Dear Friends,

We are proud to share with you the 2017-18 Annual Report of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts and the League of Women Voters Lotte E. Scharfman Memorial Fund, highlighting our activities between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018.

While the 2016 elections were polarizing and divisive for the country at large, LWVMA emerged with new vitality and energy. The challenges to our values and principles posed by the new administration spurred many people to action, resulting in an influx of new members, the formation of new local chapters, and an organization-wide commitment to fight back.

Throughout 2017 and into 2018, LWVMA recommitted itself to the mission and priorities that define our organization. We reaffirmed the bedrock principle that the necessary work must be done by all of us, not just our elected officials. And, we rededicated ourselves to addressing critical issues here in the Commonwealth, regardless of what was happening in Washington.

Our work is far from done. But the 2017-18 fiscal year marks a period of achievement and activism. We are proud of the work not only of the state League, but also of our local Leagues and our grassroots membership throughout Massachusetts. Working together, we are strengthening our democracy and ensuring that it works for everyone.

In League,

Mary Ann Ashton
President

Meryl Kessler
Executive Director

Mary Ann Ashton

Meryl Kessler

Lotte E. Scharfman Memorial Fund Trustees

Mary Ann Ashton, Chair
Andrea Kozinetz, Treasurer
Cindy Ku, Secretary
Susan Abrams
Kate Boland
Lee Bona
Jean Cherdack
Kris Eastman
Marilyn Peterson
Lisa Steiner
Judy Zaunbrecher

Staff

Meryl Kessler, Executive Director
Brynne Gorman, Membership and Community Engagement Manager
Taylor Grenga, Administrative and Program Associate
Martha Maguire, Bookkeeper
Advocacy and Activism

- Led statewide efforts to pass Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) bill; as part of Election Modernization Coalition, organized two AVR lobby days and one press event; organized direct lobbying and letter-to-the-editor effort with local Leagues.

- Filed amicus brief with the Supreme Judicial Court in support of challenge to Massachusetts’ 20-day voter registration deadline.

- Submitted comments to Secretary of Commonwealth regarding scheduling of state primary to maximize voter engagement.

- Engaged in highly visible lobbying efforts in other priority areas: criminal justice reform, renewable energy, safe communities, women's issues.


- Launched Legislative Envoy Program to better engage local Leagues in statewide advocacy efforts and improve coordination between state League and local chapters.

- Initiated monthly Massachusetts Action Newsletter to inform members of opportunities for activism and advocacy.

- Created Citizen Lobbyist handbook with tips and resources for legislative advocacy.

Elections and Voting

- Conducted three moderator trainings--in Acton, Cape Cod/southern Massachusetts, and western Massachusetts—to prepare League members to moderate candidate debates and forums during the 2018 election cycle and beyond.

- Supported five local Leagues with VOTE411 online voters’ guide platform for fall city elections.

- Initiated planning for MOVE 2018 voter education and engagement initiative for 2018 midterm elections, including creation of comprehensive, interactive online voters’ guide covering every race on the ballot throughout Massachusetts.
Citizen Education

- Convened *Beyond the March: Women Leading the Way in Massachusetts* conference at Clark University featuring keynote speaker Congresswoman Niki Tsongas; Barbara Berenson, author, *Massachusetts in the Woman Suffrage Movement: Revolutionary Reformers*; Lisa Wong, Deputy Director, Asian American Civic Association; Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor, Newton; Yvonne Spicer, Mayor, Framingham; Sarai Rivera, City Councilor, Worcester; and Daniel Ziblatt, Professor of Government, Harvard University, co-author, *How Democracies Die*.


- Sponsored “Get In the Game… and Vote,” student video contest to encourage youth civic participation. Over 250 Massachusetts students participated, creating 30-second videos encouraging Massachusetts voters to register and get to the polls for the 2018 midterm election.

Supporting Our Local Leagues

In Massachusetts, our grassroots are our 46 local Leagues and units that, through their citizen education and voter service activities, make democracy work every day. To support their efforts, our Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education Grant Program provides funding for local Leagues to carry out programs that increase citizen participation in the democratic process, study key community issues in an unbiased manner, and enable people to seek positive solutions to public policy issues through education and conflict management.

In 2017-18, LWVMA distributed $3,988 in grants to local Leagues.
## The Bottom Line: Our Year in Numbers

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**AND LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LOTTE E. SCHARFMAN MEMORIAL FUND**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORT, REVENUES, RECLASSIFICATIONS:</th>
<th>UNRESTRICTED</th>
<th>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>TOTAL ACTIVITIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gifts, Grants and Contributions</td>
<td>$144,960</td>
<td>$19,275</td>
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<td>$164,235</td>
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<td>Membership Dues and Assessments</td>
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<td>57,067</td>
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<td>Program Fees</td>
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<td>Change in Value of Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trust</td>
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<td>36,025</td>
<td>36,025</td>
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<td>Investment Return</td>
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<td>8,496</td>
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<td>43,496</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>688</td>
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<td>688</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets Released from Restriction</td>
<td>25,262</td>
<td>(25,262)</td>
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<td>--</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL SUPPORT, REVENUES AND RECLASSIFICATIONS</strong></td>
<td>267,347</td>
<td>2,509</td>
<td>36,025</td>
<td>305,881</td>
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<td><strong>FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES:</strong></td>
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<td>Program Services</td>
<td>146,518</td>
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<td>146,518</td>
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<td>Administrative</td>
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<td>71,406</td>
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<td>Fund Raising</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td>339,342</td>
<td>28,303</td>
<td>1,005,485</td>
<td>1,311,453</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We are grateful for the generosity of our many supporters and our volunteers. We wish to particularly acknowledge the Nathalie and Theodore Jones Trust, the Donald and Nehamah Quimby Charitable Foundation, the Lincoln and Therese Filene Foundation, and the Salem Five Charitable Foundation.

90 Canal Street, Suite 414, Boston, Massachusetts 02114  
857.452.1715  www.lwvma.org lwvma@lwvma.org