



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS

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LEAGUE DISTRIBUTES WELCOME VOTING KITS TO NEW CITIZENS AT FANEUIL HALL SWEARING-IN CEREMONY: EMPOWERS NEW CITIZENS WITH VOTING INFORMATION

Boston – This week marks the beginning of a new League of Women Voters of Massachusetts campaign to encourage newly sworn-in citizens to register and vote. A citizen's vote is their voice in our democracy. It is imperative that new citizens participate in our democracy to help shape public policy and to protect the representative form of government.

Specially designed packets of voter registration and other voting information will be distributed at all Faneuil Hall swearing-in ceremonies starting this Thursday.

The most important document in the packet is the voter registration form that people can mail in to their town/city hall the same day they take the oath as new citizens. Two other key pieces in the packet that the new citizens will receive are the League-drafted Voters' Bill of Rights and the Voters' Bill of Responsibilities. Together these documents provide people with fundamental knowledge of voting and information they need to safeguard their rights at the polls.

Madhu Sridhar, President of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts and herself a naturalized citizen, hailed this new effort as an important step in achieving the League's goal to have all citizens engaged in our democracy.

"I became a United States citizen a decade ago because it was my desire to fully participate in American democracy. Full participation especially included my right to vote. I remember the ceremony as if it was yesterday. I was honored to become a part of this great country and to be welcomed as citizen," Sridhar said.

Sridhar continued, "Now, I am honored again, as president of the leading, nonpartisan organization that has championed voter participation since its founding almost 90 years ago, to be able to reach out to those who are following me to encourage them to join us on Election Day as voters."

This is part of the League's Empowering Voters Project, launched in 2005 as a strategic, comprehensive project to ensure that voters in Massachusetts are informed and engaged. The Empowering Voters Project is dedicated to improving participation in the electoral process of underrepresented constituencies who are usually the most vulnerable to voting problems and to make certain that all voters in Massachusetts know their rights and responsibilities and go to the polls informed and empowered.

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Swearing in ceremonies at Faneuil Hall on Thursday March 22, 2007 begin at 1:30 P.M. To receive the packet distributed at swearing in ceremonies, call the League at 617-566-3328.