

# LEAGUE LEADER UPDATE

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

January 2016

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## CALENDAR

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| <b>Friday, January 22</b>  | <b>LWVMA Board meeting, Concord Free Public Library, Concord 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.</b> |
| <b>Friday, January 31</b>  | <b>Deadline to update national roster</b>  |
| <b>Monday, February 1</b>  | <b>"YOUth Should Vote" high school video contest kick off</b>                            |
| <b>Monday, February 1</b>  | <b>Deadline to submit LWVUS Money in Politics consensus</b>                              |
| <b>Tuesday, February 9</b> | <b>Day on the Hill, State House, Boston, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.</b>                          |
| <b>Saturday, April 30</b>  | <b>Council, Clark University, Worcester, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.</b>                           |

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**Lots of exciting information on our new 2016 Election and Voting initiative and the upcoming Day on the Hill. Please read this bulletin carefully and share articles with your members!!**

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## HAPPENING NOW

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**MOVE 2016: Join the Movement!**

For election 2016, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is launching a multi-pronged voter education and engagement initiative: **MOVE 2016** (Massachusetts Voter Engagement 2016), designed to provide voters throughout the Commonwealth with resources to encourage participation and informed choice in the 2016 election. Our goal is to "MOVE the needle" by substantially increasing voter registration and turnout rates in the Commonwealth. We are grateful to the Lincoln and Therese Filene Foundation, the Salem Five Charitable Foundation, and an anonymous League member for financial support for this program.



**MOVE 2016 includes the following elements:**

**VOTE411.org Online Voters' Guide:**

This customizable digital resource created by LWVUS will allow Massachusetts voters to access personalized ballot information- for statewide races, U.S. Congressional races, state legislative races, and ballot questions- simply by entering a street address! Voters will also be able to access in-depth information about candidates (including candidates' responses to questions created by LWVMA) and ballot measures, an online voter registration tool, local and state voting requirements and rules, and a polling place finder. LWVMA will bring this digital platform to Massachusetts voters for the first time for election 2016. Here is information on how your League can participate, both for [spring town elections](#) and [next fall's elections](#).



**Early Voting Challenge:** The Election Modernization Coalition, which

includes LWVMA, has issued its recommendations for implementing early voting in the state, effective with the November 2016 election. A law passed by the state legislature in 2014 requires early in-person voting be available at city or town election offices for an eleven-day period before the election, during normal business hours. To encourage cities and towns to offer a robust early voting program, the coalition has issued an Early Voting Challenge, with gold and silver "medals" to recognize communities which meet or exceed those recommendations. We are asking local Leagues to contact their town and city election officials and ask them to offer night and weekend early voting hours, as well as multiple early voting locations for municipalities with over 35,000 residents. [Click here](#) for a toolkit with information on the law, FAQs, sample letter to the editor, sample town meeting warrant and more. Make an appointment with your town's election officials now!



**Eye-catching print and digital educational materials:**

These unique LWVMA materials will educate voters about other significant changes to Massachusetts' election procedures as a result of the 2014 election modernization law -specifically, the addition of online registration, now available, and pre-registration of 16- and 17-year-olds, starting in August. They will also include both print and digital "voters' pledge cards" to encourage eligible voters to commit to casting their vote. Thank you to the Boston University Ad Lab for their design work on these materials. Contact the [LWVMA office](#) to get the online registration cards to distribute at your League's events.

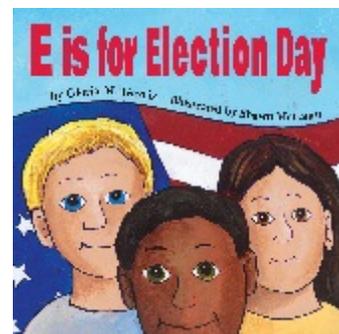


**"YOUth Should Vote!" Student Video**

**Contest:** LWVMA's third annual Student Video Contest will kick off Feb. 1 and run through March 31. The theme this year is "YOUth Should Vote!" To mobilize the youth vote in Election 2016, we are inviting Massachusetts high school students to send 30-second videos (public service announcements) that encourage young people to register to vote and turn out at the polls in November. The first-place award is \$1,000; second-place, \$500; and third-place, \$250. All winners will be invited to attend an award ceremony at the Massachusetts State House, and winning videos will be publicized throughout the state. We need your League to help publicize the contest; you can [find information here](#).



**League Choice Books for Children and Teens:** In anticipation of the 2016 presidential election, LWVMA has created a new program identifying books to inspire children and teens to learn about voting, civic engagement, democracy, and the suffrage movement. The chosen titles cover a broad range of topics for all reading levels and are readily available through your favorite book vendors. These books are a great way to promote your League through donations to your library and awards for students, and make excellent additions to gift baskets for auctions and other fundraisers. They are also wonderful gifts for young people in your life. For more information and to see our current recommendations, [click here](#).



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**Make the League's Voice Heard! Come to Day on the Hill**

Organize your carpools and put your lobbying hat on! It's time to make democracy work! LWVMA's annual lobbying day is **Tuesday, Feb. 9**, (snow day Feb. 23) in Gardner Auditorium at the State House. Registration begins at **9:30 a.m.** and the program runs from 10 a.m. to noon.



Our theme this year is "Why This? Why Now? What Finally Moves Legislation." A panel will explore why bills that are introduced session after session finally gain traction and a chance to become law. 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. After the presentation, LWVMA legislative specialists will outline specific bills we are following.

Please take a moment to [register here](#) that you will be attending Day on the Hill. We encourage you to meet with your own Senators and Representatives to advocate for the bills our specialists will be presenting during the program. If you register before Feb. 4, the LWVMA office will let your Senators and Representatives know that their League constituents will be stopping by. Or you can make your own arrangements with your legislators.

Watch your email inbox for a packet with information on Day on the Hill and the legislation we support about two weeks before Day on the Hill.

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## **Save the Date for Council**

LWVMA will hold its biennial Council meeting for all members Saturday, April 30, at Clark University in Worcester. The program will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. LWVMA holds a one-day Council for members in alternate years to the two-day Convention. Look for more details next month.

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## Linda O'Connell Joins LWVMA Board

The LWVMA board has appointed Linda O'Connell as a director.

Linda has been a guiding force behind the revitalization of the Springfield League, currently operating as the Springfield unit of the Northampton Area League.



As a journalist, Linda helped start a revolution in 1973 when she founded the *Valley Advocate*, one of the first alternative newsweeklies. Linda was a pioneer in broadcast journalism as the host of Connecticut Public Television's *Womankind*, one of the first talk shows devoted to women's issues.

Linda now works as a communications consultant and self-efficacy coach with her company OC2. She is a recent graduate of the Western Massachusetts Women's Fund's Leadership Institute for Political and Public Impact.

A graduate of Mount Holyoke College and Brown University, Linda is passionate about social justice and lives by the words of Mount Holyoke founder Mary Lyon: "She who thinks she has no obligations has not sought them out."

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## THE TO-DO LIST

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### Deadline Jan. 31 to Update National Roster

LWVUS reminds all local Leagues to update their roster information: Since the database is new to everyone, we ask that you give yourself a little extra time this year before the **Jan. 31** official membership count/roster deadline. This bylaws-driven deadline informs the number of delegates Leagues may send to LWVUS Convention as well as per-member-payment or PMP billing for FY2016-17. Once you set up your password, you will have full access to update your League's membership information. We have lots of instructional materials to assist with the transition: [written instructions](#), and [YouTube channel](#) with clips. Please email [RosterSupport@lww.org](mailto:RosterSupport@lww.org) with any questions!

LWVUS has one remaining webinar on the database, on Thursday, Jan. 21 from 3 to 4 p.m. EST to go over pre-submitted questions and do live

demonstrations of database functions. [Register and submit your questions.](#)

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## **Send in your Consensus Reports**

The deadline to submit your League's consensus response to the LWVUS Money in Politics study is Monday, Feb. 1. LWVUS will establish positions on money in politics and the Constitutional amendment process based on these two studies.

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## **Help with LWVUS Program Planning**

The [Guide to LWVUS Program Planning 2016-2018](#) and [Programming Planning Response form](#) are now available. These materials provide information about the program planning process, report on our achievements in Making Democracy Work® in 2014-2016 and present the LWVUS proposal for education and action in the next biennium. For questions or further information, contact Program Outreach Chair [Barbara Zia](#).

The deadline to submit your League's recommendations for LWVUS program planning is March 1.

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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.

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STAY CONNECTED:

