



**League of Women Voters®**

**Massachusetts**

## **House to Debate Constitutional Amendments Today!**

The two following bills are supported by LWVMA and will be debated on the House floor beginning this morning at 11:45am.

**Please CALL your local Representative's office to ask for their positive vote on these bills.**

### **H.63 - A Legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to voting by qualified voters of the Commonwealth.**

Current Massachusetts Constitutional law provides for the use of an absentee ballot only for being out of town, religious beliefs or disability. This amendment will allow voting by absentee ballot without explanation. This will increase the ability of qualified voters to have their voice heard even in the face of a more hectic and crowded life style. Read past testimony [here](#) for more information.

### **S.17 - Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution allowing for a graduated income tax.**

The growing income and wealth disparity between the top 1% and the bottom 90% of the population has been gaining public attention. Wealth concentrated in the hands of a few is wealth that is not being spent in the state economy to stimulate growth and create jobs.

The income tax is a major source of the Commonwealth's revenue, representing more than a third of the state budget. A graduated income tax would raise sufficient revenue, provide tax relief for lower and middle income families and allow for greater flexibility in our overall tax structure. The scale of rates can be developed so as to be revenue neutral, or to raise either more or less revenue from the income tax. Control over the rate scale rests with the Legislature. For past testimony, click [here](#) for more information.

**Debate on the House floor is an important step in the process to allow these bills to begin the process for amending the Massachusetts Constitution in a manner that will support all the citizens of our state. Please CALL your local Representative's office to request their "Yes" vote.**

To find contact information for your Representative, click [here](#).