



The League of Women Voters Massachusetts



Leaders Update - January 2010

LWVMA Calendar

- Jan. 19** ****VOTE ******Special Election for U.S. Senate*******VOTE*****
- Jan. 21** -LWVMA Program & Action Committee Meeting - 10:30am - Noon
133 Portland Street, Boston
- Jan. 22** -LWVMA Transportation Re-study Committee - 11am - Noon
via conference call (send sreid@lwvma.org an email if you would like to join in)
- Jan. 23** -LWVMA Board Meeting - 10am - 4pm - 133 Portland Street, Boston
- Jan. 27** -LWVMA Scharfman Trustee Board Meeting - 12pm- 1:30pm - 133 Portland Street, Boston
-LWVMA Board Meeting - 7pm - 9pm - 133 Portland Street, Boston

Quick Links

[LWVMA](#)
[LWVUS](#)
[Local League Events](#)
[Donate Here](#)

Annual Campaign 90 for 90 Contributions near \$55,000

None of us joined the League of Women Voters to raise money. We joined for the action of putting on candidate forums, or working on a local or state study, or just associating with a group of intelligent and interesting people who think that politics and government are important. However, no organization can act without money, and so one way we do that is through our annual campaign, or Phonathon.

Thank you to the 800 members who contributed to this key fund raiser! Thanks to your efforts, the League raised nearly \$55,000. Your support will enable the League of Women Voters to be active at the state level. Thank you to those who responded to our email messages - this allowed us to save on the costs of printing and postage, as well as be environmentally friendly. About a third of contributions were made with credit cards through the website, an increase over past years that also saves on paper and time to process the checks.

A BIG thank you is due to the ten local Leagues that participated in some way to call, email, or write members in their own and other local Leagues. Their efforts yielded 71% of the total funds raised. **Newton earns top honors with over \$10,000 contributed and raised** - not just from their own members, but from those they contacted during the calling period. Newton's Phonathon share is \$1,500. The average share for local Leagues who participated in calling or writing is \$582. The

average share for local Leagues who did not is \$62.50.

Every contribution is appreciated and LWVMA is pleased to be able to support local Leagues through revenue sharing at a higher level than we have done in the past. We were able to do this by significantly cutting overhead costs. Thank you to all the local League members who volunteered their time for this campaign. We will be analyzing the 2009 annual campaign and appreciative of any thoughts you may have on how to improve it for 2010. And now, a word from our sponsors....



Founders' Circle: \$10,000+

League of Women Voters of Newton

Activists' Circle: \$5,000 - \$9,999

League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle

Leaders' Circle: \$2,500 - \$4,999

League of Women Voters - Acton Area

League of Women Voters of Andover / North Andover

League of Women Voters of Lexington

League of Women Voters of Needham

League of Women Voters of Wellesley

Voters' Circle: \$1,000 - \$2,499

League of Women Voters of Amherst

League of Women Voters of Arlington

League of Women Voters of Bedford

League of Women Voters of Belmont

League of Women Voters of Boston

League of Women Voters of Brookline

League of Women Voters of Falmouth

League of Women Voters of Hamilton/Wenham

League of Women Voters - Plymouth Area

League of Women Voters of Weston

League of Women Voters of Winchester

Citizen Education - Voter Service and Voter Education

Annual Student Essay Contest Postponed

In the interests of being fiscally prudent in this tough economic time, the board of directors of LWVMA made the difficult decision to postpone the contest and awards event held in the spring for the past 10 years.

This delay will allow the Citizen Education Committee to review the contest and awards event to ensure that LWVMA can present a meaningful event that encompasses LWV values, goals and objectives. To learn more or to serve on the review committee, contact LWVMA Executive Director Shawna Reid at 617-523-2999 or sreid@lwvma.org, or President Zaxaro Bennett at zbennett@lwvma.org.

LWVMA Editorial for Statewide Newspapers

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts submitted an Editorial column for consideration to newspapers across the state with a list of questions for the candidates running for the U.S Senate seat left open by the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

The Candidate Forum Committee also sent the list of questions to the three candidates challenging them to post their answers to their websites, and to send the answers to the League for posting on our website as well. Please click on the links below to read the editorial.

Watch the website to follow up on the candidates answers to our questions.

Read the Editorial [web version](#) | [download the file](#)

LWVMA Program and Action



Initiative Petition to Repeal 40B

Opponents of our state's affordable housing zoning law (Chapter 40B) have gathered sufficient signatures to place its repeal on the November 2010 ballot. During this process many local Leagues have been contacted by this group to support their initiative. Briefly, 40B (the Comprehensive Permit Law) was designed to address local zoning and land use restrictions which limited the availability of affording housing. The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA) supported the passage of this in 1969 and has continued to support its implementation.

The LWVMA has been asked to support efforts to defeat the repeal initiative, and the State Board, which is responsible for taking positions on state issues, is currently evaluating this request. Our decision will be based on, among other considerations, our position on Affordable Housing, which is based on the LWVUS position on Basic Human Needs. In addition, from 2003-2007, the Affordable Housing Study Committee did a comprehensive review of the subject, including a review of 40B, which led to a modification of the state position. Documents regarding this process are available through the State League office and on the website [HERE](#).

Until the Board has completed its evaluation and determined a plan of action on this initiative, we ask that you refer any contacts from groups or individuals seeking the support of your League to repeal 40B to the state web site.

[LWVMA Housing Postision](#) | [LWVUS Housing Position](#)

LWVUS Updates

LWVUS Leaders Program Planning Guide Online Now at www.lwv.org

- National Program planning response forms must be submitted electronically by March 1, 2010. ([click here for electronic file form](#))
- The **Convention Preparation Discussion List**, which includes program planning, is available for members. ([click here to login and subscribe](#)).
- In March 2010, the LWVUS Board will formulate the 2010-2012 Proposed Program, based on League responses. ([click here for Leaders Program Planning Guide](#))
- The Convention 2010 combined **Workbook /Program**, which will include the 2010-2012 Proposed Program, will be available online and email notices sent to Leagues by April 30, 2010. Printed hard copies will be distributed at Convention.
- Convention 2010 delegates will adopt the official LWVUS Program for 2010-2012.

LWVConcord-Carlisle Backs Campaign Finance Reform as a Priority Issue

The LWVUS has long been a leader in the effort to enact meaningful campaign finance reform. Special interests have become increasingly entrenched in the political process, affecting elections and the legislative process. As part of the League's Program Planning process, the LWV of Concord-Carlisle has joined other local leagues across the country to ask the LWVUS to assign campaign finance reform to the highest level of advocacy priority during the 2010-2012 program cycle.

Please contact LWVCC Co-chair [Paula Vandever](#), if your League would like to join this effort.

The LWVCC letter to LWVUS leadership can be found by clicking on the link below.
[LWVCC Letter to LWVUS Leadership](#)