



**Testimony in support of
H.2978/S.1899 An Act relative to regional transportation ballot initiatives
Submitted to the Joint Committee on Revenue
By Tanya Roy, LWVMA Specialist on Transportation
July 22, 2021**

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is a strong advocate of regional transportation ballot initiatives as proposed in H.2978/S.1899.

The League supports allowing municipalities the flexibility and latitude to design and develop creative transportation alternatives that are efficient and cost-effective as well as environmentally sensitive.

There is a tangible need for more, and more diverse, transportation alternatives than currently exist. This legislation will address the critical gaps that exist in current transportation needs by allowing municipalities to respond to the local needs of their residents and to do so in a more immediate and transparent fashion. Municipal residents would have a more direct role in approving new transportation projects and see a clear connection between funds raised and dollars spent. In addition, regional transportation can be more cost-efficient than broader-scale alternatives, an important consideration.

Granting municipalities the ability to fund local or regional transportation projects falls within the home rule amendment of 1966 giving cities and towns more control at the local level, a position the League endorses.

Transportation equity is of utmost importance to the League. This bill would allow for the construction of local or regional transportation projects that would better serve and benefit all segments of the population.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, representing 47 local Leagues across the Commonwealth from the Berkshires to Cape Cod, urges your support and a favorable report of H.2978/S.1899.

Thank you for your consideration.