



RESOURCES AND INFORMATION 2016 STATEWIDE BALLOT QUESTIONS

Four ballot questions will be on the statewide ballot Nov. 8. LWVMA has taken a position on one:

Question 1: Authorization of a Second Slots Location--LWVMA urges a NO vote

**Question 2: Authorization of Additional Charter Schools and Charter School Expansion--
LWVMA has no position**

Question 3: Minimum Size Requirements for Farm Animal Containment-- LWVMA has no position

Question 4: Marijuana Legalization-- LWVMA has no position

General Resources:

- **Massachusetts Secretary of State:** www.sec.state.ma.us Official text of the ballot questions and the official pros and cons from the campaign committees (the Redbook information); available in Spanish and Chinese on website
- **Ballotpedia:** www.ballotpedia.org Independent website includes lists of supporters and opponents, background information, financial information, even some poll results and recent ads
- **Office of Campaign and Political Finance:** www.ocpf.us An independent state agency that administers Massachusetts campaign finance law (despite web address) where all campaign finance reports required by law—both candidates and ballot questions—are filed and are online. See www.ocpf.us/Reports/ballotquestionreports for a list of the supporting and opposing committees and the money on the ballot questions

Question 1: Authorization of a Second Slots Location

This proposed law would allow the state Gaming Commission to issue one additional category 2 license, which would permit operation of a gaming establishment with no table games and not more than 1,250 slot machines.

LWVMA opposes this question and urges a NO vote. That recommendation is based on our position opposing casino gambling.

A yes vote supports this proposal to grant the Massachusetts Gaming Commission the ability to issue an additional slots license.

A no vote opposes this proposal, retaining the current law that allows three resort casinos and one slots parlor.

Resources:

- YES:** Horse Racing Jobs and Education Committee
Eugene McCain, property developer backing the question
353 Broadway Revere MA 02151
Only contact information available at Office for Political and Campaign Finance is

law firm of K&L Gates, 617-951-9148

NO: Committee for Sustainable and Responsible Economic Development
Joe Curtatone, mayor of Somerville, 617-625-6600
Brian Arrigo, mayor of Revere, 781-286-8100

Question 2: Authorization of Additional Charter Schools and Charter School Expansion

This proposed law would allow the state to approve up to 12 new charter schools or enrollment expansions in existing charter schools each year. Approvals under this law could expand statewide charter school enrollment by up to 1% of the total statewide public school enrollment each year. New charters and enrollment expansions would be exempt from existing limits.

The League does not have a position on charter schools and therefore does not take a stand on this question.

A yes vote supports this proposal to authorize up to 12 new charter schools or enrollment expansions.

A no vote opposes this proposal.

Resources:

YES: Great Schools Massachusetts
www.greatschoolsma.org

NO: Save Our Public Schools
www.saveourpublicschoolsma.com 617-460-7337

Question 3: Minimum Size Requirements for Farm Animal Containment

This proposed law would prohibit any farm from confining any breeding pig, calf raised for veal, or egg-laying hen in a way that prevents the animal from lying down, standing up, fully extending its limbs, or turning around freely. The proposed law would prohibit the sale in Massachusetts of whole eggs or uncooked veal or pork if the hen, pig, or calf was confined in a prohibited manner.

The LWVUS agriculture position does not apply to this question. LWVMA does not take a stand on this question.

A yes vote supports this proposal.

A no vote opposes this proposal.

Resources:

YES: Citizens for Farm Animals, the Yes on 3 coalition of organizations
www.citizensforfarmanimals.com

NO: United Egg Producers www.unitedegg.org
Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation www.mfbf.net
Retailers Association of Massachusetts <https://retailersma.org/>

Question 4: Marijuana Legalization

The proposed law would permit the possession, use, distribution, and cultivation of marijuana in limited

amounts by persons age 21 and older and would remove criminal penalties for such activities. It would provide for the regulation of commerce in marijuana, marijuana accessories, and marijuana products and for the taxation of proceeds from sales of these items.

The League does not have a position on legalization of marijuana and therefore does not take a stand on this question.

A yes vote supports this proposal to legalize marijuana, but regulate it similar to alcohol.

A no vote opposes this proposal, keeping only medical marijuana legal.

Resources:

YES: Yes on 4, Campaign to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol in Massachusetts

www.regulatemassachusetts.org (857) 239-8743

NO: Campaign for a Safe & Healthy Massachusetts

www.safeandhealthyma.com