



The Mass. League Voter

A newsletter for members of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts

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New Items in Stock

Calendar

- Monday April 29 LWVMA Board Meeting, 11:30am - 2:30pm. LWVMA office
- Tuesday April 30 US Senate Primary Election
- Friday May 17-18 LWVMA Convention, Boston Peabody Marriott
- Wednesday June 5 Voter Registration Deadline for US Senate Election
- Tuesday June 25 US Senate Election
- Wednesday June 26 Annual LESF Board Meeting, 12:00pm, LWVMA office

See You in Peabody! LWVMA Convention May 17-18



Plan now to attend LWVMA's Convention 2013: The Future of Our Democracy: What's Next? Friday and Saturday, May 17-18, at the [Boston Marriott Peabody Hotel](#) in Peabody. All League members are welcome to attend, whether a delegate or not. Options for attending one or two days are available.

Registration and pre-convention materials ("Last Call") were distributed via email Friday, April 5, to all members, and can be accessed by clicking [here](#). The deadline for registration is **May 6**.

All Are Welcome at the Friday Night Banquet

An option to attend the banquet only (\$55) is available on the registration site. The banquet includes dinner and the guest speaker, beginning at 7 pm, or come at 6 pm to participate in the Silent Auction and cash bar. This is a great option for non-members, friends, spouses, and members who cannot attend the daytime events. Click on the registration link above and choose "Friday banquet only" for one person and "Additional banquet only" if you want to bring a guest to the banquet.

Keynote Speakers

Friday evening banquet: Meira Levinson, Harvard Associate Professor of Education

Saturday lunch: Margery Eagan, Columnist, Commentator and Talk Show Host

Dr. Meira Levinson writes about civic education, multiculturalism, and youth empowerment. Her latest book, *No Citizen Left Behind*, argues that the United States suffers from a civic empowerment gap as shameful and anti-democratic as the academic achievement gap targeted by No Child Left Behind.

Margery Eagan is a longtime columnist with the *Boston Herald*, a talk radio host, and a frequent guest

on CNN, ABC, Fox News, and WGBH's Friday "Beat the Press" program on *Greater Boston*. Her radio show, which she co-hosts with Jim Braude, recently moved to WGBH Radio.

Silent Auction

LWVMA is planning a *Silent Auction* fundraiser for this year's Convention. Popular prizes include concert and sports tickets, restaurant and services gift certificates, wine, etc. as well as gift baskets assembled by local Leagues. Contact [Anne Borg](#) to make a donation.

Agenda and Workshops

The overall agenda and workshop topics are posted on the [registration page](#) and on the Convention 2013 section of [lwwma.org](#). Workshop topics include ideas for increasing League activities and visibility, effective lobbying and advocating for League-supported positions, creating a Facebook page, League moderator training, and election reform efforts.

Advertising Option in Convention Program

The Convention Program is a great way to advertise your business to fellow Leaguers. The Convention Program is an 8 ½ x 11 inch paper booklet folded to 4 ¼ x 5 ½ inches, which contains information on the agenda, lists donors, and displays the ads. Whether you own a business, manage a business, or work at a business that we should know about, you can spread the word with an ad. We work hard to keep voters educated; now we can educate each other about the non-League work we do. To advertise, click [here](#) for the advertising form and send your ad copy via email to [Natalie](#). A check payable to LWVMA must be received no later than May 1.

Three Leagues Awarded Citizen Education Grants

Congratulations to the three Leagues awarded Citizen Education grants under the third funding cycle of the program. The deadline for the next funding cycle is June 2; click [here](#) for information and application. The total amount dispersed in this cycle for the three grants was \$720.



The Citizens Education Grant Program helps Leagues carry out events and projects in citizen education and voter service. Generous contributions to the Lotte E. Scharfman Fund have made this successful grant program possible. Please consider donating to the fund. Donations can be made through the website, [lwwma.org](#), and a big thank you to those of you who have donated in the past.

The March grant recipients are:

LWV Westford: "A Guide to Town Meeting" booklet (\$250)

The League edits and prints "A Guide to Town Meeting." This 28-page booklet describes the entire process of Town Meeting for Westford. It includes sections on the participants, articles and motions, the debate, and voting. As procedures and rules change, League members have worked to keep it up to date. The League prints and distributes this booklet at Town Meeting. Westford asked for a grant to cover a portion of printing costs and continue to provide this valuable service to the voters of Westford.

LWV Hingham: Citizen's Guide to Hingham Open Town Meeting booklet (\$250)

Two years ago, the LWV of Hingham conducted a study to analyze how to increase participation in Hingham's Open Town Meeting. One result of the study was recognizing the need for greater voter education of the Open Town Meeting practices and procedures. The LWV of Hingham created a Citizen's Guide to Hingham Open Town Meeting which we posted on League's and the town's websites. We recognize the need for a printed booklet for citizens who do not depend on the internet for information and for greater exposure. We plan to distribute copies through the Town Clerk's office, Library, League Warrant Review forum (another result of the study), League Candidates' Forum and other League events.

LWV Winchester: High School Building Renovation Citizen Education Sessions (\$220)

The Winchester League would like to hold two citizen education sessions regarding the high school building renovation project as it goes through the Mass. School Building Authority planning and approval process. The first session, to be held this spring, would focus on how the project impacts the entire

community (not merely families with school-age children), and publicize ways for citizens to participate in the planning process and/or comment upon the proposed project design. The second, fall session would focus on the architect's schematic details of the final project design, total project cost, construction phasing and budget (in preparation for an anticipated Proposition 2 ½ override - if any-).

U.S. Senate Race Voter's Guide



LWVMA has posted a voter's guide to the upcoming primary election for U.S. Senate on our website, click [here](#). We ask local Leagues to add a link to this guide on their own websites.

We asked the five candidates to answer questions on the economy, immigration, climate change, gun safety and campaign finance reform, noting that we would post their responses verbatim and indicate if a candidate chose not to respond. We were disappointed that not all the candidates replied, but feel the information we did receive is useful to voters.

We hope to do similar guides in statewide races in the future, particularly in the 2014 election.

Kudos to the voter service committee which developed the questions--Gretel Clark, Adrienne Terrizzi, June Michaels, Maureen Sundberg, Jo-Ann Berry, Stefani Traina and Nancy Brumback, and to the candidate contacts-- Adrienne Terrizzi, Tamara Leaf, Maureen Sundberg, Gretel Clark and Erin Pastuszanski.

Where Does LWVMA Stand on Pending Legislation?

A new section of the LWVMA website has been added to give members and the public up-to-date information on our support or opposition to bills that have been filed this legislative session. All of the bills the LWVMA board has voted in favor or against are listed, with links to corresponding [testimony](#), [press releases](#) and [action alerts](#). Check it out at by clicking [here](#), and a big thanks to our team of legislative specialists for following the bills and keeping us aware of their progress.

Have You Visited our New Website?

While you're checking out the Senate race voter's guide and the status of legislation, take a look around the rest of our new website. You'll find continually updated information on action priorities, news about state and local League events, toolkits and advice to help local League officers, and much more, including a profile on a different local League each month. Take a look, at www.lwvma.org.

Tour Cuba with LWV Florida-sponsored trips

Join LWV Florida for its successful Sisters Across the Straits delegation visits to Cuba. There is space available for Massachusetts Leaguers for the May and Fall visits. The delegation visits are a wonderful way to learn about Cuba's history, culture and social structure, and to forge relationships with civics and educational organizations in Cuba. (BTW, male League members are welcome, too!)

Please see the [LWV Florida website](#) for more information or email: LWVOffice@gmail.com



Good Turnout, Great Speakers at Day on the Hill



Whether you are a legislator working on a favorite bill, an activist arguing for a favorite cause, or a League member lobbying for supported legislation, a long-term view is key, speakers at LWVMA's annual Day on the Hill at the State House reminded the audience.

Over 80 League members from around the state attended the morning session, "Democracy is not a Spectator Sport: How to be an effective

advocate," then fanned out to the offices of their state Senators and Representatives to seek support of the legislation LWVMA specialists highlighted during the session.

Rep. Thomas Conroy of the 13th Middlesex District led off, using a bill he has introduced to establish a carbon tax in Massachusetts, H.2532, to illustrate the steps a legislator takes to persuade colleagues to support a bill. Then Elizabeth Saunders, Massachusetts director of Clean Water Action, provided pointers on working effectively with those legislators who support a group's aims.

You can read more about Day on the Hill and view photos of the event on our website [here](#).

The Massachusetts League Voter is distributed to all LWVMA members we have email addresses for. Anyone can request the Update by clicking [here](#).

Quick Links

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