



May 14, 2024

Dear Senator:

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA) empowers voters and strengthens democracy. With 43 local Leagues and more than 3,000 members across 147 municipalities, LWVMA educates voters to effect change on a wide range of issues including civics and civics education, election laws, women's health, climate change, and more.

We commend your efforts to date to support the priorities we consider critical to the strength of our democracy and the well-being of our Commonwealth. We respectfully request that you cosponsor and vote YES on the following amendments in the FY'25 Senate budget:

- ❖ **Civics Education #621:** Civics education is critical to maintaining a healthy democracy in the current era of disinformation. We urge you to level-fund the Civics Project Trust Fund line item 1595-0115 at \$2.5 million. Continued implementation of the Civics Project Trust ensures students across the Commonwealth access to a civic education curriculum specific to the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, fundamental knowledge about government, and media literacy.
- ❖ **Voting Reforms #100:** Separates the municipal census from voter registration so that people who do not return the census form are not put on the inactive voter list. Requires polls and early voting locations be assessed once every four years to ensure compliance with federal and state laws concerning accessibility for voters with disabilities.
- ❖ Protecting the most vulnerable:
 - **#577:** As a member of the **Feeding our Neighbors Coalition**, LWVMA asks that you amend line item 4400-1004 to offer state-funded SNAP assistance.
 - **#578:** As a member of the **Lift Our Kids Coalition**, LWVMA asks that you change the effective date of the cash assistance grant increases proposed by Senate Ways and Means to October 2024 instead of April 2025.
- ❖ **Modernizing Funding for Community Media Programming #203:** Requires streaming services to help fund community media (local cable stations). Local community media stations are a critical source of local news and information.
- ❖ **Conservation Land Tax Credit (CLTC) #1:** Raises the annual cap from \$2 million to \$5 million incrementally over three years to incentivize the conservation of ecologically and economically valuable lands, including working farms and forests, wildlife habitat, and drinking water sources.

Thank you for your support to include these amendments in the final Senate FY'25 budget.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Elizabeth Foster-Nolan in black ink.

Elizabeth Foster-Nolan
Board Co-President

Handwritten signature of Marie Gauthier in black ink.

Marie Gauthier
Board Co-President

Handwritten signature of Jennifer Muroff in black ink.

Jennifer Muroff
Chair, Legislative Action Committee