



LWVMA Stands on Ballot Questions

Two ballot questions will be on the statewide ballot November 3. The LWVMA board has determined that LWVMA will support a yes vote on one of them, and local Leagues can advocate for that one. Below are the two questions, in the order they will appear on the ballot, and our stands.

Question 1: An Initiative Law to Enhance, Update and Protect the 2013 Motor Vehicle Right to Repair Law. (Right to Repair Law).

LWVMA takes no stand on this ballot question.

Summary from Ballotpedia: Question 1 would require manufacturers that sell motor vehicles equipped with telematics systems to install a standardized open data platform beginning with model year 2022. Vehicle owners could then access telematics system data through a mobile device application and then give consent for independent repair facilities to access that data and send commands to the system for repair, maintenance, and diagnostic testing.

Currently, the [2013 "right to repair law"](#) exempts telematics systems from wireless accessibility by vehicle owners and independent repair facilities.

The League does not have a position that covers this ballot question

Question 2: Initiative petition for a Law to Implement Ranked-Choice Voting in Elections (Ranked-Choice Voting Initiative)

LWVMA supports this question and urges a YES vote.

Summary from Ballotpedia: Question 2 would enact [ranked-choice voting](#) (RCV) for primary and general elections for state executive officials, state legislators, federal congressional representatives, and certain county offices. RCV is a voting method in which voters rank candidates according to their preferences. The candidate that receives a majority of first-preference votes is declared the winner. Currently, statewide elections in Massachusetts use [a plurality voting system](#).

In 2005, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts did a study of voting systems. The consensus of League members in the state was that: "Voting systems should be easy to use, administer and understand, encourage high voter turnout, encourage real discussion on issues, promote minority representation, and encourage candidates to run." The League also concluded that a voting system "should require the winner to obtain a majority of the votes." To achieve that majority outcome rather than a candidate winning by a plurality of votes cast,

the Massachusetts League supported instant runoff voting, now better known as ranked choice voting. We concluded a ranked choice system is preferable to a two-round runoff system in terms of cost and voter participation. *Where We Stand*, p. 15.

See also, [LWVMA testimony](#) on RCV legislation (November, 2019).

Detailed information on each of the ballot questions is available on the [Secretary of State's website](#).