

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PORTLAND AREA ACTIVITIES

To make an impact on the issues that we support, we invite all members to be as fully involved and as active as possible. To that end, the list below is a sampling of the various activities/meetings/conferences that we offer to all members who then can participate at both local and state levels. Training is provided.

**LWV PORTLAND AREA Activities:** For additional information and/or to volunteer for LWVPA activities, please contact us at [portland@LWVME.org](mailto:portland@LWVME.org).

### **TABLING COMMITTEE** (Training for volunteers)

- Naturalization ceremonies: Register new citizens to vote; year-round at various locations; two-to-three-hour commitment.
- Voter registration drives: Register voters at local high schools and colleges, senior centers, farmers' markets, community events.
- Nonpartisan Voter Guides: (in collaboration with LWVME): Distribute locally.
- Contact: Karen Benoit at [klbenoit@aol.com](mailto:klbenoit@aol.com)

### **BOOK CLUB**

- Organize book discussion meetings (Zoom or in person), at times working with other nonpartisan organizations.
- Select fiction or nonfiction books on current topics and lead 2 informal discussions per year.
- Contact: Cathie Crute at [kayakfriend@gmail.com](mailto:kayakfriend@gmail.com)

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

- Welcome new members: email welcome letter and LWVPA Activities list. .
- Mail notecards to newly lapsed members encouraging them to renew their membership.
- Attend and represent the Portland Area League at Democracy Maine Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Membership Committee meetings (one per month on Zoom - one hour).
- Contact: Elaine DiGiovanni at [efdigiovanni@gmail.com](mailto:efdigiovanni@gmail.com)

### **ELECTION EVENT FORUMS**

- Join or lead a team to organize these information sessions for local and state races and for ballot questions. (Training module and guidance available at [www.lwvme.org/memberresources](http://www.lwvme.org/memberresources). Click on Resources. Scroll down to FORUMS IN A BOX.)
- Contact Peg Balano at [peg.balano@gmail.com](mailto:peg.balano@gmail.com)

## LWVPA/LWVME Collaborative Activities

**ADVOCACY:** (Training for volunteers) Join one of our advocacy committees to help develop policy positions and support or oppose legislation on voting rights, structural reform (ranked choice voting), clean elections and campaign finance reform, racial justice and equity, absentee ballot access, Wabanaki tribal sovereignty, and other issues.

- Draft and/or deliver testimony on priority bills.
- Write letters to the editor.
- Lobby your representative.
- Observe legislative hearings or work sessions remotely or in person.
- Participate in LWVME consensus/concurrence studies on emerging issues.
- Contact: Al at [al@lwvme.org](mailto:al@lwvme.org)

### VOTER SUPPRESSION REFERENDUM

- Contact: Al at [al@lwvme.org](mailto:al@lwvme.org)

**NONPARTISAN ELECTION OBSERVATION:** (Training for volunteers): Support free and fair elections in all statewide and select local communities.

- As a nonpartisan, observe, monitor and report on voting conditions at local polling locations around the state: check on conditions, help resolve issues, talk to poll workers, offer gratitude.
- Educate the public on the on-the-ground experience of voting in Maine.
- Contact: Evan at [evan@lwvme.org](mailto:evan@lwvme.org)

### VOTER INFORMATION and ENGAGEMENT (Training provided)

- Contact Evan at [evan@lwvme.org](mailto:evan@lwvme.org) for Vote 411, Voter Guide, Neighbor to Neighbor

### VOTE411: Become a Local Election Researcher

- Join the research team to get complete information for the online voter guide
- Enter information into the data base.

**VOTER GUIDE:** Help research, create, edit and distribute voter guides and election information.

**NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR:** Work to increase voter turnout. Together volunteers go door to door in local communities with low voter participation, low-income areas, and areas with high proportion of immigrants. Help residents to register to vote.

- Answer questions such as how to obtain an absentee ballot, how to vote early, what it means to join a political party.
- Distribute materials in ten languages.

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### LOCAL GOVERNMENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE OR ADOPT-A-TOWN

- Contact: Deb at [deb@democracymaine.org](mailto:deb@democracymaine.org)

**MAINE STUDENTS VOTE/YOUTH ENGAGEMENT:** Increase democratic engagement on college campuses and in high schools.

- Support campuses and schools in developing voter education materials.
- Help with organizational action planning and mentoring of civic captains.
- Coordinate student efforts to get-out-the-vote.
- Contact: Allyson at [allyson@mainestudentsvote.org](mailto:allyson@mainestudentsvote.org)

**ONGOING MEETINGS and CONFERENCES:**

- LWVME State Convention: Biennial, one Saturday in May or June
- LWVUS National Convention: Biennial, June, Washington D. C

**SUPPORT LWVPA WORK**

**EMILY FARLEY EDUCATION FUND - LWVPA:** Additional information at

<https://www.lwvme.org/EFF>

The Emily Farley Education Fund, part of the Maine Community Foundation, "...provides educational opportunities for presentation and discussion of the pros and cons of public policy issues on national, state, and local levels..." Before any monies are allocated for a specific activity, they must be recommended by the LWVPA or LWVME Board and then approved by the Emily Farley Fund (EFF) Advisory Committee.

Educational activities include sponsoring an Annual Anne Schink internship, especially for young people from the greater Portland area, and supporting educational programming by paying some or all fees and expenses incurred.

**DONATIONS:** We welcome financial support from our members to defray costs. Contributions to the EMILY FARLEY EDUCATION FUND of the LWV PORTLAND AREA are tax deductible under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Check out our **EFF** donation page, including a link for online donations.

<https://www.lwvme.org/EFF>

**Additional and Contact Information: Portland Area League** [Portland@LWVME.org](mailto:Portland@LWVME.org)

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**Welcome to the LWVPA,** Elaine DiGiovanni, Membership Chair

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