



# The League of Women Voters

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## Massachusetts

Testimony submitted to the Joint Committee on Election Laws  
in support of H.613 and H.618  
related to election audits

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For a state that is a respected leader in high technology, education, health care and more, our election laws place Massachusetts way down on the list of states in providing accessibility, ease and confidence in election procedures.

Verified Voting ([www.verifiedvoting.org](http://www.verifiedvoting.org)) reports that 25 states and the District of Columbia currently perform post-election audits they rate from “excellent” (New Mexico) to “needs improvement.” Massachusetts is reported as “inadequate.”

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts has been working for over 90 years to make our voting process as accessible and accurate as possible. At this time, we are seeking your support in establishing routine, random post-election audits. The League’s Citizens Right to Vote position affirms the critical role of audits.

Belief in the accuracy of the results of our elections is at the heart of our democracy. Because voting equipment is never fully secure, nor always accurate, the League supports post-election audits of the vote and supports audit bills H.613 and H.618.

Audits are necessary to insure that our elections are fair and the vote tally by machines is correct. It is also common sense. We require banks and other financial institutions to have regular audits, yet we accept the results of machine counts without verification by post-election audits.

We understand that many reforms require an expenditure of limited resources. However, except for a few precincts, we already have paper ballots counted by optical scanners (as used in New Mexico), and funds for audits are available through the Help America Vote Act.

The LWVMA strongly recommends that the members of the Joint Committee on Election Laws vote your support of legislation to implement routine post-election audits and work to have this legislation pass in the General Court and be made law in Massachusetts.