

Welcome Message from LWVMA Co-Presidents

Dear Members,

Welcome to Convention 2021. *Expanding the Table: Making Democracy Work for Everyone*. While we need to hold this convention remotely, it will still be interactive and interesting. Over the last year we have experienced unprecedented times, been challenged on many levels, personal, professional, local and national and learned we are resilient, resourceful and creative. We hope you will be able to gather with fellow League members from around the state on June 26th to learn more about what we can do to meet the challenges of the next two years to continue the great work of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts and expand our table by looking at all of our programs, positions and initiatives through a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion lens.

What is Convention? Convention is a gathering together of League members from around our state. We will have opportunities to celebrate our accomplishments from the last 2 years, network, learn from each other, and conduct the business of the organization. For LWVMA, this means we will decide on our priorities for the next two years, agree to a two-year budget to strengthen the state League, elect the Board directors and officers who will lead the organization, and make sure that our advocacy and governance documents are up-to-date. You will also hear about the LWVMA Strategic Plan and Strategic Fundraising Plan, two exciting initiatives that provide the roadmap to the League's vibrant future. This year the business (or "plenary") sessions will be held on Saturday morning and afternoon.

Convention is also an opportunity to learn from our guest speaker about racial justice in Massachusetts. We will also hear from LWVUS CEO Virginia Case, Deborah Turner, MD, JD, 20th President of LWVUS and our own Executive Director Pattye Comfort. We will have a video celebrating the great work done by local Leagues over the last two years. While our Convention is virtual, we will still have opportunities to meet up with old friends and meet new members.

Who Should Attend Convention? YOU should attend Convention. For seasoned members or new members, Convention is a great opportunity to learn about the League and to find people with shared interests. All League members are invited,

and we will have pre-meetings leading up to Convention on a variety of topics. Only delegates can vote, but all LWV members can participate and observe. It's guaranteed you'll learn some new things and meet plenty of people.

We have many things to accomplish so we can continue to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy. We look forward to seeing you on June 26th to learn about and engage in our collective work. We all know, *Democracy is not a Spectator Sport*.

We look forward to seeing you on Zoom. Stay well, stay safe.

In League,

Handwritten signatures of Elizabeth L. Foster-Nolan and Judy Zaunbrecher in black ink.

Elizabeth Foster-Nolan

Judy Zaunbrecher