



September 2015 Update

Massachusetts Leagues Register Voters Across the Commonwealth for National Voter Registration Day



Boston Election Commissioner Dion Irish joins LWVMA on Sept. 22 at Faneuil Hall

The Massachusetts state League and local Leagues across the Commonwealth were out in force to register voters as part of National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) on September 22.

In Boston, LWVMA teamed up with MASSPIRG Students and MassVOTE for a festive Vote-a-Palooza at Faneuil Hall, where volunteers helped register voters and provided information about Massachusetts' brand new online voter registration system and the voting process. We were delighted that Boston's newly appointed Election Commissioner, Dion Irish, could join us. This event was the result of a winning submission in Mayor Martin J. Walsh's ReEvent the Plaza Contest -- an initiative to source ideas for new and creative events in Boston.

On NVRD and throughout the month of September, local Leagues in Brookline, Sudbury, Newton, Williamstown, Hamilton-Wenham, Norwood, and Northampton also organized drives, registering voters in high schools, libraries, food pantries, parks, and colleges and universities across the state.

National Voter Registration Day, founded by voting rights and community organizations in 2012, has been a highly effective nonpartisan campaign to register tens of thousands of eligible voters on one single day through on-the-ground neighborhood events as well as online.

LWVMA Urges Action on Beacon Hill Bills

As activity in the legislature picks up, LWVMA is advocating on a number of key pieces of legislation. Several bills -- on pay equity, public records access, the MBTA's future, restorative justice, dropout prevention, and pregnant workers' rights -- have been reported out of joint committees and are now before the House or Senate Ways & Means committees. LWVMA has asked those committees to move quickly on these important bills.

Other bills we support are still in joint committees, which are holding hearings almost every week now. LWVMA's legislative specialists have been frequent visitors on Beacon Hill, testifying on clean energy, housing, transportation, criminal justice reform, and electronics recycling legislation. You can check the status of these bills and League testimony on them on our [legislation page](#).

Student Video Contest Will Focus on 2016 Youth Vote



Winners from Durfee High School in Fall River at the the 2015 student video contest.

For its 2016 high school video contest, LWVMA will invite students to submit 30-

second public service announcements (PSAs) designed to encourage young adults to get out and vote in the 2016 presidential election. The contest, entitled "YOUth Should Vote!" will be aimed at increasing turnout among eligible voters between the ages of 18 to 24 -- a group whose participation in elections lags behind that of the general population.

"YOUth Should Vote!" will launch in early 2016. Please check LWVMA's website (www.lwvma.org) for details later this fall.

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 or oppose candidates or parties. However, the League does take positions on important issues of public policy after study and consensus. With 43 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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