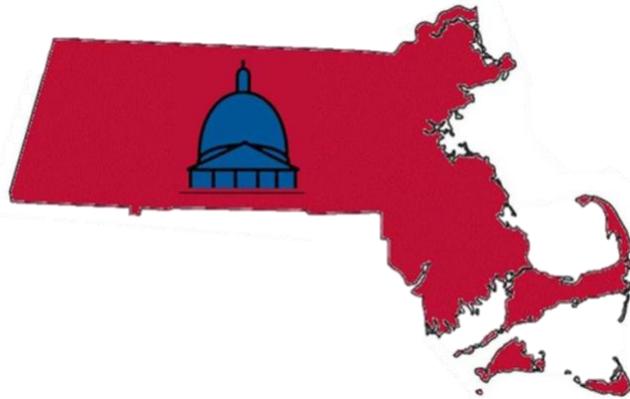




DAY ON THE HILL

Facing the Challenge:

*Voting, Climate, Early Education,
Healthcare*



October 27, 2021
Virtual meeting
10 a.m. – noon

A Message from Our President

Dear League Members,

Welcome and thank you for attending Day on the Hill! Your presence at our lobby day is proof that democracy is not a spectator sport. As we approach the mid-point in Massachusetts' two-year legislative cycle, this is the perfect time to check in with your legislators and let them know your priorities. Nothing makes a stronger impact on legislators than direct contact from constituents.

We are absolutely thrilled to have as our keynote speaker today one of the most powerful people in the legislature— **House Speaker Ron Mariano**.

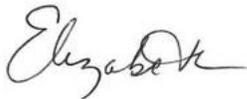
And we are focusing on the need to act now in four key areas: Voting, the Climate Crisis, Early Education, and Healthcare. Our legislative specialists in those areas will outline the reasons we are working so hard on this legislation. We hope you will share those reasons with your Senators and Representatives.

Be sure to attach the document outlining the legislation we are backing to a follow up email to your legislators. When you receive a feedback form after the event, please return it to us promptly.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the LWVMA Legislative Specialists who make up our Legislative Action Committee. Their hard work over the two-year legislative session makes the League's voice effective on Beacon Hill. They identify key legislation, track it over the entire session, testify at hearings, issue calls for action when action is important, and participate in coalitions. The League salutes them!

Although we are holding a virtual Day on the Hill, please know that you embody the spirit of informed citizen activism that powers our democracy.

All the best,



Elizabeth Foster-Nolan
LWVMA President

"The League of Women Voters is the gold standard in advocacy. I tell my staff when they see the League's name among the supporters of something, pay attention."--Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives

Keynote Speaker: Speaker of the House Ronald Mariano

Speaker Mariano (D-Quincy) has represented the 3rd Norfolk District, comprised of Quincy, Weymouth, and Holbrook, in the Massachusetts House of Representatives since 1991. He was elected Speaker of the House in December 2020 after serving as Majority Leader since 2011. As Speaker, his top priority is continuing to bolster the state's COVID-19 pandemic response and position Massachusetts for sustainable, long-term economic recovery.

Throughout his career, Speaker Mariano has been a driving force behind groundbreaking legislation related to health care, criminal justice, gun control, and education. Speaker Mariano was a key architect of the Commonwealth's landmark health care reform of 2006, which went on to serve as a model for the Affordable Care Act.

He led many of the House's conference committee negotiations for bills that established school accountability standards, contained health care cost growth, and reformed the criminal justice system. Speaker Mariano was the lead negotiator in Massachusetts' 2014 gun safety reform and the ban on bump stocks, which have made Massachusetts a national leader in gun safety. Throughout his career he has been an ardent proponent of LGBTQ rights, civil rights, and ensuring access to reproductive justice and women's health care.

Speaker Mariano holds a bachelor's degree from Northeastern University and a master's degree from the University of Massachusetts Boston. He taught in the Quincy Public Schools for 12 years and served as a member of the Quincy School Committee for 18 years.



Schedule:

- 10:00-10:15** Welcome—Elizabeth Foster-Nolan, LWVMA President
Opening Remarks—Patricia Comfort, Executive Director LWVMA
Introductions—Kathy Leonardson, Legislative Action Committee Chair
- 10:15 -10:35** Keynote Address: Speaker of the House Ronald Mariano
- 10:35-11:15** Priority Legislation Panel
- Elections and Voting: [H.805/S.459](#) The Votes Act—Nancy Brumback
 - Climate Change: [H.3302](#) Wind and Renewable Energy—Launa Zimmaro
 - Education: [H.605/S.362](#) Early Education and Childcare—Karen Mazza
 - Healthcare: [H.1267/S.766](#) Medicare for All in Massachusetts —Valentina Pasquantonio

- 11:15-11:20** Lobbying Tips—Jennifer Muroff, Legislative Specialist
- 11:20-11:50** Breakout Rooms to contact your Senator and Representative
(Please look up their phone numbers in advance [here.](#))
- 11:50-12:00** Return; Closing comments.
- After Noon** Please call or email your Senators and Representatives now if you have not yet had a chance to contact them. See the suggested script on p. 7
- Tomorrow** Fill out and return evaluation that will be emailed to you. Thank you!

LWVMA Priority Legislation for 2021-2022:

Election Reform: VOTES Act [H.805/S.459](#) An Act Fostering Voting Opportunities, Trust, Equity, And Security. Sponsors: Rep. John Lawn, Sen. Cynthia Creem

The VOTES Act would make permanent the popular election reforms enacted because of the pandemic, particularly voting by mail and expanded in-person early voting. It would also bring same-day voter registration to Massachusetts, and require corrections facilities to make voting information and absentee ballots available to incarcerated people who are eligible to vote. This bill has passed the Senate. Thank your Senator for voting for it (only the three Republicans voted against). **Ask your Representative to urge House leadership to include same-day voter registration in the bill the House takes up.**

- Same-day voter registration is used in 20 states. It is past time for Massachusetts to get on board with this reform, proven to increase voter turnout.
- Registered voters who discover errors in poll books or omissions from voter lists could cast ballots instead of using problematic provisional ballots. Some states have found that over half of the people using same-day registration are already registered but have a problem; they are not new voters.
- The current voter registration cutoff date of 20 days before an election causes many potential voters to lose their chance to vote.

Environment and Climate Change: Promote offshore wind [H.3302](#) An Act to promote offshore wind energy and renewables. Sponsor: Rep. Dylan A. Fernandes

The Offshore Wind Act allows the Department of Energy Resources to solicit additional offshore wind to meet mandated renewable energy and emissions reductions goals set by the Commonwealth. Wind off the New England coastline is one of the most abundant, reliable offshore wind resources in the world. Massachusetts is positioned to be a leader in building a responsible and vibrant wind industry to address climate change while providing broad economic and public health benefits. Increasing wind energy is popular in the Legislature and the Administration and is expected to move quickly this session.

We need to add our voice to this support when we meet with our legislators, emphasizing the need to reduce emissions, improve public health, build an equitable clean energy economy, and protect natural resources.

- The wind off our shores is **abundant and stronger during winter months**, when energy needs for heating are highest. Our shallow waters are an additional advantage for installation.
- Massachusetts needs offshore wind at scale to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as rapidly as possible; we cannot meet our state targets for emissions reductions without wind energy as a significant part of our renewable energy mix.
- **Wind energy technology is advancing quickly**, accompanied by dramatic decreases in the cost of the technology. Wind energy is technology we can deploy now. The wind industry has been in use in Europe for over 30 years but is a new industry waiting to be developed in the U.S. New England is in a uniquely strong position to lead in the U.S. H.3302 will set the standard for development of environmentally and economically just, responsible and robust growth.

Early Childhood Education and Care: The Common Start bill [H.605/S.362](#) An Act providing affordable and accessible high quality early education and care to promote child development and well-being and support the economy in the Commonwealth. Sponsors: Reps. Kenneth Gordon and Adrian Madaro, Sens. Jason Lewis and Susan Moran

The Common Start bill provides a framework to increase the scope of public investment in early education and child care with an incremental roll-out over 5 years that prioritizes the lowest-income, highest-need families. It would dramatically increase the affordability and quality of early education and child care for all Massachusetts families. The bill's framework uses a combination of direct-to-provider funding and ongoing family financial assistance to reduce costs to families while compensating providers for the true cost of providing quality care.

Affordable Child Care:

- Provides bedrock funding: The legislation would create a new direct-to-provider funding allocation based on provider capacity (not attendance) that directly offsets provider's operating costs, including higher educator pay.
- Provides family subsidy: Once fully implemented, families below 50% of statewide median income (50% of SMI today is \$62,668 for a family of four, or \$42,614 for a single parent with one child) would be able to access early education and child care options for free. Families with incomes above that threshold would pay no more than 7 percent of their total household income.

Quality of Child Care:

- Provides an early education and child care professional development grant program.
- Includes a compensation structure for staff who directly provide early education and care, commensurate with equivalent K-12 teaching positions.

Healthcare: Equitable Health Care Insurance for All Residents of Massachusetts [H.1267/S.766](#) An Act Establishing Medicare* for all in Massachusetts. Sponsors: Rep. Denise C. Garlick, Rep. Lindsay N. Sabadosa and Sen. James Eldridge

This bill establishes a single payer health care insurance to cover all Massachusetts residents under a publicly financed insurance plan. All medical care would be free at the point of service. All doctors and hospitals would be accessible to any resident without restrictions. Fair, progressive taxation would replace premiums, co-pays, and deductibles.

Action: Ask your Senator and Representative to sign on as a sponsor to bring this bill to the floor.

- **This bill solves the inequities in health care coverage among the residents of the Commonwealth.**
- This bill has been carefully crafted over many years with input from many experts, legislators, and legislative study committees. It uses **accepted business practices to look for wasted health care money and eliminate it.** (One example: private health insurance company profits)
- **This bill is complex. Your legislators will need to work to understand it. Help them.** Advise them to read the bill as follows: **First read Section 12 and Section 15 where the bill's goals are defined.** Then Sections 13, 14, 16-22. Finally, Sections 1 to 11 which require expertise in medical billing, economics, and government programs to understand.
- **This medical insurance is unique.** It is an equitable, single payer, business friendly, fiscally responsible solution to health care coverage for all. It takes from many diverse systems and builds a better medical insurance for the Commonwealth.

* Note: Medicare is a misnomer in this context. Medicare has four parts (A, B, C, D). Only part A (hospitalization) is paid by the government. Parts B, C, and D are private insurance from many different insurance companies with some subsidies by the government for low-income individuals. B, C, D all have co-pays, deductibles, and premiums. This bill covers everything (ABCD) in one plan with no deductibles, co-pays, or individual premiums.

These four bills are just the ones chosen to focus on during Day on the Hill. LWVMA is working hard on over 160 bills in our specialists' areas. To see the full list of bills we are following this session, take a look at our website [advocacy list](#).

Tips on Lobbying Virtually

What is Lobbying?

Lobbying is part of participation in the democratic process, an extension of the right to be heard, and is an important form of advocacy and public policy participation. The goal of League lobbying is to produce a vote by a legislator in line with our position. Lobbying to convince a legislator of the merits of your position requires an understanding of the rationale that supports that position. The goal is to influence on the basis of your knowledge and understanding of the issue.

Why is the League Unique When It Comes to Lobbying?

There is no shortage of paid lobbyists and special interests who aggressively try to influence legislators on public policy. State legislators, however, are most responsive to their constituents. They need to know that a specific issue is a priority in their community, and it takes the people who live and work in the community to convince them. League members as constituents are the most credible messengers because the legislators are well aware that the League of Women Voters acts, advocates, and lobbies on positions that have been established through study and consensus.

Before you come to Day on the Hill:

Look up the telephone number for your state Senator and Representative. You can find those numbers [here](#).

Sample Script for lobbying calls:

Since many legislators and staff are working remotely, you are likely to get a voice mailbox. Please leave the message below.

Many legislators share a phone receptionist with a committee; if you get a committee response, just ask for your legislator and you will be transferred.

Sample script:

Hello. My name is _____, and I am (Sen./Rep)_____’s constituent in (town)_____. I’m calling today as part of the League of Women Voters’ lobby day.

We are asking your support for four League priority bills.

First is the VOTES Act, H.805/S.459 *(If calling a Senator)* Thank you for passing the VOTES Act in the Senate.

(If calling a Rep) We encourage you to support same-day voter registration in the House version of the VOTES Act.

To make a difference in the climate change battle, we ask you to support H.3302 to boost offshore wind and renewable energy.

To help all our children, we ask you to support H.605/S.362 The Common Start bill to improve early education and childcare.

And to help all Massachusetts residents, we ask you to support H.1267/S.766 Medicare for All in Massachusetts to improve our health care system.

Please encourage leadership to bring those last three bills out of committee and to the floor for a vote.

I will send a follow-up email with the League's reasons for supporting these four bills.

Thank you for your time.

Text for follow-up email. Send it to your Senator and Representative, and, if you talked to a staff person, to that person as well.

Subject line: LWV priority legislation

I am following up on a call to your office Wednesday as part of the League of Women Voters' lobby day.

I'm asking you to support the League's four priority bills this session:

- ✓ Elections and Voting: The Votes Act H.805/S.459
- ✓ Environment and Climate Change: H.3302 Offshore wind and renewable energy
- ✓ Education: Affordable Early Education and Childcare H.605/S.362 The Common Start bill
- ✓ Healthcare: Medicare for All in Massachusetts H.1267/S.766

(If to a Senator) Senator, thank you for your support of the VOTES Act in the Senate.

(if to a Rep) Representative, we ask that you encourage leadership to make same-day voter registration a part of the House VOTES Act.

We ask that you urge leadership to bring the other three bills out of committee and to the floor for a vote.

Here is a [link to a fact sheet](#) with some of the League's reasons for supporting these bills.

Thank you for your consideration.

(Your name and full street address)

Thank you for your lobbying efforts! You make a difference!

Legislative Action Committee

The Legislative Action Committee is made up of specialists in various areas who identify key legislation, recommend League support or opposition, track the bills through the legislative session, lobby legislators and committees, prepare and present written and oral testimony, and recommend and prepare action alerts when needed.

Legislative Specialists encourage League members who are interested in closely following an area of legislation or a specific bill, to contact them and be added to that specialist's "team" for notifications of committee hearings and other activities related to specific legislation.

We also have a Legislative Envoy program. Volunteer envoys provide a direct link between the Legislative Action Committee and local Leagues, so that local Leagues can help influence the legislators who represent them. See Program description [here](#). If you are interested, contact Envoy Coordinator Mary Cummings at mcummings@lwwma.org.

Kathy Leonardson, LAC Chair
Nancy Brumback, LAC Vice-Chair

Legislative Specialists

Affordable Housing—Clare Gordon, Lori Stewart
Agriculture, Casino Gambling--Louise Haldeman
Basic Human Needs—Clare Gordon
Children and Family Issues—Palma McLaughlin
Criminal Justice and Courts—Nancy Bettinger, Lucy Costa
Education (Finance)—Mary Frantz
Education (Higher Education)—Susan Loffredo
Education (Policy)—Karen Mazza
Elder Affairs—Pat Costello
Elections and Voting—Nancy Brumback, Linda Freedman
Environment: Climate Change and Energy—Launa Zimmaro
Environment: Natural Resources—Carolyn Lee
Fiscal Policy--June Michaels
Good Governance—Carolyn Lee
Gun Control—Jennifer Muroff, Sue McCalley
Health Care—Janice Goodell, Valentina Pasquantonio
Immigration—Jennifer Muroff
Racial Justice—Jennifer Muroff, Vedna Lacombe-Heywood
Transportation—Tanya Roy, Lois Levin
Women's Issues—Jan Soma, Susan Loffredo

To reach any of the Legislative Specialists, email specialists@lwwma.org.

Additional Online Resources

The Citizen Lobbyist A handbook on how the legislature works and how to lobby effectively
[The Citizen Lobbyist Handbook – League of Women Voters of Massachusetts \(lwvma.org\)](https://www.lwvma.org/citizen-lobbyist)

Legislation LWVMA supports/opposes A complete list of the bills LWVMA is working on this session, with League testimony on them
[League-Supported/Opposed Legislation 2021-2022 – League of Women Voters of Massachusetts \(lwvma.org\)](https://www.lwvma.org/legislation)

Advocacy Toolkit A variety of resources on League advocacy
[Advocacy Toolkit – League of Women Voters of Massachusetts \(lwvma.org\)](https://www.lwvma.org/advocacy-toolkit)

Information on Massachusetts Legislature — <https://malegislature.gov/>

How to find your legislator — <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>

State Senators (email address, phone, room number) — <https://malegislature.gov/People/Senate>

State Representatives (email address, phone, room number) — <https://malegislature.gov/People/House>

Legislative Committees — <https://malegislature.gov/Committees>

Status of Current Legislation — [Bills & Laws \(malegislature.gov\)](https://malegislature.gov/Bills%20&%20Laws)

Legislative Schedule, Committee Hearings — <https://malegislature.gov/Events>