

# LEAGUE LEADER UPDATE

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF MASSACHUSETTS

December 2015

---

---

## CALENDAR

- Friday, December 18**    **LWVMA/LESF combined Board meeting, North Hill, Needham, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**
- Monday, January 11**    **Deadline to submit Daniel Scharfman Grant application**
- Monday, February 1**    **Third annual LWVMA high school video contest kick off**
- Monday, February 1**    **Deadline to submit LWVUS Money in Politics consensus**
- Tuesday, February 9**    **Day on the Hill, State House, Boston, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**



**Have a wonderful holiday season and our best for the New Year!  
The LWVMA Board and Staff**

---

## HAPPENING NOW

---

**Lights! Camera! Take Action!**

The third annual LWVMA high school video contest kicks off in February. This year's contest - "YOUth Should Vote!" - will invite MA high school students to create 30-second videos encouraging young people to register to vote and turn out on Election Day. First place will win \$1,000; second place will win \$500; and third place will win \$250. The videos will be distributed and viewed across the state as part of *MoVE 2016*, our get-out-the-vote initiative, before the general election.



**Please help spread the word.** A toolkit with ideas to help promote the contest is [here](#). You can [download contest rules here](#) and a [contest flyer here](#).

---

## **Regional Field Service Meetings Planned for January**

The LWVMA Field Service program will hold two meetings in each region, in January and June. January meetings are planned for all regions except West/Central, which had a meeting in late October. Field Service meetings scheduled for January are:

- Metro/South: Saturday, Jan. 16, 9:45-11:30 a.m., location TBD
- Metro West: Saturday, Jan. 23, 10:15 a.m.-1 p.m. at NewTV, Newton
- Metro Northwest: Sunday, Jan. 24, 3-5 p.m., location TBD
- Merrimack Valley/North Shore: Monday, Jan. 25, 8:30-10:30 a.m., Friendly's in Peabody
- South Shore, Cape and Martha's Vineyard: All details TBD.

[Read more...](#)

---

## **ADVOCACY**

---

### **Why This? Why Now? Answers at Day on the Hill**

Day on the Hill, LWVMA's annual lobby day, will explore the questions: Why This? Why Now? What Finally Moves Legislation. Please come Tuesday, Feb. 9, to learn why bills that are introduced session after session finally gain traction and a chance to become law.



A panel will discuss this process, starting with specific examples. Our panelists will be Sen. William Brownsberger on criminal justice legislation; Rep. Shawn Dooley on election reform; and Pamela Wilmot, executive director, Common Cause of Massachusetts, on public records access. They will discuss how those bills finally moved forward and then more generally discuss the legislative process and how advocacy groups like the League can spur action. [Read more...](#)

---

## ELECTIONS AND VOTING

---

### Bring the Early Voting Challenge to Your Town

The Election Modernization Coalition, which includes LWVMA, has issued its [recommendations](#) for implementing early voting, which goes into effect with the November 2016 election.

To encourage cities and towns to offer a robust early voting program which includes both evening and weekend hours, the Coalition has launched an Early Voting Challenge, with gold and silver "medals" to recognize communities which meet or exceed those recommendations.

In January, a toolkit will be available to local Leagues and other voting activists explaining how to encourage the election officials in your town or city to offer both evening and weekend hours for early voting and, for municipalities larger than 35,000 people, multiple early voting locations. The toolkit will include a sample town meeting warrant article if your election or town officials feel a town meeting vote will be needed to fund expanded hours and locations. LWVMA will get that toolkit to you as soon as it is available. [Read more...](#)

---

### Still Time to Sign Up to Use VOTE411.org for Spring Elections



We've heard from eight local Leagues that they're interested in using VOTE411.org to create a Voters' Guide for their town's spring 2016 elections. If your League would like to use this resource for spring 2016 elections, we need to hear from you before **Wednesday, Dec. 23**. Please contact [Mary Ann Ashton](#), LWVMA Voter Service Chair, or [Meryl Kessler](#), LWVMA Executive Director. For more information about using VOTE411.org for spring 2016

elections, review the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

[VOTE411.org](#) access will begin in January, and we want to be sure that we're prepared for the needs of local Leagues. This valuable resource is available at NO COST to local Leagues thanks to a generous donor among our members and a grant from the Filene Foundation.

The state League will be using VOTE411.org to create a Voters' Guide for the fall 2016 elections. [Read more...](#)

---

## THE TO-DO LIST

---

### LWVMA Seeks Intern for Spring 2016

We are seeking a student Voter Engagement Intern for the spring 2016 semester (January-June, 8-10 hrs/wk). The intern will assist our office with a variety of initiatives to educate voters and increase voter turnout in Election 2016. Primary responsibilities will include working on the VOTE411.org Online Voters' Guide, helping with print and digital voter outreach efforts, and providing administrative support for the student video contest. More information can be found [here](#). Interested parties should send a resume and cover letter to [bgorman@lwwma.org](mailto:bgorman@lwwma.org).



---

### Important Update on LWVUS Roster Database

Massachusetts roster managers should have received access to the LWVUS database by Monday, Dec. 14. When first accessing the database, LWVUS asks that you use test data before you begin entering your own data. Friday, Dec. 28 is the deadline for entering the test data into the database.

If you are a roster manager and have not received access yet, please email [rostersupport@lww.org](mailto:rostersupport@lww.org) as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please email [LWVUS](#) directly or [Brynne Gorman](#) in the LWVMA office. For detailed information about the database roll out process, click [here](#).

---

### Time for US Program Planning

Soon Leagues will have an opportunity to offer input for the LWVUS program for the 2016-2018 biennium. This important League process will culminate with adoption of a program of education and action at the LWVUS Convention in Washington, DC, in June 2016. Program planning materials will be posted by mid-December in the [Convention section](#) of the [League Management website](#). For additional information or questions, contact Program Outreach Committee Chair [Barbara Zia](#).

In a webinar scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 7, 7-8 p.m., Zia and Advocacy Chair Chris Carson will provide information about the program planning process. The webinar will build on *Planning LWVUS Program for 2016-2018* and the *Guide to Program Planning* that will be available to Leagues in December. Use [this form](#) to register for the webinar. Space is limited, so please make sure you can attend before registering. For further information or questions on this webinar, contact [Betsy Lawson](#).

---

## **Participating in the National Studies**

Congratulations and thanks to all the Leagues that participated in the Constitutional Amendment Study, the first of the two national studies. Those consensus reports were due Dec. 1, and will lead to a position developed by the national study committee and board.

Local League Study Committees are busy this month and next with the Money in Politics Review and Update, with some Leagues already done. (Congratulations, Marblehead!) The deadline to submit your League's consensus report to LWVUS is Monday, Feb. 1.

See the LWVMA [webpage](#) for more information. Once you have scheduled your consensus meetings, please email the [Steering Committee](#) with your event information to add to the webpage [calendar](#).

---

## **Daniel Scharfman Grant Deadline Jan. 11**

The deadline for the next round of Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education grants is Monday, Jan. 11. You can submit a grant for an event or project that will take place within six months of that deadline so think about what is on your calendar for the late winter and early spring. Send grant applications to [Sue Abrams](#). For those of you who like to plan way ahead, the next deadline after January is April 11.

---

## League Items for Your Holiday Shopping

LWVMA offers a wide variety of League logo items, just in time for holiday gift-giving or as thanks for speakers at your events. In addition to favorites like the rhinestone LWV and VOTE pins, you'll find shirts, tote bags, mugs, water bottles, note cards and other LWV items. Perfect for the League member on your list. Start your League shopping [here!](#)



---

The League Leader Update is distributed to local League board members and LWVMA leaders. Anyone can request the Update by [clicking here](#). Please review this Update for articles of interest to your League and include them in your local Bulletin.

---

---

133 Portland Street Boston, MA 02114 | 617-523-2999  
[lwvma@lwvma.org](mailto:lwvma@lwvma.org) | [www.lwvma.org](http://www.lwvma.org)

STAY CONNECTED:

