



**Testimony submitted to the Joint Committee on Transportation  
In Support of  
H3272/S2277, An Act to increase regional transit accessibility in the Commonwealth  
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 43 local Leagues covering 110 municipalities, supports H3272/S2277, An Act to increase regional transit accessibility in the Commonwealth as it will pave the way to greater transit equity in the Commonwealth.

For years, inadequate state support for Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) has exacerbated inequities in the statewide transportation system, cutting residents off from opportunity. While 55% of Massachusetts residents live within a regional transit authority service area, less than 7% of state dollars supporting transit operations go to RTAs. RTA communities should be able to count on public transportation to get to jobs, colleges, health care and grocery stores. Instead, insufficient investment in regional transit has resulted in service that is unreliable and available only some days of the week. Further, transit options within different parts of each RTA vary, and there are inadequate connections between RTAs and to the farther reaches of each RTA.

RTAs are a lifeline to residents in the 250+ communities outside the MBTA service area, especially people with very low incomes, older adults, and people with disabilities. As low-income residents are forced to live far from city centers, and with environmental, economic, and non-driver impacts compelling people to depend on transit, we need a robust transit system both within and beyond the MBTA.

The LWVMA is in favor of these goals:

- Increase the funding floor for RTAs to support the move towards 7-day a week service during critical commute hours across all 15 RTAs
- Create a dedicated fund for RTAs
- Uplift community needs through an annual RTA Council report
- Eliminate profitability as a performance metric for transit agencies

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.

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.