



**Testimony submitted to the Joint Committee on Transportation  
In Support of H.3366/S.2285, An Act electrifying regional transit authorities  
Submitted by Franny Osman, LWVMA Specialist on Transportation  
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The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA), with 3,000 members in 44 local Leagues from Cape Cod to the Berkshires, supports H.3366/S.2285, An Act electrifying regional transit authorities and urges the committee to report the bills favorably.

The 15 Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) serve over 250 communities in the state—55% of the population. The RTAs provide fixed route buses in their hubs, mostly Gateway cities with large environmental justice populations, as well as Council on Aging and paratransit service in smaller communities. The RTAs are leading the way in the transition to an all-electric fleet, with forty electric buses already in operation, but the RTAs will need funding, planning, and technical support to transition to a zero-emission fleet.

LWVMA supports transportation that is efficient, convenient, and cost effective; is safe and secure; serves all segments of the population and diverse geographic needs; minimizes harmful effects on the environment; is integrated with land use; and is supported by extensive public education. The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) believes that energy-efficient and environmentally sound transportation systems should afford better access to housing and jobs. The League believes that an interrelated approach to combating climate change — including through energy conservation, air pollution controls, building resilience, and promotion of renewable resources — is necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem.

The following steps required by these bills will help Massachusetts improve lives, public health, and the environment:

- priority for electric vehicles operated on routes serving environmental justice populations
- community outreach and engagement with residents of environmental justice populations
- implementation by December 31, 2035
- electric vehicle purchasing deadlines increasing gradually from 40% in 2025 to 90% in 2034
- regular reporting to the RTA Council
- central planning and procurement office
- free retraining options and hiring assistance
- identification of funding opportunities

We encourage the Joint Committee on Transportation to report these bills favorably and bring them to a floor for a vote.

Thank you for your consideration.