

Resources for 2018 Ballot Questions

Prepared by the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts

Three ballot questions will be on the statewide ballot Nov. 6. LWVMA has taken stands on two of them.

The questions, summaries, what your vote will do, statements of fiscal consequences, arguments in favor and against, and the full text of the measures are in the official guide to the 2018 ballot questions, the “Information for Voters” red booklet, which will be distributed to the households of all registered voters in September. It will also be posted on the Secretary of the Commonwealth’s website.

See **LWVMA’s reasons for its stands** on these ballot questions <https://lwwma.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/LWVMA-BQ-position-2018-final.pdf>.

See **guidelines on conducting League forums** on the ballot questions <https://lwwma.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/LWVMA-BQ-forum-guidelines-2018-final.pdf>.

Under “Resources” below are ballot question campaign organizations that can provide additional information and speakers on the questions. You can contact those organizations through their websites.

Question 1: Limit the number of patients that could be assigned to one registered nurse in hospitals and certain other health care facilities

LWVMA takes no stand on this question.

A YES VOTE would limit the number of patients that could be assigned to one registered nurse in hospitals and certain other health care facilities.

A NO VOTE would make no change in current laws relative to patient-to-nurse limits.

RESOURCES:

Supporting a YES vote:

Committee to Ensure Safe Patient Care: <https://safepatientlimits.org/>

A broad coalition that includes the Massachusetts Nurses Association, United Nurses and Allied Professionals, many unions and many Democratic town committees

Supporting a NO vote:

Coalition to Protect Patient Safety: <https://www.protectpatientsafety.com/>

A broad coalition that includes the American Nurses Association, the Massachusetts Health and Hospitals Association, Massachusetts Council of Community Hospitals, and many business organizations and Chambers of Commerce

The Citizens Initiative Review project is an independent, non-partisan effort in which a citizen panel representative of the overall voter population conduct in-depth deliberations on ballot questions. The panel hears from advocates and experts on all sides of a question and present its findings in a Citizens' Statement. This year CIR selected Question 1 for deliberation. Its Citizens' Statement on that ballot question is available here: <https://www.cirmass.org/the-2018-citizens-statement>

Question 2: Create a citizens commission to advance an amendment to the United States Constitution to limit the influence of money in elections and establish that corporations do not have the same rights as human beings

LWVMA urges a YES vote.

A YES VOTE would create a citizens commission to advance an amendment to the United States Constitution to limit the influence of money in elections and establish that corporations do not have the same rights as human beings.

A NO VOTE would not create this commission.

RESOURCES:

Supporting a YES vote:

People Govern, Not Money: <https://peoplegovernnotmoney.org/>

A ballot question organization supported by American Promise and former assistant attorney general Jeff Clements.

Supporting a NO vote:

No opposing organization has registered as a campaign committee.

Question 3: Keep in place the current law, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender identity in places of public accommodation

LWVMA urges a YES vote.

A YES VOTE would keep in place the current law, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender identity in places of public accommodation.

A NO VOTE would repeal this provision of the public accommodation law.

RESOURCES:

Supporting a YES vote:

Freedom for All Massachusetts: <https://www.freedommassachusetts.org/>

A broad coalition including businesses, religious groups, civic and government groups (including LWVMA), government officials, unions, education organizations and sports teams.

Supporting a NO vote:

Keep MA Safe: <https://www.keepmasafe.org/>

The Massachusetts Family Institute leads this ballot question coalition.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Ballotpedia.org compiles information on election information from public sources. For information on Massachusetts ballot questions go to this webpage:

https://ballotpedia.org/Massachusetts_2018_ballot_measures

The Massachusetts Office for Campaign and Political Finance publishes information on contributions to ballot question campaign committees. See the OCPF webpage:

<http://www.ocpf.us/Reports/BallotQuestionReports>