

Winter/Spring 2022 NCE and LWV-Needham Civic Series

The Needham Community Education program and the League of Women Voters of Needham are collaborating to present the following 4-part Civics Series. Sessions are open to all who want to be more engaged and informed about these important national issues. The Sessions will be presented using Zoom, with registrants participating remotely. Sessions are \$15 each or \$45 for the 4-part series.

The Civics Series

The Current State of Voting Rights and Recent History

Virtual

Cathy Dowd

We are currently in the midst of a national debate on voting rights, and on whether we should act to prevent voter fraud or should try to make voting as easy and accessible as possible. What voting rights are guaranteed by federal law as currently interpreted by the Supreme Court? Is there any evidence to back up claims of voter fraud, and what are states doing in the name of preventing it? What might bills currently before Congress do either to protect voting rights or to federalize elections? Limited to 35.

Date: Tuesday, January 25

Time: 7:30-9:00 PM

Fee: \$15

How Democratic is the U.S.? An Examination of the Electoral College and Redistricting

Cathy Dowd

Virtual

Skilled players of any game know that mastery of the rules is critical to winning, and that changes to the rules can benefit some players over others. In this class, we will examine the Electoral College, its impact on the value of each vote and the behavior of candidates. We will also review past attempts to reform the system and prospects for future reform. Like the Electoral College, redistricting also impacts the value of each vote and the behavior of elected officials and campaigns. We will try our hand at gerrymandering and discuss ways that some states have pursued reform. Limited to 35.

Date: Tuesday, February 15

Time: 7:30-9:00 PM

Fee: \$15

Equity and Economic Mobility in a Post-Covid World

Virtual

Samantha Perry

Participate in an engaging evening with the Deputy Director of the Office of Economic Empowerment for the Massachusetts State Treasury. We will discuss pay equity, the growing wealth gap in Massachusetts, and how it was impacted due to COVID-19. You will learn about the findings of the 2021 EqualPayMA Roundtable Series, which looked at the number of women, particularly women of color, who left the workforce in 2020. You will also hear about other insights relating to economic growth for individuals across the state. Participants will then participate in a "jam session" where they can share ideas on creating an economy that allows all residents to thrive in the future. Limited to 35.

Date: Tuesday, March 22

Time: 7:30-9:00 PM

Fee: \$15

Money in Politics

Virtual

Cathy Dowd

Why is more money being spent on political campaigns? What impact does it have, and can anything be done to limit it? This class will examine the Supreme Court cases that have shaped the role of money in politics as well as the impact these have had on campaigns. We will cover super PACs and dark money, including how these have changed the political landscape. We will also learn how to find information about the campaign financing of candidates and the donations of individuals and interest groups. Limited to 35.

Date: Tuesday, April 5

Time: 7:30-9:00 PM

Fee: \$15

Full Series: \$45

Register: Online at <http://nce.reg.elevo.com> or by phone, (781) 455-0400 ext. 5.