



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS

133 Portland Street, Boston, MA 02114 • Tel: 617-523-2999 • Fax: 617-248-0881

Email: lwvma@lwvma.org • Website: www.lwvma.org

For Immediate Release: April 9, 2007

Contact: Robin Rich, Assistant Executive Director, rrich@lwvma.org

Governor Deval Patrick to be the Featured Speaker at the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Annual Lobbying Day Tuesday, April 10, at the State House. The Theme of the Event is “The Face of Poverty in Massachusetts: The Poorest Among Us.”

“The Face of Poverty in Massachusetts: The Poorest Among Us” is the theme of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts annual Day on the Hill, Tuesday, April 10, in Gardner Auditorium in the State House. League leaders from across the state will gather to lobby their legislators on issues affecting those living in poverty.

Governor Deval Patrick will address the League about how his legislative priorities will impact the constellation of issues that affect the poor in this state.

Madhu Sridhar, President of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, in announcing the Governor’s appearance, said, “The League is honored that Governor Patrick is continuing in the long tradition of Massachusetts governors by sharing his vision for the citizens of the Commonwealth with our members at the League’s annual lobby day.”

“An estimated 637,043 people live in poverty in Massachusetts,” Sridhar continued, “close to 10 percent of the population. With the change in demographics, they include individuals of varied ethnic and racial backgrounds, minorities and single-mother families. These individuals suffer the most from lack of job opportunities, incentives for basic or remedial education and job training, adequate affordable housing, quality education, access to health insurance and support services such as childcare and transportation. They need a strong voice on Beacon Hill. The League has a long history of advocating for the basic human needs of all.”

In addition to the Governor, there will be speakers who are deeply involved in the issue of poverty and who work directly with people struggling to get by. One of the featured speakers will be Noah Berger, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center; the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center analyzes how state tax, budget and economic policies effect low and moderate income people in Massachusetts. Sylvia Ferrell-Jones, the CEO of YWCA Boston, which provides programs and services that promote community education and social change, women’s health and wellness, leadership skills, and safe, supportive housing to more than 10,000 women and their families, also will speak, as will Lyndia Downie, President of Pine Street Inn, which offers men, women and children sustenance, shelter, and basic moral and material supports.

“The state of poverty in Massachusetts is unacceptable,” stated Sridhar, “The League plans to draw legislators’ attention to this dire situation. The Day on the Hill event will be a time for renewed commitment, especially for the legislators, to supports those policies and programs designed to address the basic human needs of this segment of the Massachusetts population.

The League will also be welcoming future voters and leaders of our state at Day on the Hill. High School classes from many communities will be attending to learn firsthand about key public policy issues and how to lobby for change.”

Event Schedule:

10:00	Madhu Sridhar, President League of Women Voters of Massachusetts
10:05	Governor Deval Patrick
10:30	Noah Berger, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center
10:50	Sylvia Ferrell-Jones, CEO of YWCA Boston
11:10	Lyndia Downie, President of Pine Street Inn
11:30	League of Women Voters Specialists present lobbying priorities
	Empowering Voters Project
	Health Care
	Basic Human Needs
	Administration of Justice
	Education
	Natural Resources
	Equal Rights/Reproductive Rights

#####