



## **Legislation Summary:**

### **An Act supporting parents running for public office**

Initial bill number(s): S.422/H.669

Sponsors: Sen. Patricia Jehlen, Rep. Michael Connolly

### **An Act empowering parental participation in elected office**

Initial bill number(s): H.3579

Sponsors: Rep. Kate Lipper-Garabedian , Rep. Daniel J. Hunt

### **What the bill does, why LWVMA supports or opposes it, and the League position relative to this bill.**

Amends GL 55:6 (Restrictions on Campaign Expenditures) to exempt expenses relating to the provision of childcare services for a candidate while working or campaigning from the restrictions on personal use of campaign contributions.

This action would correct a significant omission in Massachusetts campaign finance law. These bills would add expenses for childcare as eligible to be reimbursed from the candidate's campaign funds. Current policy is not helpful to parents of young children who are candidates for public office in Massachusetts. However, federal law allows candidates for the US Senate and House in Massachusetts to claim childcare as a campaign expense.

The bills could help more parents to become candidates for public office. The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government. [Impact on Issues](#), p.10