
LEAGUE LEADER UPDATE

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF MASSACHUSETTS

November 2015

CALENDAR

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Friday, November 20 | LWVMA Board Meeting, Concord Library, Concord, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. |
| Tuesday, December 1 | Deadline to submit LWVUS Constitutional Amendment study consensus |
| Monday, January 11 | Deadline to submit Daniel Scharfman Grant application |
| Monday, February 1 | Deadline to submit LWVUS Money in Politics consensus |
| Monday, February 1 | Third annual LWVMA high school video contest kick off |
| Tuesday, February 9 | Day on the Hill, State House, Boston, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. |
-

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 Massachusetts high school students to create and submit 30-second videos encouraging young people to register to vote and turn out on Election Day. As in the past, 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. Contest details will be available on our website next month, and we will outline ways you and your League can get involved.



Our Work Depends on Your Donations

Many thanks to the donors to our Fall Appeal for your generous support! Our annual Phonathon fundraiser is now in full swing, and several local Leagues have already volunteered to make calls-will yours? This is a win-win opportunity for local Leagues: your League will earn 10% of the contributions solicited by your team. If your League would like to participate, please contact [Brynne Gorman](#).

And thank you in advance for saying "Yes!" when you receive a call. Our success depends on you!



VOTING AND ELECTIONS

Watch for information on VOTE411.org!

Information is coming this week on the roll-out of VOTE411.org, the online voters' guide, for Massachusetts. If your local League would like to use VOTE411.org for spring 2016 municipal elections, please contact us by Tuesday, Dec. 15, so we know how many Leagues we need to plan for. Email [Mary Ann Ashton](#) that your League is interested in using VOTE411.org this spring and the date of your municipal election.

The email you receive will include some Frequently Asked Questions, and we will post more FAQs as we hear from you. For more information, please contact [Mary Ann Ashton](#), LWVMA Voter Service Chair, or [Meryl Kessler](#), LWVMA Executive Director.

LWVMA Participates in Early Voting Challenge

Advocates for election reform, including the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, have issued their [recommendations for implementing early voting](#) in the state, which will go into effect with the November 2016 election.

To encourage cities and towns to offer a robust early voting program, the Election Modernization Coalition has issued an Early Voting Challenge, with gold and silver "medals" to recognize communities which meet or exceed those recommendations. We will have information on how local Leagues can support this effort soon. [Read more....](#)

ADVOCACY

Plan to be at the State House Feb. 9

Please encourage your League's members to come to LWVMA's annual Day on the Hill lobby day, **Tuesday, Feb. 9**, (snow date Tuesday, Feb. 23) from 10 a.m. to noon. Nothing impresses legislators more than a personal visit from a constituent, so your presence and a visit to your Senator and Representative will greatly help promote the League's legislative agenda. Gather up a carpool and make a day of it!



Day on the Hill is early this year because, in the second year of the legislative session, most bills are dead for the session if they are not reported out of committee by mid-March, so we need to let legislators know we want action on specific bills before it is too late.

Taking Steps to Address Climate Change

Many thanks to the 17 League members who helped fill the hearing room in an impressive show of support for putting a price on carbon. LWVMA Environmental Specialist Launa Zimmaro testified that LWV members are "mothers and grandmothers from legislators' districts and across the country who are deeply concerned about the about the world we are leaving the next generation and who are looking to the people they elect to take positive action."



LWVMA members can support passage of carbon pricing legislation by contacting their legislators by phone, email, or in-person, in-district meetings, as well as through letters to the editor and hosting public forums. Find out more about carbon pricing [here](#). To find out how you and your local League can help this campaign or host a member or public forum, contact [Launa Zimmaro](#).

THE TO-DO LIST

Important Update on LWVUS Roster Database

LWVUS is rolling out its revised member database on a staggered basis; Massachusetts is scheduled to be added Dec. 7, though the national office cautions that the rollout schedule may have to be adjusted. The goal is to complete the rollout by Jan. 31, the deadline for local League rosters to be updated in the national database. The database is currently down while this program is being implemented.

All Leagues will receive email notifications on this process and the training videos, manual and FAQ will be accessible to all at any time on the [League Management site](#). You will get an email alert two weeks in advance to remind you of your League's start date.

LWVUS asks that you put these two email addresses on your "Safe Sender" list or address book so they do not go to spam: Support@salesforce.com and support@lwwus.zendesk.com. They are very important to this process!

For detailed information about this process, [click here](#).

Deadline Looms for First LWVUS Study

This month many Leagues are holding consensus meetings for the LWVUS Constitutional Amendment Study. Remember to submit your consensus report by **Dec. 1**, and your League board needs to approve the report before it is submitted.

For the Constitutional Amendment consensus meetings, in addition to the [materials](#) developed by the national study committee, we have posted a one-page "[tally sheet](#)" from LWV Marblehead and a [PowerPoint](#) from LWVs of California and Maine.

Local League study committees are also in full swing for the Money in Politics Study. See the LWVMA webpage for [more information](#). The deadline to submit that study consensus to LWVUS is **Feb. 1**.

If your League would like assistance in participating in the studies or finding another League to partner with, please email the [Steering Committee](#).

Daniel Scharfman Grant Deadline

The next deadline to submit applications for the Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education grants is Monday, Jan. 11. For information on the grants, which help local Leagues conduct citizen education and voter service activities, and for an application, click [here](#).

Need to Improve Your League's Communications?

LWV of California, which created the League Easy Web website design that many local Leagues use, is offering a three-part webinar series to help all local Leagues improve their communications in today's online world, covering Nonprofit Marketing 101, Communications Roles and Planning, and Writing for the Web. The trainings are for beginners, experts, and everyone in between. These trainings are not intended just for the webmaster or the communications chair, but for any interested members.

Click [here](#) for information on all three trainings. The first two webinars are completed, but there is a link to the videos that you can watch any time. The third is still open for registration.

Recapping the October Roundtables

LWVMA kicked off a new League year with "Welcome back" roundtables for local League leaders. On Oct. 3, 42 League members from 19 local Leagues and the LWVMA board met in Sudbury. Then on Oct. 24, 19 League members from eight local Leagues and the LWVMA board met in Northampton. It was great to see so many League members come together to share ideas.



The attendees divided into small groups to discuss three topics--perceptions, local League management, and support. Each group decided on key takeaways and shared their findings with all. This discussion will help the state League identify and meet needs of local leagues. Many thanks to Dee Ortner and Brynne Gorman for planning these events.

If you missed the Roundtables, the planning tools, photos, handouts and other information are available [here](#).

LWVUS Grants Available for Youth Voter Registration

LWVEF, the national League educational foundation, is offering a new pass-through grant opportunity to help Leagues register and engage high school/community college/technical/vocational school students in the spring of 2016. The application

deadline is Friday, Dec. 4. State and local Leagues are encouraged to [download](#) the project description and funding application. If you have questions, contact [Maggie Bush](#).

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
lwwma@lwwma.org | www.lwwma.org