



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

## THE MAINE VOTER

PO Box 863  
Augusta, ME 04332-0863

(207) 622-0256  
[lwvme@gwi.net](mailto:lwvme@gwi.net)  
[www.lwvme.org](http://www.lwvme.org)

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Dear League Members and Friends,

What a year so far!

The new Democracy Partnership between the League of Women Voters of Maine (LWVME) and our long-time organizational ally, Maine Citizens for Clean Elections (MCCE), is going strong and together we are fighting for our Clean Elections system, educating the public around ranked choice voting, registering hundreds of new voters in high schools and at naturalization ceremonies across the state, and providing Maine voters with the information they need to make informed choices and exercise their right to vote.

Over the weeks and months ahead you will be hearing more about this powerful partnership and seeing the impact of our collective efforts as we reach out to new and young voters and work to engage citizens from every corner of the state in the democratic process.

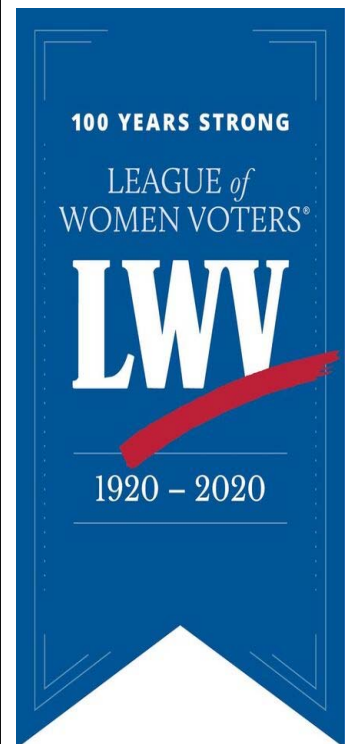
And I am pleased to report that this work is going on in Leagues across the country. In June, I traveled with our Executive Director Anna Kellar to the LWVUS national convention in Chicago where the entire membership rededicated itself to the Making Democracy Work campaign. This campaign program mirrors much of what your League does here in Maine to ensure a free, fair and accessible election system, including work on voting rights, improving elections, money in politics, and redistricting. We also heard more about the work at the national level to develop a vision for the future of the League as we come upon our 100th anniversary as an organization and a movement.

It is a busy and exciting time! To keep up with all things League, check out our website, like us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter and Instagram. We welcome your participation and support!

Jill Ward  
President, LWVME

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## Under the Dome: Report of the League Lobby Corps

*Ann Luther, Trenton*

As of this writing, the second regular session of the 128th Legislature drags on. We were expecting another Veto Day on July 23, but that didn't happen. There is no end in sight. Statutory adjournment for the second session — the "short session" — was Wednesday, April 18, 2018, but a knock-down, drag-out fight has resulted in an extended special session, and the governor has threatened to keep the legislature going until Election Day to get his way. Legislators who are running for re-election or for higher office are already into campaign mode. It's tense. The issues that we are still following revolve around funding for Clean Elections.



### Funding for Clean Elections I

#### [LD 1894](#) An Act To Correct Errors and Inconsistencies in the Laws of Maine.

There was a drafting error regarding funding for Clean Elections in the biennial budget passed at the 11th hour last summer. Because of the way that budget bill was worded regarding the early transfer of \$3 million from FY 2019 to FY 2018, the error prevents the Ethics Commission from disbursing money to candidates from the Maine Clean Election Fund after the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2018.

To make matters worse, it now appears that **candidates participating in the Clean Elections program will not be allowed to raise private money to make up the difference.** The Maine Clean Election Act provides that participating candidates may raise private money to finish their campaigns IF the fund runs out of money. In this twisted circumstance, the fund is NOT out of money. The fund HAS plenty of money. But the Ethics Commission is not allowed to disburse it.

Everyone agrees that the budget language preventing the release of Clean Elections funds was a **drafting error**. The legislature attempted to fix the problem in the so-called Errors Bill, which normally sails through unopposed. Not this time. House Republicans are holding up the works. A number of compromises, some of which we didn't support, were offered under [LD 1912](#) in an attempt to break the impasse, but nothing worked.

Candidates and voters from all parties have been relying on the Clean Elections program. This funding was part of a bipartisan budget deal hammered out last year. There is no legitimate reason for House Republicans to renege on that deal now or to change the rules in the middle of the election cycle. It now appears that we'll be going to court on this.

### Funding for Clean Elections 2

Meanwhile, there's another, totally separate problem. On Friday, June 22, the Ethics Commission distributed a [memorandum](https://www.maine.gov/ethics/pdf/June27Meeting-Item2.pdf) (<https://www.maine.gov/ethics/pdf/June27Meeting-Item2.pdf>) announcing that the Governor had declined to sign routine financial orders to release money to candidates from the Maine Clean Election Fund. This one relates to the authority to disburse already-allocated funds prior to June 30, 2018. As a result, payments to candidates certified to participate in the Clean Election program were reduced to around 25% of the amount for which they qualified. The Clean Election Fund has sufficient cash to pay candidates the entire amount for which they qualified, but the governor's refusal to authorize the release of funds prevents the use of that cash.

**On Thursday, June 28, [our partners at MCCE](#) took the governor to court.** You can read the [court documents for yourself at our web site](#) at <http://www.lwvme.org/Money.html>.

## Here's a summary of other action from the second legislative session:

### Campaign Finance Reform

**[LD 1865](#) An Act to Increase Transparency in the Initiative Process — Passed to be enacted and signed into law.**

This after-deadline bill contained some important new provisions for the disclosure of large donations to citizen initiative campaigns, which we supported. It also included strict limits on who can serve as notary public on citizen initiative campaigns.

### Elections and Voting Rights

**[LD 1846](#) An Act To Require the Provision of Photographic Identification by Voters (Governor's Bill)— Dead.**

Governor LePage used his Friday radio address on January 5 to reopen a question that the Legislature addressed last session, as they have in each legislature since 2010: **Voter ID. This bill got no traction in the contentious second session and was killed by inaction in both chambers.**

**[LD 1726](#) An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Elections—Dead.**

This bill submitted by the Secretary of State would have banned signature gathering for citizen initiatives at polling places on Election Day. The sentiment from the public hearing was overwhelmingly opposed. In the end, this provision proved to be a poison pill, and the entire bill died.

You can look up these bills and other legislative items at <http://legislature.maine.gov>.

### Presidential Primaries vs. Caucuses

On January 3, the Office of the Secretary of State delivered its [Report Regarding Establishing a Presidential Primary System in Maine](https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/reports/documents/presprimaryreport17.pdf) (<https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/reports/documents/presprimaryreport17.pdf>). The requirement for this report was created by the 127th Legislature, which passed a presidential primary law and directed the Secretary of State to examine state and municipal costs for conducting such a primary and report back by December 1, 2017. The legislation enacted in 2015 includes an automatic repeal provision with an effective date of December 1, 2018. Therefore, it required the legislature to take action this session in order to implement the presidential primary system. The legislature was in no mood for this. Our presidential nominations will revert to the caucus system for the foreseeable future.

### About the League Lobby Corps

The League Lobby Corps, also known as the LWVME Advocacy Committee, is an all-volunteer team that supports state League advocacy priorities in the State Legislature:

- Voting Rights
- Clean Elections & Campaign Finance Reform
- Election Methods & Administration, including Ranked Choice Voting
- Ethics & Disclosure
- Freedom of Information
- Good Government



Current active members of the committee include: Ann Luther (Chair), Lori Calderone, Gina Coppens, Penelope Hamblin, Helen Hanlon, Deb McDonough, Polly Ward and Ellen Wells. We welcome new members! If you are interested in joining the League Lobby Corps, let us know by email: [lwwme@gwi.net](mailto:lwwme@gwi.net).

Last year, the League instituted a new weekly email message, “Action Under the Dome,” that features news of timely legislative developments on our bills, advance notice of public hearings and work sessions, and action alerts when key votes are coming up. It comes out on Monday morning while the legislature is in session. If you haven’t been receiving this important information, make sure we have your current email address by sending a message to the League Lobby Corps at [lwwme@gwi.net](mailto:lwwme@gwi.net).

## Ranked Choice Finally Makes It to the Finish Line!

*Jon Monroe, Portland*

Wouldn't you know it? Maine is leading the way in election reform, *again*. This year Maine became the first state in the nation to use ranked choice voting (RCV) statewide in the primary elections held on June 12. And even though the election was preceded by clouds of uncertainty, as first the state Senate and later the Maine GOP launched lawsuits to obstruct the RCV law, the process worked extremely well. By Election Day, the lawsuits had been dismissed, the voter confusion promised by opponents never materialized, and Maine voters repeated their demand for ranked choice elections by supporting the People's Veto by a vote of 54-46%. All that remained was to count the ranked choice contests.

It started on Thursday, June 14, after the majority of the ballot materials had arrived at the Elkins Building in Augusta. The Elections Division had set up a Central Counting Facility to receive ballots and memory sticks, tabulate paper ballots, compile all the election results into a single database, and produce the historic RCV count. On Wednesday, June 20, eight days after the polls closed, state election officials finished compiling the election's "cast vote record."

They then ran the results. Five days of receiving ballots and memory sticks from Maine towns, entering, verifying, and certifying ballot data now coalesced into fifteen minutes of waiting.



All hands were on deck – including Matt Dunlap, who good-naturedly endured some jokes about the timing of his arrival – to verify and certify election returns at the ranked choice count at the Elkins Building in Augusta, June 20, 2018.



Portland kids dancing at Pollfest on Monument Square.

Media, campaign representatives, candidates, election officials, and members of the public gathered to be first to see the report of the round-by-round changes of the candidates' fortunes. Neither of the Republican RCV races required full counts since both races were decided by majorities of the first-choice votes. In the Democratic races for governor and U.S. Congress, Janet Mills and Jared Golden were declared winners after several rounds of the RCV process. When these results came in, it almost seemed as though people had been hoping for something a little bit more dramatic!

But the undramatic end to this election was a fitting reminder that Mainers had voted for a system that gives voice to their true preferences. The satisfaction felt by voters as they exited the polls simply from knowing that they had not "wasted" their vote on a candidate with no chance or "settled" for the lesser of two evils by switching to candidates with better chances was a win for everyone.

The election-day atmosphere at polls in Bangor and Portland was celebratory, with **POLLFEST** music festivals kicking off at five polling locations: a fitting way to not only boost voter engagement but also to mark the 10th Anniversary of the League's involvement with ranked choice voting. It was in 2008 that the League first took up the study of ranked choice as a way to broaden coalition-building in Maine electoral politics. **POLLFEST** was the brainchild of a staff member of the League's Maine Uses Ranked Choice Voting (MURCV) project, and there is no question that it brought life to the polls.



Gwen Doak of the Wilton Free Library trying her hand at counting a ranked choice election of pastries.





The Sweet-Eves advertisement—a high point in the history of political advertising in Maine. *Huffington Post*, June 7, 2018.

RCV is changing the way candidates look at their campaigns. Quoted in the *Portland Press Herald* and *Lewiston Sun-Journal*, Democratic gubernatorial candidate, Betsy Sweet, commented: “It broadened the issues that people talked about and it changed the way candidates ran their campaigns – or it certainly changed the way I ran my campaign.” She and fellow Democratic candidate Mark Eves ran an advertisement in which both appeared and each endorsed the other.

RCV defeated the negative expectations of critics: “Few voters reported being confused by the process. And there is no evidence that ballots were ‘thrown out’ before the end of the process. At least in the Democratic primary for governor, where the most rounds of runoffs were

needed to pick a winner, almost everyone who voted expressed a preference between the top two candidates.” *Portland Press Herald* Editorial Board, June 24, 2018.

Now League and MURCV members are looking back on what they did to support this implementation and what might be done better in the November election. Here are a few highlights from the past six months:

Recognizing the need of voters for a Primary Election edition of the Voter Guide (to sort out all those choices) we distributed 30,000 voter guides across the state under a very tight schedule. Kudos to League volunteers, the Voter Services Committee, our partners in the community (especially Barbara McDade at the Bangor Public Library, who retired on May 11) and Sarah Rawlings of MURCV for making this happen!



Sarah Rawlings and Viva of MURCV getting the Voter Guide out.

The League’s MURCV’s voice was heard throughout the implementation. The Technical Implementation Committee provided advice on rule-making and assessment of the emergency rules proposed by the Secretary of State’s office. League volunteer Deb McDonough took on the complex task of devising rules for the conduct of recounts. The committee, now composed of Ann Luther, John Brautigam, Deb McDonough and Jon Monroe, will continue to work to make the November implementation of RCV an affirmation of the success we experienced in June.



Jon Monroe presenting at Highland Green in Topsham.

League members worked throughout the state, in jurisdictions of every county, to inform voters, to educate town clerks and poll workers, and to register new voters. The ranked choice public service announcement (PSA) was viewed by tens of thousands of Mainers. Well over a thousand retirees, students, and interested citizens of all kinds attended presentations and mock elections. On community television, in schools, libraries, churches, and senior colleges as far north as Madawaska and as far east as Machias, it was a wide-ranging and fulfilling effort.

Now we look forward to the November General Election, when RCV will likely be used in all the US congressional contests. The electorate will be several times larger than in the primary and the participants will include many people who still have no firsthand experience with or knowledge of RCV. The League and MURCV will be ready, once again, to ensure that everyone has a chance to use their voting rights.

## Clean Elections: #FixTheTypo or #SeeYouInCourt

*Anna Kellar, Portland*

On August 2, Superior Court Justice William Stokes ordered Governor LePage's administration to release Clean Elections funds for which candidates have qualified and which the legislature has appropriated. The funds must be made available to the Ethics Commission within three days for distribution to the more than 175 certified candidates who are waiting for funding withheld in June.

The implications of this case go beyond Clean Elections, and touch on the power of the executive and rule of law. The governor does not have the freedom to ignore the will of the voters, or block funding for Clean

**FUND  
CLEAN  
ELECTIONS**

**Pass LD 1894!**

Elections when the legislature has already appropriated the money. As Justice Stokes concluded, the administration has an obligation to uphold the law and release the funds.

Now, we are urging the administration to comply with the decision and release the funds immediately. We're also turning our attention to the funds candidates have qualified for since July 1, which have also been held up due to a typo in the state budget. With some legislators refusing to take action to clarify that situation, our fight continues to ensure a strong Clean Elections program and respect for the rule of law.

For more background on what led us to our current situation and links to additional information, please see the **League Lobby Corps** article on page 2.

## Annual New England Leagues Leadership Conference a Success

*Regina Coppens, Belgrade*

League members from New England states gathered the first weekend in April for the 12th Annual New England States Leadership Development Conference (aka Quad States) held at the Hampton Inn in Wells. This two-day conference was host to a range of topics. Vermont Secretary of State, Jim Condos, began the conference talking about his state's accomplishments in preserving voter rights and voting integrity. Among these were same day voter registration and early voting. Vermont has a system of auditing elections, automatic voter registration, and on-line voter registration. His office keeps voters informed with My Voter Page, an online feature that allows voters to register, update status, and check the status of absentee ballots. His office is working to secure elections from cyber attacks and other breaches.

Joanna London from LWVDC explained the history of the District of Columbia's attempts to become a state including bills pending in Congress. She urged members to support the passage of statehood. Although it has a population of over 700,000, D.C. has no representation in Congress. Not only does D.C. suffer from taxation without representation, but Congress meddles in local D.C. laws, such as overruling the D.C. Medical Marijuana Law, prohibiting the use of local taxes to support women's reproductive rights, and changing D.C.'s gun safety laws.

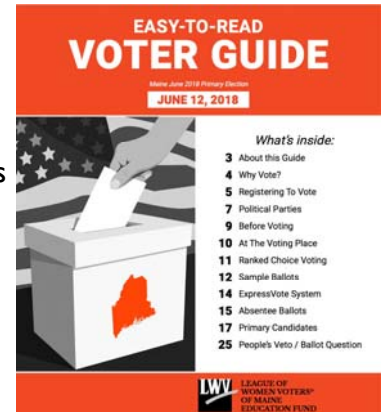
Anne Schink, LWVME Board Director, led a discussion outlining a framework designed to help Leagues to forge community partnerships. Leaders from the New England states, led by Carol Reimers, LWVCT president, talked about collaborating with other organizations. While collaborations work well most of the time, members described the challenges they face with their attempts to make partnerships work better. Toni Zimmer, Secretary on the National League Board, discussed the LWVUS Transformational Roadmap, which stresses collaboration, non-partisanship, membership, all with a mission-impact focus. The roadmap includes measures to increase membership.

The conference was not all work. League members mixed and mingled over lunch and dinner with lively and stimulating conversations! Be sure not to miss next year's conference. Same time, same place.

## Voter Services Committee Update

Peg Balano, Falmouth

For the very first time this past Spring, the LWVME Education Fund released an Easy-to-Read Voter Guide for a primary election. The June guide covered the Democratic and Republican primaries for governor, federal races for the U.S. House of Representatives in Districts 1 and 2, and the U.S. Senate race. Because the 2018 primary also marked the first time in our nation's history that RCV was used in a statewide primary election, the guide helped voters understand how the new system works. We also published a supplemental special edition for Portland voters and had the guide translated into Somali to give some of our newest voters the information they need to exercise their right to vote.



This year the League also received a grant from LWVUS to conduct voter registration activities in high schools and it fit perfectly with our Spring Voter Drives statewide. This year, voter registration events were held at 34 schools, registering 811 students to vote! Kudos to all who participated in our spring voter drive. Special recognition goes to the following local leagues/schools for the most student voters registered at one event!

- 79 voters – Midcoast Area at Camden Hills Regional HS
- 70 voters – Kennebunk Area at Sanford HS
- 65 voters – Portland Area at Yarmouth HS
- 52 voters – Kennebunk Area at Kennebunk HS

Success was due to the commitment and enthusiasm of our League volunteers, who contacted local schools, organized the events, and registered new voters. While the number of new voters varied based on the size of the school and participation of school personnel, the efforts and enthusiasm surely started many conversations with students' families and friends about how registering to vote is the first step on the road to lifelong civic engagement. The following is an excerpt from the press release we sent out in April of this year (thank you, Penelope Hamblin!) sharing the good news that a *“New spirit of student activism may be behind surge in voter registration in March.”*

*“Every spring and fall, volunteers with the League of Women Voters of Maine (LWVME) hold voter registration drives in high schools and colleges. Working from tables in cafeterias or corridors, they help students complete registration cards, explain how to vote, and urge them to exercise their right to vote on Election Day. The League has been doing this for years with little fanfare. But in March, 2018, volunteers are seeing a surge in interest among would-be voters. Students crowd their tables, lining up for their turn to register. They tell the League workers that they're excited about going to the polls for the first time. Many take one of the League's stickers, which read, **“Watch out! I'm a VOTER.”** The boom in voter registration among high school students is not limited to Maine, and it coincides with the spread of student activism nationwide. The League's list of school visits has grown in 2018 as registration drives are being expanded to include Bangor, Biddeford, Brewer, Brunswick, Camden, Farmington, Kennebunk, Lewiston, Machias, Mount Desert Island, North Farmington, Rockland, Topsham, Waterboro and Wells.”*

In addition to school voter drives, there was lots of activity as non-students were also inspired to register to vote. Here are the statistics so far this year for other voter registration activity:

- 10 Naturalization Ceremonies registered 269 new voters, or 57% of new citizens.
- 17 events where the League supported voter registration efforts, registered 53 new voters.
- 10 voter registration training sessions were held statewide to share our 'lessons learned.'

For more information and to get involved, contact Peg Balano at [volunteer@lwvme.org](mailto:volunteer@lwvme.org).

## Primary Study Finale

*Barbara Kaufman, LWVME Chairperson for the Primary Study Committee*

Thank you to all the very enthusiastic and conscientious League members who participated in chapter-led Primary Study Groups. The state-level study group has compiled, synthesized and presented the results to the LWVME Board. As this edition of *The Voter* is going to print, representatives from the state committee are drafting the final policy statement that will be reviewed by the Advocacy Committee and approved by the LWVME Board. The final adopted policy position will be posted on our website.

For those who need a sneak preview, here it is in a nutshell: Members found consensus on moving from a presidential caucus to a semi-open primary on a set date that does not cause a loss of delegates. For state elections, members agree that parties should hold semi-open primaries. Remember that in this study, the League defined “semi-open” as allowing Unenrolled voters to select and vote on one ballot per primary without having to enroll in a recognized political party. There is more, but we need time to frame the stated position and then post it.

Although some folks may find that their ideas were not mirrored by all participating members, it is important to remember that the state study committee tried to frame all possibilities as discrete so that the resulting policy position would reflect as accurately as possible the point of openness for which we had consensus. Again, thanks to all involved in this amazing and unique League process. Somehow it works!

## Can We Talk? Community Conversations and Maine Revives Civility

*Anne Schink, South Portland*

Mark Hews, the Maine project coordinator for Maine Revives Civility, a project of the National Institute for Civil Discourse, spoke at the Portland Area Annual Meeting and provided an update of the progress this partnership with the League of Women Voters has made over nearly a year. We like to think that Americans know how to have a civil conversation with one another, but, in the current climate, that has become more difficult because of the partisan divide in politics and the aggressive and hostile tone that public pronouncements have taken in the past few years. The truth is that we don't know how to have a civil conversation — some are afraid; some say it's too hard and others say they just don't want to!

We continue to try to create opportunities for people to feel safe enough to admit their fears and engage others to resolve problems. In early March, Barbara Kaufman and Anne Schink presented a two-hour workshop on “Respectful Communications” at Scarborough Adult Ed. The group was small but engaged and willing to share their communications challenges. The workshop provides a scaffold for framing conversations so that we can improve the way we share information. The first part is to ‘speak for yourself’ using “I” statements to be clear about what you feel and observe. The second part focuses on effective listening skills. This is the practice of listening deeply. The final section is about providing supportive feedback to assure the other person that you heard what they were trying to say. Acknowledging the dignity of the other person is about being heard, even when we disagree. At that very moment the town was engaged in a contentious recall election of school board members and the school community was divided, angry, and uncertain about the future. It was the perfect time for a calm, reasoned discussion about the issues that led to the crisis. But that didn't happen. The challenge for Maine Revives Civility and the LWVME is how to be effective in helping communities avert situations like that one or to anticipate situations where a reasoned, facilitated conversation might result in a satisfactory outcome for everyone involved.

The League can offer workshops on the full range of topics related to communications, facilitation, and consensus building. Maine Revives Civility is laying the groundwork and we would like to be prepared to join these conversations as participants or facilitators. Let us know if you are interested!



## Explained: The League's GuideStar Rating

Anne Schink, South Portland

A donor recently sent us a note saying that she would not contribute any more to us until we improved our GuideStar rating of nonprofit organizations. The national League's current rating is "silver". A less than "gold" rating is often caused by administrative/overhead expenses considered by GuideStar as too large a percentage of an organization's expenditures.

The ratio between program expenses and fundraising/administrative expenses can be a useful measure for gauging how much donor revenue is allocated to program delivery, but it doesn't work for us. This is primarily because volunteers account for such a large part of the work we do, distorting the ratio between program expenses and administration/fundraising expenses.



At the national level, where staff support is the backbone of creating a strong national presence in Washington, D.C., volunteers still carry out much of the actual program work, such as serving on boards, doing research and conducting studies, preparing and delivering testimony, mobilizing members, and lobbying Congress.

For the League in Maine, one thing to keep in mind is that the League has been almost entirely a volunteer organization. High-functioning volunteers do all of our programming work, and this encompasses thousands of hours each year in legislative advocacy, voter registration, citizen education, and other projects. You can get an idea of the scope and depth of our work at our website, [www.lwvme.org](http://www.lwvme.org). (which incidentally is maintained by volunteers). Since those efforts have not been compensated or monetized, they are not reflected in our financial statements. The financial statements, therefore, significantly undervalue the work being done on behalf of our mission.

For the last fiscal year, the combined expenses for the League of Women Voters of Maine (c4) and the League of Women Voters of Maine Education Fund (c3) were: Administration 8%; Fundraising and membership development 17%; and Program 75%. This is well below the overhead amounts that some use to criticize the effectiveness of nonprofits. In recent years, GuideStar, Charity Navigator, and BBB Wise Giving together have issued statements about the "Overhead Myth," urging both nonprofits and donors to consider other ways to judge the value of a nonprofit in addressing its mission and goals by considering program impact and outcome results. We hope that our donors will look at the big picture, too. Read more at: [http://s5770.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/GS\\_OverheadMyth\\_Ltr\\_ONLINE.pdf](http://s5770.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/GS_OverheadMyth_Ltr_ONLINE.pdf).

We are proud that for LWVME most of our income goes directly to program delivery. And we hope that donors understand that an organization that relies so heavily on volunteer effort prioritizes the contributions of volunteers to deliver the League message across the community.



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## Local League Updates

### Bangor Area Chapter

Members enjoyed the spirited Consensus Meetings on Primaries led by Jane Smith this spring. Members also hosted a candidate forum in Hampden for a vacant town council seat and are working toward having candidate forums in Bangor, Orrington and Hampden in the fall. Members also participated in registration drives in local schools and in the Naturalization Ceremonies held in Bangor. The monthly book discussions will resume the second Tuesday of the month in September at Seasons Restaurant. Check for titles on the LWMVE's web page.

### Downeast Chapter

The sixth season of our radio show, *The Democracy Forum*, rolls on. Our show, “**Distrust in Government: A Necessary Evil or a Weapon of Destruction?**” aired on July 20. We featured guests [Amy Fried](#), Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science at the University of Maine, and [Thomas E. Mann](#), Senior Fellow in Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution and Resident Scholar, Institute of Governmental Studies, University of California, Berkeley. We talked about the waxing and waning of Americans' trust in government, why a little skepticism may be a good thing, how partisanship plays into the equation, and how too much distrust may be a self-fulfilling prophecy.

The program airs 10:00-11:00 a.m., the third Friday of most months on WERU-FM Community Radio, 89.9 Blue Hill, 99.9 Bangor, and features topics in participatory democracy—how it works and how we can make it work better. You can listen live on the web from outside the broadcast area at <https://weru.org/>, and if you miss it live, you can find the audio archive and more information at <http://www.lwvme.org/currentDF.html>. Other shows being planned for the remainder of the 2018 series include the conduct of elections in Maine, political polling in the run-up to the 2018 election, and a post-election wrap-up. Our book group continues to meet monthly, and it's still a lot of fun. We joined with other local Leagues around the state to organize youth voter registration in advance of the primary election this spring. Read more about that elsewhere in this issue.



### Midcoast Area Chapter

Spring and summer have been all about voter registration. Our registration project led by Linda Zeigler provided a voter registration table at the student-organized and student-moderated Democratic Gubernatorial Forum on May 26th at Camden Regional High School. Five student voter registration drives were held this spring, registering 159 new voters. The group is working with other area organizations to hold registration drives and/or provide training support.

In May, we collaborated with the Rockland Public Library to host a forum on primaries, “Public Forum: Primaries, Parties, and Ranked Choice Voting—What You Need to Know.” The well-attended event included a panel discussion on the history and importance of primaries, moderated by Ann Luther with Sandy Maisel (Goldfarb Family Distinguished Professor of American Government at Colby College), Peter Mills (two-time candidate for governor and long-time Maine state legislator), and Liz Smith (former chair, Knox County Democrats, current member of the Maine Democratic Party Executive Committee). In the second part of the program, Jon Monroe presented a tutorial on Ranked Choice Voting, including a mock vote, a step-by-step guide on tallying the vote, and how to make your vote count through the process. Video at: <https://www.facebook.com/midcoastLWVME/videos/2104555902907135/>.

The Midcoast League is now researching where it can help inform local races, including the four-county DA campaign, in the November midterm elections through candidate forums.

### Portland Area Chapter

Whew – what a year we just closed! And, wow – what a year ahead! The Portland Area Chapter (LWVPA) closed with a great big Annual Meeting bash at Falmouth's Mason-Motz Activity Center. Members ate, drank and were merry as they approved new Board and Emily Farley Fund Advisory Committee members, voted in the proposed 2018-19 budget, applauded Anne Schink on receiving the Annual Emily Farley Award, and thanked Sarah Robinson for her past dedicated work on both local and state Easy-to-Read Voter Guides.

### **Portland Chapter continued**

One of the main themes we work on at both the state and local levels is Civil Discourse. Our Annual Meeting guest speaker was Mark Hewes, State Coordinator for Maine Revives Civility, who discussed how this program helps people restore civility and respect in discourse by teaching skills to further constructive conversations. As national and local partners with Maine Revives Civility, the League has also begun its work training people to both engage more effectively and civilly and to train trainers to lead those workshops. In fact, the City of Portland proclaimed May 2018 “Revive Civility” month and recognized the work of three Maine organizations: the LWVPA, Maine Revives Civility and Seeds of Peace.

At the LWVPA Board retreat on June 9, the new and the more experienced Board members got to know and work with each other for the first time. We discussed how we “fit” our interests and strengths into the web of work we do and hope to do. Board members created a working/draft schedule for the year focusing on Board meetings and events to plan, publicize, and build relationships with our members and our community. The upcoming November election means lots of voter education events and hopefully at least one debate or candidate forum.

A note to our York County League members and members-to-be: the Portland Area welcomes your involvement in our chapter. There is more than a rumbling of interest in starting a new League Chapter in York County that Anne Schink will help mentor. Until that time, knowing how motivated individual York residents are, we have added all York County residents to our newsletter email list. Newsletters from the LWVPA resume in September. Enjoy summer and rest up – we have lots to do in the months ahead!

## **Anne Schink: 2018 Emily Farley Award Winner**

*Lorraine Glowczak, Windham*

Anne Schink of South Portland was honored for her long and outstanding service to the League of Women Voters at the LWVPA annual meeting on Thursday, May 10th by being presented with the Emily Farley Award. To be considered for the Emily Farley award, one must demonstrate:

- Substantial respect for the League of Women Voters in the community.
- Outstanding leadership ability (motivating others, initiating new ideas and directions, taking risks).
- High standards of performance (thoroughness, reliability, attention to detail, organization).
- A deep commitment to the purposes and processes of the League.
- Devoted service to the League.

Anne has provided long-term commitment, passion, and skilled leadership to the League for approximately 50 years starting with her work in the 1960s with the LWV of Pennsylvania. Marsha Binger, LWVPA member, has known Anne since the beginning. Marsha was living in Pennsylvania and worked closely with Anne when they met at a Pennsylvania State Convention. Marsha was the President of the LWV of Pittsburgh while Anne was then the State President of the LWV of Pennsylvania. “She was a pleasure to work with because she inspired others and was dependable, organized and knowledgeable. But most importantly, she served the League with exceptional devotion,” Marsha stated.

There is one person who has witnessed the strong leadership and dedication Marsha speaks of from a more personal perspective. That is her daughter – Sarah Robinson, also a member of the LWVPA. Although Sarah, and her sister Ellen, didn’t always understand their mother’s commitment to the League, Sarah admits that her mom’s dedication created one of the best childhood experiences anyone could ask for. “Mom would give me days off from school,” Sarah said. “She would call them ‘Mental Health Days’ and I would get to go to the state capital in Harrisburg, get to see the kind of work my Mom did for the League, and meet the most amazing people.” Among them was Senator John Heinz of Pennsylvania.

There are other ways in which Sarah admires her mother’s active involvement in the League. For example, “Not everyone’s Mom gets to hush a member of the Bush family,” she joked. Anne participated with other League members in the Geraldine Ferraro and George W. Bush vice presidential debate in 1984. It was unacceptable to clap during the debate and the members of the Bush family did not adhere to the rules. Anne reminded the famous political family that it was inappropriate. “What I learned from my mom, but did not realize it growing up, was that girls have a say in their future and they can advocate for themselves.”

They say a great leader knows how to coach – offering important guidance without being aggressive in the way things ought to be done or offering an opinion forcefully. Karla Wight found this leadership skill in Anne profoundly helpful during the beginning days of re-establishing the LWVPA. In fact, as Marsha stated, Anne was essential to the “rebirth of the Portland Area League and the annual meeting that has occurred in the past three years would not happen without her help.”

Marsha also stated, “I would bet money that Anne has served in most positions at the local, state and national levels—except for the President of the LWV of the US – YET!”

# JOIN THE LEAGUE!

Join the League and be part of the solution! Your community needs leaders like you to be a strong, safe, and vibrant place to live. Become a member and make a positive impact on your community.

Sign up online at [www.lwvme.org](http://www.lwvme.org) and pay by credit card or PayPal, or mail this form and a check made payable to **LWVME to PO Box 863, Augusta, ME 04332-0863**. *Dues are not tax deductible.*

But contributions made payable to LWVME Education Fund are deductible and are always appreciated.

**Thank you!**

Member name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (home): \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (cell): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Check amount: \_\_\_\_\_

- Introductory Member (First Year) - \$25       Student Member - \$25       Single Member - \$55  
 Two-person (or more) household - \$85       Mentor (Supports First-Year & Student Member Program) - \$100



League of Women Voters of Maine  
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