

# LEAGUE LEADER UPDATE

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

October 2015

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## CALENDAR

- Friday, October 23**      **LWVMA/LESF Combined Board Meeting, North Hill, Needham, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**
- Saturday, October 24**      **League Leader Roundtable, Forbes Library, Northampton, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**
- Sunday, November 15**      **Annual tax return deadline to file with the IRS**
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## HAPPENING NOW

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### Still Time to Register for Oct. 24 Roundtable

LWVMA kicked off the new League year with a "welcome back" roundtable for local League leaders Oct. 3 with representatives from 15 local Leagues. If you or members of your League weren't able to attend, there's still another chance. We hope several members of your League leadership team can join us in Northampton Saturday, Oct. 24!

**Time:** 9 a.m.: Light breakfast and socializing; 9:30 a.m.-noon: meeting  
**Location:** Forbes Library, 20 West St., Northampton (parking behind the building for 25c/hour). [Directions](#)  
[RSVP](#) for this meeting by Tuesday, Oct. 20

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## Celebrate LWVMA's 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday with a Special Gift by October 30



LWVMA's annual fall appeal is underway! This year, please consider making a special gift in honor of LWVMA's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. Your contribution to LWVMA and/or our Citizen Education Fund will sustain our dual commitment to voter education and citizen advocacy. As we approach a presidential election year, the League's informed and non-partisan voice is needed more than ever-and we need you!

**Donations received by October 30 will also benefit your local League:** If we receive your donation of \$100 or more by October 30, your local League will receive 15% of your donation; for donations of less than \$100 received by October 30, your local League will receive 10%. *Donate now and you won't be called for Phonathon later this year.* [Please click here to donate online](#) and [click here to print out a mail-in form](#).

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## League Studies in a Nutshell

Refresh your membership's understanding of why the League does studies and how consensus works as we take on two national studies and, next year, a state study. You can find a short, straightforward explanation [here](#). Please consider including this article in your League bulletin and sending it to your members with information about the studies.



## Study Guides and Consensus Questions Now Available for LWVUS Studies

Find information on the LWVUS studies quickly! Most of the materials for the two studies-on the Constitutional amendment process and on Money in Politics-are now available. The easiest way to get to these resources is to go to [lwvma.org](http://lwvma.org), look on the right under **Quick Links**, and **choose LWVUS Constitutional Amendment Study and Money in Politics (MIP) Review and Update**. There are three webpages: one overall summary and one for each study.

The newest addition is the Study Guide for the MIP study. It includes background, links to reading materials, definitions, and **consensus questions**. This guide will likely be updated as a few more reference materials are finalized, so be sure to check back at the link below to get the most updated version when you are ready to use it. [Read more...](#)

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## ADVOCACY

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### Save the Date for Day on the Hill

Day on the Hill, the League's annual lobby day at the State House, will be Tuesday, Feb. 9, with a snow date of Tuesday, Feb. 23. Day on the Hill is in February of the second year of the legislative session because almost all bills that are not reported out of committee by mid-March are dead for this session. We need to push legislators to report our key bills to the floor for votes.



Please encourage your members to attend Day on the Hill. The more constituents the legislators see, the more powerful the League becomes.

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### Ballot Question Information

There are currently almost two dozen potential ballot questions for the November 2016 and November 2018 (for Constitutional amendment questions) ballots. You can find information on which questions are supported by League positions, which are opposed by League positions, and which the League has no position on by [clicking here](#). Local Leagues can work as Leagues for those questions supported by League positions, but not for questions opposed or that we have no positions on. League members are, of course, free to work on any ballot questions as individuals.

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### Help Combat Climate Change

Addressing climate change is an LWVMA action priority and a priority at the national level. State and local Leagues are encouraged to help in this effort by getting involved with the Clean Power Plan to limit greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. Find out how your League and your members can become involved in this critical effort to save our planet in Massachusetts and nationally. [Read more...](#)



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## THE TO-DO LIST

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### It's Time to File Your League Taxes

Treasurers please note! All Leagues must file an annual tax return with the IRS no later than the 15th day of the fifth month after the close of your tax year. If your fiscal year ended on June 30, your local League treasurer **MUST** file your e-postcard by **Nov. 15**. Failure to file for three consecutive years will result in the revocation of your League's tax-exempt status. Leagues that receive less than \$50,000 in income can electronically file [Form 990-N](#) (the "e-postcard"). The form is short and easy to complete. Our website has [detailed information about the responsibilities of local League treasurers](#) in the "Member Services" section. Please contact [Executive Director Meryl Kessler](#) if you have questions.



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### Take a Look at Your Nonpartisan Policy

Now is the time to schedule a review of your local Nonpartisan Policy with your board or steering committee. With the level of political activity already heating up for the 2016 election, they need to know what the limitations are on their participation and understand why those limitations are important to the League. If you have any questions, please contact [Marilyn Peterson](#), for help.

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:

