



September 2014

Election 2014: LWVMA Launches Online Voters' Guide, Provides Important Voter Information



The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts proudly presents its Primary Election Voters' Guide to Statewide Offices, featuring questions and answers from all 20 candidates on the Democratic and Republican party primary ballots. The [guide](#) is now available on the League's [website](#), along with other [important voter information](#).

The candidates for governor answered questions on economic development, education, transportation, climate change and health care. Candidates for lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, treasurer and auditor answered questions specific to those offices.

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 hope voters across the Commonwealth will use this voters' guide to help make informed choices as they go to the polls on September 9," said Anne Borg, co-president of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts. "We are pleased to be able to provide this information and thank all the candidates for their willingness to participate in the guide."

Remember to check back after the September 9 primary election, when the League will update the voters' guide and add responses from any independent candidates who qualify for the ballot in the general election November 4.

Stop Litter: Yes on 2 -- Bottle Bill Campaign is On!

By collecting over 20,000 signatures, LWVMA members played a major role in putting Question 2 -- which would expand the Bottle Bill, increase recycling, and reduce trash -- on the November 4 ballot. Now the League is working hard to ensure that Question 2 passes by joining with other non-profit groups to support the [Stop Litter: Yes on 2](#) campaign.



A yes vote on Question 2 on the November 4 ballot will update the original Bottle Bill to expand the container deposit system to include non-carbonated beverages like water, iced tea, juice, and sports drinks, which were not on the market when the original bill was passed in 1982. If passed, this update would decrease litter, increase recycling, and save cities and towns money in litter pick-up and trash disposal.

The *Stop Litter: Yes on 2* campaign is a grassroots effort that depends on volunteers for its success. To volunteer, click [here](#). And please remember to vote YES on 2.

Advocacy Update: Big Wins on Beacon Hill

LWVMA enjoyed 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, including:



Election reform: The new law includes early voting, online voter registration, post-election audits, and pre-registration of teens.

Massachusetts Disclose Act: This law requires timely disclosure of funding behind SuperPACs and the listing of top five donors to groups buying political ads.

Gun Control: The final version of this legislation brings Massachusetts into the 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.

Reproductive Health Care Access: A new law revised the rules governing access to women's health clinics after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the state's "buffer zone" law.

Health Care: A new patient safety law permits hospitals, nurses, and nurse-managers to decide the number of intensive-care patients assigned to a nurse.

Transportation: The "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 law includes 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.

What's happening?

State Primary Election	September 9, 2014, polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Last day to register to vote in general election	October 15, 2014
General Election	November 4, 2014, polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Please see our [Calendar](#) for additional events sponsored by local Massachusetts Leagues.

Join us

Since its founding in 1920, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts has been a respected and trusted voice for citizen participation in our democracy. As a nonpartisan, grassroots organization, the League does not support candidates or parties. However, the League does take positions on important issues of public policy after study and consensus. With 46 local Leagues throughout the Commonwealth, LWVMA has been at the forefront of efforts to empower and educate Massachusetts voters and effect change on a wide range of issues. **Please help advance our important work by [joining the League](#).**

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