

August 2015



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

MASSACHUSETTS

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CALENDAR

Wednesday, August 26 Women's Equality Day

Thursday, August 27 LWVMA/LESF Combined Board Meeting, Wellesley
Community Center, Wellesley, from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sep. 22 National Voter Registration Day
Vote-a-Palooza, Samuel Adams Park, Boston, from 10 a.m.
until 2 p.m.

HAPPENING NOW

[Save the Dates for League Leader Roundtables](#)



Forbes Library

LWVMA will kick off the new League year with "welcome back" roundtables for local League leaders in both the eastern and western parts of the state. We hope several members of your League leadership team can make one (or both) of these dates!

One roundtable will be held Saturday, Oct. 3, at the Grange Hall in Sudbury, and the other will be Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Forbes Library in Northampton. Meeting times will be 9 a.m. to noon, with a light breakfast and social hour from 9 to 10.



Grange Hall

Look for more details soon.

Mass. Leagues Can Work Together on LWVUS Studies

Recognizing the importance and member interest in the two LWVUS studies, LWVMA has formed a Steering Committee to reach out to all local Leagues to encourage and support participation in the LWVUS Constitutional Amendment Process study and the Money in Politics review and update.

Our local Leagues and LWVMA took a very active role before, during, and after the 2014 LWVUS Convention to make money in politics a top priority and encourage the money in politics review. LWVUS responded by establishing these two study committees.

Now is our chance to make our collective voices heard and participate in the studies and consensus! We hope that all Leagues in Massachusetts will be able to participate in both studies, either on their own or regionally.

The deadline for consensus on the Constitutional Amendment study is Dec. 1, and the consensus deadline for the Money in Politics review is Feb. 1. Information on each study, a webinar on the studies and the study process, and information specific to Massachusetts is available through the LWVMA website (with links to relevant national webpages). Find that information through the Quick Links at the right of the home page or [here](#).

To provide meaningful support to local Leagues in this study process, Steering Committee members will be contacting local League leaders to answer questions and discuss shared resources. We would like to know what each League is planning around the studies. The goal is to share resources and information so every member has an opportunity to take part.

Remember: your go-to webpage for all study materials is [here](#). If you have any questions please email the [Steering Committee](#).

VOTING

LWVMA Holding Vote-a-Palooza!

On National Voter Registration Day, Sept. 22, LWVMA will be teaming up with MassVOTE and MASSPIRG to host a voter registration drive in Samuel Adams Park, right next to Faneuil Hall and directly across from Boston City Hall. This "Vote-a-Palooza"

will be held from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., and LWVMA is looking for volunteers to staff two-hour shifts. Please contact LWVMA Executive Director [Meryl Kessler](#), 617-523-2998 if you would like to participate.

Let Voters Register from Your Website



Local Leagues can add the logo for online voter registration to their websites, with a link to the online site. Here is the graphic to use. Copy the graphic onto your website, then right-click on it and add the hyperlink to the online registration site: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>. If that doesn't work, try copying this graphic to the homepage of your website, with the words "click here" under it, and hyperlink those words to the online registration site address. If you run into problems, contact [Brynne Gorman](#) at the LWVMA office.

National Voter Registration Day Is Coming

Your League can join over 200 Leagues around the country on National Voter Registration Day Tuesday, Sept. 22. Time is running out to [sign up to host a voter registration drive in your community](#) and be part of National Voter Registration Day! Leagues must sign up by Sept. 1 to receive free posters and stickers to help promote their voter registration event. Additional training opportunities and toolkits will be available once you sign up. Contact [Maggie \(Duncan\) Bush](#), at LWVUS with questions.



LWVUS is holding a voter registration webinar training Tuesday, Aug. 25 at 2 p.m. EDT with ideas for increasing visibility for your League and more information on National Voter Registration Day.

[Sign up today!](#)

ADVOCACY

Boost Our Impact on Beacon Hill



The legislature will soon be back in session, and the Legislative Action Committee expects hearings and votes this fall on several of the bills we are supporting.

Please let your members know that their responses to Action Alerts on specific bills are very important in supporting bills and in making the League more influential on Beacon Hill.

While our Action Alerts contain information about the bills, members do not have to argue those points with their Senators and Representatives. Just a quick phone call or email to the legislators, giving your name and address and stating that you urge them to support (or oppose) the bill in question makes a huge difference. Phone numbers and email addresses for legislators are available [here](#).

Introduce Your State Senator and Representative to the League

Fall is a great time to get acquainted with your League's Senator and Representative. The Legislative Action Committee encourages local Leagues to invite your legislators to meet your members, maybe at a regular meeting, a coffee one morning or over wine and cheese. You can ask them to speak to your members on what legislation they are supporting and which bills they think have a strong chance of passing. And you can encourage them to support the bills the League is working on. Those bills, along with any testimony we have given, can be found on our website [here](#).

And if your League's schedule doesn't allow for a formal meeting, we encourage you to have two or three members meet with your legislators during their in-district office hours. Call your legislators' offices to find out when they have scheduled in-district hours. You can find the phone numbers and email addresses [here](#).

THE TO-DO LIST

This Year's Deadlines for Daniel Scharfman Grants

This League year's deadlines to apply for the Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education grants are Oct. 5, 2015, Jan. 11, 2016, April 11, 2016, and June 13, 2016.

The grants, for up to \$250, are available to local Leagues to support citizen education and voter service events. If three or more Leagues work on a project together, grants for up to \$500 are available.



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 [Sue Abrams](#), grant committee chair.

A Gentle Reminder

If you have not submitted your League's response to LWVMA's July survey, with the names and contact information for your 2015-2016 board or steering committee, and information about your League's activities in the past fiscal year (July 2014 to June 2015) for inclusion in our annual report, please do so quickly.

You can find the survey [here](#) and either print it out or fill it out online.

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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