

Examples of Student Led Civics Projects in AP Politics and Government

**Wayland High School
Spring 2021**

Voting

Who Can Vote?

- Requirements for state and federal elections
 - Naturalized U.S Citizen
 - Meet the resident requirements of the state
 - 18 years of age by election day
 - Registered as a voter before the state's deadline (unless living in North Dakota where registration is not required)
- Conditions which disqualify voters
 - Non-U.S citizen/Permanent resident

Voting in Local Elections

Hi Eva,

If there are any students who would like to work the election or town meeting. Last I looked, I needed 6-7 people for town meeting each day (Saturday, May 15th and Sunday, May 16th, 10am to about 6pm and if necessary Monday, May 17th -4pm to 11pm.) For the election, Tuesday, May 11th, I need someone from 1:30pm-8pm at the Middle School. I have 6 (out of 8) openings to tally the election results from 8:30pm until done (usually done in 2 hours or less) on election night. I would training individually and need the person(s) to be registered voters for tallying. I have 2-3 openings at town hall and 3 openings at the middle school. I anticipate at least one write-in candidate for Recreation as there are two openings and one person on the ballot (a second person who took out nomination papers was not certified to appear on the ballot). There will be a number of ballots for that position that will be hand counted. I anticipate a low turnout given there are only 2 contested races (DPW and School Committee).

Here are the sign up links for both:

Town Election: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040848aeac2eabfe3-tuesday>

Town Meeting: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040848aeac2eabfe3-2021>

Please let me know if there is any interest, and thank you for all of the student help with the State/Presidential election—our two person office rolled right into it form the State Primary and Town Meeting it was a 7 days per week, morning, afternoon, and evening with an unprecedented number of vote by mail ballots.

Thanks.

Anna Ludwig
Clerk

Ranked Choice Voting

In November 2020, Massachusetts voters rejected a ballot question implementing Ranked Choice Voting by nearly ten percentage points. That being said; we still believe that implementing ranked choice is in the best interest of the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

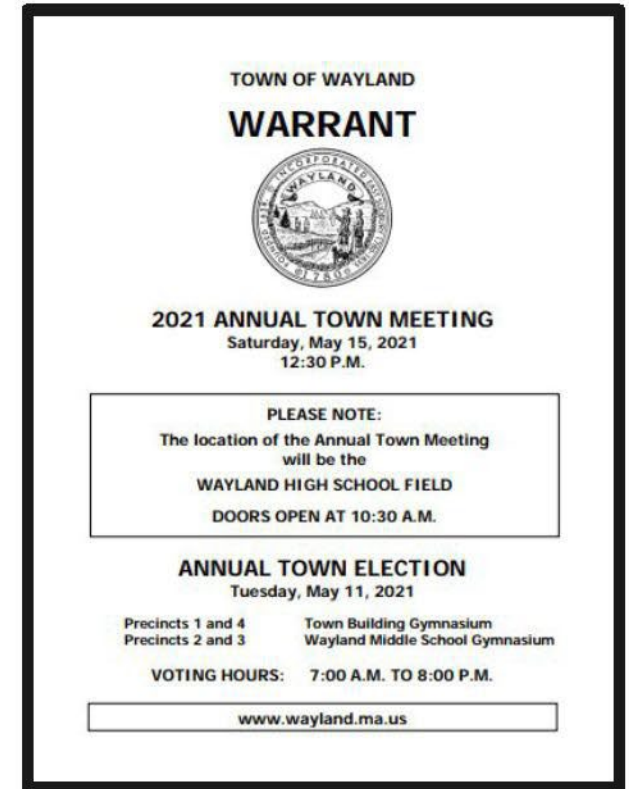
The Need for Ranked Choice Voting

In the first election after voters rejected ranked choice voting, a "Reagan Democrat" won the Democratic

Students, Town Meeting and Voting in Local Elections

Our Goals and Actions

- We hoped to get student attendance at Wayland's Annual Town Meeting, and for eligible students (registered voters over 18) to vote on articles being discussed.
- We researched the Town Meeting Warrant to identify meeting articles which would interest Wayland students.
 - Wayland High is a school which has a civically minded student body and a culture of sports participation.
 - With these characteristics in mind, we noted with particular interest three articles: one called for the town to declare a climate emergency, the second called for the creation of a Human Rights Committee in town, and the third proposed a turf field installation at the Loker Conservation Area
- To alert students of these articles, we sent an email to our class noting these articles and encouraging students to attend and vote if possible.



Warrant used for research

Effects of our Actions

- Attendance at town meeting was high. Pictured in the bottom right are 4 Wayland High School seniors, equipped with their Town Meeting Warrants.
- Two Wayland Seniors voiced their opinions in favor of declaring a climate crisis in Wayland, ensuring passage of an important declaration of a climate emergency. This ensures the town takes steps to confront the growing crisis of climate change. It also demonstrates to students in attendance that Town Meeting decisions can positively impact the community.
- Unfortunately, student opinion in favor of a turf field was not overwhelming, and the effort was voted against.



Good attendance



Microphone from which students spoke



Climate Activism



Student Making a Speech at Town Meeting

Lunch Bunch

Hey! Yeah you! Come join the Lunch Bunch!

May 27, 2021



While lunch period may be a small break from academics for some students, that time can be magical for students in room B127: home of the special education classroom and the “Lunch Bunch” club. Students who join the Lunch Bunch club work to foster relationships between students in the special education (SpEd) program and those in the general education program by sharing lunch periods to converse, play games and bond over similar interests.

Footed by study hall teacher Janet Carmichael and special education teachers Diane Camozzi and Mary Edwards, the club began in 2018 when Carmichael realized that the high school lacked a program that bridged the social gap between special education and general education students. Carmichael recruited



Credit: [Courtesy of Janet Carmichael](#)

The 2019 Lunch Bunch club members join in room B127 for a Thanksgiving dinner. “My favorite experience has been forming relationships with people—which doesn’t just happen in one single moment,” junior Jonny Goldin said. “It takes time to form any kind of connection with anybody, and all that time I’ve spent forming these relationships is my personal favorite experience at the club.”

“ There’s something special about going from just seeing people in your classes to eating lunch with them and being able to actually interact with them as a friend”



Study hall teacher and creator of the Lunch

“There isn’t much different difference between the kids,” Carmichael said. “When you boil it down, kids are kids and they all want to belong, have friends and socialize.”

Expanding Voting Rights to Noncitizens

THE 192ND GENERAL COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

[Bills & Laws](#) [Budget](#) [Legislators](#) [Hearings & Events](#) [Committee](#)

★ **BILL H.828**
192nd (Current)

AN ACT ENABLING CITIES AND TOWNS TO EXTEND VOTING RIGHTS IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS TO CERTAIN NONCITIZENS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

By Mr. Rogers of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 828) of David M. Rogers, Elizabeth A. Malia and Lindsay N. Sabadosa for legislation to enable cities and towns to extend voting rights in municipal elections to certain non-citizens of the Commonwealth. Election Laws.

The Case For 'All Resident' Voting

February 27, 2019

By [Iván Espinoza-Madrigal](#) and [Lauren Sampson](#)



Voters fill the booths at a polling station in Watertown, Mass. (Robin Lubbock/WBUR)

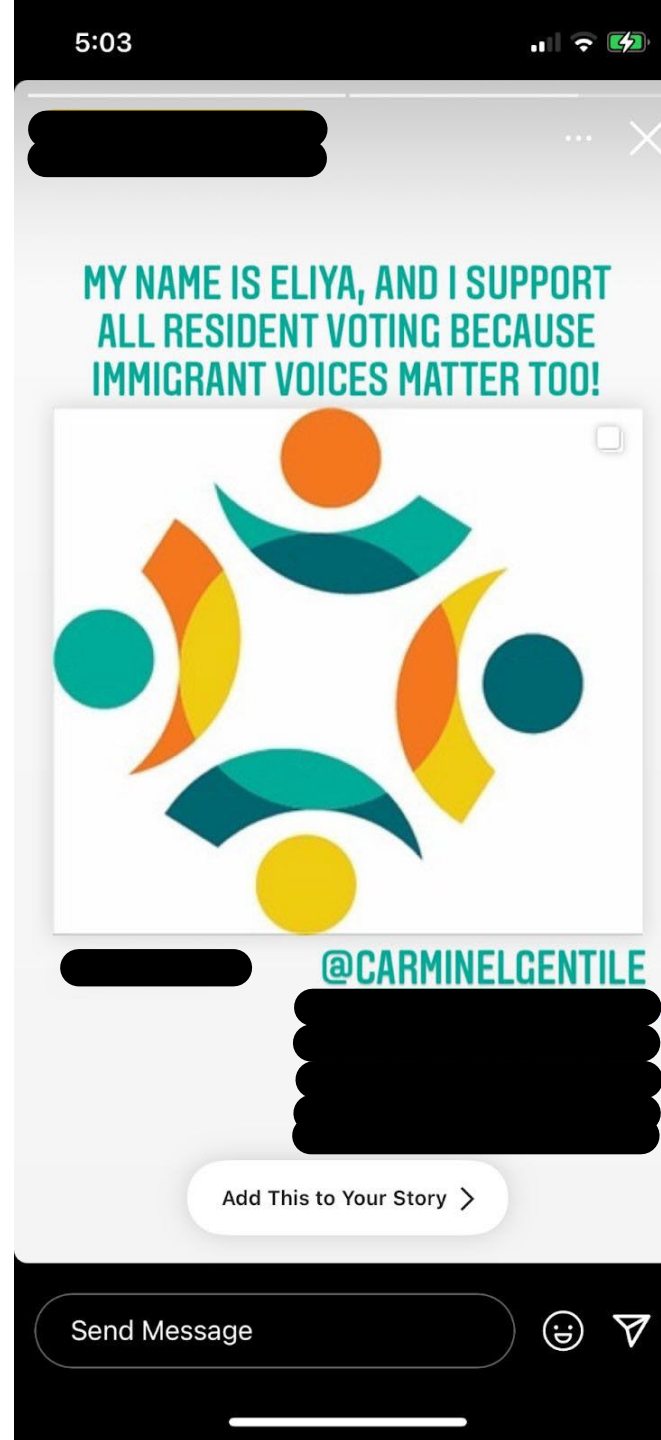
Wayland Town Meeting article calls for expanding voting rights

Meetings with Riley

Riley Shaffer is a representative from La Colaborativa who led us through the action steps necessary to get involved with the group. During the meetings, we discussed various ways for us to get involved and she taught us the process in which bills are passed at the state level.

Social Media

During our workshop, the usage of social media to spread the word about our efforts was instilled on to us. As a result, we posted on our Instagram stories to spread awareness for all resident voting. To the right, there is what we posted.



Direct Outreach

Dear Representative Gentile,

I am writing as an advocate/constituent from Wayland, MA to urge you to cosponsor Reclaim the Vote, [SD. 465 /HD. 770](#). COVID-19 has illuminated social and health inequities in our communities, specifically among our most vulnerable populations. As we have been advocating and supporting our communities, we have been made increasingly aware that our most vulnerable populations impacted by the social, economic, and health consequences of COVID-19 are the populations with the least representation, no voice, and no vote.

[SD. 465 /HD. 770](#), sponsored by Senator Eldridge, Representative Connolly, Representative Elugardo, and Representative Barber ensures that residents, contributing community members, and neighbors with legal immigration status have the right to vote in municipal elections.

- Noncitizens are contributing members of our community that work in our communities, pay taxes in our communities, and send their children to school districts within our communities. Yet, they have no voice in advocating for their needs or their families needs. [SD. 465 /HD. 770](#) recognizes that these community members have demonstrated commitment and have significant stake in their communities; they deserve the right to vote locally.
- It is estimated that there are 478,000 noncitizens living in Massachusetts meaning that there are nearly half a million people in our state that do not have the right to vote, the right to representation, and the ability to participate in true democracy.

Personally, I do not have experience with the inability to vote; however, I recognize the helplessness that many Massachusetts residents face as they are being taxed, but not represented.

We hope that you join the movement to Reclaim the Vote and co-sponsor [SD. 465 /HD. 770](#). I'm happy to discuss any questions you might have. For more information, please see the bill's Fact Sheet.

I'd love to discuss this issue further with you if you please. For more information, please see the bill's [Fact Sheet](#).

Thank you so much for reading and for your support,



Becca Rausch

Massachusetts State Senator



Carmine Gentile

Massachusetts State Representative



What did we learn?

- The importance of participating in civic action work because we talked directly with people who benefit from the work we did.
- The effect that voting has on immigrant populations.
- How bills are enacted specifically in the state of Massachusetts.
- The difference between grassroots and direct lobbying.
- Various ways to impact state legislature (emails, social media, conversation).