

## **LWV CAPE COD AREA CELEBRATES BARNSTABLE HIGH SCHOOL CIVICS DAY**

Barnstable High School organized their first Civics Day for the presentation of student-led civics projects on June 15. Students from 35 classes and 11 teachers presented their projects displayed throughout the school library from 8 AM to 2 PM. A ceremony was held from 10:30 to 11 to recognize the achievement of all the students and teachers who participated in these projects, and to feature the work of five students who spoke about their work. As one small part of that celebration, LWVCCA was invited to speak briefly and present certificates of achievement to these five students, and to be distributed later, classroom certificates for each teacher and the sections they taught.

Topics ranged from school based issues such as gender inclusive bathrooms, vaping, peer mediation, the dress code to large social issues such as homelessness, affordable housing, teenage mental health, and substance abuse. Town and state officials, and community members were invited to attend and listen to the student presentations. Thank you to the several members of the LWVCCA and a representative each from the Falmouth and Plymouth Leagues who attended. Special thanks to Co-President Jeanne Morrison for attending. A special News coverage of the event can be found [here](#).

Barnstable High School has worked with Generation Citizen to implement the curriculum that supports the development of these action civics projects. The school, under the leadership of Ginny Turner, Social Studies Coordinator, began piloting the Generation Citizen curriculum four years ago in Grade 8 and Grade 11. For the 2021-2022 school year, BHS received a grant from the Civics Project Trust Fund (part of the 2018 state legislation to enhance civic education and engagement) that allowed them to train all of their Social Studies teachers. They are the first school on the Cape to be able to offer a full scale Civics Day featuring student-led civics projects.

The Youth Service Committee of the LWVCCA developed a relationship with Barnstable High School three years ago by working with the Social Studies Coordinator, and asking their pilot teachers how we might assist them. The teachers explained that it was sometimes challenging to help students become familiar with issues in the larger community. This inspired our committee to develop the Cape Cod Civic Resource Directory for Student-led Civics Projects, [CIVIC RESOURCE DIRECTORY](#) which we subsequently gave to all high schools on the Cape. We then renewed our relationship with BHS this year, after hearing that they had received the grant, to see if we could assist them with a celebration event, as audience members, or judges or in the presentation of certificates. BHS chose to invite us as an audience and to present the certificates. Our involvement as a League has been as a light partner on the side. Barnstable High School and their Social Studies Department deserves all the credit for their implementation of the Massachusetts action civics curriculum and LWVCCA congratulates Ms. Turner, the teachers and students for their outstanding work.