

From: League of Women Voters of Massachusetts <sreid@lwmvma.org>
Subject: League of Women Voters to Host U.S. Senate Candidate Forums
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The League of Women Voters
Massachusetts



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release
Contact: Shawna Reid, Executive Director
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The League of Women Voters and WFCR/WNNZ Team Up for the First of Two Senate Candidate Forums Scheduled for Amherst and Worcester

BOSTON-- The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts will sponsor candidate forums in Amherst and Worcester before the primaries in the special election to fill the U.S. Senate seat previously held by Sen. Edward Kennedy.

All candidates whose names appear on the ballot for the primary party elections, scheduled for Dec. 8, are being invited to participate in the two candidate forums. Half of each event will be devoted to domestic issues and half to international issues.

The Amherst forum will be Sunday, Nov. 8, in the Bowker Auditorium at the University of Massachusetts. 88.5FM WFCR/640AM WNNZ - NPR News and Music for Western New England, headquartered in Amherst, will co-sponsor the Amherst forum and broadcast it at a later date.

The Worcester forum will be Tuesday, Nov. 17, in the Plourde Recreation Center of Assumption College.

The forums are free and open to the public, and will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Candidates in both the Republican and Democratic party primaries will appear on the stage together, grouped by party. A moderator selected by the League will ask questions submitted by League members around the state and by college students, and all candidates will have a chance to answer each question.

"By presenting all the candidates in primary races on the same stage, the League feels registered party voters will have a chance to decide among their party's candidates, and the majority of Massachusetts voters who are not enrolled in a political party will have a chance to decide which ballot they want in the Dec. 8 election," said Zaxaro Bennett, president of the Massachusetts League.

"The upcoming special Senate election is of critical importance to the citizens of Massachusetts, and the League hopes that all of the candidates in the primary contests will participate in these candidates' nights," she added.

The Massachusetts League also plans to hold a candidates' forum for all the candidates on the final

ballot for the special election Jan. 19 in Boston before that election.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization. The League encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and works to increase understanding of major public policy issues. For more information on the state and local Leagues, see the website, www.lwvma.org.

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(Note to broadcast and radio editors: Zaxaro Bennett's first name is pronounced "zha HAR roh.")

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