

Report of the Steering Committee June 2021 to May 2022

Our last Annual Meeting was held June 13, 2021. Due to COVID pandemic concerns, it was held remotely on Zoom. We voted to maintain our Non-Partisanship Policy as is and approved the 2021-2022 budget.

The LWV of Melrose held nine Steering and Planning Committee Meetings. The meeting dates and zoom link were sent to all members who were welcomed to attend.

Victorian Fair: September 12, 2021

After two years of COVID, the Victorian Fair was finally held and the LWV of Melrose had a booth. Although we did not register too many voters, several people expressed gratitude for the LWV being present.

Candidate's Night for School Committee Candidates. October 20, 2021

In October, we hosted a zoom Candidates Night for several candidates for School Committee. The tapped Forum was aired on MMTV with online links for streaming.

Vote411 Page

Anne DeSouza Ward ventured into the world of on-line Voter Information by constructing information on the Vote411 page. Although this first venture was limited due to uncontested seats, this does open up an online forum for the League. It's a new concept for us to host an online voter guide, so we will work to improve the process and participation rate in the future.

Rank Choice Voting Presentation

Keith Lovett joined our November 15th Steering Committee Meeting to discuss Rank Choice Voting (RCV). Keith presented a compelling argument to move to RCV since this would allow people to vote for candidates they truly support; not just candidates they think have a better chance at election. This supports a LWVMA support of State House and Senate Bills.

MAAV Contribution and Participation in the MAAV Walk

The LWV of Melrose was represented on the MAAV Walk. We contributed \$1,470 to this annual walk.

LWV of Melrose Review of By Law Revisions

Anne DeSouza Ward made changes to the LWV of Melrose by laws. These changes are composed of:

- Required statements that LWVUS and LWVMA have directed to be made
- Bylaw amendment that was passed in 2007, but not yet incorporated into the document
- Small by-law changes that supported amended changes

These have been reviewed by the Steering Committee and are ready for presentation at Annual Meeting.

Archive Project

The bulk of the documents that were in storage have been scanned and are now in digital format. The materials are from 1949 to 2012. These materials include bulletins, newspaper articles, photographs, flyers, pamphlets and parts of LWV of Melrose directories. Next steps will be discussed at the Annual Meeting.

Legislation Supported by LWV of Melrose

Although we have been largely working remotely, we have encouraged our members to contact our officials in support of several Local, State and Federal issues. These were predominantly concerned with voting laws and climate change.

Proposed library updates with an estimated cost of \$20 million was only partially funded. The rest must be bonded. Encouraged members to contact their city councilors to support a bonding for the remainder of the funds.

Encouraged members to support climate bills

- o H3302 (offshore wind and renewables)
- o S2166: Enhanced renewable resources
- o H.3350/S. 2202 Building and energy decarbonization
- o H.3298/S.2158: Future of Heat (gas utilities)

Supported Votes Act on the State Level (including same day registration, which unfortunately did not make it to legislation)

Supported the John E. Lewis Voting Rights Legislation (Federal)

Supported state Rank Choice Voting legislation H825/S485