LWVMA Discussion with Local League Leaders About COVID-19 and Our Work

March 26, 2020
Overview

- Changing dates for Town Meetings and local elections
- Changing dates for four Special Elections for legislators
- Options being explored for LWVMA Council
- Options being explored for local League Annual Meetings
- Tools available for local Leagues – Zoom, etc.
- Guidance for conducting Candidate Forums with technology
- Update on Census Work
- Discussion among participants
Elections – Changing Dates for Town Meetings and Town Elections

• Town Moderators and Select Boards are authorized to change dates for Town Meetings (MGL Ch. 39, Sec. 9)

• Legislation enacted this week (S.2608) provides flexibility for municipal elections scheduled through June 30:
  • Municipal elections before May 30 may be postponed until before June 30
  • Expands absentee ballot eligibility to all those taking precautions related to COVID-19
  • Expands early voting by mail for municipal elections before June 30
Elections – Changing Dates for Special Elections for State Rep. and State Senate

- Two State Senate special elections postponed by Senate to May 19
- Two State Representative special elections postponed by House to June 2
- Early voting by mail available for these elections
- Any absentee ballots already cast for these elections will be counted
Governance Issues – LWVMA Council

• LWVMA Council currently scheduled for Saturday, June 13
• Investigating alternatives to meeting in person, if necessary
• LWVMA By-Laws are silent on meeting remotely
• Governance Committee working to make recommendations about how we might proceed
Governance Issues – Local League Annual Meetings

• Usually scheduled in May and June
• Check your By-Laws to see whether they provide for meeting remotely
• Governance Committee working to make recommendations about alternatives to meeting in person
• Consider postponing Annual Meetings until a later time
Tools for Local Leagues

• LWVMA Zoom account available for local League meetings
  • contact Brynne Gorman (bgorman@lwvma.org)

• Check out resources in League Leader Update from LWV Oregon

• To find previous LWVMA Newsletters on our website:
Planning for Candidate Forums

• Voter Engagement Committee is working on:
  • Opportunities for moderator training via webinar
  • Guidance about how to conduct candidate forums if it’s not possible to include an audience
  • Other suggestions about how to educate voters about candidates in current environment
Update on Census Work

• Census is still on, but milestones have been moved back by about 1 month.
• Focus is on reaching out to hard to count populations through: phone banking, social media, listservs, flyer distribution through food and meal assistance programs
• Ask your state legislator to publicize the Census
• Look for updates and volunteer opportunities through newsletters and Census2020@lwvma.org
• Check out Toolkit on LWVMA website