regional

The Highlands Regional Chapter meets regularly, either by Zoom or in person. In the past year, we have hosted several Meet the Candidates Forums for local elections, which are also live-streamed on Facebook. We made a big effort to promote Vote 411, with a distribution of 80 colorful and eye-catching 411 posters throughout our region. Our members enjoy talking to folks about League of Women Voters' issues at our table at the annual Monson Summerfest. Last fall, our group spent time designing a pilot project, with help from the Local Government Committee. This winter, we completed Part 1 of the project, which assessed how 26 towns in our region communicate with their residents. Over the summer of

2023, we will complete Part 2, which involves visiting town Select Board meetings, with a checklist to document how towns conduct their meetings. Recently, many of our members are participating in constituent meetings with our Maine legislative representatives to discuss the importance of Wabanaki Sovereignty and our Voting Age Study group met in May at Thompson Free Library in Dover-Foxcroft. Members are currently writing LTEs for news outlets throughout Maine, in support of the National Popular Vote Act. Several members participated in the League's Advocacy Day at the State House and we are excited to attend our first LWV of Maine State Convention on June 3.





Midcoast

For the past several years LWVME Midcoast has continued meeting virtually, enabling members from greater distances to be involved. The focus has been supporting league programs such as Vote 411 and Maine Students Vote through meetings with informational speakers and opportunities to participate in a variety of ways.

In the recent election season, members distributed Voter Guides and placed a number of Vote 411 road signs in the area. A candidate forum was held, introduced by member Amy Fischer and moderated by Ann Luther, which generated a good deal of media attention after heckling from several audience members.

Members participated in a local screening of the film No Time To Fail, a documentary about election workers, which included a panel discussion with filmmaker Sara Archambault and Maine Deputy Secretary of State Joann Bautista. moderated by member Linda Zeigler. Town clerks and other election officials were invited to attend. Local town clerks were remembered on Thank Election Heroes Day with flowers, treats, and thanks from members.

At the January 6 Remembrance & Action Event on Camden Commons, organized by State Rep. Vicki Doudera, member Debbi Hitchings gave an inspiring speech about the League of Women Voters and its mission to "Empower Voters and Defend Democracy." Donna Janville and Susie Crawford provided league information at the event. The day was also remembered in Thomaston with a small but mighty group of members Carmen Lavertu, Lilli Martin, and State Rep. Ann Matlack.

In-person voter registration drives resumed in a variety of locations such as the Belfast Celtic Festival, Shotwell Drive-In in Camden, Ada's in Rockland for Meet the Candidates night, and of course, local schools.

More recently, the Voting Age Study consensus meeting at Thomaston Public Library provided an opportunity for an in-person event. Participants appreciated the opportunity to be a part of the process to determine a position for our state league. Good discussion lead to many points of agreement and a greater understanding of the issues involved.



VOTES FOR WOMEN SUFFRAGE LEADER AUGUSTA HUNT HOSTED MAINE WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOC, ANNUAL MEETING HERE IN 1918 LAUNCHING MAINE'S FIRST SUFFRAGE REFERENDUM WILLIAM C, POMEROY FOUNDATION 20201

Portland Area

Now more proficient with online presentations, our Portland Chapter has cautiously returned to meeting in person. This helps us to reconnect with our 215 members, which is one of our most important goals. Below are examples of how we have served not only our membership but our communities recently. If anything grabs your interest, please reach out for more information at portland@lwvme.org.

We've re-organized two of our volunteer efforts to create more opportunities for members to be involved with local election forums and voter registration/tabling events.

The Forum Committee ran two forums last fall, one for South Portland City Council, and one in partnership with the Brunswick Library for School Board and Town Council candidates. Two School Board forums this spring are in Falmouth (in partnership with the library) and Yarmouth. The Tabling Committee was thrilled once again to attend Naturalization Ceremonies and register our new citizens to vote. Since last fall, we have attended 7 Naturalization Ceremonies and 5 Public Events.

For this year's book discussions, we read 'Home Now', with the author, Cynthia Anderson, joining our meeting. In collaboration with the

United Nations Association, we discussed Marie Yovanovitch's memoir, 'Lessons from the Edge', about her experiences serving as American Ambassador in Ukraine and around the world. After last November's election, we held a lively 'Election Reflection' conversation with three panelists: two former state elected officials and a USM professor.

In support of the League's Advocacy goals, local PA members focused on the Portland Charter Commission's work. Members also testified in support of ranked choice voting before the Westbrook and South Portland city councils, and before the Maine Legislature on the Equal Rights Amendment and various bills. We have met twice with Will Haywood and Ann Luther for an overview of the status of bills before the Legislature.

And as a final salute to the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, we held a presentation 'Honoring Maine Women', with Maine author Anne Gass and Ellen Alderman, of the Maine Suffrage Centennial Collaborative. Both women were the drivers behind the seven markers that are the "Maine Suffrage Centennial Trail."

Membership Report

	LWVME	Portland Area	Brunswick Area	Downeast	Member At Large	Bangor
January 2007	252	92	65	49	46	
January 2011	140	47	38	33	22	15
January 2015	205	92	27	38	48	20
January 2019	492	190	57	75	170	22
January 2020	657	273	54	89	241	20
December 2021	623	233	54	86	250	28
December 2022	598	251	51	97	199	
April 2023	593	253	50	92	198*	22

*This number includes the local regions listed below.

January 2015	Midcoast	Capital Area	York County	Machias	Belfast	Lewiston	Highlands Regional
January 2015 January 2019	38	20	24	4	7	2	
January 2020	62	42	30	1	11	4	9
December 2021	60	42	26	6	12	5	9
December 2022	56	35	25	2	11	4	7
April 2023	50	43	25	0	14	5	9

Volunteer Report

Leadership Ladder

Volunteer Leader*	25
Super Volunteer [^]	152
Volunteer [^]	232
Prospect	41,675
Total Volunteers	409

*Manually updated, includes chapter leaders, team leads ^Automatically calculated based on activity type/counts, YTD

Breakdown of members vs. volunteers

			. •
Members only	Volunteers only	Both	Total Engaged
444	254	155	853
52.05%	29.78%	18.17%	
Total Membe	ers (M) 599)	

Total Volunteers (V) 409
% M who are also V 26%
% V who are also M 38%





Advocacy Reports

From the second session of the 130th Maine State Legislature through the first regular session of the 131th, the League has monitored bills in the priority areas set by the Board:

- + Voting Rights
- + Clean Elections & Campaign Finance Reform
- + Election Methods & Administration
- + Ethics & Disclosure
- +Freedom of Information
- + Good Government
- + Racial Justice & Equity

Our Advocacy Committee included volunteers Nadine Bangerter, Lori Calderone, Gina Coppens, Ben Gaines, Penelope Hamblin, John Howard, Paul Lavin, Ann Luther, deb McDonough, Matt Schaeffer, Alison Smith, and Janet Williams; along with staff members John Brautigam, Allyson Gardner Will Hayward, Bob Howe, Anna Kellar, Jen Lancaster, and Lane Sturtevant. We typically follow over 90 titles in each legislature out of the 2,000 titles (or more) that are considered. We typically present testimony on around 50 bills between the League and MCCE. At the same time, we are actively supporting the democracy agenda of our national League at the federal level. During the spring of 2017, we initiated a weekly email update on important legislative hearings and a schedule of upcoming proceedings entitled "Action Under the Dome." This e-blast now goes to over 4,500 list subscribers every Monday. It serves two purposes, both alerting people to action in our priority areas, and helping people learn about the legislative process by tracking how bills become law.



Voting Rights

Beginning in 2017, the League, among many other groups, supported Automatic Voter Registration (AVR). LWVME testified, "This one improvement will make registering easier for Maine people, will reduce the potential for errors in the voting rolls, and will ultimately save money and time at all levels of the election process." The bill failed to pass in 2017 over opposition from the Office of the Secretary of State. We supported the bill again when it was reintroduced as LD 1463 in 2019 with sponsorship from the Speaker of the House and broad coalition backing. We were pleased when the bill was enacted in June, 2020, and we have watched with interest as the bill was implemented in 2022.

Our highest priority bill for 2021 was a complement to AVR — Online Voter Registration (OVR). The pandemic has reinforced more strongly than ever the importance of offering voters a chance to register without the requirement to make a trip to the town office. We believe that OVR will modernize voter registration to make it more accessible, secure, and efficient. This is another policy change that has been

introduced several times before, but in 2021, for the first time, we had the support of the Secretary of State and the Maine Town and City Clerks Association. The bill was signed into law in July, 2021 for implementation in November, 2023.

Also in 2021, we once again supported a bill (LD 1155) to provide election transparency and audits. We first introduced this bill in the 128th Legislature (2017) with sponsorship from then-Senator Shenna Bellows. We tried again in 2019 when Rep. Brian Hubble was our sponsor. We hoped that the third time would be the charm, especially since Sen. Bellows was now Secretary of State Bellows and supported the bill from her new position. We know that the most significant election threats that we face are active efforts to undermine the credibility of election results by both domestic and foreign actors, LD 1155 addressed those threats by providing for election audits, more transparency about election processes enabling more public inspection, more training for local election officials, and more data collection and reporting on election issues. While the

bill technically died, the funding and the supporting language were included in the budget that passed! Alas, we are still waiting for those positions to be filled and for the functions of the new Audit and Training Department to be implemented.

Going into the 131sth Legislature, our top voting rights priorities has been to expand access to ongoing absentee voter status (see below).

At the same time, we remain vigilant, defending against efforts to roll back Maine's strong, inclusive voter laws, opposing photo ID requirements at the polls, opposing felon disenfranchisement, and opposing roll-backs on no-excuse absentee voting. Many states are fighting similar threats; we hope to continue to prevail.

Absentee Voting and Vote-by-Mail

Maine has had no-excuse absentee voting since 1999. Since then, the number of absentee ballots cast has grown from about 10% in 2000 to over 30% pre-COVID. The COVID elections of 2020 shattered all records, with over 60% of ballots cast absentee in November. The success of absentee voting has renewed calls to expand vote-by-mail to include universal vote-by-mail. In March, 2020, we published Universal Vote-by-Mail Analysis, which recommends that any vote-by-mail system preserve the array of choices currently available to Maine voters, including same-day registration and in-person voting. Since 2020, we have advocated proceeding cautiously to modernize Maine's election systems and infrastructure to lay the foundation for increased convenience voting by absentee ballot, stopping short of all-mail voting.

Against that backdrop, supported ongoing absentee voting in the 130th Legislature, which established ongoing absentee voting for people who are 65 and older, as well as people with disabilities. Implementation is expected in the fall for 2023. LD 1690 before





the 131st Legislatures would establish ongoing absentee voting for all eligible voters. We support extending this opportunity to all voters, particularly since it promises to increase voter participation in local and special elections. The bill is pending before the Legislature at this writing.

Election Methods

Following the 2018 completion of our study on candidate selection systems/primary elections, we used our new positions to support legislation in both the 129th and 130th that would permit unenrolled voters to participate in primary elections, also known as semi-open primaries. That bill failed to emerge from committee in 2019; as LD 231, it was enacted in May, 2022, and will go into effect for the 2024 primary season.





The League is also part of a coalition that is hoping for Maine to join the National Popular Vote interstate compact. If passed by enough states to commit 270 votes in the Electoral College, this measure would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The bill failed very narrowly in the 129th Legislature; it was introduced again in the 130th, but did not get serious consideration. It has been printed as LD 1578, and it is one of our priority bills this year.

The League has continued to be actively involved in supporting Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for elections in Maine. Through the legislative wrangling at the end of 2017, through the people's veto campaign in June of 2018, and through the initial implementation for RCV in the primary and general elections of 2018, the League has opposed measures to repeal or curtail the use of RCV, we have supported constitutional amendments to permit the use of RCV in state general elections currently prohibited under the Maine State Constitution, and we have supported the implementation of RCV through rulemaking and election observation. We also supported the successful 2020 effort to expand RCV in Portland to include city council and

school board races. We continue to look for opportunities to advance RCV, both at the local level and for state general elections. When those opportunities open up, we will be ready.

Clean Elections

The League has continued to support the Maine Clean Election Act and other moneyin-politics reforms. During the 130th and 131st Legislatures, funding for the upcoming Clean Election cycles seems assured, but we have our eye on this for the future. In 2021, one of our highest priority bills would have reduced the influence of corporate money in elections: LD 194 would have restricted the role that foreign-owned corporations can play in referenda elections; and LD 1417 prohibits corporate contributions to state candidates and leadership PACs, LD 194 passed both chambers of the legislature but was vetoed by the Governor, and the veto was sustained. A citizen initiative effort that we also supported aims to bring the question directly to voters and is before legislature now. We support this measure. LD 1417, the corporate contribution ban, passed to be enacted and was signed into law in June of 2021 to go into effect in January, 2023, But powerful forces in the Legislature and in the

regulated community are pushing back on the corporate contribution ban and threatening an all out repeal of the bill. At this writing, we are working hard to hold onto this important reform.

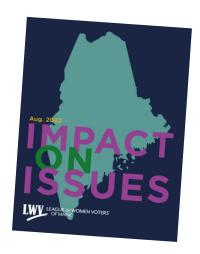
We have also played an instrumental role in bringing Clean Elections to Portland's municipal races. It's been a long, four-year journey, but following a successful Charter Amendment campaign last fall, the Portland City Council passed an ordinance for a solid Clean Elections program to go into effect for the 2023 municipal elections.



Racial Justice

In 2020, we joined the Coalition on Racial Equity (CORE). With our coalition partners, we have supported the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations, and we have testified in favor of racial impact statements (LD 2), which was enacted in March, 2021. We continue in allyship with the Wabanaki Alliance, supporting their legislative goals for tribal sovereignty.

This year, one of our priority bills would fix "prison gerrymandering." Prison gerrymandering is the practice of counting incarcerated individuals as part of the district where they are detained - and not at their home address, which is where they lived before and where they vote. This distorts legislative apportionment, beefing up the numbers in the prison district, and under-representing their home community. Redistricting (or apportionment) occurs after the Census count takes place every 10 years. For Census purposes, people are counted where they reside on Census Day, but this doesn't work for redistricting, resulting in what some people call prison gerrymandering - it leads to false representations of district size. LD 1704 puts an end to that. Districts should represent the actual communities that people call home. We have the support of the Speaker of the House on this bill, and we're hopeful of passage.



You can read more about these bills by entering their LD number at http://legislature.maine.gov/bills.

In December 2016, "Impact on Issues" was published for the first time. Updated following each biennial legislative term, this document now describes LWVME advocacy work on priority issues from 2007 through the end of the second session of the 130th Maine State Legislature. To read "Impact on Issues," visit: www.lwvme.org/Impact.



LWVME Education Fund Reports

We worked to engage voters broadly, using various tactics to connect with voters in as many ways as possible, particularly with people less likely to vote. We created both paper and digital voter guides, published information about how to vote in ten languages, canvassed in 15 different towns with a higher population of low-propensity voters, and expanded our youth outreach in high schools and colleges. Here's our impact.

Print Voter Guide

Our statewide, easy-to-read voter guide is familiar to many people, and we frequently hear how useful it is. Formatted as a tabloid-style newspaper, it contains general information about how to vote, as well as profiles of any candidates for U.S. Congress, U.S. Senate, and Governor. Candidates are asked to answer questions about their goals and priorities.

In 2022, we printed and distributed 8,000 guides. We prioritized broad distribution, ensuring that most libraries in the state, adult education programs, colleges, and a variety of

community organizations and public locations received copies. Local League members were an invaluable part of distribution. Demand was high. Our print guide reaches people without (or limited) internet access and people who are less comfortable using an online guide. It also serves as a visual reminder of the upcoming election.

Digital Voter Guide

We have published an online voter guide using the League of Women Voters' Vote411. org database for several years, but in 2022, we took on new challenges and increased our efforts toward promotion. The major gap in people's knowledge about upcoming elections is local; not all towns have websites or update them, and local paper coverage is sparse in many areas. Knowing this, we chose to focus on one of the strengths of Vote411. org.

We started a goal to cover every race in Maine, down to the local level, and with the help of over 70 volunteers collecting information, we met that goal. Our coverage was unprecedented. We even found that Vote411.org was used in classrooms by civics and social studies teachers as a nonpartisan source.

Sponsorship

For the first time, the League solicited sponsorships from corporations, nonprofits, and other organizations. We displayed their logo on voter guide materials, in print and digitally, which emphasized the sponsor's support for quality, nonpartisan election information. We collaborated with 10 groups, the most of any state League in the country.

Sponsorship funding went towards promotion of the guide. We ran statewide digital ads through our social media and partnered with Masthead, Maine's largest media network, to run ads in targeted areas.

Our Downeast chapter proved what a League can accomplish at the local level. They partnered with local radio and papers, and with assistance from the state League, ran successful campaigns.

How many accessed our materials?

Our coverage was comprehensive. Everyone in Maine could find every race on their ballot at Vote411.org. As a result, we nearly 32,000 people accessed it.

That represents almost 4% of registered voters in the state, with usage higher in some communities than others. Over 5% of people who voted in November used Vote411.org. Usage was highest in communities with a strong League presence and where we have focused our organizing efforts, particularly if they also had a contentious local election. Usage in communities we targeted was almost universally over 5% of registered voters.

Overall, between print and electronic media, at least 40,000 voters accessed our voter guides in 2022.





Vote411.org

We curated sponsorships and boosted ads to drive traffic to our database. As a result, **32,000** people accessed it.



Easy-to-Read Voter Guide

We distributed **8,000 copies** of the printed voter guide to libraries across the state and other organizations.



Digital Ads

Our ads that ran through our social media generated 13,216 impressions, costing \$0.24 per click. A partner organization ran their own C3 ads to boost Vote411, generating a whopping 643,586 impressions, but at \$3.50 cost per click. Digital ads placed by Masthead were contracted to reach 200K impressions, totaling over 856K impressions overall.



















Neighbor to Neighbor

To maximize our effectiveness this year, we focused our efforts in communities around the state that had lower voter turnout than we might expect. This includes the towns of Biddeford, Portland, Lewiston, Augusta, Waterville, Skowhegan, Bangor, Orono, Old Town/Indian Island and Presque Isle.

We held focus groups with community members, ensured good Vote411.org coverage, and brought our Neighbor to Neighbor canvass to knock on doors — Bangor and Waterville in May, and to nearly all of them in September and October.

We also continued our partnership with Avesta Housing, enabling us to access low-income housing in the Greater Portland area, and brought the canvass to a few towns farther south as well. Where possible, we focused our attention on low-income neighborhoods or areas with a higher population of immigrants. We could not run this program without engaged volunteers.

Ultimately, we knocked on doors in 15 towns, reaching about 1,800 people, registering 97 new voters and helping 77 people request absentee ballots. We handed out general voting literature to more than 650 people in 10 languages.

In 2023, we plan to fine tune the program, strengthen our relationships in these communities, and work with partner organizations to reach people in more towns around the state.

Make Your Vote Count

Our Make Your Vote Count booklet offers Mainers comprehensive and easy to understand voting information. Originally developed for use at naturalization ceremonies of new citizens, it is an invaluable part of our outreach to community partners and service organizations.

Its target audience is new voters who may not know the details of our election system. Through the support of State Voices, we were able to fund several new translations, bringing our total languages up to ten: Arabic, Cambodian/Khmer, English, French, Haitian Creole, Mandarin, Portuguese, Spanish, Somali, and Vietnamese.

State Voices assisted us with distribution to immigrant support organizations, and together, we distributed over 2,500 copies. Copies were sent to libraries, too.

We hand these out at the door as part of the Neighbor to Neighbor program. Many people ask for two copies: a copy in their first language and in English. These residents tell us that they hope to use them to practice English. We also placed them with ESOL classes in several areas of the state.

Responses to these books are overwhelmingly positive. Many Maine long-time voters say they contain details new to them, and new Mainers are grateful for information that they would struggle to access otherwise.

While stories like these are heartwarming, it is a reminder for us that language access is incredibly important for breaking barriers to voter information.

Financial Report of the League

	LWVME Actuals	LWVME Budget	Democracy Maine Actuals	Democracy Maine Budget
	July 2021 - April 2023	2021 - 2023	July 2021 - April 2023	2021 - 2023
Opening balances at start of reporting period	13,674	56,600	208,081	146,983
Income Donations Dues Grants In Kind* * Includes salaries Other forgiven by MCCE	42,615 57,094 65,365 17,151 2,270	121,800 73,656 76,775	475,929 57,144 532,738 21,051 8,742	623,700 73,656 846,275 6,000
TOTAL INCOME	184,495	272,231	1,095,603	1,549,631
Expense Salaries & Benefits Consultants Overhead and Administration Program Expenses PMP - Local and National	21,087 41,808 11,452 34,356 24,728	125,630 41,400 5,078 15,233 32,128	1,007,644 196,615 52,025 156,074 24,728	1,226,298 155,400 59,083 177,248 32,128
TOTAL EXPENSE	133,429	219,469	1,437,085	1,650,157
NET INCOME	51,065	52,762	-133,401	-100,526
Reserves (Democracy Maine)			182,267	
Closing balance at end of reporting period	64,740		74,681	

Restricted funds	for	chapters
included above:		

Bangor 450
Brunswick 1,443
Capital Area 392
Highlands Regional 411
Midcoast 65
TOTAL 2,762

Restricted funds for fiscal sponsorships included above:

NE Leadership Conference 2,378 LWVPA Education Fund 605 TOTAL 2,982

Speaker Bios



Heather Cox Richardson is an expert in nineteenth-century America, specializing in politics and economics. Her most recent book. To Make Men Free, A History of the Republican Party From 1854 To The Present, was released in 2014. Cox Richardson's first four books explored the Civil War. Reconstruction, the Gilded Age, and the American West, and stretched from the presidencies of Abraham Lincoln to that of Theodore Roosevelt. Her The Death of Reconstruction (2001), Wounded Knee: Party Politics and the Road to an American Massacre (2010), and West from Appomattox: The Reconstruction of America After the Civil War (2007) were all selections of the History Book Club; West from Appomattox was also an Editor's Choice selection of the New York Times Book Review. She is also the author of: The Greatest Nation of the Earth: Republican Economic Policies during the Civil War. Richardson is president of The Historical Society, an organization designed to bring academic history to general readers. Her expertise has been utilized by the New York Times, Bloomberg, CNN.com, BBC, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, and Huffington Post; her blogs for The Historical Society won the Cliopatria Award.



Shenna Bellows is Maine's 50th Secretary of State, sworn into her first two-vear term in the position on Jan. 4, 2021. Secretary Bellows is Maine's first female Secretary of State. Secretary Bellows previously served two terms in the Maine Senate from 2016-2020. representing 11 towns in southern Kennebec County. Secretary Bellows most recently led the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine as executive director from 2018 to 2020. From 2005 to 2013. Secretary Bellows was executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Maine. She was a member of the first Right to Know Advisory Committee and the Maine Freedom of Information Coalition. She served on the Executive Committee of the 2009 and 2012 ballot campaigns to pass marriage equality in Maine, and co-chaired a successful 2011 statewide ballot campaign to restore same-day voter registration. She was an original member of the Committee for Ranked Choice Voting. Currently, Secretary Bellows is serving on the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) Elections Committee, Cybersecurity Committee, Awards Committee, and International Relations Committee.



Stuart Baum was a research and program associate in the Brennan Center's Democracy Program, where his work focused on protecting and advancing voting rights, among other issues. Prior to joining the Brennan Center, Stuart worked in the offices of Detroit City Council Member Raquel Castañeda-López, Michigan State Senator Stephanie Chang, the Washtenaw County Public Defender, and the Van Buren Township Clerk. Stuart has also served on the Michigan Secretary of State's Collegiate Student Advisory Task Force, on the Campus Vote Project's Student Advisory Board, as the Policy and Finance Director for a candidate for local office, and as a volunteer for the Michigan State Appellate Defender's Office.

Stuart graduated summa cum laude from Wayne State University with a Bachelors of Public Affairs and a Minor in Criminal Justice.



Kimberly Hamlin is a member of the League of Women Voters of Cincinnati Area (LWVCA), Kimberly is a historian who specializes in the US women's rights movement. Her most recent book, Free Thinker: Sex, Suffrage, and the Extraordinary Life of Helen Hamilton Gardener (2020), profiles the suffragist credited with securing congressional passage of the 19th Amendment. Hamlin is an award-winning scholar, teacher, and public speaker who regularly contributes to the Washington Post, Smithsonian Magazine, and other media. She is the James and Beth Lewis professor of history at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and she lives with her family in Cincinnati.





TIP:

The Bylaws will be presented in Plenary Session 1 at 9:15 AM.

League members will vote on the Bylaws in Plenary Session II at 2:00 PM.

League of Women Voters of Maine Bylaws

This workbook only contains the proposed changes to the bylaws.

To see the full list of LWVME bylaws, visit this link: https://bit.ly/LWVMEbylaws. Or you can use your phone to scan the QR code.





TIP:

Changes to the LWVME bylaws are in red. Phrases or words that will be removed have a line struck through them. Like this: this line will be deleted.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE (As amended, May 15, 2021)

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ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sec. 1. Numbers, Manner of Selection and Term of Office. The Board of Directors of LWVME, hereinafter referred to as the State Board, shall consist of the officers, not more than ten (10) elected Directors and not more than seven (7) appointed Directors. At least three (3) of the elected Directors shall be chosen from a list provided by MCCE Action, a Maine nonprofit corporation, and one (1) shall be chosen from a list provided by the Council of Local Leaders. The membership elects the elected Directors at Convention to serve until the conclusion of the next regular biennial Convention or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The elected Directors shall appoint such additional directors, not exceeding seven (7) as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. One of the seven appointed Directors shall be recommended by the Steering Committee of the Youth Council. The term of office of the appointed directors shall expire concurrently with the term of office of the elected directors, except that the term of the Youth Council member of the Board shall be one year.

. . .

Sec. 5. Executive Committee. The State Board may appoint an executive committee consisting of no fewer than four to include the officers members of the board. The executive committee shall exercise such power and authority as may be delegated to it and shall report on all actions taken by it between regular meetings of the State Board.

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ARTICLE VII: FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

. . .

Sec. 4. Budget Committee. The budget shall be prepared by a committee comprising the members of the Executive Committee, the Executive Director, and the Operations Director. of at least five (5) members including the Treasurer who shall be appointed by the State Board for that purpose at least four months in advance of the Convention. The Board shall designate a chair of the Budget Committee. The Treasurer shall be a member of the Budget Committee but shall not be eligible to serve as chair. At least two of the appointments made by the State Board to the Budget Committee must be from a list of persons provided by MCCE Action.

. . .

ARTICLE XI: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Sec. 1. Nominating Committee.

a.) The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members appointed by the State Board, two of whom shall be members of the State Board. The Board shall designate a chair of the Nominating Committee. At least one (1) member of the Nominating Committee shall be selected from a list provided by MCCE Actionand one (1) member shall be selected from a list provided by the Council. The President of the League of Women Voters of Maine shall send the names and addresses of the nominating committee to each recognized League, and MAL Unit.



The Bylaws will be presented in Plenary Session 1 at 9:15 AM.

League members will vote on the Bylaws in Plenary Session II at 2:00 PM.

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Our legacy is **bold**.

Today, the League stands for the rights of all people to be active participants in their government. We educate voters, empower people to participate in civic life, and advocate for policies that strengthen our democracy.

Follow us on social media!





lwvme.org

