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CALENDAR

Thursday, August 7	Stand Up for All Children Rally, Copley Square, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, August 20	League of Women Voters Night at Fenway Park, starts at 6:45.
Friday, August 22	LWVMA Board Meeting, Wellesley Community Center, Wellesley, MA, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.
Tuesday, September 9	State Primary Election
Sunday, September 21	The People's Climate March, New York City

Monday, September 22 LWVMA Board Meeting, Wellesley Community Center,
Wellesley, MA from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Tuesday, September 23 National Voter Registration Day

EVENTS

Get Ready For Election 2014!

Here's information to help your League participate during this fall's election season.

LWVMA Primary Election Voters' Guide: In the coming days, LWVMA will post on its website a complete voters' guide to the candidates who will be on the Democratic and

Republican ballots in the September 9 primary election. All 20 candidates on those ballots have submitted their answers to questions the League asked. After the primary election, we will update the candidate list and add the independent candidates who will be on the November 4 general election ballot to our online voters' guide.

We will notify local League presidents as soon as the guide is posted so that you can link to it on your League's website and publicize it on your personal and League Facebook pages. LWVMA will be sending out a press release on the guide, and we will include that release in the information to presidents so you can notify your local newspapers and other community media outlets.

Voter Registration: With the excitement around the governor's race and the ballot questions, consider holding a fall voter registration at area high schools or at back-to-school evenings. And it's not too late to sign up to participate in National Voter Registration Day September 23. For information or to register to participate, click [here](#). LWVUS reports that the National Association of Secretaries of State is supporting the NVRD for at least the next five years. This means that chief elections officials around the country, representing a wide variety of political backgrounds, will be encouraged to support NVRD activities.

Candidates' Forums: We know many of our local Leagues will be holding candidates' forums this fall, especially if their state Senators and Representatives are in contested races. You can also consider holding a forum with neighboring Leagues if your U.S. Representative in Congress is in a contested race or if you share state legislators. The Needham, Natick and Wellesley Leagues, for example, are sponsoring a pre-primary forum in a State Senate race. For help in planning a candidates' forum, see the [voter service toolkit](#) on our website.



LWV Amherst registering voters last weekend

We have had inquiries from some of the candidates for statewide offices other than governor, urging the League to sponsor forums for the candidates for attorney general, secretary of state, treasurer and auditor, as well as lieutenant governor, and we encourage any local Leagues who are interested to consider a forum for some of those offices. Concord-Carlisle, for example, is working on a forum with the candidates for treasurer and auditor, and pairing the state attorney general candidates with county district attorney candidates in a forum is another idea. If you need any information on those statewide candidates, please contact [Nancy Brumback](#).

Poll Observer Opportunities: We are working with our partners in the Election Protection Coalition--the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, ACLU of Massachusetts, Common Cause and MassVOTE--to organize poll observers to work Election Day, November 4, in selected precincts that have historically experienced voting problems. Most of that effort will be in the cities of Springfield, Boston, Worcester, Lawrence and New Bedford. If you, or perhaps several people in your League acting together, would like to help with this effort or just learn more, please contact [Nancy Brumback](#). Specific locations will be determined and training provided for poll observers closer to the election.

March for Climate Change in New York



LWVUS has signed on with over 120 other organizations as a participating member of The People's Climate March in New York City Sunday, Sept. 21. Details of the League's participation will be in the League Update from LWVUS on Thursday, August. 14.

World leaders will be in New York City for a historic UN summit on climate change then. The LWV, along with tens of thousands of passionate and dedicated allies, plans to flood the streets of NYC in a unified demonstration for action on climate change! The goal of this massive demonstration is to sound an unmistakable public call urging immediate action to address climate disruption. It is time for our leaders to act on this critical issue.

Sierra Club MA will be arranging round-trip transportation by bus, train and carpool for September 21. We will provide details when available. Join the tens of thousands who will be participating in the People's Climate March, expected to be the largest climate rally in history. For more information, [click here](#).

Mark Your Calendars for League Leader and Member Events

Save these dates for League events this year. You will receive more specific information as the dates get closer. As of now, locations and exact times have not been decided. If you have suggestions on a location for any of these events in your area, please email [Karen Price](#).

- ✓ Fall League Leader Lunch: October 25, 2014, focusing on local League membership and leadership development
- ✓ Spring League Leader Lunch: March 7, 2015
- ✓ LWVMA Convention (all members): May 15-16, 2015

ADVOCACY

Bottle Bill is Ballot Question 2: Campaign is on!

Thanks to the League and other member organizations of the Coalition to Update the Bottle Bill, enough signatures were collected and certified, and the question will be on the November 4 statewide ballot. The Coalition campaign is organizing, and the League is part of the coalition steering committee. The LWVMA steering committee will be in touch with our members soon about volunteering for the campaign to update the bottle bill.



A well-funded opposition group, largely from business interests such as bottlers and supermarkets, is already gearing up for a battle of big business vs. environmental and good government organizations. We are bracing for a tough ballot question campaign. Under state law, bottlers and supermarkets can pour unlimited corporate funds into opposing the ballot initiative. We will be countering those funds with intense grassroots efforts.

In addition to LWVMA, other organizations in the coalition include MASSPIRG, the Environmental League of Massachusetts, Mass Audubon, the Massachusetts Sierra Club, and many smaller organizations interested in reducing litter. The question is supported by many municipalities anxious to reduce the cost of cleaning up all those bottles that don't have deposits.

If the bottle bill wins in November, Massachusetts would catch up with Maine, Connecticut, New York, Hawaii, California, and Oregon, all of which have added more types of containers to their deposit laws over the past several years.

Bottle Bill Volunteer Training!

Our grassroots campaign has a lot of work to do to make sure Question 2, the Updated Bottle Bill, passes, and we're up against a well-funded opposition. We need as many League members as possible to join the Yes on 2 campaign.

To get everyone ready, the Coalition for an Updated Bottle Bill is holding [Volunteer Leader Trainings across the state August 23](#). These trainings will outline the campaign's message, strategy, and structure, while equipping you with the skills necessary to organize your neighborhood. We only got on the ballot through the power of our volunteers, and this training will empower you to carry Question 2 to victory in November.

Trainings will be held at the following locations and times August 23:

- Boston, 10 a.m.: Boston Nature Center, 500 Walk Hill Street, Mattapan
- Western Massachusetts, 10 a.m.: Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, 127 Combs Road, Easthampton
- Worcester, 10 a.m.: Broad Meadow Brook Conservation Center and Wildlife Sanctuary, 414 Massasoit Road, Worcester
- South Shore, 1 p.m.: North River Wildlife Sanctuary, 2000 Main Street, Marshfield

Directions to these Mass Audubon locations are available [here](#).

We know our opposition is planning millions of dollars of TV ads to distort the Bottle Bill's purpose and effectiveness. But we also know we hold a stronger tool: dedicated volunteers who can talk to voters 1-on-1 about the importance of an updated Bottle Bill and how it will better our Commonwealth. By [attending a training](#) you will learn the tactics necessary to spread our message on the local level.

Can't make this event? Don't worry, there will be other opportunities, but please come if you can.

LWVMA Positions on the Ballot Questions

Four ballot questions will be on the statewide ballot November 4. The Massachusetts League has positions on three of them.

Here are the questions, in the order they will appear on the ballot, and our positions.

Question 1: Eliminating Gas Tax Indexing. This proposed law would repeal a law passed in 2013 and eliminate the requirement that the state's gasoline tax be adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index. **LWVMA opposes this question and urges a NO vote.** We believe indexing the gasoline tax to the CPI provides funding needed to maintain and improve the state's transportation infrastructure.

Question 2: Expanding the Beverage Container Deposit Law. This question would update the state's current deposit law, the Bottle Bill, to include most non-carbonated beverages. It would also increase the handling fee and make other changes to the existing law. **LWVMA supports this question and urges a YES vote.** We believe an expansion of the Bottle Bill will greatly increase the rates of recycling and reduce litter.

Question 3: Expanding Prohibitions on Gaming. This question would prohibit casinos, any gaming establishment with slot machines, and wagering on simulcast greyhound races, even if licenses have already been granted. **LWVMA supports this question and urges a YES vote.** We have long opposed casinos and other gambling in Massachusetts, arguing the costs in services needed and social impact outweigh projected gains in tax revenue and employment.

Question 4: Earned Sick Time for Employees. This question would entitle employees in Massachusetts to earn and use sick time according to certain conditions. The League has no state or national positions that would enable LWVMA take a stand on this question and so we neither support nor oppose this question.

The Legislative Action Committee has prepared a more [detailed summary](#) of the ballot questions, along with a list of organizations which can serve as resources for speakers or additional background.

If your League is considering holding a forum on the ballot questions or publishing voter information, please consult the [guidelines](#) for doing so since issues of advocacy versus education are involved.

LWVMA Supports Unaccompanied Immigrant Children

LWVMA has sent a letter to Gov. Deval Patrick praising his efforts to provide temporary shelter in Massachusetts for the unaccompanied children who have fled to the United States to avoid violence and extreme poverty in their home countries. The League also has a [letter-to-the-editor template](#) on this subject that local Leagues can use.

To support these children, LWVMA members can join the "Stand Up For All Children Rally," sponsored by the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, on Thursday, August 7 at 5:30 p.m. The march will start at Copley Square and go to the State House for the rally.

THE TO-DO LIST

Join the Campaign Finance Effort



In mid-September, the Massachusetts Campaign Finance Study Committee will gear up to begin the second year of our State Program; the meeting date is not yet set. If you are interested in staying in touch with the committee and perhaps participating, now is the time to sign on!

At our meeting in September, we will review our past year, report on the national convention, and brainstorm on how we can participate in the new national LWV program on campaign finance. We will also put our focus on Massachusetts and prepare our report for the 2015 Massachusetts Convention in May.

If you are concerned about Money In Politics, now is the time to join the CFSC. You will be able to stay in touch on new initiatives and jump in whenever you see the opportunity! For more information or to get on our list, reply to [Becky Shannon](#).

Hope we hear from you!

Local League Grant Deadlines

This League year's deadlines to apply for the Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education grants are October 6, 2014, January 12, 2015, April 6, 2015, and June 8, 2015.

The grants, for up to \$250, are available to local Leagues to support citizen education and voter service events in their areas.

Guidelines and requirements for the grants and the simple one-page application are available on the LWVMA [website](#). You can also read about the projects which have received grants in the past. If you have questions, please contact [Jean Cherdack](#).

WEBPAGE OF THE MONTH: Massachusetts Leagues by Region

If you've wondered how to contact the local Leagues near you, perhaps to co-sponsor a candidates' forum or other event, there's a page on our [website](#) for that.

At the very top of the home page, go to Leagues in MA and then click on MA Leagues by Region. You'll find our local Leagues grouped into seven geographic regions, with live links to the Leagues which have websites that usually include contact information. If you cannot

locate the contact information, or if the League has no website, email [Brynne Gorman](mailto:Brynne.Gorman) for that information.

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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