

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

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# THE MAINE VOTER

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Volume 33 Number 3 Fall 2016

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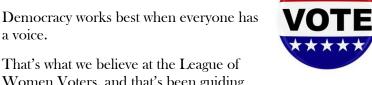
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## From the President

**Dear Members and Friends:** 

Democracy works best when everyone has a voice.



Women Voters, and that's been guiding our efforts this summer and fall to make sure that every Mainer's voice is heard come Election Day.

We kicked off the summer by stepping up our efforts in support of Question 5, which would bring ranked choice voting to Maine elections. In a June 11<sup>th</sup> op-ed in the Portland Press Herald, Maine Voices: Ranked-choice voting passes every test of true *democracy*, we made our case in support of this nonpartisan reform. We encourage our fellow Mainers to vote "Yes" on Question 5 because it would restore majority rule, eliminate the need for strategic voting, and encourage candidates to reach beyond their base of support fostering greater civility.

In September, we hosted voter registration events across the state culminating in and around National Voter Registration Day on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Partnering with other organizations, high schools, and colleges, we registered hundreds of voters and distributed information about voting in Maine to dozens more.

In October, we published our always-popular Easy-to-Read Voter Guide, which includes information on voting, statewide and federal races, and statewide ballot and bond issues. We are distributing 50,000 paper guides to libraries, adult education centers, social service agencies, colleges, and high schools across the State. The guide is also on our website at www.lwvme.org, and the website of our national affiliate, www.lwv.org. Information about candidates and ballot questions is also online at www.Vote411.org.

To keep up with all things League, check our website and blog, like us on Facebook, or follow us Twitter @LWVME.

Thank you for your support and don't forget to do your part and vote on November 8th!

> Iill Ward President LWVME

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## **Upcoming Events:**

- Oct 17 –Bar Harbor Candidate Forum
- Oct 18–Ellsworth Candidate Forum
- Oct 20 Bangor Candidate Forum
- Oct 21—Democracy Forum WERU
- Oct 25 Blue Hill Candidate Forum
- Nov 8 VOTE
- Nov 15 Portland Wine and Whine

## **BECOME A RECURRING DONOR!**

Learn more at:

http://www.lwvme.org/ donate cc.html.

However you want to plug in, we welcome your participation and support!

# The History of the Citizen Initiative in Maine and What's on the Ballot this Year

John Brautigam, Falmouth

Maine has a long history of citizen-initiated legislation, where the voters themselves fill the role of lawmakers. This year that trend continues.

The citizen initiative provisions of the Maine Constitution were adopted in 1908, with an effective date of January, 1909. Maine's first citizen initiated bill, which created the system of primary elections for the political parties, was approved on September 11, 1911.

Over the years, the voters have considered bills on tax issues, milk prices, hunting, nuclear energy, forest practices, and Sunday sales. In 1985 voters approved a resolution to stop cruise missile tests in Maine.

In the last twenty years, 116 measures have appeared on the ballot - an average of about six each year. Of those, 89 (77 percent) were enacted by the voters. In addition to citizen-initiated measures, the ballot often includes bond measures proposed by the legis-

lature as required under the Maine Constitution. Occasionally, opponents of a bill enacted by the legislature will place a "people's veto" on the ballot for the subsequent general election.

In the case of bills initiated by the citizens, the public vote is the culmination of a lengthy process where advocates decide on a concept, write legislative language for approval by the state, collect tens of thousands of signatures, and submit the signatures for verification. Advocates must meet the signature threshold – currently 61,123 – within 18 months of the date their petition is approved for signature collection. The signature requirement is set by law at ten percent of the total votes cast in the most recent gubernatorial election.

Once verified, the measure is presented to the legislature for consideration. In recent years the legislature has often declined to consider the measures, instead sending them directly to the voters. Occasionally the legislature will enact a citizen-initiated measure without any changes, eliminating the need for approval by Maine voters.

Sometimes the legislature will approve a "competing measure," which goes on the ballot adjacent to the citizen-initiated measure. In that case, voters may vote for the citizen-initiated measure, the measure approved by the legislature, or neither. A competing measure often has the effect of making it more difficult to secure voter approval of the original measure.

Nationally, there are at least 165 ballot measures this year going before voters in 35 states. A majority of these were put on the ballot by legislators, but 74 were approved following a citizen initiative process such as Maine's. The high water mark for citizen initiatives nationally was 274, which occurred in 1989. Since then, a combination of factors, including stricter requirements for qualifying for the ballot, has reduced the national figure. Most of the states allowing citizen initiated legislation are west of the Mississippi River.

According to Ballotpedia.org, the issue on the most state ballots this year is marijuana legalization (10 states), followed by minimum wages (5 states), health care (5 states), and gun laws (4 states).

This year, Maine's ballot features the first statewide citizen vote in the country on Ranked Choice Voting. Maine's RCV proposal would revise the process for electing state and federal officials, instituting a system allowing voters to rank multiple candidates in order of their preference.

To date, the 2016 Maine ballot initiative campaigns have reported over \$7 million in campaign contributions and expenditures, and this does not include spending by political action committees that may be targeted to ballot measures.

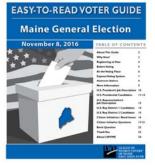
Several measures are still circulating and have not yet qualified for public vote but could appear on the 2017 ballot if advocates obtain the required number of signatures in the time allotted. Those include measures to eliminate the income tax, expand casino gambling, reverse legal protections based on sexual orientation, and allow public funds for private religious schools.

## The following is the list of bills and bond issues appearing on the Maine ballot in November:

- Legalize Marijuana (Question 1) Allow the use and possession of marijuana by anyone 21 years of age or older. Unofficial Summary: This initiated bill allows the possession and use of marijuana by a person 21 years of age or older, and provides for the licensure of retail marijuana facilities. It provides for regulation and control of the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, and sale of marijuana by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. It allows a person to consume marijuana in a nonpublic place including a private residence, and places a sales tax of 10% on retail marijuana and retail marijuana products.
- Surcharge to Support Public Education (Question 2) 3% surcharge on household income over \$200,000 to fund education.
  - Official Summary: This initiated bill establishes the Fund to Advance Public Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education for the purpose of improving the ability of the State to reach the annual target of 55%, as specified in statute, for the state share of the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12, and for increasing direct support for student learning rather than administrative costs. Revenue for the fund is generated by a 3% surcharge on Maine taxable income over \$200,000, beginning with tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2017.
- Gun Sales (Question 3) Requires specific background checks for gun sales and transfers.

  Official Summary: This initiated bill requires a background check before a firearm sale or transfer between individuals not licensed as firearm dealers. If neither party to a sale or transfer has a federal firearms license, the parties meet at a licensed firearm dealer, who conducts a background check on the transferee and completes the sale or transfer as though selling or transferring from the dealer's own inventory. Exceptions to the background check requirement are made for transfers between family members, while the parties are hunting or sport shooting, for emergency self-defense, in the presence of the transferor and in other circumstances.
- Minimum Wage Increase (Question 4) Increases minimum wage to \$12 per hour by 2020. Official Summary: This initiated bill raises the minimum wage to \$9.00 per hour in 2017 and by \$1.00 per hour each year after that until it is \$12.00 per hour in 2020. The minimum wage then increases at the same rate as the cost of living. The minimum wage for workers who receive tips increases to \$5.00 per hour in 2017 and then by \$1.00 per hour each year until it matches the minimum wage for all other workers, which occurs no sooner than 2024.
- Ranked Choice Voting (Question 5) Establishes statewide ranked-choice voting.

  Official Summary: This initiated bill provides ranked-choice voting for the offices of United States Senator, United States Representative to Congress, Governor, State Senator and State Representative for elections held on or after January 1, 2018. Ranked-choice voting is a method of casting and tabulating votes in which voters rank candidates in order of preference, tabulation proceeds in rounds in which last-place candidates are defeated and the candidate with the most votes in the final round is elected.
- Transportation Bond (Question 6) Voter approval to issue \$100 million in bonds for transportation projects. Ballot Language: Do you favor a \$100,000,000 bond issue for construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of highways and bridges and for facilities, equipment and property acquisition related to ports, harbors, marine transportation, freight and passenger railroads, aviation, transit and bicycle and pedestrian trails, to be used to match an estimated \$137,000,000 in federal and other funds?



Check out the League's **2016 Easy-To-Read Voter Guide** for more information about the ballot questions, arguments for and against each question, profiles of the candidates for federal office, and general information about voting in Maine.

Download it at: http://www.lwvme.org/VoterGuide.html or call 207.622.0256 ext. 2 to order paper copies.

## A Year Later: Successful Clean Elections Initiative is Working!

Anna Keller, Maine Citizens for Clean Elections

This election cycle has already broken all records for political spending. In Maine, however, we have an encouraging sign: Clean Elections participation is on the rebound!

Sixty-two percent of candidates for Maine legislative office are using Clean Elections to fund their campaigns in this November's general election, a marked increase from 53% in the 2014 election cycle. The election of the  $128^{\text{th}}$ 

Legislature is the first to be held under changes to the Maine Clean Election Act passed by voters at referendum in 2015.

Not only are more candidates using Clean Elections, but they are using it and winning even when outspent by their opponents. In June, thirteen State House and State Senate primaries featured a Clean Elections candidate and a privately-financed candidate; of those races 62% were won by the Clean Election candidate.



As one Senate candidate said after winning a contested primary, "Clean Elections is the best way to fund a campaign. You're only beholden to your voters. It's the honest way to run a campaign. Clean Elections won a landslide referendum [because] it's what the people want, and we have to be responsive to that."

The Maine Clean Election Act, the first system of full public financing for state candidates in the country, was passed by Maine voters at referendum in 1996. Starting in 2000, candidates began using Clean Elections, and it continued to grow in popularity among candidates across the political spectrum. Participation in the program peaked in 2008, when 81% of candidates for legislature opted to run Clean Elections campaigns; that year 85% of elected legislators won their races using Clean Elections.

In recent years, the program has been weakened by a series of Supreme Court decisions, legislative inaction, and budget raids. As a result, participation in Clean Elections declined. Some candidates feared that using Clean Elections would be a disadvantage and opted to run privately financed campaigns as a result. After repeated failed attempts to restore Clean Elections in the legislature, Maine voters took matters into their own hands once again by qualifying and passing the 2015 Clean Elections Initiative.

Increased participation in Clean Elections in 2016 shows that candidates are confident that they can run competitive, voter-centered campaigns without relying on big-money contributions. The resurgence of Clean Elections has also led to a decline in private fundraising during the 2016 elections. Reports filed 42 days before the general election show that privately-funded legislative candidates had raised 22 percent less than they did in 2014.

According to a survey conducted by Maine Citizens for Clean Elections after the June primary, the majority of candidates were very satisfied with their choice of funding and would use Clean Elections again. "It had a tremendously positive impact," said one candidate. "Since I didn't have to focus on fundraising, I could spend all of that extra time concentrating on more important tasks: namely, knocking on people's doors."

In addition to strengthening Clean Elections, the initiative passed by voters in 2015 is also increasing transparency. The law now requires that groups that spend independently to influence legislative races name their top donors on their ads in addition to their name. Voters now have real-time information about outside spending and who's paying for ads and trying to influence their decisions at the ballot box.

The law Maine people came together to pass is working to ensure a government accountable to everyday people.

Learn more at https://www.mainecleanelections.org/.

# **National Voter Registration Day**

Barbara Kaufman, Freeport, and Jill Ward, South Portland



In 2008, six million Americans didn't vote because they missed a registration deadline or didn't know how to register. Those numbers started a chain of events that included The National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) establishing the first National Voter Registration Day on September 25, 2012. In 2014, the NASS established the fourth Tuesday of September as the annual official day for National Voter Registration Day.

This year's National Voter Registration Day was the biggest and most successful yet. LWVME and local chapters hosted more than 40 voter registration events across the state on and around September 27th to mark this national day dedicated to getting Americans to register to vote in the 2016 elections. The League hosted events at schools, libraries, colleges, businesses, and local organizations in Augusta, Lewiston, Bangor, Orono, Bar Harbor, Ellsworth, and Portland. In several places we partnered with other

organizations, including Maine Campus Compact, Greater Portland Health, YWCA of Mt. Desert Island, Portland Farmers' Market, and The Highlands in Topsham.

Newly registered voters at all of our drives were offered our new publication, *Voting in Maine: Making Your Vote Count.* This publication can be found on our website at <a href="http://www.lwvme.org/files/Voting\_Brochure\_2016.pdf">http://www.lwvme.org/files/Voting\_Brochure\_2016.pdf</a>.

This year, our efforts were also supported by a grant from the League of Women Voters of the U.S. Education Fund, which helped us to get the word out on Maine Public Radio. And, in case you missed it, we also had the opportunity to talk about voting trends and efforts to get out the vote this year on the September 20th edition of Maine Calling where League President Jill Ward joined Secretary of State Matt Dunlap and University of Maine Professor Jim Melcher in an informative program about voting in Maine. You can find a link to the broadcast on our website at: <a href="http://www.lwvme.org/news.html">http://www.lwvme.org/news.html</a>.

We are still counting the numbers, but once all our registration events have concluded we expect to have registered 500 voters from across the state. Newly registered voters through the League will receive a postcard alerting them to the ID needed for their first time voting experience, providing information about absentee ballots, and reminding them that Election Day is November 8.

Although Maine has some of the best voting laws in the country, including same-day voter registration, we were excited to have the opportunity to contribute to this national effort and to make sure everyone in Maine has the information they need to engage in the political process.



Everything you need to know about voting in Maine, including voter eligibility, registering to vote, absentee ballots, and more. All in an easy-to-read format.

http://www.lwvme.org/files/ Voting Brochure 2016.pdf



## Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) in the Classroom

The League's Education Fund has had a busy year promoting statewide educational efforts on ranked choice voting in senior centers, service organizations, and schools. As we move into the fall, we are narrowing our focus to programs in middle schools and high schools.

Since January, we have made presentations on voting systems and RCV in more than 45 social studies classrooms across the state from Greater Portland all the way to Madawaska, reaching nearly 1,000 students in the process.



This past September, we gave presentations at Hodgdon High School and Madawaska High School in Aroostook County and closed the month with presentations at Sacopee Valley High School in rural York County.

Education Fund Coordinator Finn Melanson is pictured left following a recent presentation to high school students at Hodgdon High School.

October finds us presenting to the social studies classes at Baxter Academy, Brunswick High School, and Yarmouth High School--with more presentations planned and in the pipeline.

Through the course of this exciting educational work, we have identified a coalition of teachers interested in partnering with us to develop a tool they could use in the classroom. The Education Fund convened two summer conferences with these educators to develop a school unit on ranked choice

voting (RCV). We are very excited to be working closely with several of those teachers to pilot the unit during the 2016-2017 school year.

If you know of any teachers who might be interested in piloting the RCV unit or any social studies departments in your area that might be interested in hosting a presentation, we want to hear from you. Or, if you would like to assist with or make some of these presentations on your own, please let us know. There are many ways to help out!

To learn more or get involved in this effort, please contact Finn Melanson at finn@lwvme.org.

## **Naturalization Ceremonies**

Peg Balano, Falmouth

Since January 2016, The League of Women Voters of Maine has participated in 28 Naturalization Ceremonies in Acadia, Bangor, and the Portland area (6 Judicial and 22 Administrative ceremonies). Six of the Administrative ceremonies were held at schools, with lots of student participation. We registered 338 new citizens to vote, or about 50% of those attending the ceremonies. Part of the joy of registering new citizens to vote is to see the pride they have in being able to participate in our democracy. A poignant reminder for us all!

Here are photos from the Naturalization Ceremony at Jordan Pond at Acadia National Park on June 29, 2016, and at the Bangor Naturalization Ceremony on July 29, 2016.





This is an excerpt from the LWVME blog. While our work on voter registration and voter rights is well known, the League also works to keep government accountable to citizens. Our Advocacy Committee spends hours and hours in Augusta each session, monitoring legislative committees and delivering testimony. Open and transparent government is a priority issue for the LWVME, and we will continue to highlight threats to citizens' right to know and Maine FOI laws.

# Opinion: Recording legislative proceedings gives citizens more access to government

from April 29, 2016

On Thursday, the <u>Bangor Daily News</u> reported on an effort to halt the recording and archiving of legislative meetings and committee sessions. These are open and public meetings that are streamed live over the internet so that citizens who cannot attend in person can listen in to committees' meetings, public hearings, work sessions, and legislative floor debates. The meetings are also recorded, archived, and made available to anyone who requests them.

Sen. Garrett Mason of Lisbon wants to change this. Apparently okay with live streaming, Sen. Mason objects to these discussions being recorded and archived for posterity. While some of us in the League of Women Voters were surprised to learn of this practice, the League objects to abolishing it. As citizens, we would be happy to rely on these recordings when we cannot attend a legislative hearing or work session in person. This access could be very helpful to our work and rests on an essential principle of our right to know how our government operates. We support keeping these audio records but object to keeping them secret.

These are public meetings - open to the public and available live online. Recording only makes them more available to the public, preserves the proceedings verbatim instead of through hearsay, and makes our government functions more transparent and accessible to citizens. Other parts of these proceedings are already archived and available - most particularly, written testimony before committee hearings and the voting record of our elected officials. Participating in government is a public act, and archiving the record honors this citizen action. Recording these *public* conversations only serves to give citizens a more complete view of how our government is functioning.

But who knew? Apparently, the existence of these audio archives was a well-kept secret, known only to State House insiders. LWVME Board Member John Brautigam says, "I find it kind of disturbing that they do this without notifying the public. Not because of privacy, but because the existence of these recordings should not be concealed. The argument that they are available "upon request" is not enough, in my opinion. That means lobbyists who know how to get them will have access, but the general public generally will not."

Sen. Mason expresses concern that citizens participating in a public hearing may not know they're being recorded. But they may also not know that their written testimony will be saved and made available online. Journalists and news outlets are often there with cameras, and the clips they pull for publication are then broadcast and preserved in perpetuity. If there is truly a concern that people don't know about the recordings, then it should be addressed with signage or an announcement at the start of the proceeding. It could also be noted on the agenda for the meeting or hearing.

We (LWVME) take the position that the practice should continue, announcements should be made at the start of each committee meeting that an audio archive is being kept, and the existence of these recordings should be posted on the committee web sites and otherwise made broadly accessible. Public testimony is public testimony – not a private chat among confidants. If the issue is that members of the public don't know, then it is the responsibility of the government and staff to make the information known.

Further, we already have laws that allow people to be filmed and photographed in public. And, we have security cameras in public places all around the country. Why should the workings of our legislature be subject to less scrutiny than we are in public? How perverse would it be to have increasing surveillance all around us of private citizens engaged in ordinary activities, but turn the democratic policy-making process into something private?

## **LOCAL LEAGUE UPDATES**

## LWV Brunswick Area

After a quiet couple of years, the Brunswick Area League (BA) is gathering steam. We've hosted four events this year plus one voter registration drive at Curtis Memorial Library. In September, we hosted a forum on the six ballot measures that voters will decide in November. League member John Brautigam presented the measures and put the 2016 ballot in historical perspective.

Look for that on TV3 in the Brunswick area. BA also held a program on Ranked Choice Voting, co-hosted a lecture on the history of Maine suffrage, and participated in National Voter Registration Day. We're looking forward to a busy 2017 and looking for members to help with programs and local voter registration. We want to hear from you! Contact us at: 207-622-0256 ext. 6 or <a href="mailto:brunswick@lwvme.org">brunswick@lwvme.org</a>.

## LWV Downeast

We've got a dedicated team of loyal League members working on a slate of great events this fall. We had an inspiring time on National Voter Registration Day encouraging some new 18-year-olds to register and vote at Ellsworth and MDI High Schools and at the Ellsworth Adult Education Center. We had a wonderful partner in the YWCA MDI.

Our 2016 edition of the popular radio program, the Democracy Forum, on WERU FM Community Radio is drawing to a close, but our team has plans to keep going into 2017! The last of our pre-election programs, Five Ballot Questions in Maine with Amy Fried and Jill Goldthwait, airs on October 21. The programs broadcast live from the WERU station in East Orland, Maine at 10:00 am on the third Friday of every month. The hour-long format features interviews with expert guests and listener call in during the last half-hour.

WERU can be heard at 89.9 FM, in Bangor at 99.9, and streams live on the web at <u>weru.org</u>. Stay tuned for new topics and guests beginning in November. You can follow the programming at <u>www.lwvme.org/</u> <u>currentDF.html</u>, and you will find a link to archived programs there, too.

In addition, LWV-Downeast is partnering with local media and other civic groups to present a series of forums for area candidates for the Maine State House and Senate.

- October 17 -- Bar Harbor: Senate District 7, YWCA MDI beginning at 7pm, Earl Brechlin moderating
- October 18 -- Ellsworth: House Districts 132 and 136, Senate District 7, Ellsworth Council Chambers beginning at 6:30pm, Stephen Fay moderating
- October 25 -- Blue Hill: House District 133, Blue Hill Public Library, beginning at 7pm, Bill Case moderating

Finally, we are continuing our monthly book group. We've read some great stuff this year, including Colin Woodard's new book, <u>American Character: A History of the Epic Struggle between Individual Liberty and the Common Good</u>, and Ari Berman's, <u>Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America.</u> Our most recent selection, particularly revealing during this election season, was <u>The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion</u>, by Jonathan Haidt. We will continue meeting more or less monthly this winter on the fourth Wednesday of the month beginning at 5pm.

## LWV Portland Area

The long, lazy days of summer morphed quickly into the hectic days of September! Maybe that's because the LWVPA kicked off the summer with a very productive and fun planning retreat on June 11, followed by trainings in July and September.

## Trainings:

A select group of seven Portland Area League volunteers interested in educating the public about ranked choice voting (RCV) attended a July 20 training led by Finn Melanson, Project Manager with the LWVME Education Fund. At the end of the day, volunteers committed to helping Finn on one of his many RCV talks or doing one on their own.

On September 8, just before the LWVPA Board meeting, we also held a well-attended Voter Registration Volunteer Training for more than 15 enthusiastic volunteers and partners! It's wonderful to know that there are even more volunteers who didn't need to come since they already participate in voter drives at US Naturalization Ceremonies and schools. Thank you all for the work you do, and welcome to our newest volunteers.

## **Voter Registration:**

This fall, LWVPA has developed new and wonderful partnerships, resulting in more than 300 new voters registered through our efforts. Until this year, the Portland Area League has focused mainly on spring and fall voter registration drives at local high schools and a couple of post secondary institutions. However, between interest in the many Maine ballot questions and the 2016 Presidential election, more organizations have been motivated to help register voters. As a result, the League has developed a few new and wonderful partnerships.

Working with *Maine Campus Compact*, we increased the number of participating institutions of higher education and the number of drives on each campus. Thanks to LWVPA board member, Meghan McCormick, the Portland Area League registered students, staff, and faculty members at SMCC, MECA, USM, and Kaplan University.

We also partnered with *Greater Portland Health* by training their trainers and supplying materials for 5 all-day voter registration drives at their clinics. Jesse Harvey, Community Health Worker, and Kathleen Stokes, board member, attended our training and then trained staff at the clinics to register employees, patients, and other community members. As a result, there are now 45 new voters! Go Greater Portland Health!

For the first time this year, the *Portland Farmers' Market* supported the LWVPA 's voter registration efforts from September 24 to October 5 at both the Wednesday Monument Square and Saturday Deering Oaks events.

## **Upcoming Events:**

- Open Board Meeting: November 10, 5:30-7:30pm at DeMillo's Restaurant, Portland
- Whine and Wine: November 15, 6:00-8:00pm Peloton Labs, 795 Congress St., Portland
- Holiday Program: December 15, details TBD

## LWV Bangor

The League in the Bangor Area held Voter Registration events on National Voter Registration Day at Beal College, the University of Maine at Augusta, Bangor Campus, and at the University of Maine. The monthly book discussion group enjoys subjects exploring both historic topics and modern dilemmas, but all books shed light on what is happening now. The October book, which will be discussed on October 18 at 5:30pm at Season's in Bangor, is Ari Berman's book, *Give Us the Ballot*. Members invite everyone to the Candidates Forum at Bangor City Hall on October 20 at 5:30pm for school committee candidates and 6:45 for city council candidates. Plans are also underway for a film series.

## **LWVME CALENDAR**

MONDAY, OCT 17 7PM	YMCA MDI 36 Mount Desert St Bar Harbor	Bar Harbor Candidate Forum. Candidates for the Maine Senate District 7 will present their views to the public in a discussion moderated by Earl Brechin. Audience questions to follow. Co-sponsored by the LWV Downeast, the YWCA MDI, and the MDIslander.
TUESDAY, OCT 18 5:30PM	Season's Restaurant 427 Main St. Bangor	Bangor Book Group. Join us for dinner and a book. The book is Ari Berman's Give Us the Ballot.
TUESDAY, OCT 18 6:30 PM	Ellsworth City Council Chambers 1 City Plaza Ellsworth	Ellsworth Candidate Forum. Candidates for the Maine House Districts 132 and 136 and Senate District 7 will present their views to the public in a discussion moderated by Stephen Fay. Audience questions to follow. Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters Downeast, the Hancock County Community Union, and the Ellsworth American.
THURSDAY, OCT 20 5:30 PM Co-	Bangor City Council Chambers 73 Harlow St Bangor	Bangor Candidate Forum. School Committee candidates will present at 5:30pm and City Council candidates at 6:45pm. sponsored by League of Women Voters Bangor and the Bangor Public Library.
FRIDAY, OCT 21 11:30 AM	WERU 89.9 FM Blue Hill and 99.9 FM Bangor Streaming: weru.org	Democracy Forum—Ballot Questions in Maine. LWV-Downeast hosts a radio program on democracy in cooperation with WERU FM. We will discuss this year's Maine ballot questions; process, background, history, support and opposition, and current state of play. We plan to take a few listener calls in the second half of the hour. Special Guests: Amy Fried, Professor of Political Science at the University of Maine, and local columnist and former Maine State Senator, Jill Goldthwait.
FRIDAY, OCT 21 11:30 AM	Jasper's Restaurant 200 High St Ellsworth	Lunch with the League. Join us for lunch with Amy Fried and Jill Goldthwait. We'll continue the conversation on the November election. RSVP at downeast@lwvme.org
TUESDAY, OCT 25 7:00 PM	Blue Hill Public Library 5 Parker Point Rd Blue Hill	Blue Hill Candidate Forum. Candidates for the Maine House District 133 will present their views to the public in a discussion moderated by Bill Case. Audience questions to follow. Sponsored by the League of Women Voters Downeast, the Blue Hill Public Library, and the Weekly Packet.

## LWVME CALENDAR Continued

## **TUESDAY, NOV 8**

#### **ELECTION DAY!**

TUESDAY, NOV 15	Peloton Labs
6:00-8:00 <b>PM</b>	795 Congress St.
	Portland

Wine and Whine! Election Debrief Party. Local commentators and former state legislators will join us to discuss what just happened and the upcoming legislative year. Appetizers will be provided by the League. Sparkling water, wine, and beer will be available for purchase.

#### TUESDAY, NOV 15 Season's Restaurant 5:30**PM** 427 Main St. Bangor

Bangor Book Group. Join us for dinner and a book. The book is Jonathan Haidt's *The Righteous Mind*.

## TUESDAY, JAN 17 Season's Restaurant 5:30**PM**

427 Main St. Bangor

Bangor Book Group. Join us for dinner and a book. The book is Susan Griffin's Wrestling with the Angel of Democracy.

## HOW MUCH TIME DOES IT TAKE TO BE ACTIVE IN THE LEAGUE?

Do you have an extra 5 minutes once a year? In 5 minutes you can pay your dues.

## THAT IS BEING ACTIVE IN THE LEAGUE!

Do you have an extra 20 minutes once a month? In 20 minutes you can read what your dues pay for: The Maine Voter, LWVME's newsletter, or The National LWV Leaders Update (online), both if you are a speed reader.

## THAT IS BEING ACTIVE IN LEAGUE

Do you have an extra hour or two here or there? Look at all the things you can do with that time: vote, make phone calls, attend a League meeting or book group, work on an action priority, listen to The Democracy Forum, join a committee.

## THAT IS BEING ACTIVE IN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS!

## **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 on line at 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:				
$\hfill\Box$ Introductory Member (First Year) - $\$25$	□ Student Member -	\$25	□ Single Member - \$55	
□ Two-person household - \$85 □ Mentor (Supports First-Year Membership Program) - \$100				



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