



The League of Women Voters
Massachusetts



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For Immediate Release
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League of Women Voters Cancels U.S. Senate Candidates' Forum at Faneuil Hall

BOSTON-The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts has cancelled its U.S. Senate Candidates' Forum scheduled for Wednesday, Jan 13, at Faneuil Hall.

The League decided to cancel after Attorney General Martha Coakley, the Democratic candidate, did not commit to the forum before the League's deadline so that arrangements could be completed.

State Sen. Scott Brown, the Republican candidate, and Joseph Kennedy, an independent candidate on the ballot, accepted the League's invitation to participate in the event, which would have been the final candidates' forum before the Jan. 19 election.

"The League of Women Voters' charge for the past 90 years has been to present the voters with critical information they need to make a decision. We did not feel we could do that in this compressed election period without including all of the candidates on the ballot in a candidates' forum," said Zaxaro Bennett, president of the Massachusetts League. "We are disappointed by Attorney General Coakley's unwillingness to commit in time for us to properly plan this event."

The League's candidate forum was initially the only proposed debate to include all three candidates who will be on the ballot.

Since the primary election Dec. 8, Coakley's campaign has urged all potential debate sponsors to include Kennedy, who is not related to the late Sen. Ted Kennedy, as well as the Democratic and Republican candidates.

Despite repeated attempts by the League to secure a commitment, the Coakley campaign failed to respond to the invitation, issued to all the candidates at the same time, before the League had to decide whether to hold the forum.

The League is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization that pioneered the U.S. Presidential debates and has a 90-year history of hosting candidate forums on the state and local level.

This fall, the Massachusetts League, with WCFR, sponsored the only candidates' forum in the primary season to include both Democratic and Republican candidates, at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

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.lwmma.org.

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