



Spread the Word about Our Voters' Guide

There's help for voters needing information about candidates for the six statewide offices: governor, Lt. governor, attorney general, secretary of state, treasurer and auditor. All 20 candidates for those offices on the Democratic and Republican party primary ballots have answered questions from LWVMA.

Their responses are presented in a Primary Election Voters' Guide to Statewide Offices now on the League's website, www.lwvma.org. Please tell your friends about this valuable resource and spread the word to any organizations you belong to.

Following the Sept. 9 primary election, the League will update the voters' guide and add responses from any independent candidates who qualify for the ballot in the general election Nov. 4. Voters can use the guide to read each candidate's responses to all the questions or to read all the candidates' responses to a particular question.

We salute the members of the committee who made this guide possible: Sharon Briggs, Nancy Brumback, Gretel Clark, Shelley Drowns, Ruth Kohls, Annette Reynolds, Erin Pastuszynski, and Shari Pressman. A special thanks to Lisa Mirabile, our tech guru and a member of the Newton League, who made it look so good and work so well.

LWV Participates in Massive Climate March

The League of Women Voters is one of over 750 participating organizations working to mobilize members to stand up for meaningful, immediate action on climate issues in New York City Sunday, Sept. 21. The People's Climate March is expected to be the largest environmental rally in the history of our country. Round-trip, same-day transportation is being organized now. For more information, go to <http://peoplesclimate.org/march/>

Save the Date for the LWVMA Convention

The next LWVMA Convention will be **Friday and Saturday, May 15-16, 2015**. The convention planning committee is looking for members to choose the venue, select the speakers, plan the program, and plan the menus. If you are interested in serving on the Convention Planning Committee or have any suggestions, please email kprice@lwvma.org. The committee work will be primarily through teleconferences.

A Word from Anne and Marilyn



As usual, the summer has flown by! And, LWVMA has been particularly busy the past several months...

We will let you read the details that follow, but wanted to mention a few highlights:

- LWVMA's Voters' Guide for statewide offices is on our website. It is easy to use and includes responses from all 20 primary ballot candidates for statewide office.
- LWVMA's Updated Bottle Bill Steering Committee has transitioned smoothly to the Stop Litter: Yes on 2 Steering Committee. We hope that you will volunteer to help on this important campaign.
- As you are planning voter education forums, we hope that you will check out LWVMA's guidelines for ballot question forums and information tables.
- LWVMA delegates played a major role at June's LWVUS National Convention in the successful passage of a 3-part program on the key structures of democracy.
- Finally, LWVMA had many successes in the just-completed 2013-2014 legislative session. These successes are due to the hard work of our Legislative Action Committee, and to the many phone calls, emails, letters, and other contact by our members to their state senators and representatives. LWVMA's strength and influence are due to you -- our members -- and we thank you!

Finally, it seems hard to believe, but the current board is more than halfway through its two-year term. We hope that you will consider joining the 2015-2017 board - we can promise you that you will find great satisfaction while working hard for the League!

Our best always,

Marilyn Peterson and Anne Borg
Co-Presidents, LWVMA

Stop Litter: Yes on 2 – Bottle Bill Campaign is On



LWVMA members played a major role collecting the signatures needed to get the expansion of the Bottle Bill on the November ballot. Now the goal is to pass Question 2!

Stop Litter: Yes on 2 is a grassroots campaign pitting a coalition of non-profit groups against a well-funded opposition, mostly bottlers and supermarket chains. The campaign will require hundreds of volunteer workers, doing large and small tasks. The campaign just launched its new website, www.yeson2ma.org.

What can you do now?

- ✓ Sign up to receive emails from LWVMA throughout the campaign when the Yes on 2 coalition is looking for help, such as sign-holding, making phone calls, going door to door, sending a letter to the editor, distributing materials at local fairs and events, displaying a lawn sign, etc. Go to www.yeson2ma.org to sign up.
- ✓ Sign up for sign-holding on primary day, Sept. 9. Enjoy the simple grassroots activism that comes from holding a sign! Consider asking a friend to join you. Go to www.yeson2ma.org to sign up.
- ✓ Use Email, Facebook, local League websites, Twitter in support of the campaign. Like LWVMA on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!
- ✓ Plan on a table at your local fall fairs, farmers markets, etc. The campaign will supply the materials.
- ✓ Save the date: Sunday, September 14 at noon (location TBD) for the *Yes on 2 Campaign Statewide Strategy Session*.

Congratulations and thanks!

Mary Ann Ashton, co-president of the Acton Area League, has been appointed by Governor Patrick to represent LWVMA on the Special Advisory Commission Regarding the Compensation of Public Officials.

Congratulations to the five League members who were honored as **Unsung Heroines of 2014** by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women. Nancy Beeuwkes of Concord-Carlisle, Jennifer Page of Belmont, Enid A. Shapiro of Brookline, and Irene Dondley and Jeanne Krieger, both of Lexington, received the award at the State House May 29.

Protect the Right to Vote Nov. 4

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, Nov. 4, in precincts that have historically experienced voting problems. Most of that effort will be in Springfield, Boston, Worcester, Lawrence and New Bedford. If you, or perhaps several people in your League acting together, would like to help or just learn more, please contact nbrumback@lwwma.org. Specific locations will be determined and training provided for poll observers closer to the election.

New England Women's Policy Conference

LWVMA will be a collaborating partner in "The Unfinished Agenda: New England Women's Policy Conference" Friday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston. The event is sponsored by the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy at UMass Boston.

The conference theme is economic security for all women and their families, and the honorary co-chairs are Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT) and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), reflecting the bipartisan approach to this issue. We will share additional information on attending or participating in this conference as it becomes available.

LWVUS Convention Roundup

Massachusetts Leagues sent 27 delegates to the U.S. convention in Dallas June 6-10, and the state League's Campaign Finance Study Committee played a major role with both a caucus and a workshop on the key issue of campaign finance reform. There were 643 voting delegates at the convention, representing 47 states and the District of Columbia.

The convention adopted as its major program project for the coming two years a three-part program combining study and review of key structures of American democracy: (1) a study of the process of amending the U.S. Constitution, including constitutional conventions; (2) a review and update if necessary of the League position on campaign finance; and (3) a review of the redistricting process for the U.S. Congress. The convention also adopted a position on human trafficking by concurrence with a position of the LWV of New Jersey.

Details on these programs and other convention activities are available on the LWVUS website. LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara was re-elected to a third two-year term.

Two Successful LWVMA Summer Events!

On July 23, MA Assistant Attorney General Jennifer Grace Miller addressed LWVMA members at a cocktail reception. Miller, who represented the Commonwealth in *McCullen v. Coakley* (the "buffer zone" case), before the U.S. Supreme Court in January, provided insightful analysis of the case and the implications of the Court's decision.



On Aug. 20, LWVMA members and their families had a great time at Fenway Park, even if the Sox did lose to Los Angeles. Check out pictures on our Facebook page!

LWVMA Positions on Ballot Questions

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

- **Question 1: Eliminating Gas Tax Indexing.** This proposed law would repeal a law passed in 2013 and eliminates 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 require that unclaimed bottle deposits be dedicated to recycling efforts. **LWVMA supports this question and urges a YES vote.** We believe an expansion of the Bottle Bill will greatly increase the rates of recycling, reduce litter and save cities and towns money in cleanup costs.
- **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.

Go to lwvma.org for more detailed information.

Democracy is ~~NOT~~ ^{NOW} for sale

LWVMA is pleased to announce that updated Money and Politics materials are now available on the LWVMA website for members to use and educate the public on this critical issue! In addition to a PowerPoint presentation with an easy-to-follow, printable script and guidelines, the Money and Politics toolkit includes a narrated version of the presentation available as a YouTube link. For additional information about the materials, contact moneypolitics@lwvma.org, let us know what you think!

Some Big Wins in the Legislature

LWVMA saw some major victories in the two-year legislative session that came to a close July 31. Several bills that we have been advocating in favor of for years finally made it to the Governor's desk and were signed. Your willingness to contact your Senators and Representatives on these bills, especially in response to Action Alerts as the bills came up for a vote, contributed mightily to their passage – thank you!

- **Election reform:** Early voting, online voter registration, post-election audits and pre-registration of teens were all included.
- **Massachusetts Disclose Act:** This law requires timely disclosure of funding behind SuperPACs and listing of top five donors to groups buying political ads.
- **Reproductive Health Care Access:** Law revised the rules governing access to women's health clinics after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the state's "buffer zone" law.
- **Gun Control:** Final version brings Massachusetts into national background check system, requires background checks on private gun sales, increases data collection on guns used in crimes, and allows discretion by licensing authorities for rifle licenses.
- **Health Care:** Patient safety bill ultimately agreed to by Mass. Nurses Association permits hospitals, nurses and nurse-managers to decide the number of intensive care patients assigned to a nurse.
- **Transportation:** "Active Streets" law encourages communities to consider "active" use of streets by pedestrians and bicyclists in designing public street projects.
- **Basic Human Needs:** The comprehensive welfare bill included provisions increasing educational and training opportunities for low-income families and made changes that will make it easier for families to move out of poverty.

More information is available on our website, lwvma.org. Please contact nbrumback@lwvma.org if you are interested in being a legislative specialist for LWVMA when the legislature convenes in January 2015.

**League of Women Voters of Massachusetts
Lotte E. Scharfman Fund**



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Please send us your email address!

If you are receiving the Mass. League Voter in the mail, then LWVMA does not have your email address. That means you are not receiving Action Alerts, invitations to events, and other information. Plus, mailing the Mass. League Voter is expensive! You can help by sending your email address to Brynne Gorman at bgorman@lwwma.org.

LWVMA Calendar	
Tuesday, Sept. 9	Primary Election
Sunday, Sept 14	Yes on 2 Campaign Statewide Strategy Session, noon, (location TBD)
Sunday, Sept 21	People's Climate March, NYC
Monday, Oct. 6	Deadline to submit Scharfman Grant Applications
Tuesday, Nov. 4	General Election
Friday, Nov. 7	New England Women's Policy Conference, UMass Boston, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.