



October 2017 – Inaugural Edition

Welcome to the first edition of the Framingham League of Women Voters Newsletter. We will publish this once a month to share with members and the public what we have been doing and what we are planning for the future.

In this inaugural issue, we would like to thank the 42 people who have joined as members of our chapter. In May of 2017, we held our first informational meeting to inform residents of our hope to organize a chapter here in Framingham. On June 3rd, we held our first official meeting and elected members to our Board of Directors. Since that meeting we have been off and running!

On June 21st we held our *first Informed Framingham* event, inviting Valerie Mulvey, Chair of the Charter Commission, and Adam Blumer, member of the Charter Commission to speak to residents about what changes to expect under the new charter. Over 75 people joined us to kick off what we hope will be a series of events on topics of interest to residents.

As summer began, so did Framingham's free Concerts on the Green, where the Framingham LWV had a booth for registering voters, signing up LWV members, and informing the public of the work the LWV does.

The Framingham LWV is also participating in the **Vote411.org** program run by the national LWV. This program gives you the opportunity to enter your address and see a list of all the candidates that will appear on your ballot, along with information about those candidates, including website and Facebook pages, and answers to

questions posed by the Framingham LWV to the candidates. This is a tremendous resource to the residents of Framingham and we encourage you to take advantage of this free service provided to you by your local LWV. To access this information, click on the link below: www.vote411.org

On September 9th, we held our first Candidate Showcase at Town Hall where over 250 people came out to hear the candidates for District Council make a short introduction speech, followed by all the candidates for At-Large City Council and Mayor answering questions submitted by residents and members of the LWV. Covered by Framingham Government Access, in addition to those who attended in person, the Showcase was available on line and on the Government Access channel for all residents to view at their convenience.



On Saturday, September 23rd the Framingham LWV had a voter registration table at the Purple Passion Walk to Break the Silence. Although we only registered a few new voters, we were able to remind people to vote in the preliminary election held on September 26th. We also

fielded a team for this event and raised several hundred dollars to support the important work done by this organization in Framingham.

On September 27th, the morning after the preliminary election, Framingham LWV president Stephanie Deeley joined Barry Bograd, a political watcher here in Framingham, and Anne Brennan, editor of the MWD News for a podcast discussing the election results. Among the topics discussed was how to address the traditionally low voter turn-out in some areas of town and the part the LWV can play in the effort to increase that turnout. You can listen to that podcast using this link: <https://omny.fm/shows/making-a-city/preliminary-results-will-stefanini-come-out-swingi>

On October 14th, with our partner, MetroWest Daily News, we hosted our second *Candidate Showcase* featuring candidates for District Council from all 9 districts for a question and answer session with LWV moderators and the editor of MWD asking the candidates questions that were submitted by residents, members of the LWV, and staff of MWD News.

Our final election event is being held on October 28th at Town Hall, where we will hold a debate for candidates for the At-Large City Council Seats and Mayor. We have had great response to our request from residents for questions and we are anticipating a lively and informative debate. We hope to see you there for this event.

On November 7th Framingham residents will go to the polls to elect our first Mayor, City Councilors and our new School Committee. This is a historic election and we urge all residents to use their voice and their vote to

choose who they think will best represent them as we form our new government.

We are starting to plan our next *Informed Framingham* event which will take place in late November. We encourage members and residents to send in ideas for topics they would like to learn more about. The LWV is here to serve the residents of Framingham by helping to inform residents on issue of interest to them and their community.

The next meeting of the LWV is being held on Wednesday, November 15th from 7 -8:30 in the Community Room at the McAuliffe Branch Library on Water Street. Meetings are open to the public, you do not have to be a member of the Framingham LWV to attend. Membership in the LWV is open to all people over the age of 16. We hope you will join us for this meeting as we determine what our next steps will be here in Framingham.

For more information about the Framingham League of Women Voters, please visit our website at:

<https://lwvma.org/leagues-in-massachusetts/state-league-units/framingham-unit/>

and our FaceBook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/LWVFram/>

For information on the MA LWV Advocacy and Legislative Agenda, click on the link below:

<https://lwvma.org/advocacy/2017-advocacy-and-legislative-agenda/>

To join our mailing list, please email us at

lwvfram@gmail.com