



Priority Legislation for 2017:

Elections and Voting: **Automatic Voter Registration, S.373/H.2091:** To establish a system of automatic voter registration so citizens would be registered to vote when they deal with the Registry of Motor Vehicles or other specified state agencies unless they opt out.

- AVR has already been passed by 10 states and the District of Columbia.
- 680,000 eligible Massachusetts voters are not registered; AVR will change that.
- AVR will eliminate much of the human error that comes with paper forms, will more frequently update records when people move, and can eliminate duplicate records.
- Massachusetts would join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), a national clearinghouse that collects state registration information to prevent registration and voting in more than one state.
- Voters can choose a political party or decline to be registered for any reason.
- The Town Clerks Association testified that it is “fine” with the bill if there is sufficient funding for implementation.

Climate Change: **Carbon Pricing, S.1821/H.1726:** To establish a carbon-fee-and-rebate system, with rebates focused on low- and moderate-income households to assure that a high percentage of these households come out ahead or even. Passing a carbon pricing bill would achieve these critical outcomes:

- Reduce climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Protect vulnerable residents and businesses.
- Stimulate the state’s economy by keeping energy dollars in Massachusetts and through growth in the technology, innovation and renewable energy sectors.
- Promote renewable energy jobs and businesses.
- Advance the transition to a renewable energy future for a habitable world.

Immigration: **Safe Communities Act, S.1305/H.3269:** To protect the civil rights of all state residents, regardless of immigration status. With the protections in the Act, undocumented immigrants living in our communities will be more likely to come forward to report crimes, educate their children, seek health care, and cooperate with community policing efforts in our cities, towns, and counties.

- Prohibits law enforcement and RMV from allowing access to any data for the purpose of enforcing any federal registry program based on national origin, religion, or other protected characteristics.
- Prohibits law enforcement from arresting or detaining someone solely for immigration enforcement purposes or an immigration detainer request.
- Prohibits inquiries about citizenship or immigration status without just cause.
- Prohibits collaboration agreements between ICE and local law enforcement for the purpose of deputizing local enforcement with the power of immigration officers.
- Grants due process protections when federal immigration agents interview people in jails and prisons.
- Broadly prohibits use of state/local resources for immigration enforcement purposes.

Criminal Justice Reform: **Omnibus Criminal Justice Reform Bill, S.2170**: To improve the state's criminal justice system. The League supports the omnibus criminal justice reform bill, S2170, drafted by the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, which includes provisions from most of the criminal justice reform bills we support. This omnibus bill includes provisions to:

- Repeal of some mandatory minimum sentences.
- Reform practices around solitary confinement.
- Significantly change areas of the juvenile justice system.
- Alter the criminalization of poverty by reducing fines and fees imposed on persons charged with crimes.
- And enact reforms in such areas as bail and pretrial practices, sealing and expungement of records, felony larceny threshold, medical parole, and taking primary caretaker status into account in sentencing.

Other legislation supported/opposed by the League:

A list of the over 65 other bills the League of Women Voter of Massachusetts is either supporting or opposing is available on our website, lwvma.org/advocacy/league-supported-legislation/.

If you go to this list on our website, you will find a summary of what each bill does, and the written testimony we have submitted on the bill if a hearing has been held.

You will find information on the bills we are following covering affordable housing, child safety, criminal justice reform, elections and voting, the environment, good governance, health care, immigration, meeting basic human needs, transportation, water resources and women's issues.