



## The Elections Are Behind Us!

### Upcoming Dates for Your Calendar

Date	Time	Details
Nov 14	5:30–8:00 pm	Post-election Whine & Wine PelotonLabs at 795 Congress St. Portland
Feb 14	6:30–7:30 pm	Book discussion: <i>The Soul of America</i> Riverton Branch of Portland Public Library 1600 Forest Ave.
Apr 11	6:30–7:30 pm	Book discussion: <i>There There</i> Riverton Branch of Portland Public Library 1600 Forest Ave.

Additional information about LWVPA and LWVME activities is available on the Maine LWV [website](#) calendar.

### NOVEMBER 14th WHINE & WINE EVENT

Elections have consequences – what might they be?

Wed, Nov 14, 5:30–8:00 pm, PelotonLabs



Join us on Wednesday, Nov 14, 5:30–8:00 pm @ [PelotonLabs, 795 Congress St](#), where the the League of Women Voters of the Portland Area is hosting its 3<sup>rd</sup> bi-annual Whine and Wine event to debrief Maine's 2018 elections.

Wine (and other drinks), snacks, and whining all start at 5:30 pm, with the program getting underway at 6 pm. We have three outstanding political observers who will offer their views on the likely political and legislative impacts of our state mid-term election.

**Marpheen Chann, Democrat,** is a Digital Strategy Consultant and Board Member of the Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center, is a gay, first-generation Asian-American who was born into a Cambodian refugee family and adopted by an evangelical, white working class family. He is a Portland, Maine-based thinker, writer, and speaker on LGBTQ+ and immigrants' rights, social justice and equality. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Southern Maine and a law degree from the University of Maine School of Law. Chann ran for Portland City Council in 2017. (website [here](#))

**Barbara Campbell Harvey, Republican,** was elected as Secretary of the Maine Republican Party in 2015 and unanimously re-elected in 2017. In addition to her vast experience with Republican political organizations across Maine, Ms. Harvey also has served in a variety of positions for well-known organizations such as the Maine Education Loan Authority Board, LearningWorks, First Radio Parish Church of America, and Friends of the Blaine House. Ms. Harvey received her Master's Degree in political science at Northeastern and lives in Portland, Maine. (website [here](#))

**Dick Woodbury, Independent,** is an economist and politician, served as an unenrolled (or Independent) State Senator from Maine's 11th District, beginning in 2010. Before that, he served three terms (2002-2008) in the Maine House of Representatives. He has been a visiting scholar with the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and written extensively on tax reform in Maine. In 2014, Woodbury and others introduced a Maine citizen's initiative to replace the state's plurality voting system with a ranked choice voting one.

We will start the discussion with a few brief questions prepared by the LWVPA Board, but the plan is to devote most of the discussion period to a free flowing conversation between the invited guests and the audience, with audience questions driving the conversation.

This event is announced online at [Facebook](#) and [PelotonLabs](#) and in League newsletters. Please invite your friends and share with your circles as you wish.

## LWVME/MCCE WELCOMES TWO NEW STAFF MEMBERS

We are delighted to inform LWVME members of two new people joining our LWVME/MCCE team, Deana Libner, Communications Director, and Ali Cleveland, Southern Maine Field Organizer.

Dena was an external affairs professional working in New York City's public and nonprofit sectors before returning to her home state of Maine in 2018. With experience in strategic nonprofit marketing and communications, policy analysis, and project management, she looks forward to helping empower Maine voters and improving the state's democratic process.

Ali, who brings us four years of experience with mobilizing young people beginning on the electoral campaign trail in New Hampshire, is returning to New England after spending the last three years working on college campuses in San Diego developing grassroots organizations. Ali is looking forward to growing the organizing capacity and reach of League chapters in southern Maine.

## RECAP: BRUNSWICK AREA CHAPTER POST-ELECTION PANEL



The Frontier in Brunswick provided an intimate venue for a lively panel discussion on November 8<sup>th</sup> about what to expect as a result of the midterm elections. Hosted by the League of Women Voters of Maine's Brunswick Area Chapter, panelists

shared insights into what they see happening in Maine as the result of Tuesday's election. The event was moderated by Bob Howe, former Maine State Representative and current lobbyist in Augusta. Andrew Rudalevige, the

Thomas Brackett Reed Professor of Government at Bowdoin, put the election into historical perspective with data and graphs showing the tendency of voters to try to restore a balance of power between parties. He noted that although participation rates in Maine were high, around 65%, decisions are still made by a small part of the population.

Green Independent Fred Horch praised rank choice voting and offered some alternative ways of including a wider range of ideas into the process. He feels funding and provision of healthcare will be important issues at both state and federal levels. Former Republican State legislator Pam Cahill spoke about the importance of the legislative process and the need to reduce referenda. Democratic State Representative Jennifer DeChant agreed that healthcare and voter involvement were important issues. All panelists agreed that increasing civility is a high priority.

Questions from the audience touched on the constitutionality of ranked choice voting, the Equal Rights Amendment, clean election funding, and predictions for the 2020 presidential election. A surprise appearance by Senator Angus King was another highlight of the evening.

## SUFFRAGETTE WINS FIRST PRIZE



In case you have forgotten, the LWV is getting ready to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020. Janet Silvers, a member of the League for more than 50 years, took advantage of the Halloween Costume party at the Atrium to honor the suffragettes who fought so hard for women's right to vote in the early 1900s AND she won the first prize for the best costume!

This reminds us that we need to put on our thinking caps to develop other ways of celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## VOTER REGISTRATION GOES ON EVEN AFTER THE ELECTION

Maine is reported to have had about 65% turnout for the mid-term elections. Although it is difficult to quantify the impact of the League and MCCE in registering new voters, encouraging voter turnout, and informing voters about the issues, we do know that we made a significant contribution....and the work goes on as we continue to assist new citizens register for the next elections.

Year-to-date, LWVME has registered 1832 voters at the following events:

- 24 Naturalization Ceremonies registering 458 new voters, or 55% of the new citizens
- 121 community events registering 1374 voters.

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

## ENHANCE YOUR LEAGUE EXPERIENCE

Thanks to all our volunteers for helping with our various programs, but there are still some needs to fill. We mentor and coach all volunteers!

- Coordinate and manage Voter Registration Drives that are not USCIS Naturalization Ceremonies.
- Organizing events and programs with others.
- Helpers on a brochure committee and other marketing messages.

Contact [Barbara Kaufman](#) or [Peg Balano](#) if you can lend a hand.