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## CALENDAR

Tuesday, May 27	"Why You Need Single-Payer Healthcare," Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Square, Worcester, 6 - 8 p.m.
Monday, June 2	Deadline to Apply for Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education Grants
Tuesday, June 3	Gun Bill Rally, State House, 10:30 a.m.
Friday, June 6 - Tuesday, June 10	LWVUS Convention, Dallas
Friday, June 20	LWVMA/LESF Retreat, time and location TBD
Friday, June 27	LWVMA Board Meeting, LWVMA Office, 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Wednesday, August 20	League of Women Voters Night at Fenway Park

## EVENTS

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### Heading to the Dallas Convention?

We hope many of you are planning to attend the LWVUS Convention in Dallas June 6-10. Remember that the last day to register without a late fee is Friday, May 23.

LWVMA will host a breakfast gathering for all our Massachusetts delegates Saturday morning, June 7, from 7:30 to 8:45am in the White Rock room 1 & 2 (5th floor) at the Omni Dallas Hotel. We hope you will all join us and get to know your fellow Bay State delegates. Breakfast will be \$25 to help us cover the costs.

Friday night, June 6, from 8 to 10 p.m., the Massachusetts League's Campaign Finance Committee is holding a caucus to explain and encourage support for the resolution we will offer on the convention floor, and also to preview some of the excellent [campaign finance education materials](#) the committee has developed for local Leagues to use in their own communities.

Finally, we urge your support for that resolution when it comes up for a vote. Massachusetts is offering the resolution in conjunction with LWVUS's proposed program on campaign finance for the coming biennium. You can read the full text [here](#), but it encourages LWVUS to move quickly and decisively to develop positions that permit Leagues to take action on the problem of money in our political system at the local, state and national levels.

Our campaign finance committee is also a major contributor to the issues workshop on money and politics Monday afternoon from 3:30 to 5.

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### Take a Look at the Video Contest Winners

Students from Burlington, Natick and Fall River took home the top prizes in our "Dear Future Governor..." video contest. You can view the winning entries [here](#). The winners will be honored at an award ceremony in the near future.

We received 50 videos from around the state on topics including the economy, gun control, crime, gangs, the environment, education, campaign finance reform, legalization of marijuana, immigration, minimum wage, bullying, potholes, veterans' benefits, and alternative energy. The judging committee, composed of members of LWVMA and members of the Governor's Statewide Youth Council, selected the winning videos based on clear and compelling messages, memorable content and delivery, and creativity.

The contest was supported by the Lotte E. Scharfman Citizen Education Fund.

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### Joining Forces For Regional Climate Action

LWVMA was invited, along with the Connecticut state League, to participate in the 8th annual LWV New England Region Quad States Leadership Conference in Maine May 3-4. The Quad States Conference originated as a way for the four founding New England state Leagues of Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont to share experiences, collaborate on advocacy issues and hone advocacy and leadership skills.



Taking a cue from the New England Governors' December 2013 compact to work together to solve the region's energy issues, plus the latest reports about the growing threat of climate change, the Quad States Conference planning team selected energy and the environment as the topic of the 2014 Conference.

LWVMA Board member and Energy and Resource Conservation legislative specialist Launa Zimmaro was a co-presenter for the Advocacy on Energy and Environmental Issues Workshop, along with LWVME and LWVUS Climate Change Task Force member Pam Person. Launa's presentation, *Connecting the Dots: Environmental Advocacy and Campaign Finance Reform*, focused on the threat of climate change and how special interest money in our political system influences climate change policy and legislative outcomes. You can see her presentation [here](#).

Both climate change and the money used to manipulate our political system threaten society and our democracy. This common ground led to the idea of forming an ongoing, regional advocacy coalition of New England state Leagues. We're excited that the first planning meeting of this coalition has been scheduled for May 27. There is strength in numbers, collaboration and coordination, and reaching beyond our borders to work with our LWV neighbors is key to building that strength.

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## The League Goes to Fenway Park



Save the date! The second annual League of Women Voters' Night at Fenway Park is on Aug. 20. The game against the Los Angeles Angels will begin at 7:10 p.m., but plan to arrive at 6:45 for pre-game ceremonies saluting the League. Ticket prices for this event will be \$30 for covered outfield grandstand seats. The Red Sox will reserve a section so that Leaguers and their friends can sit together. A portion of ticket sales will be donated to LWVMA. Look for an e-mail with further details arriving in the near future.

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## Health Care Forum in Worcester

LWVMA's Health Care Committee is hosting a forum, "Why You Need Single-Payer Health Care," Tuesday, May 27, 6-8 p.m., at the Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Square, Worcester. The Worcester Area League is a co-sponsor, with other organizations and some legislators. The program is free and open to all. Speakers will be Gerald Friedman, professor of economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Ture Turnbull, director, Mass-Care.

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## ADVOCACY

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### Updated Bottle Bill Spring Signature Drive Begins

For the next two to three weeks, LWVMA will be out collecting signatures, the final step to get the updated bottle bill on the November 2014 ballot. This last step is only required if the Legislature has not acted on the bill, and they have not done so. A legislative compromise is still possible, but we need to have the signatures in hand if there is no acceptable bill.



Many thanks to the 19 local Leagues who are participating in this collection. Together we hope to collect 3,000 to 5,000 signatures to contribute to the coalition's goal of 22,000-25,000. The more we collect the better.

Materials have been distributed to all participating local Leagues and weekly calls for checking in with signature collection totals have begun. All of the materials are available on the League's updated [bottle bill webpage](#). Remember that the petitions cannot be photocopied! If you need more petitions, contact [Brynne](#) (617-523-2999) at the LWVMA office and she will mail them out to you.

Let's work together to get the updated bottle bill passed! To contact the Updated Bottle Bill Steering Committee with questions, email [updatedbottlebill@lwwma.org](mailto:updatedbottlebill@lwwma.org).

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### Guidelines for Ballot Question Forums

There may be as many as seven ballot questions facing voters in the November election. The final decision on the proposed questions will come from the Secretary of State's office in early July.

LWVMA's board has voted to support these ballot questions: update the bottle bill, the patient safety act, and the hospital profit transparency and fairness act. We are opposing the question to repeal the 2013 law indexing the gasoline tax to the Consumer Price Index. The board will decide on the question to repeal the casino law after the Supreme Judicial Court rules on whether the question is valid. LWVMA is taking no stand on the ballot questions on raising the minimum wage and on earned sick time because the League does not have positions at either the national or state level on those issues.

The board recently issued guidelines for local Leagues which are considering holding forums or printing information on the ballot questions. The guidelines are posted on our website [here](#). Please take a look before planning ballot question events since the situation is complicated by the fact that we have stands on some questions but not all of them.

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### Legislation Update: A Win and a Question

As most of you know by now, the election reform legislation we have been working so hard on passed last week-a good start and a launching pad for more reforms next session.

But where are the other bills? Especially the Massachusetts Disclose Act on campaign finance reform and the gun safety bill?

Our legislative specialist for both bills, Carolyn Lee, reports:



To date no legislation on gun laws has come out of committee. Hearings were held all over the state so that citizens could have input. Speaker DeLeo and Chairman McNaughton of the Joint Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety both promised a bill shortly after the Task Force appointed by the speaker released its report in January. With the clock ticking on the close of the session at the end of July, there is little time remaining for discussion, amendments, or even passage of a bill. The Senate has stated it will take no action until or unless there is an affirmative vote on a House bill. Where is the bill?

The Massachusetts Disclose Act, S.321, which passed the Senate last session and was not acted upon by the House, was refiled in the current session. Joint Committee hearings were held and the bill voted favorably out of committee as a part of a large group of related bills. An extension order was filed for this bill in March. Since then, nothing. Assurances were given to interested groups that this year at least this campaign finance reform would actually happen. Discussions with other organizations indicated that negotiations are ongoing. Where is the bill?

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### Gun Bill Rally June 3

**Save the date:** The Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, which LWVMA belongs to, is planning an Action Day **June 3** on gun legislation. Registration is at 10 a.m. at the Church on the Hill across from the State House. The rally will be on the State House steps at 10:30, followed by a chance to meet with your legislators. For more information or to say you can attend, email [Carolyn Lee](mailto:Carolyn.Lee@lcvma.org), legislative specialist.

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## From Council 2014

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### Council Spotlights Civility in Politics

LWVMA Council on May 10 focused our attention on civility and politics, primarily in local government. Our guest speakers made us more aware of the issue and offered helpful solutions and tools that we could take back to our own communities.

Council drew 72 League members and staff. A review of the year's activities with an eye toward the future was a highlight of the morning. The Outstanding Service Award was presented to each member of the Legislative Action Committee, and four workshops engaged members in a variety of topics.



The LWVMA board wishes to thank all of the presenters and planners, and also thanks

the local Leagues that donated a total of \$3,700 to LWVMA.

For a summary, slide shows, and presentations/handouts from Council 2014, visit the Council [webpage](#).

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## Transportation Action Plan

The Transportation Review Committee developed an Action Plan that focuses on how a local League can become more engaged in its community or regional area on transportation issues and advocacy. The committee presented its report at the Council meeting.

This Action Plan is available on the LWVMA website [here](#).



Local Leagues will find who was involved in developing the Action Plan and the resource materials that we developed to help Leagues better understand the issues, the regional and municipal agencies involved, and the legislation the committee is currently tracking. (Phase 1 of the plan.)

Moving forward (Phase 2), we've shortened our name to the Transportation Committee and will continue updating the resource materials. We also want to expand our efforts since transportation issues are

becoming increasingly important as society shifts away from automobile usage to other modes, such as bicycles, public transit and foot power!

We are available to help your League establish or enhance your transportation initiatives and we'd encourage you to join our committee. For further information or to have one of our team members visit your League, please [contact us](#).

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## The To-Do List

### State Office Candidate Forums

Is your League interested in holding a candidate forum for candidates for state offices, either alone or with a neighboring League? LWVMA is working on a gubernatorial forum, but welcomes efforts by local Leagues to hold forums for the candidates for lieutenant governor, attorney general, treasurer, auditor, and secretary of state. Also consider working with Leagues near you on forums for Congressional races and U.S. Senate.

You don't have to include all the offices. For example, one local League is thinking of having the candidates for attorney general along with those for the county district attorney. It would also be logical to pair candidates for treasurer and auditor.

If you would like some help working on such forums, contact [Nancy Brumback](#).

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## Please Update Your New Leadership Teams

As we move through Annual Meeting season, please let LWVMA know your new leadership teams. Please send a list that includes name, email, leadership position, telephone number and address for each leader to [Brynne Gorman](#) at the LWVMA office. Thanks!

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## High School Voter Registration Totals

We'd like to publicize how many high school students our local Leagues have registered to vote this year. Please email your totals and your League name to [Nancy Brumback](#).

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## Apply for Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education Grants by June 2

As you plan your fall events, consider the opportunity to receive up to \$250 from the Citizen Education Grant Program. These popular grants can be used to fund voter/citizen education programs and projects.



For information on the program and past awards, click [here](#). The one-page application is easy to complete. Application and [guidelines](#) are available [here](#). Submit your League's application by **June 2** to [Jean Cherdack](#)

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## Idea Of the Month



As town activity slows down over the summer, it's a good time to get to know your local cable television station director and find out how you can help the cable station cover your activities. Ask for a meeting and talk over topics such as how far in advance the station needs to know about events to arrange coverage, what information is needed on room size, expected audience size, number of speakers, microphones needed, etc. If you can let the director know about possible fall events, such as candidates' nights or public information forums, it will help the station plan.

You might also find out what facilities are available if your League wants to do in-studio programs, and whether the station can make your programs, such as candidate forums, available to other cable stations in the area. As an example, [here's](#) a TV show on elected town boards that the Needham League produced.

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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.