HEALTHY PEOPLE — IMPROVED MEDICARE 4 ALL — HEALTHY DEMOCRACY

LWV Health Care Reform Interest Group

November 2026 Newsletter

MISSION

To educate and mobilize League members to work toward legislation and other reforms that enact the goals of our LWVUS health care position, with a strong focus on expanded and improved Medicare for All.

Now is the Time for Medicare for ALL. (Is it?)



Is there enough momentum to push Medicare for All (M4A) over the finish line?

On the one hand: The election was decisive: there was plenty to vote against, but also a lot we were voting for. Democracy was on the ballot – and also health care reform. The No-Kings lobby is sending more representatives to Congress with respect for science and evidence-based health care.

Many in the next Congress (and elected officials in the states) refused corporate sponsors, so will have less tolerance for rampant conflicts of interest and runaway profits in health care. In their campaign rhetoric, candidates like El-Sayed and Jackson connected the dots for their constituents – showing sincere support for Medicaid and other public health spending as a way to keep rural hospitals and nursing homes alive. They want to ensure that important facilities like emergency departments and birthing centers will thrive, and care will remain available for our aging parents and our grandchildren. We will have louder voices for a public system that can help the poor but will also be more humane for a wider range of the electorate.

Also encouraging is a resurgence of civic engagement and compassionate care in communities everywhere. People have mobilized rapid-response teams at the local level to protect the health and safety of their immigrant neighbors against ICE damage.

On the other hand: Only 50% of the electorate voted. While that's an historic high, the No-Kings' decisive 56% (of 50%) is less than a third of the population. The new Congress promises not to be a rubber stamp for a lawless executive – but how much can it do alone? The judiciary is still hit or miss as guardians of the Constitution, and we have not yet seen the bipartisan solidarity for a veto-proof majority. **Is the mandate strong enough to heal a sicker population with a declining life expectancy?** So many threats to our health care remain, such as

--The uninsured population is set for a dramatic rise after Jan. 1 from the cruel 2025 budget bill which postponed huge cuts to public insurance until "after the midterms." Lack of insurance translates directly into higher mortality in preventable deaths.

--Fossil fuel pollution, wars, and rising global temperatures continue on a collision course for more and bigger health disasters – fires and floods – with the Federal Emergency Management Agency defunded and politicized for the foreseeable future.

--Hyper-aggressive immigration policy is sowing unnecessary fear and harm among residents of all ages. Indiscriminate detention and removal of healthcare workers (from home aides to surgeons and skilled nursing) reduce our capacity to cope with a sicker populace. The severe understaffing that results forces premature retirements from burnout among those who are left.

--Likewise, there is no quick fix for decades without investment in housing which continues to take about 20 years off the life expectancy of a growing number of unhoused Americans.

--Not just less food subsidy, the U.S. agriculture and our food supply is reeling from indiscriminate tariffs and loss of a foreign-born workforce.

--Public health safeguards of our food and defenses against fatal infectious diseases are in the hands of leaders who discount science and experience.

--Corruption and reckless spending have ballooned the national debt by 25% in the last 10 years.

So while we have good reason to HOPE, we cannot exhale yet.

Submitted by Barbara Pearson

Newsletter Staff: Barbara Pearson & Candy Birch

Oct 25 Mtg

CA – Ginny Anders-Elmore
CA – Jon Li
CA – Anton Prange
CO – Marilyn Ayers
CO – Elaine Branjord
CO – Linda Mahan
CO – Pamela Parks
FL – Candy Birch
KY -- Harriette Seiler
KY – Kay Tillow
MA – Laura Duncan
MA – Barbara Pearson
NY – Susan Beckly
NY – Judy Esterquest
NY – Alberta Roman
NY – Marguerite Uphoff
NY – Dorothy Wrase Hares
VT – Mary Alice Bisbee
VT – Jean Hopkins
VA -- Stephanie Lowenhaupt
WA – Mary Lynne Courtney
Wi – Sheila Mitchell

NEXT MEETING | Sunday Oct. 25 | 8:00 p.m. | https://tinyurl.com/HCR-Nov22

HEALTHY PEOPLE IMPROVED MEDICARE 4 ALL HEALTHY DEMOCRACY

In Case You Missed It

Oct 25— HCR4US provides meeting minutes, video, and audio and supplementary materials with Action links.

Nov 14— Physicians for a National Health Program hosted a national convention. Dr. Miranda Yaver delivered a plenary address. Dr. Adam Gaffney presented its Health Policy Update. Another segment is here.

NBC Chicago covered the Medicare for All Rally in Chicago.





HCR4US Websites

HCR4US Toolkit:
https://lwvhealthcarereform.org

HCR4US YouTube Channel:
https://www.youtube.com/c/LWVHealthCareReform

HCR4US Web-Contact Form:
https://tinyurl.com/Contact-LWV-HCR-4US

League Update Newsletter Sign Up:
https://www.lwv.org/league-management/league-update-newsletter-sign

Networking

One Payer States
https://www.onepayerstates.org/
National Single Payer
https://nationalsinglepayer.com/
Healthcare Advocacy on Substack
Here's the link.
Physicians for a Nat'l Health Program
https://pnhp.org/
Center for Medicare Advocacy
https://www.MedicareAvocacy.org
Health Justice Monitor
https://www.healthjusticemonitor.org

Article Archive

Recent Articles of Interest Related to Healthcare Reform

September 30, 2026 — Health Justice Monitor

"Medicare Public Option" Comment by Jim Kahn and Hank Abrons

"A new article summarizes significant support for a Medicare Public Option, as a wise next step toward broad insurance reform. **BUT it's not** – it falls short in critical ways."

October 29, 2026 — JAMA Health Forum

"What's in a Name? From Today's Medicare to Medicare for All" By Larry Levitt

"The rebranding has political merit. A KFF poll conducted in 2019 found that 63% of people had a positive reaction to the term "Medicare-for-all" compared with 49% who reacted positively to "single-payer health insurance system," and 46% with a positive view of "socialized medicine."

October 29, 2026 — HEALTH CARE un-covered

"Nearly 700 Rural Hospitals Are at Risk of Closing. Big Insurers Are Making It Worse" By Wendell Potter

"A new report reveals how private insurers are shortchanging rural hospitals even as UnitedHealth Group earned enough in just three months to keep every at-risk hospital open for a year."

November 9, 2026 — The Guardian

"'A Complete Repudiation': Public Health Won Big in US Midterm Elections" By Melody Schreiber

"Election wins of Annie Andrews, Abdul El-Sayed and more who ran on healthcare issues are viewed a a sign of hope as Trump administration unravels US health policy."

November 12, 2026 — Common Dreams

"Dear Congress: Nothing Short of Improved Medicare for All" By National Single Payer Steering Committee

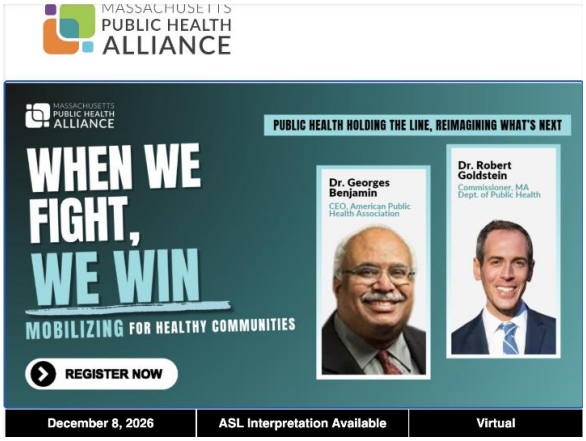
"The urgency to 'do something' can be worse than nothing. Let's get it right the first time."

November 13, 2026 — Modern Healthcare

"House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries Details Medicare Expansion" By Erik Wasson

"Jeffries said he would push to expand Medicare and lower the program's eligibility age."

Upcoming Virtual Event



Join the Massachusetts Public Health Alliance on Tuesday, Dec. 8, from 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., to celebrate what we've won and build power for the work still ahead: continuing to push back against unlawful federal actions and corporate greed, doubling down on evidence-based science, and resisting authoritarianism. Register here.