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## CALENDAR

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| Tuesday, Sep. 22     | National Voter Registration Day<br>Vote-a-Palooza, Samuel Adams Park, Boston, from<br>10 a.m. until 2 p.m. |
| Friday, Sep. 25      | LWVMA Board Meeting, Concord Library, Concord, from<br>11 a.m. until 2 p.m.                                |
| Saturday, October 3  | League Leader Roundtable, Grange Hall, Sudbury, from 9<br>a.m. until 12 p.m.                               |
| Friday, October 23   | LWVMA/LESF Combined Board Meeting, North Hill,<br>Needham, MA from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.              |
| Saturday, October 24 | League Leader Roundtable, Forbes Library, Northampton,   |

from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m.

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## HAPPENING NOW

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### Pick a League Leader Roundtable in October

LWVMA will kick off the new League year with "welcome back" roundtables for local League leaders in both the eastern and western parts of the state. We hope several members of your League leadership team can make one of these dates!



**Date:** Saturday, October 3, 2015

**Time:** 9 a.m.: Light breakfast buffet and socializing; 9:30 a.m.-noon: Meeting

**Location:** Sudbury Grange Hall, 326 Concord Rd, Sudbury (free parking behind the building). [Directions](#)

[RSVP](#) for this meeting by September 30.

**Date:** Saturday, October 24, 2015

**Time:** 9 a.m.: Light breakfast buffet 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 October 20.

*There is no charge for these events!* Please bring other members of your leadership team. RSVP for all attendees using the links above. Both meetings will cover the same material. We are holding two meetings as a convenience, and we are not expecting leaders to attend both (although, of course, anyone is welcome at both!).

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### Support LWVMA's Annual Fall Fundraising Appeal

Please support the vital work of LWVMA and our Citizen Education Fund by donating to our annual Fall Appeal, which will kick off later this month. By giving to the appeal, you will sustain the essential services provided by the state League and/or our Citizen Education Fund and **also earn money for your own League**. For a contribution you make by October 30, your League will receive 10-15% of the amount! You also have the option of signing up for monthly donations. Look for details in upcoming emails from LWVMA.

Why contribute to the Fall Appeal?

As we approach a presidential election year, LWVMA is preparing to launch **MoVE 2016 (Massachusetts Voter Engagement 2016)**, an ambitious, yearlong program that will provide digital and print 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 next fall. And, of course, we will continue to advocate for changes that make Massachusetts a fairer, cleaner, and safer place to live.

Because membership dues do not cover all of our expenses, we rely on our supporters to help close the gap. Thank you in advance for your support!

## Local Leagues Gearing Up for LWVUS Studies

The Massachusetts LWVUS Studies Steering Committee is getting a very positive response from local Leagues to our offers of support with materials and planning. Interest in these important studies is running high! Most of our Leagues will be conducting both of the studies, either on their own or regionally. For your board meetings, we have prepared a [flyer](#) that describes the support available.



The [lwwma.org](http://lwwma.org) website is your one-stop destination for the studies. The LWVMA website will be updated as LWVUS posts new materials and links become available. In addition, the Steering Committee has prepared materials such as an editable introductory newsletter article/member email, a calendar of local League and other events relevant to the studies, and separate pages for each study.

If you have any suggestions for the website, how we can help, or anything related to the studies, please contact the Steering Committee at [lwwus.studies@lwwma.org](mailto:lwwus.studies@lwwma.org).

## ELECTIONS AND VOTING

### LWVMA Holding Vote-a-Palooza!

On National Voter Registration Day, Sept. 22, LWVMA will be teaming up with MassVOTE and MassPIRG to host a voter registration drive in Samuel Adams Park, right next to Faneuil Hall and directly across from Boston City Hall. This "Vote-a-Palooza" will be from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., and LWVMA is looking for volunteers to staff two-hour shifts. Please contact LWVMA Executive Director [Meryl Kessler](#) if you would like to participate.



### Voter Service Update



We have developed a one-page [Massachusetts Election Reforms 2015-16: A Guide for Local Leagues](#) outlining the timetable for the election reforms enacted in 2014--online voter registration, early voting, and pre-registration of teens. LWVMA is

preparing a postcard that you can print and distribute at your voter registration events this fall with information about Online Voter Registration.

Local Leagues can add the logo for online voter registration to their websites, with a link to the online site. Here is the graphic to use. Copy the graphic onto your website, then right-click on it and add the hyperlink to the online registration site:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>

For Leagues with November 2015 elections, let us know if you would be interested in participating in a telephone conference call to share ideas for candidates' debates and forums and other voter service activities. Contact [Mary Ann Ashton](#).

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## VOTE411 Is Coming to Massachusetts

LWVMA is planning to launch the [VOTE411.org](#) Online Voters' Guide for Massachusetts for the 2016 calendar year. [VOTE411.org](#) Online Voters' Guide, a customizable digital resource developed by the national League of Women Voters, will allow Massachusetts voters to access personalized ballot information - for statewide races, state legislative races, and Congressional races - by entering a street address. Voters will also be able to access in-depth information about candidates (including candidates' responses to questions created by Leagues), ballot measures, an online voter registration tool, local and state voting requirements and rules, a polling place finder, and videos of League-sponsored candidate debates. We will be working out the details in the coming months, and there will be many opportunities for local and state League collaboration. Please contact Voter Service Chair [Mary Ann Ashton](#) or Executive Director [Meryl Kessler](#) [617-523-2999] for more information.



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## We Want Your Voter Registration Photos

If your League is participating in National Voter Registration Day Tuesday, Sept. 22, please take some photos and send them to [Brynne Gorman](#) at the state League for our Facebook page and Twitter feed.

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## LWVUS Offers Election Guide

The national LWV Education Fund has teamed up with the Newspaper in Education Institute (NIE) to produce "[Electing the President](#)," a comprehensive supplement designed to help voters, especially young and first-time voters, understand the presidential election process.

Consider putting a link to the supplement on your League's website and in your bulletin so members can take a look-there's some fascinating information in this 16-page brochure. You can [download the PDF here](#) and print copies for use at voter service events.

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## ADVOCACY

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### Legislature Is Back at Work

The state legislature is back from its August recess, and we expect much activity around the bills we are supporting over the next three months.

Several bills-on pay equity, public records access, the MBTA's future, restorative justice, dropout prevention, motor vehicle license suspension and pregnant workers' rights-have been reported out of joint committees and are now before the House or Senate Ways & Means committees. LWVMA has sent a letter asking those committees to move quickly on these important bills. The sex education bills have been sent to the health care financing committee.

Please consider stopping by your legislators' in-district office hours to ask for support of these bills when they come to the floor for a vote. And urge your members to

respond to Action Alerts from the League as this legislation moves forward. Other bills we support are still in joint committees, and many will be having hearings during the fall months. You can check the bills you are interested in on our website [legislation page](#).

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## A Slew of Ballot Questions

The Attorney General has certified 22 ballot question petitions (some are duplicates). One petition, a Constitutional Amendment on the subject of corporate personhood, was not certified but its backers are appealing the decision to the courts. You can take a look at all the petitions [here](#).

LWVMA is not actively working on any of those ballot initiatives. The Legislative Action Committee is preparing a guide to the ballot questions detailing which ones are supported by League positions so that local Leagues will know which they can work for as a League if they want. That information will be sent to local League leaders in the next week or so.

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## THE TO-DO LIST

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### Daniel Scharfman Grant Deadline

The deadline for local Leagues to apply for a fall Daniel Scharfman Citizens Education grant is Monday, Oct. 5. If your League is planning any citizen education and/or voter service events or activities open to the public, think about applying for a grant of up to \$250. Three or more Leagues collaborating can receive a grant of up to \$500.

The one-page application is easy to fill out. Click [here](#) for ideas from previous grants and for all the information you need to submit a grant. Submit applications to [Sue Abrams](#), and also contact Sue with any questions.

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### Member Services Website Refresh

We've been busy updating the Member Services pages on our website to bring you the latest resources, tool kits, links and document downloads that may help in running your League. It's all here and waiting for you! Please take a peek or even a longer look - just click on the Member Services [tab](#) on the League homepage, [www.lwvma.org](http://www.lwvma.org). Let us know what you think. These pages are for all of us. Email questions and comments to [members@lwvma.org](mailto:members@lwvma.org).

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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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