

From: The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts <sreid@lwmva.org>

Subject: LWVMA & Superintendent of Boston Public Schools at Faneuil Hall

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League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Press Release

April 3, 2009

LWVMA Essay Contest Awards Ceremony at Faneuil Hall Boston

For Immediate Release: April 3, 2009

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Boston Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Carol Johnson, joins the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts to Honor Student Essay Contest Winners for 10th Annual Making Democracy Work Awards Ceremony at Faneuil Hall on Sunday, April 5, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

The theme for the essay contest this year is "Democracy and Change: The Newly-Elected President". Fourteen hundred Massachusetts students in grades 4 through 12 answered questions focusing on the the President's first term in office. The winners of the contest will receive prizes and read their essays from the historic podium at Faneuil Hall in Boston on Sunday, April 5, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Carol Johnson, Superintendent of Boston Public Schools will address and congratulate the students, their families and teachers at this very special event.

"A healthy democracy depends on citizen engagement at every age and stage in life. From the the start, the Online Essay Contest has successfully encouraged the future voters and leaders of Massachusetts to think seriously and creatively about the important issues that shape our democracy. It is so important to foster and develop our young citizen's critical thinking with initiatives such as the Essay Contest," said Diane L. Jeffery, President, League of Women Voters of Massachusetts.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts established the League of Women Voters Citizen Education Fund as an educational trust in 1971. It is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit fund that supports voter education. Its mission is to encourage informed and active citizen participation in government through citizen education and voter service projects. It serves the public by providing advice and training on how to make government responsive and accessible. The goal is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide through grassroots citizen action.

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