

League Advocacy: How It Works and What You Can Do

Nancy Brumback, Legislative Action Chair

Launa Zimmaro: Specialist in the Environment: Climate Change, Energy and Resource Conservation

Colleen Kirby: Specialist in Criminal Justice Reform and the Courts



Massachusetts Legislature 101

- Two chambers: Senate—40 members
House—160 members
- All legislators elected every two years
- Two-year sessions, beginning in January of odd-numbered year, for example January 2017
- Effective end date: July 31 of even-numbered year; this session will end July 31, 2018
- Over 6,600 bills this session



What the LAC and Our Specialists Do

- Determine which bills LWVMA will support or oppose
- Provide written and oral testimony at hearings
- Work on lobby days and other activities around a bill
- Push to get bills out of joint committee for a vote
- Alert League members when action is crucial



Day on the Hill: Moving the Needle on League Priorities

- Tuesday, October 24
- Great Hall at the State House
- Keynote Speakers
 - Rep. Patricia Haddad, Speaker Pro Tempore of the House
 - Sen. Cynthia Creem, Assistant Senate Majority Leader
- League Priority Legislation: Automatic Voter Registration, Carbon Pricing, Safe Communities and Criminal Justice Reform



Become a Citizen Lobbyist

- Attend Day on the Hill
- Read the monthly Action Newsletter and do at least one thing
- Respond to Action Alerts
- Recruit a Legislative Envoy for your League
- Get to know your legislators



LAC Specialists

- **Launa Zimmaro**: Specialist in the Environment: Climate Change, Energy and Resource Conservation
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WOMEN VOTERS®
OF MASSACHUSETTS



LEGISLATIVE
ENVOY PROGRAM

Legislative Envoy Program



Why an Envoy Program?

- A link between the LAC and local Leagues
- Make LWVMA more effective and more efficient acting on legislation
- Strengthen local League relations with legislators
- Offer an opportunity for League members to engage in state issues
- Increase the impact of the League



What Will an Envoy Do?

- Get to know a local League's state legislators
- Learn about bills LWVMA is supporting
- Be a conduit between the League and your legislators
- Organize events to help local League members get to know their legislators and legislators get to know their local Leagues
- Play a key role in advancing LWVMA's legislative agenda

