

June 2015



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

MASSACHUSETTS

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Welcome and Welcome Back!

Welcome to all new and returning local League leaders! The new LWVMA board had its first meeting last week, and we are already hard at work to implement the exciting and ambitious 2015-2017 program and budget that were approved at the 2015 Convention.

We look forward to building on and strengthening the partnership between the state board and staff and our local Leagues. We are here to answer questions and support you in any way that we can - just ask!

The LWVMA board sends this monthly *League Leader Update* (LLU) to all local League board members and leaders, and to anyone who requests to be on the list. The LLU contains useful information for local Leagues and members about state and national League programs and tools. Please review it each month, and share its contents with your members when appropriate. The LLU is for you; we welcome any feedback on how we can make this newsletter as helpful as possible.

State committees are already making plans for the coming year, and for the 2016 presidential election. The Legislative Action Committee has been reviewing bills and providing testimony almost nonstop for the past few months. Please consider volunteering for a state League committee; [click here](#) for a sign-up form.

In the meantime, please be sure to send your new board member rosters to [Brynne Gorman](#) in the LWVMA office.

With warm regards,



[Anne Borg](#) and [Jean Cherdack](#)
LWVMA Co-Presidents

HAPPENING NOW

Local League Activities Survey Coming Your Way

In early July, we will be sending local League leaders our Local League Activities Survey via email; please designate one person in your League to respond to the survey for your League leadership.

The survey will collect contact information for your League's 2015-16 leadership (Board or Steering Committee) for our League Leader Directory. The survey will also collect some basic information about your League's activities (citizen education, voter service, and advocacy) between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 for inclusion in our 2014-2015 Annual Report. Local Leagues that responded to last year's survey were included in the 2013-2014 Annual Report-please respond by the **August 1** deadline to ensure that your League's important work is highlighted in this year's Annual Report.



Can't Do It Without You

Massachusetts League members approved a strong program at the May Convention. But all those activities need folks to carry them out!



Among the committees for this biennium's projects are the charter schools study committee, Election 2016 voter engagement committee, and election technology review committee. Other options include a membership task force, the campaign finance committee and event planning.



LWVMA has a volunteer form available online listing all the ways you can help make the League better and more effective. [Click here](#) to view this form. And please share the link with your League

members in your bulletins and other communications.

A Reminder to Take Action



our website [here](#).

LWVMA recently issued Action Alerts on Governor Baker's Executive Order 562 requiring review of all regulations and that Massachusetts regulations not exceed federal regulations, and on a June 30 Lobby Day for H.448/S.265, the sex education bill. Please take another look at those alerts and take action if you haven't done so! You can find the alerts on

FROM LWVUS

Timetable for LWVUS Studies

The national League is working on studies and review of campaign finance reform, the Constitutional amendment process and Congressional redistricting, part of the Key Structures of Democracy program approved at the June 2014 Convention.

As you plan your League's program for the coming year, please take these efforts into account. LWVUS has outlined this timetable for those project:

- Spring 2015: Education materials posted periodically on the League Management website. Leagues are encouraged to use these materials for member and community meetings;
- Fall 2015: Study guides and consensus questions posted for the Money in Politics Review and Constitutional Amendment Study. Leagues hold consensus meetings;
- February 1, 2016: Consensus reports (electronic) from Leagues due to LWVUS, and
- April 2016 national LWV Board meeting: Consensus reports and resulting position(s), if any, approved.

LWVUS notes that information and background are available on the national website. Here are two announcements from recent LWVUS newsletters:

As state and local Leagues prepare for the review of Money in Politics and study of Constitutional Amendments, [a sample Voter article](#) may help you to alert your members to the proposed timeline and resources that are available on the League Management website. The Key Structures of Democracy *Voter* article can be found on [the Money in Politics](#) and [the Constitutional Amendment](#) webpages and can be adapted for your League. If you have questions regarding the Money in Politics review, contact Committee Chair, [Barbara Zia](#).

The [History of Campaign Finance Chart](#), which outlines key statutes, actions and court cases in the 20th and 21st centuries, is now posted on the League Management website. The chart provides a comprehensive overview of the evolution of campaign finance law through Congress and the Supreme Court. The chart, as well as [Definitions for Money in Politics Terms](#), can be found on the [Money in Politics Review page](#).

National Database Upgrade

LWVUS is updating its member database. Here are two recent notices on this project:

While the LWVUS database is locked for transition, you may [email your leadership changes](#) and we will put them into the system for you. *Please give us the names of the new officers as well as who they are replacing.* Thank you again for your patience during this transition.

Curious about how the database transition is going? Watch this [video presentation](#).

Action Alert on Super PACs



LWVUS is asking members to contact their Representatives in Congress in support of a bill, H.R. 425, to stop coordination between Super PACs and campaigns. You can find a summary of the bill and the text [here](#). [Tell your Representative to cosponsor and support H.R. 425, the "Stop Super PAC -- Candidate Coordination Act" introduced by Representatives David Price and Chris Van Hollen.](#)

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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