Dear Friends,

We are proud to share with you the 2018-19 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, 2018 and June 30, 2019.

During the midterm election season, LWVMA published an online voter’s guide for primary and general election voters throughout the Commonwealth. With our local Leagues, we hosted candidate forums for statewide, Congressional and local contests. This resource informed voters and attracted new members to join our work.

Leading into the celebration of the League’s 100 years in 2020, LWVMA undertook two initiatives to help us commemorate our history and to recommit ourselves to the work that is still undone after a century. Work began by a dedicated committee to build a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization that is welcoming to all, and to build a collaborative network of partners in our communities. Our 100th Anniversary Committee helped to organize and share resources among local Leagues and to educate ourselves about our history. During our Convention, Professor Evelyn Higginbotham spoke to members about the ways in which African-American women worked for the passage of the 19th Amendment and how they were left out of its implementation.

As we approach our 100th anniversary, we have reason to celebrate, but much still to do as we march forward into our second century. Our efforts to date provide a strong foundation for the activism and engagement that will take us into 2020, a crucial year for elections, Census, voters, and activists. We celebrate the work and passion of our grassroots membership and local Leagues and take pride that our state League supports empowering voters and making our democracy work.

In League,

Mary Ann Ashton
President

LWVMA
Board of Directors

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Marilyn Peterson, 1st Vice President
Lee Bona, 2nd Vice President
Andrea Kozinetz, Treasurer
Kate Boland
Nancy Brumback
Kris Eastman
Scotti Finnegan
Donna Hooper
Karen Price
Judy Zaunbrecher

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Brynn Gorman, Membership and Community Engagement Manager
Taylor Grenga, Administrative and Program Associate
Martha Maguire, Bookkeeper
Advocacy and Activism

- Passed **Automatic Voter Registration** with our election rights partners. Eligible citizens are automatically registered to vote and their current registrations are updated when they interact with the Registry of Motor Vehicles or MassHealth. We estimate this law may add 700,000 eligible citizens to the voting rolls.

- Passed three laws directly affecting women: **pregnant workers’ fairness act**; **contraceptive coverage** without co-pays or deductibles; and **repeal of archaic laws** targeting abortion and contraception.

- Passed bills on: **criminal justice reform**, **clean energy**, **civics education**, and **extreme risk protection orders** or “red flag” gun control.

- Deepened our commitment to address **climate change** with a convention resolution declaring a **climate emergency** and a keynote address from climate awareness pioneer Bill McKibben.

- Studied the **ballot question process** in our state and recommended ways to streamline and improve how questions on our November ballots are proposed and presented, including a recommendation to limit the money that can be spent on ballot question campaigns.

- Supported statewide ballot questions to retain the law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity and to establish a citizens’ commission concerning a Constitutional amendment to secure government of the people.

- Helped staff a pilot Citizens Initiative Review project in which a group of citizens analyzed both sides of a ballot question and drafted an unbiased information report for voters.

Elections and Voting

- Created a comprehensive, interactive online voters’ guide for the 2018 primary and general elections with complete information about candidates for Congress, the six statewide offices, state legislature, county offices and ballot questions. Almost 23,000 users visited our InformedVoterMA.org guide.

- Participated in voter protection efforts for the November election, serving as poll observers and staffing a hotline for voter questions.
• Registered lots of voters! We worked with Mass Audubon at their properties, with Ballots Over Bars in the Middlesex County jail, at Google’s Cambridge office, at Mass General Hospital, and with the Jericho Road Project in Lowell. Our local Leagues registered voters in their communities.

• Co-hosted candidate forums for lieutenant governor and for candidates in the Second Congressional District race, both forums in Worcester. Sponsored a training program for League members to learn how to moderate candidate forums.

• Learned about the promise and perils of election technology with a convention panel featuring Charles Stewart from MIT, Michelle Tassinari from the Secretary of State's office, and Whitney Quesenbery from Center for Civic Design.

Citizen Education

• Engaged 250 high school students who created 95 30-second videos responding to “The Climate Change Challenge.”

• Provided nearly $8,000 in funding for local League initiatives for citizen education and voter service activities through the Scharfman Citizen Education Grant Program. In FY19, the Scharfman Citizen Education Program provided funding to the following local Leagues: Brookline, Central Berkshire Unit, Chelmsford, Concord Carlisle, Franklin County, Greater Haverhill, Hamilton Wenham, Harvard, Needham, Salem Unit, Springfield Unit of the Northampton Area, Sudbury, Waltham, Wellesley, and Westford.

• Participated in the “iCivics Celebration of Civics in Action” showcasing outstanding civics projects completed by middle school students. Students were invited to stop by our table and complete a postcard for their legislator on one of three bills that were important to middle school students.

• Launched a series of educational webinars for members and the public on topics including Barriers to Voting (with Professor Erin O’Brien, UMass Boston), Ranked Choice Voting, Massachusetts Legislature, and three more entries in the Climate Change series, including Michael Oppenheimer, noted Princeton University expert on impacts and solutions to climate change, speaking about the Climate Reports of 2018.
Supporting Our Local Leagues

In Massachusetts, our grassroots are our 47 local Leagues and units that, through their citizen education and voter service activities, make democracy work every day. To support their efforts, our Lotte E. 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 2018-19, LWVMA distributed $3,640 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, 2019

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<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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<td>Membership Dues and Assessments</td>
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<td>Program Fees</td>
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<td>Net Assets Released from Restriction</td>
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<td>TOTAL SUPPORT, REVENUES AND RECLASSIFICATIONS</td>
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<td>Fund Raising</td>
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<td>TOTAL FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES</td>
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We are grateful for the generosity of our many supporters and our volunteers. We wish to particularly acknowledge Nancy Beeuwkes, the Nathalie and Theodore Jones Trust, the Donald and Nehemiah Quimby Charitable Foundation, and the Salem Five Charitable Foundation.

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