



September 2007  
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# The Massachusetts Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF MASSACHUSETTS

## Fall Conference 2007: "Who pays for local government?"

■ by *Kathleen E. Leonardson*  
*Co-Chair, Fiscal Policy Update Committee*

According to the Mass Taxpayers Foundation (MTF) Report from November 2005, state aid to cities and towns in 2006 was about \$700 million below 2002 after adjusting for inflation.

The MTF Report from November 2006 states, "The overall municipal financial picture stabilized in 2006. Nevertheless, most communities continue to face a fiscal squeeze with underlying costs growing faster than revenues."

Phineas Blaxandall of the Rappaport Institute writes that "virtually all of Massachusetts' cities and towns face long-term financial problems. Local governments in Massachusetts are

inadvertently trapped by the convergence of four major forces: limitations of Proposition 2 1/2, unfunded mandates demanded by the state's landmark Education Reform Act of 1993, rising employee health insurance costs and recent cuts in state funded local aid."

This year's **Fall Conference on Saturday, October 13, 2007, at the Quincy Marriott** will focus on this critical issue. With featured speaker **John Hamill**, Chairman of the Municipal Finance Task Force and distinguished panelists **John Barrett III** Mayor, City of North Adams; **Geoffrey Beckwith**, Executive Director, Massachusetts Municipal Association; **Leslie A. Kirwan**, Secretary, Executive Office for Administration and Finance and **Thomas Scott**, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents. The Conference will explore the fiscal problems facing Massachusetts cities and towns and the state's role in the situation. This is particularly relevant as Leagues



**John Hamill**

*(Continued on page 9)*

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## No Summer Vacation for the League in Drive to STOP Casino Gambling

Not a quick fix for revenue woes, in fact it is no fix at all

■ by *Carole Pelchat*  
*VP Program and Action*

The discussion about the introduction of casino gambling in the Commonwealth has been one of the hot topics of the summer. LWVM President Diane Jeffery, the state League board, office staff, and members

from local Leagues have been intensifying their efforts to make Governor Patrick and the public aware of how bad casino gambling would be for Massachusetts. The League's position opposing casino gambling was adopted in 1982, and League research since that time has con-

*(Continued on page 11)*

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## President's Message

**Diane L. Jeffery**

### Moving the League Forward

I am humbled and honored to be elected as the 35th President of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts. The name of the League of Women Voters stands for non-partisan, thoughtful, researched decision-making and integrity.

The two-fold mission of the League of Women Voters since its inception in 1920 - to educate people on the issues and to promote their involvement in government - voter service and voter activity, remains valid today.

As President my goal is to continue to build on the past League successes and to grow the organization from the grass roots up. We have some exciting committees that allow for volunteer opportunities for members to serve at the state League level. These are the Citizen Education Committee, Membership and Training Committee, and Program and Action Committee.

There are also two study committees, the Affordable Housing Committee and the Local Fiscal Policy Committee. I encourage and invite any League member with an interest in any of these committees to contact the League office and the staff will put you in touch with the appropriate committee chair. You can learn more about what is going on in these areas in this issue of *The Massachusetts Voter*.

I am thrilled to announce the new Board of Directors and Scharfman Trustees. We have newly appointed, as well as returning League veterans in

these roles. Martha Colamaria and Ed Martin have joined us as newly appointed Trustees. Betsy Cregger, Kathleen Keohane, and Rhondda Tewes are our newest board members.

I am very pleased to be working with every one of them. I am also happy to introduce to you the new office staff. Again, we are fortunate to have highly qualified professionals in these roles.

As you can see from the articles in this Voter, we have hit the ground running as a new League team. Casino gambling has again reared its ugly head, and the League has been very active all summer in the attempt to keep the financial drain of casino gambling out of Massachusetts.

We have also reviewed and updated our Empowering Voters Project. All of the committees have been working to advance the League's agenda in a variety of areas including the new citizens project, updating the Directory of Civic Engagement and Leadership Development Program for Massachusetts Youth, expanding the young poll workers project, creating a new LWVM membership brochure, expanding the list of League moderators, mentoring newly forming Leagues, and monitoring and lobbying at the State House.

I am particularly excited about our Fall Conference scheduled for Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> that will bring together fiscal policy experts from across the Commonwealth to identify the issues and seek solutions on the fiscal situa-



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#### **LWVM Board 2007-2009**

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**Executive Director**  
Kelly Marcimo

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

tions that Massachusetts communities are dealing with today. Kudos to our Fiscal Policy Committee for their hard work in this critical subject area.

The strength of the League of Women Voters is all of our many volunteers and supporters in the state. It is all of our local Leagues that make up the Massachusetts League of Women Voters.

Together we will continue to affect positive change in the communities of Massachusetts and across the country in 2007-2008.



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**September 2007**

## Municipal Finance: Still A Hot Topic

■ by *Kathleen E. Leonardson*  
*Co-Chair, Fiscal Policy Update Committee*

The Fiscal Policy Update Committee was approved by the LWVM in May 2005 to evaluate the current status of the financing of local government services. The study was proposed as a response to the perceived problems with local government financing of local services, particularly since the economic downturn of 2002.

Two years after the study commenced, municipalities around the state continue to feel fiscal pressure. Swampscott is closing a school to close a budget gap. In Northbridge after a failed override attempt, parents are borrowing \$110,000 to restore programs and teachers. Although a drowning at a Newburyport beach might have been prevented if a lifeguard had been on duty, town budget cuts may not allow the position to be filled.

Many communities are cutting teachers due to budget cuts: Newburyport is cutting 34 teaching positions, Saugus is preparing to lay off 26, Haverhill 21, and Gloucester will lose 20 teachers. In Gloucester, the fee to play a sport at the high school is nearly doubling next year.

In Hamilton, the Town Clerk's office will be closed on Fridays to save money. Due to budget constraints, Saugus Public Library will be open only 15 hours a week, losing certification. Reports, studies and articles continue to highlight the overall budget issues.

Leagues across the Commonwealth are taking the fiscal pulse of their own home communities through interviews with local leaders, data-gathering from various websites and other sources. Contact your local League or the state League office to find out how you can get involved in this study.



*Photo by Kathy E. Leonardson*

Could this be your community?

## New Citizens Project Encourages Voter Participation

■ by *Kelly Marcimo*  
*Executive Director*

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Citizen Education Fund's campaign to encourage newly sworn-in citizens to register and vote reaches nearly 900 citizens each month. Specially designed packets of voter registration and voting information are distributed at all Faneuil Hall swearing-in ceremonies.

A citizen's vote is their voice in our democracy. It is imperative that new citizens help to shape public policy and to protect the representative form of government.

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 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 that they need to safeguard their rights at the polls.

Madhu Sridhar, former President of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts and herself a naturalized citizen, hailed this 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 was honored to become a part of this great country and to be welcomed as a citizen," Sridhar said.

This campaign 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. 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.

Become a volunteer for this effort by calling the office at 617 523-2999.



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## Convention 2007 Features League Leaders LWVUS President Mary Wilson, MA Senate President Therese Murray and MA State Senator Susan Tucker

■ *by Kelly Marcimo*  
*Executive Director*

At the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts convention in June, delegates from across the state met to set priorities for the next biennium. As a multi-issue organization, the League has an array of public policy issues that we will study and act on in the next two years.

In addition to participating in a nationwide League study on immigration, groups in Massachusetts will be examining affordable housing and the crisis in municipal finances.

The League will also focus on the second phase of its Empowering Voters Project to ensure that voting in Massachusetts is easy, accessible, fair and that voters, especially

rently on the front burner of Massachusetts politics, such as casino gambling, tax revenues, education, and housing.

The banquet keynote speaker was Joan Vennoch, Boston Globe columnist, who shared her insights on developing leaders; the main theme of the Convention.



*League members listen to Q&A with President Wilson.*

LWVUS President Mary Wilson addressed the membership, updating us on the latest national priorities. Of particular interest to LWVUS is the two-year membership initiative. She said "LWVUS is entering year two of a pilot project specifically designed to reach out to potential new members. We've been "testing" new strategies and techniques with local Leagues in 2006-07. In year two we will be testing some of these strategies in partnership with five pilot state Leagues. As the pilot evolves we are sharing information on lessons learned and providing all Leagues with a new way to look at membership recruitment."

Delegates unanimously approved an in balance budget for the next fiscal year and elected a new President and Board of Directors (See page 8 for more information)

Convention delegates also chose from a wide array of workshop offerings at convention which included Effective



*Risa Nyman presents workshop on the Nuts & Bolts of Leadership.*

Lobbying, Running a "How to Run for Office" Training, Membership Initiatives, Restorative Justice, Affordable Housing, Fiscal Policy, Health Care Reform, Conducting a Candidates Basics, and Moderator Training.

League leaders left convention energized and prepared for an exciting League year ahead.



*Senate President Therese Murray and LWVUS President Mary Wilson converse during lunch.*

those in underrepresented communities, are informed and engaged. Health care and environmental issues are also on the League's priority agenda.

Speakers at the convention included Senate President Therese Murray and Senator Susan Tucker, both long time League members. They presented their positions on issues cur-

### LWVM EVENTS 2007/2008

**September 29**  
Presidents' Breakfast

**October 13**  
Fall Conference

**February 3**  
Wine Tasting Event

**April 2**  
Day on the Hill

**April 13**  
Making Democracy Work  
Awards Ceremony

**May 17**  
LWVM Council



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## Recruiting Young People to Serve as Poll Workers

■ by *Debbie Winnick,*  
*LWVM Secretary*

Students from Charlestown High School were a few of the very first to sign on as 16 and 17 year old poll workers following the successful passage of League-sponsored legislation last fall. They were encouraged to do so by their school's employment counselor who learned about the new legislation from a LWVM press release.

Debbie Winnick and Jo-Ann Berry, LWVM Board and Citizen Education Committee members visited Charlestown High School to present information about the League to A.P. History class students and to meet with the students who worked at the polls.

The student poll workers spoke of their desire to be involved and to learn more about the election process, along with their appreciation of the time away from classes and the paycheck. Of course, they were expected to make up material missed, which they all agreed was more work than attending class! They related

that the day was long [and a bit boring] but interesting. Several of them were stationed at polling locations where ballots were in short supply, and they learned first hand about some of the challenges in the election process.

Each of the A.P. History students was given an assignment to develop a project relating to their studies, and two of the students we met later contacted the League for assistance and materials so they could conduct a voter registration drive and voter education projects at the high school.

The League's campaign to recruit young poll workers is titled "Motivate the Vote", based on an ad developed by BU's AdLab. The students at BU believe that if young people work at the polls that would motivate more young people to vote. First-time voters would be more likely to ask for assistance from another young person.

The state League's Citizen Education Fund offers local Leagues a pass-through grant and materials to assist them in implementing the "Motivate the Vote" Campaign. This past

spring the Lexington League, under the direction of Jessie Steigerwald received a pass-through grant and conducted a very successful project in their community with two 16 and 17 year old poll workers.

LWV Boston and the Greater Haverhill Member-at-Large Unit were awarded pass-through grants to participate in the campaign to recruit young poll workers in their communities for this fall's municipal elections.

There are a number of advantages to recruiting younger people to serve as poll workers. Students can meet community service requirements, learn about the voting process, and increase the efficiency of polls by lessening the workload of the other poll workers. Younger poll workers may also find it easier to understand and explain complex new voting rules and equipment.

Poll workers provide an invaluable service to the community by facilitating our elections and thus strengthening our democracy.

## Environment and Natural Resources Report

■ by *Lynn Wolbarst*  
*Environment and Natural Resource specialist*

Safer Alternatives to Toxic Chemicals: (*H.783, S.558*), Sponsors: Rep. Jay Kaufman, Sen. Steven Tolman would require the use of safer alternatives to ten of the most toxic chemicals in products used in Massachusetts. The LWVM testified in person and submitted written testimony at a well-attended hearing before the Joint Committee on Natural Resources on June 13, 2007. The committee has not acted on this bill as of August 2007. This legislation expands the successful TURA (Toxic Use Reduction Act) program to seek safer substitutes for toxic chemicals in consumer products and other businesses and institutions. Large industrial users of toxic chemicals in Massachusetts would continue under their current TURA programs. The Safer Alternatives program under TURA would combine technical and financial assistance to help businesses transition to the safer chemicals or processes. Funds are raised through fees on toxic chemicals to create the Business Assistance Transition Program, research and development programs, TURI alternatives assessments, and to cover regulatory costs.

Safer Cleaning Products : (*H.2246, S.2201* ). Sponsors: Rep. Frank Smizik, Sen. Diane Wilkerson. "This legislation requests that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health require the use of only certified "Environmentally Preferable" cleaning products by all state agencies, public school, day care centers and medical facilities. This legislation would require the use of products on the already existing EP list .Any maker of a cleaning product could reformulate to meet the DPH safety criteria and be certified for the EP listing. Environmentally Preferable products are already in use voluntarily at several buildings in the Commonwealth, including the State House. On July 25, 2007, a hearing was held before the Joint Committee on Public Health . The LWVM submitted written testimony to the committee urging a favorable report.



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*“To show that we are active citizens who love and care about our country, we must fulfill our responsibilities. Although we cannot live freely without our rights, there is no doubt that the responsibilities of citizens in a democracy are as considerable as the rights. The responsibilities are what we should do, and the rights are the benefits.”*

*By Huynh Vo, 1st place  
Grades 9-12*



Making Democracy  
celebrates the  
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*“If you really care about our country VOTE! There is no excuse not to vote. It is not just your future it is everyone’s, so make a difference and vote if not for you than for your country and if not for you country than how about everyone else!”*

*By Rebekah Heath, 2nd place  
Grades 4-5*



Photos by Julia Malakie



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*"A participant in democracy is responsible for defending the rights of the downtrodden or weak with the same fervor, dedication and vigilance they demonstrated in the struggle for their own privileges or enfranchisement".*

*By Rachael Mazzella, 3rd place  
Grades 9-12*



## Work Awards Event winners of the Student Essay Contest

Stop & Shop



*"Most adults say they don't vote because the choices are bad, but not voting is not going to make the choices any better."*

*By Nicholas DiStefano, 1st place  
Grades 4-5*



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Spotlight

## LWVM 2007 Convention Growing League Leaders Recognizes Outstanding Achievement

### Dyna-Member Award

**Janessa Durrani**  
LWV Andover- N.Andover

**Janna Morrissey**  
LWV Plymouth Area

### Lotte E. Scharfman Award

For Voters Service and Citizen Education

**LWV Acton Area**  
**LWV Shrewsbury League**

### Burnished Bulletin

**Bonnie Glass, Editor**  
LWV Sudbury League

**Marg Daggett, Editor**  
LWV Lexington League

*Congratulations to all award winners and their local Leagues*

## Introducing LWVM 2007-2009 Board of Directors

■ *by Kelly Marcimo*  
*Executive Director*

**President Diane Jeffery** joined the League in 1990 and has served as local League President in Norwood in addition to holding office as Vice President, Legislative Director, Voters Service Chair, and Membership Chair. For the state League she served as co-chair of the Domestic Violence Study and as its Specialist. Diane also was VP of Program and Action and most recently VP of Membership and Training.

**Vice President Carole Pelchat** joined the Andover/North Andover League, where she served as Handbook editor and wrote updates on legislation for the Bulletin for two years. She joined the state board in 2006 as Legislative Director.

**Treasurer Betsy Cregger** is a CPA and independent financial consultant. She is on the Winchester League Steering Committee. Betsy has also served on the Personnel and Labor Policy Committee of the Massachusetts Municipal Association. She began her career at Coopers & Lybrand and worked for many years at BankBoston.

**Secretary Debbie Winnick** has served the Needham League as President and has been the Voters Service Chair for many years. She is a professional potter and pottery teacher.

**Director Jo-Ann Berry** is State Director of the Massachusetts YMCA Youth & Government, a program that teaches teens in grades 9-12 how they can participate in the democratic process. As LWVM Director, Jo-Ann co-chairs the Diversity Committee and is a member of the Citizen Education Committee.

**Director Martha Colamaria** League member since 1975 and has served the Norwood League as Secretary, Voters Service Chair, and Publications Chair. Martha represented the Norwood League at the

LWVUS Convention in Minneapolis in 2006 and worked to pass an immigration study. Martha is also the newest Scharfman Fund Trustee.

**Director Pat Costello** is a member of the Lexington League, where she has held the positions of Publicity Chair, Co-President, and Bulletin Editor. On the LWVM board, Pat serves as co-chair of the Diversity Committee, Coordinator of Field Service Representatives, and is on the Membership and Training Committee.

**Director Kathleen Keohane** has been a member of the Shrewsbury League for ten years. She has served as Vice President and Secretary, and has been involved in the "Citizens Guide to Shrewsbury," candidates forums, and Spirit of Shrewsbury. She is an Environmental Engineer for MassDEP.

**Director Natalie Monroe** has been a board member of the Milton League for seven years. She was co-president for two years and currently is the Vice President for Membership. Natalie is an attorney. Before going to work for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, she was a partner at the law firm of Sullivan & Worcester LLP.

**Director Mona Schwartz** has been a member of her local League since 1991 where she has served as Voters Service Chair, Membership Co-Chair, Field Service Representative, and Co-President. As a board member of LWVM for the past 4 years, she is a member of the Citizen Education Committee, and a Scharfman Fund Trustee. A self-proprietor, she heads Medplace Associates, a healthcare placement firm.

**Director Rhondda Tewes** a South Dennis resident, has served on the board of the Cape Cod Area League for a number of years as Co-President, Vice President for Program, co-chair of the Environment Committee, and Chair of the Healthcare Committee.



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## Fall Conference: Who pays for government?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

begin consensus meetings on municipal finance in January 2008, a result of the work of the LWVM Fiscal Policy Update study committee.

Fall Conference "Who pays for Local Government" is an event for League members. Their guests are welcome and the public is invited to consider this important issue. (See back cover for registration information)

Afternoon Workshop sessions from 1:30–3:00 at Fall Conference include; **Update on the Massachusetts Health Care Reform Law:** How will it work? with Jackie Wolf, PhD, co-chair of Mass-Care and a member of the LWVM Health Care Committee and Celia Wcislo, a member of The Connector Board.; **Votinginfo.info:** What's the 411?; **Membership recruitment:** The League's best practices; and other workshops to be announced.

## LWVM welcomes new staff

Executive Director **Kelly Marcimo**, brings her experience as President of the Shrewsbury League and a background in sales and nonprofit administration to the League office.

Office Administrator **Rebecca Brawn** has been working in Massachusetts politics for the past two years and will be completing her Masters Degree in the fall from Suffolk University.

**Risa Nyman** will continue to serve the League in her new capacity as Senior Director, responsible for some of the League's special projects and development.

**Martha Maguire** is continuing as our bookkeeper, working closely with the Treasurer and managing all financial records.

## HEALTH CARE UPDATE

■ *by Judy Deutsch*  
Chair, Health Care Committee

The LWVM Health Care Committee has been working to educate the membership and the public about the implementation of the state's new health care bill, Chapter 58 and to research and lobby for several health care bills that can impact positively on the mounting cost of health care.

At the LWV Convention workshop in June Sandy Eaton, Past President of Mass-Care, gave a fascinating account of the history of the single-payer health care movement in Massachusetts. Also, a caucus was held at which plans, views, and experiences were shared concerning ways to build cost containment into Massachusetts's new law and to keep the single-payer option in the discussion. The Amherst League's Health Care Committee, produced and staffed an informative exhibit describing the four health care bills being supported by the LWVM, Chapter 58, and the LWVUS position on health care, as well as distributing an informative brochure.

As of this writing, there are four health care bills being supported by LWVM:

**SB 411** – to establish the Massachusetts Drug Fair Pricing Program

**SB 699** – to reduce health care costs and improve patient care through a unified payment system for providers.

**HB 2059** – to establish inpatient nurse/patient ratios and a nursing advisory board

**SB 703** – to establish a single, comprehensive health care plan for all Massachusetts residents and a single administrative and payment mechanism for all covered health care services, otherwise known as the single payer bill.

## LWVMA Leaders Listserv

The listserv gives you the power to communicate with other local League members online. Subscribing to this list is free and open to all League members. It's simple to use. Once you've signed up, just send an email message to the list address and it is sent to all subscribers. Anyone else on the list can reply, and the discussion is off and running!

**To sign up for the list**, send an empty e-mail to:

[LWVMAleaders-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:LWVMAleaders-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

After you receive a brief welcome message, you can post your questions, concerns, announcements, and other League requests to everyone on the list by sending your message to:

[LWVMAleaders@yahoogroups.com](mailto:LWVMAleaders@yahoogroups.com)



### President's Breakfast

Presidents, Co Presidents and Field  
Service Reps only please  
9:00 -11:30 am

**Saturday**  
**September 29th**  
Newton Marriott



Call to Register  
617 523-2999  
by September 26th  
deadline!

**Moderators Training Workshop**  
All members welcome, Limited Space! 12:00-3:00 pm



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## Massachusetts Communities Local Options to Create Affordable Housing

■ by *Wendy Manz*,  
Co-chair Affordable Housing Study Committee

Chapter 40B has encouraged some towns and cities to develop their *own* affordable housing projects rather than waiting to have “40B projects,” which need not conform to local zoning, forced upon them. Tools used by municipalities to fund and create their own affordable housing projects include Community Preservation Act funding for housing and Municipal Inclusionary Housing bylaws.

**The Community Preservation Act (CPA)**, is a state enabling statute passed in 2000 which provides a source of funds for affordable housing to those Massachusetts communities which vote to adopt its provisions.

The Act created a dedicated trust fund, fed by state conveyancing fees, to assist municipalities in paying for projects in four areas, including **creation and support of affordable housing**. It allows towns and cities to voluntarily add a surcharge of up to 3% to their property taxes for a period of five years. The state then matches the revenues raised by each town’s surcharge with monies from the trust fund.

The CPA requires that at least 10% of the surcharge and matching funds a community receives each year be allocated to affordable housing projects. Money can be banked from year to year, so that towns can accumulate larger amounts for substantial projects.

Under the statute, city or town appoints a Community Preservation Committee (CPC), to include representatives from the local Planning Board, Housing Authority and Housing Partnership, among others. The CPC evaluates potential projects and submits those it finds eligible and appropriate to the community’s legislative body for approval, so that local communities retain control of the process.

CPA funds allow communities to undertake projects that their budgets have not previously been able to cover. Examples of affordable housing projects funded through the CPA include purchase of housing units with deed restrictions to be maintained as affordable; rental

and mortgage assistance programs; and building additional affordable units.

A deed restriction is a means of insuring that a housing unit remains affordable, as defined by the state, either in perpetuity or for some prescribed period, each time it is sold.

When the unit is constructed or purchased to be affordable, a subsidy is required to pay the difference between the current market value of the unit, and the affordable price. An eligible buyer then purchases the unit at the affordable price, and, under the deed restriction, can sell it only for a price that is calculated to be affordable at the time of sale.

**Inclusionary Zoning Bylaws** are based on the principal that some percentage of the new housing created in a town is required by municipal bylaws to be affordable.

Typically the bylaws require that when a residential subdivision of a given size is built, a specified percentage of the new housing must be affordable. For example, Belmont requires that all developments of six units or more must be 25% affordable, while Wellesley requires that all developments of four units or more must be 20% affordable.

Some bylaws use the state definition of “affordable,” that is, affordable to a family making up to 80% of the area median income (AMI). Housing units at this level qualify toward the state statutory requirement that each community must have at least ten percent of its housing affordable or be subject to “unfriendly” developments under Chapter 40B. Inclusionary bylaws in some communities are broader, including moderate housing affordable to families making 100% of the AMI or more.

Because affordable units are not as profitable to a developer as market rate units, some inclusionary bylaws provide cash incentives to the developer, or allow the developer to build more units than town zoning would ordinarily permit in order to make up the profit difference.

Newton and Brookline have had their inclusionary bylaws in place for a number of years and have added substantially to their affordable

housing inventory. Other inclusionary statutes are relatively recent and have not yet established a track record. In communities which have adopted the CPA, it is possible to use CPA funds in combination with inclusionary bylaw requirements.

Public opposition to inclusionary housing bylaws generally arises around the issue of fairness to individual landowners and developers. While proponents of the bylaws argue that requiring some contribution to affordable housing is a reasonable cost of doing business, opponents consider this cost (i.e., loss of profit) as an unfair burden on individual developers and believe that affordable housing, like other social goods, should be financed by all citizens of a community through taxes or CPA funds.

Concerns with affordable housing include the management burden of determining eligibility for this housing and monitoring rents and sales to make sure they comply with deed restrictions over time.

### Affordable Housing Study Presentation Schedule 7pm

9/11 Region 1

Smith Vocational School  
Northampton

9/18 Region 2

Shrewsbury Senior Center

10/2 Region 5

Cary Memorial Town Hall  
Lexington

10/16 Region 4

Hamilton-Wenham Public Library

10/30 Region 7 & 10

Norwood Police Station

11/8 Region 9

Gus Canty Recreation Center  
Falmouth

11/13 Region 8

Thayer Public Library  
Braintree

11/28 Region 3 & 6

Chelmsford Police Station



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## Casino Gambling

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sistently supported our initial concerns.

Our extensive research into casino gambling indicates, among other points, that:

**Gambling is no substitute for a reasonable tax policy:** Connecticut, New Jersey, and Rhode Island all have casino gambling and all have higher taxes than Massachusetts.

**Gambling revenues are uncertain:** Casino gambling revenue streams are inconsistent and the costs to a community outweigh the gains three to one. For every \$1 raised in revenue, \$3 is lost in costs to the community.

Although a new facility will bring jobs initially, the experience of other communities has **shown a net loss of jobs overall, as many smaller businesses find that they cannot compete with the casinos.** Once the construction is complete, jobs at the casino for the most part are not high paying. In addition, large corporations do not like to locate near casinos because of the increased risk of gambling addiction among employees.

**Casinos bring all sorts of economic and social problems to the community** and neighboring communities such as increased traffic, pressure on the local infrastructure (water use, new roads, etc.) and increased petty and major crimes.

Indian tribes, as sovereign nations, **are not bound to obey the environmental laws of the state or the planning requirements of affected towns or counties.**

Such sovereign nations **are not bound by labor laws and are thus not re-**

**quired as any other business are to provide good wages, benefits, and working conditions to their employees** This limits benefits to residents, businesses, and municipalities in the surrounding areas.

Letters to the Governor; an Action Alert generating calls to the Governor's office; op-ed pieces; letters to the editor from many local League Presidents; multiple calls to interested individuals and groups to develop partnerships; hours of research to provide a mounting body of evidence for our concerns; participation in public demonstrations; and a unique program to have League members visit the Governor's office daily presenting a different body of information about the problems associated with casino gambling, have kept the League in the action on this topic.

President Jeffery stated "It is important to note that the people of Middleborough voted on a non-binding question of whether to approve a casino in the town and a majority voted not to approve a casino on the same day that they approved the deal with casino developers.

A very conflicting fact, except when you consider that many of the townspeople were deceived by casino proponents who led them to believe that the casinos were coming anyway, and only if the people voted to accept the deal would the town receive any revenues.

The truth is that Class III gambling in this Commonwealth would have to be approved at the State level before any slot machines or blackjack, roulette and other table games could come in."

Since the vote in Middleborough there has been a quick response from surrounding cities and towns (Plymouth, Plympton, Halifax, Freetown, Kingston, Lakeville, Whitman, and Wareham), which are

now justifiably concerned about the impact on their communities, which will not be receiving financial rewards to offset their increased costs if full gambling is allowed.

Residents, local administrators, and many regional planning groups have expressed concerns about the draining of the Taunton River aquifer, the increased demands on housing and schools and the increased traffic load on local roads. It was also a concern that so few (3,000 Middleborough residents) could potentially have such a significant impact on their neighbors and the state as a whole.

Governor Patrick should have released his decision whether to oppose or support the approval of Class III gambling here by the time this edition is published. And while this is important, his decision will not be the final word.

The establishment of casino gambling in Massachusetts will still have to go through the legislative process, and while there are representatives of cities and towns across the state that have indicated their support of this proposal, there are many who are as yet undecided or who are opposed.

All legislators need to hear from League members. League members and their families and friends should contact their legislators by letter, phone, and e-mail to express their opposition to casino gambling.

Please see the League web site for further details and talking points. Remember, once casino gambling is established with its access to millions of dollars of influence, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to monitor or eradicate. It will certainly be a bad solution to revenue needs in Massachusetts.



League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Citizen Education Fund  
*presents*

FALL CONFERENCE 2007

## Who Pays for Local Government?

Saturday, October 13, 2007

9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Quincy Marriott

Registration and coffee 9:00 a.m.

Morning keynote speaker, John Hamill

Chairman, Municipal Finance Task force

Panel discussion featuring:

Mayor John Barrett III, North Adams MA

Leslie Kirwan, Sec. Exec. Office Administration and Finance

Geoff Beckwith, Exec. Dir. MA Municipal Association

Thomas Scott, Exec. Dir. MA Assoc. School Superintendents

Luncheon keynote speaker 12:00 p.m.

Workshops 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

*League members and guests are welcome, public is invited*

**Registration Deadline: October 3, 2007**

To register online using VISA, MasterCard or American Express and get directions visit [www.lwvma.org](http://www.lwvma.org)

Or call LWVMA 617 523-2999 to reserve space using a credit card

### Fall Conference 2007 Registration Form

Conference fee: \$40 per attendee (includes lunch)

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Local League \_\_\_\_\_

Additional attendees \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment by check or credit card accepted (Visa, MC, or American Express)**

Total enclosed for all attendees if paying by check \$ \_\_\_\_\_ make checks payable and send to:

LWVM Citizen Education Fund  
133 Portland St.  
Boston, MA 02114

Name on credit card \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount for all attendees \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact the League with any questions: 617-523-2999 or email [lwvma@lwvma.org](mailto:lwvma@lwvma.org)



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