



# **THE CAPE COD VOTER**

**VOLUME 57 ISSUE 2**

**OCTOBER 2016**

## **CALENDAR**

**Tuesday October 4  
9:30am**

**Board Meeting  
Cape Cod Five, Dennis Branch**

**Saturday October 15  
9:00am - Noon**

**DEBATES -- State Senate and  
U.S. 9th Congressional District  
Tilden Auditorium CCCC**

**Friday October 21  
10am**

**DEBATE -- County Commissioners  
Cape Media Center, Dennis**

**Saturday October 22  
TBA**

**Consensus Meeting, Charter Schools  
*Time, location and further information to follow***

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

**Tuesday, November 1  
9:30am**

**Board Meeting  
Cape Cod Five, Dennis Branch**

**Tuesday November 8  
7am - 8pm**

**ELECTION DAY**

**[www.lwvcapecod.org](http://www.lwvcapecod.org)**

**Election on the horizon --**  
**IMPORTANT VOTER SERVICE EVENTS COMING UP**

*From Chris Meade and Debbie Beal, Voter Service Co-Chairs*

**CANDIDATES DEBATES**

**On Saturday, October 15**, from 9:00 to 11:30am, at Cape Cod Community College Tilden Arts Center, LWVCCA will cosponsor, with the Cape Cod Times, two separate candidate debates. Nancy Carapezza, a League member from Wayland, will moderate both.

In Part I, from 9:00 to 10:00, the two **candidates for Massachusetts State Senator** will debate. They are Julian Cyr (D) and Anthony Schiavi (R).

In Part II, from 10:15 to 11:30 **candidates for the US House of Representatives 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District** will debate. They are incumbent William Keating (D) and Mark Alliegro (R), Christopher Cataldo (I) and Paul Harrington (I).

**On Friday, October 21 at 10am** -- the four candidates for County Commissioner will debate at the Media Center in Dennis. Running for two open seats are: Mary Pat Flynn, Mark Forest, Linda Bond and Ron Beaty. Florence Seldin will moderate. The program will be recorded live and will be replayed on local channels 98 and 99.

**On Wednesday, October 26**, *Florence is working with the Brewster Community Network to moderate a debate/or interview format on October 26<sup>th</sup> for the 2 Assembly Delegate candidates. Details still being worked out on this event. Just affects Brewster voters.*

**VOTER REGISTRATION EVENTS**

On September 24, LWVCCA participated in the Healthy Harvest Celebration sponsored by the Harbor Community Health Center in Hyannis. Debbie Beal, Freddie FitzGerald, Anita Rogers, Chris Meade and Richard Utt staffed the table, assisted 3 participants with registering to vote and shared information about the upcoming elections and debates.

**On Tuesday, October 4 and Wednesday October 12**, we will hold voter registration events at Cape Cod Community College. To maximize our exposure on the campus, we will have simultaneous set ups at two locations from 11 am to 2 pm and 5:30 to 7:30 pm.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members~

October is a transition month. I change my summer clothes to the cozy sweaters and jeans that have been in a plastic bin since May. I finally give up my flip flops for socks and short boots. The way the sun shines into the windows forces me to turn on the living room lamp before the sun is down. It's a good month to consider what's next. In the next weeks our League will sponsor debates, voter registration and anticipate our charter school study. As individuals we will educate ourselves about ballot questions, candidates and the impact of our choices on the future. My message this month is a collection of perhaps random thoughts and ideas about past, present and future. Perhaps somewhat disconnected but all part of a thread that ties them to the mission and principles of the League.

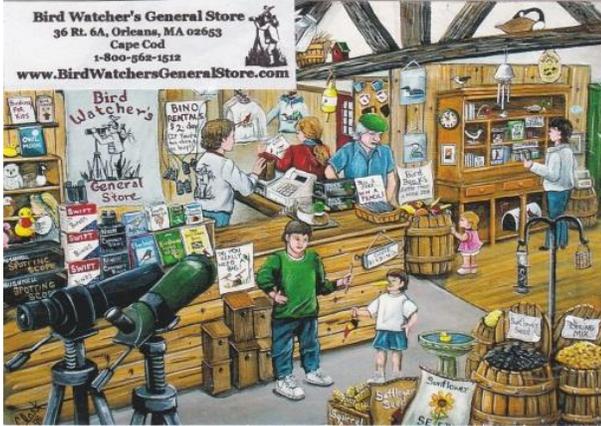
In the past few weeks we again watched as black citizens were killed and communities gathered to grieve and protest. We heard racist rhetoric dismissed as only inappropriate...a group of citizens referred to as deplorables...and refugees as poisonous candy. When we pause to look at the months that have passed in 2016, it is hard to remember or even imagine a time that has been defined by such dark, uncivil dialogue and social discord. In September I attended the LWVMA Leaders Luncheon. The women and men I met there reflected the integrity and commitment to civil education and advocacy that defines the League of Women Voters. Our work today is as important as it was a century ago. Participating in our democracy with an informed and civil voice can be a force to move the narrative away from hate, bias and fear to understanding, compassion and respect.

I was troubled recently when I learned my 18-year-old high school senior granddaughter didn't know she can register to vote in the November 18 election because she thought that, having just turned 18 in late August, she had missed the voter registration deadline (which *was* the case for the primary). Why doesn't she have that information? I looked for a League in her community and there isn't one. Why? Recently I received a call to volunteer for a specific candidate. When I explained that as President of the LWVCCA I could not openly support a specific party's candidate, the young person on the other end of the phone had no idea what the League was. These two different yet disappointing incidents once again made it clear to me that the League's focus on civic education and voter service is as important today as it was at our founding. Our veteran members are the foundation of this work. What are our stories? How did LWVCCA come to exist: What do we need to do to be a vibrant force in the future of the Cape, the Commonwealth, our democracy?

At the leaders luncheon, the chair of the LWVMA nominating committee talked about opening the League to potential new members who represent a variety of experiences and points of view. I agree that this is necessary in order for the League to be relevant as we move deeper into the 21st century. This is necessary to continue to be a strong voice at the table.

Thank you for inspiring me by your commitment to the mission and principles of the League of Women Voters, the LWVCCA and the future of our democracy. I look forward to seeing you at our debates, helping with voter registration events and participating in our charter school study.

Happy October!  
**Scotti Finnegan**



**Russell P. Morris**  
*Owner*

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Jon Vaughan

A gallery with a different point of view

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

*From Renate Sands*

Even though the legislative session ended on July 31 of this year, the Senate and House continue to do business. Gov. Baker also has signed into law several bills passed by both houses.

### The Governor signed into law:

- \$1Billion Economic Development Package-Allows the state to borrow money over a five-year period as part of an economic development package. The biggest ticket item is \$500 million for MassWorks infrastructure grant program.
- Modernizing Local Government – The bill is aimed at modernizing municipal finance and government. It also eliminates antique laws and encourages the use of technology.
- Energy – Requires utilities to contract for 1.200 megawatts of solar, wind and hydropower.

The Governor proposed 256 vetoes of spending in the recently signed \$38.92 billion 2017 budget. The following vetoes have been overridden by both branches:

- Reduction of the House and Senate Operation Budget
- Eliminate proposed funding for pre-kindergarten and pre-school (\$200,000)
- Eliminate the funding for teen dating violence (\$150,000)
- Reduce funding for one-stop career centers (\$262,400)
- Reduce funding for youth violence prevention (\$60,00)
- Reduce funding for people with disabilities by \$2.9 million
- Eliminate entire \$150,000 for Down Syndrome Programs
- Reduce Funding for Tufts Veterinary School by \$2 million

The above information came from the “Beacon Hill Roll Call” prepared by Bot Katzen



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## “CITIZENS UNITED” FILM TO BE SHOWN IN BARNSTABLE

LWVCCA member **Jan Hively** last spoke to us in June about a questionnaire to be sent to all candidates for the state legislature to determine their positions on the Cape’s most pressing environmental problems--and their recommended solutions. The board unanimously approved our participation. Twenty-two candidates received the questionnaire, ten replied.

Jan has recently written recommending **Pay2Play**, a new film documentary about the corrupting influence of money in politics (read *Citizens United*) -- and what individuals and groups can do to make a difference. Featuring Robert Reich, Lawrence Lessig, Noam Chomsky and a number of other thoughtful commentators, the film will be presented on Friday, October 21st 7pm (sharp) at the Unitarian Meeting House on Route 6A in Barnstable Village. Senator Dan Wolf will offer remarks and lead a Q and A.

For more information on Pay2Play, or to view the complete environmental questionnaire with candidates’ answers, please contact Jan at [HIVEL001@umn.edu](mailto:HIVEL001@umn.edu).



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## HEALTH: LEGALIZE RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA???

**Question 4 on the ballot November 8** would permit the possession, use, distribution and cultivation of marijuana in limited amounts by people over age 21. The Health Committee suggests members may wish to listen to a debate on WBUR, 89.1 or 92.7 on October 4 at 3pm. The question likely will also be raised at our candidates debates on October 15 and elsewhere.

## SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING NOTES

*From Joan Bernstein, Board Secretary*

>The LWVCCA Board held its first meeting of the new season on September 9 and approved the minutes of the June meeting and the Treasurer's report. Members pushed hard over the summer to increase the number of ads to appear in The Voter this year--resulting in \$1450 in revenue, half of which will go to Ed Trust. Currently the LWVCCA has 72 members, 2 of whom are new.

>Karen Mazza announced plans for the first membership meeting at Cape Cod Community College on September 15, 2016, focusing on the issue of Charter Schools which will be a ballot question in November. Dan Wolf has been invited to outline the compromise bill that was passed by the Senate but not the House.

>Karen also summarized plans for the Jimmy Tingle fundraiser on September 25 to benefit the Civic Education grant program. Phyllis Koppel is handling publicity.

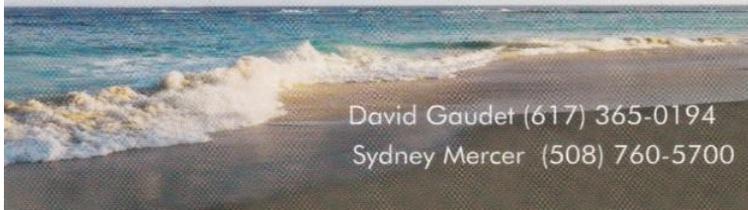
>The Charter School question on the ballot will be studied by our League members on October 22 beginning at 10 am. All members are encouraged to come (and plan to bring a bag lunch since the meeting may go into the afternoon).

> Richard Utt kindly offered to maintain the LWVCCA's Facebook page.

>HELP! The Board is looking for a volunteer to take over custody of our PA system from Renate Sands. The next meeting of the Board will be Tuesday, October 4 at 9:30 at the Dennis branch of Cape Cod Five on Rte 134. Members are welcome to attend.



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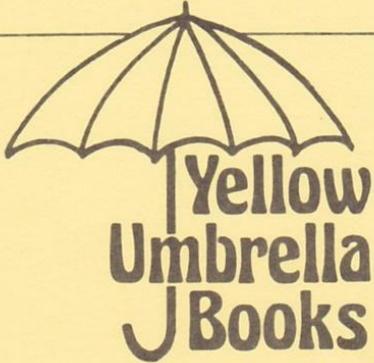
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**ADDENDUM:**

Re consensus study on charter schools ballot question

This is a state league study in which LWVCCA has agreed to participate. If the timing seems somewhat odd to you, with a ballot vote coming up on November 8, please note that the study, and the materials we will be working with, are not related to the ballot question in any way. The League has taken no stand on that question ~ precisely because we do not have a position on charter schools. The vote to conduct the study was taken at the 2015 State convention, well before the ballot question petition was filed. The purpose of our present study is to develop a position so that, in the future, the League can be a part of this important conversation. --ED.