



January 2009  
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# The Massachusetts Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF MASSACHUSETTS

## League To Honor Paul Guzzi with Guardian of Democracy Award

■ by Risa Nyman  
Executive Director of Special Events

The League of Women Voters Citizen Education Fund established the Guardian of Democracy Award in 2006 to honor those individuals who:

**Have made a significant contribution to the active and informed participation of citizens in their government, and demonstrate a commitment to democracy and democratic processes.**

This year the Guardian of Democracy Award will be presented to Paul Guzzi, former Secretary of the Commonwealth and President and CEO of

the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce. In announcing this award, Diane Jeffery, Chair of the League's Citizen Education Fund, stated, "For over three decades, Paul Guzzi has fought to insure that government is more accountable and accessible and that Massachusetts has a vibrant and diverse business community. We are pleased to honor this dedicated and innovative leading citizen at this year's Guardian of Democracy Award Dinner."

The award will be presented to Mr. Guzzi on Thursday, March 12, 2009 at the Marriott Copley Place. There will be a reception at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$150 (half of which is tax-deductible). There is a ticket form on the back of this Voter.

*Continued on Page 5*



Guardian of Democracy  
Award Dinner

*Paul Guzzi*

March 12, 2009

Reception 6:30p.m. | Dinner 7:30p.m.

Ticket price: \$150  
(\$75 is tax-deductible)

*Sponsorship Opportunities Available*

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## Fall Conference features Lt. Governor Timothy Murray

■ by Kelly Marcimo  
President, LWV of Shrewsbury

Central Massachusetts was host to Fall Conference 2008, "Finding the Common Wealth." League members from across the state came and considered the state's financial picture.



We were welcomed by Worcester Mayor Konstantina Lukes, who provided the League with a citation proclaiming the date "League of Women Voters Day."

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## President's Message

**Diane L. Jeffery**

We are just winding down from a historical election season where the League was tremendously busy with our Vote 2008 campaign. I visited many local Leagues on my Presidential Tour and enjoyed each and every one. I was honored and inspired by the opportunity to speak at colleges and universities about the presidential election and the League of Women Voters. I am pleased to report that Tufts University and Babson College are starting Leagues on their campuses, with the support of local League members.

There are many exciting League events coming up in the new year. I am particularly looking forward to our Guardian of Democracy Awards Event to be held on **March 12** at the Copley Marriott Hotel. We are honoring Paul Guzzi, President and CEO of the Boston Chamber of Commerce and former Secretary of the Commonwealth. Mr. Guzzi instituted reforms to modernize the department's functions and improve transparency. These reforms provided the public with accessible information to enhance their participation in government, something the League consistently stands for.

For those of you who attended our first Guardian of Democracy Award Dinner, you know that it is a wonderful function. Many members car pooled and some even came in limos. This is a must attend event!

I encourage you to purchase tickets and publicize this within your League and look forward to seeing many of you there.

Day on the Hill – the annual League Lobby Day at the State House is Wednesday, **March 4<sup>th</sup>**. The theme this year is “Aiming for Transparency: Restoring the Public Trust”. The state League will once again be subsidizing buses for local Leagues who can fill a bus from their area. Please contact the state League at (617) 523-2999 for further details.

Our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Online Student Essay Contest Making Democracy Work, “Democracy and Change: The Newly Elected President” is now in full swing. Flyers, bookmarks, and other materials to publicize the event in your city or town are available by contacting the state League office. The Awards event on **April 5<sup>th</sup>** is always inspirational when the student winners read their essays in historic Faneuil Hall.

I look forward to an eventful new League year. Please remember the state League's goal is to support all local League efforts. Take advantage of attending the state League sponsored events and do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

## Presidential Tour

■ by Diane L. Jeffery  
LWVMA President

This Fall I had the pleasure of visiting 15 local Leagues around the Commonwealth at different forums and venues. Each local League event was unique. I particularly enjoyed meeting local League members, speaking to prospective members and reacquainting with old League friends.

Although each League has its own unique personality, there are common

threads that League members share. League members are informed on the issues of the day. Local Leagues are making important impacts in their communities and provide important services to those communities.



Collectively, we are democracy in action every day! If your League has not scheduled a stop on the Presidential Tour please contact the League office and do so today.

*Diane accepting a gift from LVW of Hingham member*



## The Massachusetts Voter

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*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.*



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January 2009

## Why Did Question 1 Fail?

■ by June Michaels  
Fiscal Policy Specialist

It was such an elegantly simple proposal: Cut the state income tax in half next year, eliminate it the following year. Surely every voter understood what he was voting for.

The idea easily won over 40% support when it was on the ballot in 2002. Surely in these difficult finance times the vast majority of voters would want to put money back in their own pockets.

The proponents know that voters hate paying taxes, and that in the privacy of the voting booth they would vote to send a message of anger and protest to Beacon Hill.

Everyone knows that tax money is just wasted by politicians, don't they? Surely, voters can see the advantages of giving them less to spend?

### Why, then, did this proposition fail?

Perhaps it is a testimony to the power of educating the voters about the complexity of issues and informing them about the serious repercussions of simple and easy-sounding solutions to public problems.

Perhaps it is indicative of a change in national mood, where "citizen" no longer means "person paying too much in taxes to those bums in government" but means "person actively supporting and participating in public solutions to social problems."

Perhaps it shows that Massachusetts voters are smarter than some people think. They can see through blatantly false claims and dumbed down arguments. They crave real information about real issues.

Perhaps it failed because voters care about their schools and their communities or even care about helping people poorer than themselves.

And just maybe Question One failed because the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts committed its resources to the fight, alerting our local Leagues about the serious fiscal implications to every Community in the Commonwealth.

Maybe it failed because of the League's ability to reach voters at the grass roots level, the quality of the League's information and the League's reputation for honesty and credibility. At least, that's what I think.

### Presidential Tour Visit and Photos

#### Local Leagues

Belmont  
Boston  
Concord/Carlisle  
Framingham  
Hamilton/ Wenham  
Medfield  
Newton  
Norwood  
Sharon/ Stoughton  
Topsfield, Middleton and  
Boxford  
Wellesley  
Weston  
Westwood/ Walpole  
Wilmington



*Diane Jeffery with LWV of  
Sharon/Stoughton members*



*Diane Jeffery with LWV of  
Wilmington members*

#### Colleges & Universities

Boston University  
Bridgewater  
State College  
Endicott College  
New England  
School of Art



#### 10th Annual Online Student Essay Contest

Making Democracy Work  
For Massachusetts students  
Grades 4-12  
&  
18-24 year olds

#### Prizes

For details please visit  
[www.lwvma.org](http://www.lwvma.org)

#### Contest Deadline March 6, 2009

Presented by  
LWVMA Citizen Education

Save the Date!  
For the 10th Annual Online  
Student Essay Contest  
Awards Event  
April 5, 2009  
2p.m. – 4p.m.  
at  
Faneuil Hall, Boston



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## New Fiscal Policy Positions Enable League Action

■ by Kathy Leonardson and Zaxaro Bennett  
Co-Chairs of Municipal Finance Committee

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA) has updated its Fiscal Policy positions that relate to municipal finance after a statewide consensus process. The new positions were approved by the State League Board in October 2008. The positions will allow the LWVMA to develop an action plan to promote changes that will help cities and towns balance their budgets in times of escalating costs.

### The positions include the following:

- “The Massachusetts LWV believes that the Fiscal Relationship between the state and local government should incorporate and balance the following principles:
- **Equitability:** The Massachusetts LWV currently has positions that support the distribution of state funds in a manner that helps to equalize the resources of different municipalities. The equitability principle reinforces this position and its importance was affirmed (2008).
- **Flexibility in local spending:** Many municipal spending decisions are controlled either by state mandates or through laws that restrict municipal spending choices. This principle would support allowing municipalities to have more control over local spending decisions, in light of the lack of equitability in state revenue distribution.
- **Flexibility in local revenue-raising:** Currently Massachusetts municipalities have very few options for raising revenue locally. This principle would support allowing municipalities more

flexibility in raising revenue, in light of the lack of equitability in state revenue distribution.

The principle of *transparency* was also added to the state budget and the state budget process sections of LWVMA Fiscal Policy.

The League’s position opposing new local non-property taxes by statewide mandate or local option (1993) was eliminated. Proposals for new local non property taxes by statewide mandate or local option will be evaluated by the State League Board based on the preceding principles.

The League also approved a position that supports changes in state laws to ease the financial burden on municipalities in the areas of municipal employee health insurance and pensions. It was noted in local study and consensus reports that these are budget breakers. This position allows the League to use the cost to municipalities as a way to evaluate new proposals along with the new principles and other positions, particularly on health care.

The Fiscal Policy Update Committee (FPUC) was approved at the May 2005 biennial State League Convention to restudy/update fiscal policy positions. The main goal was to evaluate the current status of the financing of local government services. The study included but was not limited to Proposition 2 ½, State Aid, and property taxes. The committee also examined the financial aspect of state mandates, special education, Chapter 70, Charter Schools, local options for revenue, municipal healthcare and pensions. The impetus for the study came from the fiscal struggles that many Massachusetts municipalities have faced since the economic downturn of 2002, which resulted in deep cuts to state aid.

**The Fiscal Policy Update Committee was composed of the following members:**

Zaxaro Bennett *Marblehead, Co-Chair*, Kathy Leonardson *Marblehead, Co-Chair*, Ernest Dieterich *Winchester, Secretary*, Mary Ann Ashton *Acton*, Cynthia Brubaker *Amherst*, Mary Frantz *Chelmsford*, Louise Haldeman *Concord*, Merle Hyman *Swampscott*, Paulina Knibbe, *Acton Area*, Ruth Kohls *Acton Area*, June Michaels *Cape Ann*, Setha Olson *Lexington*, Judy Robbins *Attleboro*, Shelley Sackett *Swampscott*, Anne Schmalz *Boston*, Susan Sekuler *Concord-Carlisle*

### Advisors / Resources to FPU Committee:

Lynn Cohen *Westford*, Judy Deutsch *Sudbury*, Debbie Ecker *Chatham*, Nancy Tavernier *Acton*, Mary Adelstein *Newton, editor*.

**The FPU Reading Committee was composed of the following members:**

Zaxaro Bennett *Marblehead*, Ernie Dieterich *Winchester*, Mary Frantz *Chelmsford*, Kathy Leonardson *Marblehead*, June Michaels *Cape Ann*, Marilyn Peterson *Acton* and Judy Robbins *Attleboro*.

In addition, 20 Massachusetts Leagues participated in a local study of municipal finance, and 22 Leagues held consensus meetings.

A LWVMA municipal finance action plan is currently being developed and the League can now weigh in on proposals put forward by others based on these new positions. Questions regarding outside proposals should be directed to LWVMA Fiscal Policy Specialist June Michaels. She can be reached at [macluj@comcast.net](mailto:macluj@comcast.net)



## Guardian of Democracy Award continued

■ by Risa Nyman  
Executive Director of Special Events

The League to Honor Paul Guzzi with Guardian of Democracy Award  
*Continued from Page 1*



*Pictured Ralph C. Martin*

The featured speaker for the dinner will be Ralph C. Martin, II managing partner of Bingham McCutchen LLP. Like Mr. Guzzi, Ralph Martin has had a distinguished career in the public and private sectors. He was the first African-American District Attorney in Suffolk County and was recognized for his leadership by former President Bill Clinton and former Attorney General Janet Reno. Mr. Martin has traveled across the country to both lecture and consult on the business and strategy of managing and reducing crime.

### *About Paul Guzzi*

The League is honoring Paul Guzzi with the **Guardian of Democracy Award** for his outstanding reputation for integrity, reform, and dedication to service that has been evident throughout his career in government and in the private sector. Mr. Guzzi began his public service career as a state representative from Newton in 1970. He was elected Secretary of the Commonwealth in 1974 and instituted reforms to modernize that department's functions and improve transparency. These reforms provided the public with accessible information to enhance their participation in government. Some of his accomplishments included:

- Creation of the Citizen Information Service, which is the primary information and referral service on state programs and agencies.
- Development of the "Redbook Guide" to ballot questions, which

publishes the text of ballot questions, as well as "pro" and "con" arguments.

- Legislation to establish the Massachusetts Archives to ensure the preservation and accessibility of the records of government and of Massachusetts's historical heritage.
- Codification of Massachusetts regulations promulgated by state agencies to improve access.
- Establishment of the Massachusetts Bookstore, which continues to be responsible for publishing and distributing a wide variety of documents of interest to persons

throughout Massachusetts.

This is a lasting legacy that gives proof to the ideal that one person can make a difference.

As President and Chief Executive officer of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Paul Guzzi has been a leading advocate for economic development and job creation. His outstanding leadership continues to strengthen the Chamber and ensure that the business and civic life is diverse and reflective of the community.

### HONORING COMMITTEE

**Diane L. Jeffery**

*Chair*

*President, League of Women Voters of Massachusetts*

**The Honorable Lucy Wilson Benson**

*Former Undersecretary of State  
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## Phonathon 2008



Thanks to all League members for their generous donations and hard work during Phonathon



### League Guardian

Lucy Wilson Benson

Catherine England

Norma & Ben Shapiro

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Jo-Ann Berry	Betsy Munzer
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\*no meetings \*no mailings \*on your schedule  
\*runs through March 2009 \*all judging and  
communications via e-mail.

### CALL FOR JUDGES FOR OUR 10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ONLINE STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST



IF YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE  
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*Thank you to all the businesses that helped make Phonathon a success by donating prizes and spaces for calling sessions.*

### 2008 Site Hosts

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Old Sturbridge Village  
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Plimoth Plantation  
Sports Museum of New England  
Worcester Sharks  
Worcester Tornados

## Day on the Hill 2009



**Aiming for Transparency:  
Restoring the Public Trust  
March 4, 2009**

**Massachusetts State House**

**10a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Gardner Auditorium**

**light refreshments will be served in Nurses' Hall at 9 a.m.**

A panel discussion will be presented on transparency within our Commonwealth. Experts in the fields of regulation, legislation, budget, and public access to information will define the process and problems with transparency and how the League and its members can most effectively address those problems. Specialists will discuss legislative priorities in the 2009-2010 session. After the discussion members will have the opportunity to lobby their Legislators on League priorities.

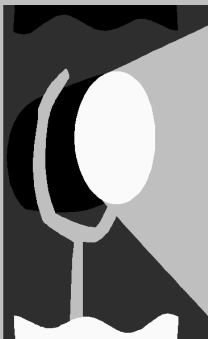
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**January 2009**

## Spotlight on Local Leagues During Election 2008



**The Andover/ North Andover League** held an informational forum with pro and con speakers for all three state ballot questions. The forum was taped and rebroadcast on several community cable stations and was also rebroadcast at a couple of retirement communities.

**The Cape Ann League** provided 13 volunteers at the polls in Gloucester on Election Day. They filled in various jobs (such as checking off names on the voter lists) mostly at lunch and dinner time to give the paid poll workers a break.

**The Plymouth Area League** member helped assist the State League by presenting "The Presidential Selection Process" powerpoint presentation to over 200 students at the Bridgewater-Raynham High School. Some students planned to vote for the first time. The issue that most concerned students was the economy.

## League Honors State Senator Edward M. Augustus Jr. at Fall Conference

■ by Kelly Marcimo

President, LWV of Shrewsbury



*Picture shown: President Diane Jeffery presenting a gift to Senator Edward M. Augustus Jr. at Fall Conference 2008*

President Diane Jeffery presented Senator Edward M. Augustus, Jr. with a token of the League's appreciation and bid him farewell at Fall Conference.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts first greeted Senator Augustus at the State House when he took office, before he even had a chance to unpack. That set the pace for the newly appointed Chair of the Joint Committee on Election Laws.

Over the course of his tenure, the League was able to partner with Senator Augustus to achieve many important legislative goals. He was instrumental in the passage of our Strengthening Voting Rights and Voter Confidence Bill, which:

- Expanded the Pool of Election Officers
- Provided a Voters' Bill of Rights
- Ensured the Continuing Impartiality of Administration of Elections

Senator Augustus also joined the League in championing the cause to bring unrestricted absentee balloting to the commonwealth. This two-year effort was dashed when it was not brought up for a second vote at the Constitutional Convention.

The Senator also worked very hard to improve voting with Election Day Registration and brought that issue as close to winning legislative approval as it has ever come.

Senator Augustus has been an admirable servant of the people, a champion for and a true friend of the League. His leadership in the Senate will be missed, and we wish him well in his future endeavors.



*Senator Edward Augustus with Worcester Area League members*

### Photos from Fall Conference



*League members making new friends!*



*Lobbying Workshop participants*



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## Lobbying Through the League

■ by Carole Pelchat  
Vice President, Program & Action

This is not a review on how to lobby, but rather a review of the League's process in its attempts to impact legislation at the state level.

There's a thorough explanation of the Massachusetts legislative process on the state's website at [www.mass.gov/legis/lawmknng.htm](http://www.mass.gov/legis/lawmknng.htm). LWVMA often involves itself in all phases of this process, from working with legislators to develop new legislation to testifying before legislative committees on bills we support or oppose to lobbying the Governor before he signs a bill into law. But before the League can take action on any piece of legislation, there's a process in place that ensures we can focus our efforts on those issues that are most current and relevant and where we can have the most impact. In addition, the process ensures that any action taken is in keeping with LWVMA or LWVUS positions.

The League works on legislation that has been approved by the state Board. In general, the process begins in the Program and Action Committee. This committee, chaired by the Program and Action Vice President, is composed of Specialists who follow legislation in specific areas, for example, health care, the environment, the judiciary, and education. Specialists may head a League committee that works with them, and they are often members of groups or coalitions involved in their area of interest. Specialists develop relationships with legislators who seek the League's support for their bills, and receive requests from the Board and League members regarding legislation. After evaluating proposed bills, often in conjunction with other groups and coalitions, Specialists make decisions to seek League support or opposition.

Specialists present bills and supporting research to the Program and Action Committee along with a completed Legislation Research Sheet (several questions regarding each bill that cover multiple aspects of the proposed legislation). Committee members review the bills and research material and at regular monthly meetings discuss their connection to state and national initiatives and debate their viability and the League's ability to actively and effectively lobby. Of particular concern is the ability to connect the bills to state or national League positions. This process can extend over more than one meeting, particularly if the bill is complex or controversial.

When discussion is complete the Committee votes. Email votes can be taken if time is a problem. If the vote is positive, all materials are forwarded to the Board for discussion at its next monthly meeting. The Board reviews and discusses the bill in the same manner as the Program and Action Committee, although priorities may be different. This can extend over more than one meeting also. The bill may be returned to the Specialist to answer specific questions or provide more information

A positive vote by the Board starts a series of activities by the Specialist, office staff, and Board members. A major step is the gathering of supporting information and the preparation of testimony. The Specialist keeps an eye on the legislature's committee calendar and maintains regular contact with legislative aides and legislators. A committee and/or coalition can be very helpful in this area.

Testimony and supporting documentation are developed and reviewed. All public documents, including testimony, letters to the editor and op ed pieces are reviewed

by many eyes and must be approved. Testimony is submitted to legislative committees in written form and frequently orally as well. This is usually done by the Specialist, but can be done by a member of her committee, a member of the Board, or someone designated by the LWVMA President.

Information is forwarded to all League members through Action Alerts and postings on the LWVMA website, The Voter, and League Leaders' Update. Public forums may be developed, press releases sent to various media outlets, meetings with legislators, House and Senate leaders and other government officials scheduled, rallies organized, and press conferences held.

This past year I organized contact information for members of all the legislative committees reviewing legislation we support or oppose, cross-referencing the members with the local Leagues they represent. Once documentation has been developed and approved, I have begun to alert those local League Presidents, providing them with contact information and hopefully useful documentation, so they can encourage local members to contact their legislators.

The above actions follow any bill through the many phases of the legislative process. Sometimes it's pretty simple. Sometimes it's very labor intensive, utilizing both staff and members.

I hope this gives you a glimpse of the efforts required to lobby for legislation in a complex system designed to limit the passage of legislation with limited League resources committed to many areas. While we have several excellent Specialists, there are many areas of legislation

*Continued on Page 11*



## Affordable Housing Study—so much work so Many Rewards

■ by Jane Nash  
Affordable Housing Study Chair

This article is a short recap and update on the affordable housing study including recent changes to 40B.

Most people recognize the dramatic need for more affordable housing in Massachusetts. Allan G. Rodgers in his report entitled “Snob Zoning in Massachusetts” states “Despite the long standing situation since 1954 there has been no family housing built in the Commonwealth, except in Springfield and Brookline.” At its 2005 convention the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts seeing the need and concerned about the success and fairness of current laws, passed a proposal for a study of affordable housing laws. The study committee was charged “to evaluate legislation, regulations and programs in Massachusetts; to determine their effectiveness in providing affordable housing; and to propose a new position through consensus or concurrence”.

The focus of the study soon centered on Massachusetts’ landmark housing law variously called snob zoning act of 1969, the comprehensive permit, or 40B as it will be referred to in this article. Further, the committee undertook an unconventional method (an experiment) in presenting consensus material- regional meetings. Eight meetings were held across the state where 39 leagues and 252 league members attended.

At these meeting’s members quickly acknowledged 40B’s flaws but also its value. According to recent statistics this law has produced more results than any other method with 1000 developments producing 50,000 units. As a result of 40B, 50 cities and town have reached the 10 percent goal with 41 more at 8%. Still much more affordable housing is need. Members were clear about what they wanted included in Massachusetts housing laws and most of those changes are incorporated in the

Massachusetts League of Women Voters’ (LWVMA) position on affordable housing which can be found on the LWVMA web site.

The Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCD), the agency that governs the regulations under which 40B operates, recently reviewed and made changes to the rules.

Many of these changes reflect league members’ concerns as expressed during the consensus process. Members were concerned about what they saw as a lack of fairness in income eligibility and review; the new DHCD regulations address this concern. Periodic review of income and assets has always been a part of the yearly eligibility review. However, DHCD acknowledged the need for changes by increasing income and asset limits for both regular and senior applicants with special attention to seniors as noted below. Also inflation is now considered as part of the mandatory yearly income review of those in subsidized housing.

Many were disturbed at what they saw as lack of regulation clarity leading to confusion and misunderstanding during the permitting and building process. Members mentioned the lack of oversight or control of developments. Many developments seemed to members to be inconsistent with neighborhoods and had cost overruns, DHCD addressed these issues with improved clarity, increased oversight of developments, and the tightening of the rules governing development design and size. They have created a single comprehensive set of regulations and guidelines which pertain to all projects from beginning to end. Now the site plan is examined to see whether it properly mitigates height and scale problems. The site plan must

include how the project appears from the street, and the density of the project must be appropriate “in the given context.” Clarity in the regulations and guidelines has been improved along with transparency and predictability in the process. The “Rules of the Road” now are clear and apply from the start to the finish of every development. They have also codified existing policies, HAC, and court decisions to make it easier to read and understand. They heard local complaints that only the developer can appeal a project decision- now either can.

DHCD reviewed the rules under which units are added to the Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI). Those of you who wanted all affordable rental units (market or subsidized) to be included will be disappointed as DHCD did not go that far. To be included in the SHI units must be approved by a “subsidizing” agency like DHCD. Market units renting at low or moderate rents may not be listed because they do not meet certain requirements. One is that there is no way the rents of market unit can be assured they will be maintained as low and moderate according to the Department of Housing and Community Developments guide lines. But the guide lines were modified to increase the asset limits for age-restricted homeownership projects to \$75,000 for liquid assets and \$200,000 for property. Consideration of asset limitations for seniors is part of our position.

Members were concerned about the loss of affordable units through conversion to market rents. They came to consensus and affirmed that affordable units should be retained into perpetuity. Here again even before our study was completed

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**Affordable Housing**  
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and our consensus reached DHCD ruled that affordable units should be protected for “as long as the law allows” which in most cases is in perpetuity. There may be occasions when an affordable unit is no longer needed. Then it may be removed from the affordable category and made available at market rent.

Members were concerned that the rules for 40R and 40S were too cumbersome and hard to understand. They wanted them streamlined and the funding stabilized. The legislature moved to before the end of our study to streamline 40R and 40S regulations and the Governor stabilized the funding.

League members worked hard and developed the affordable housing position stated at the beginning of this article. Now the LWVMA Board can lobby for even better laws and regulations to facilitate the development of more affordable housing for the people of Massachusetts.

**Lobbying Through the League**  
*Continued from Page 9*

that are not covered. Please contact me at [cpelchat@lwwma.org](mailto:cpelchat@lwwma.org) with any questions or interests in working with League program and action activities.

**Fall Conference**  
*Continued from Page 1*



Senator Stephen Brewer addressed League members and discussed the current fiscal constraints.



Lt. Governor Tim Murray was the keynote speaker and during his remarks he reviewed the administration’s initiatives that were designed to improve the economy of our state,

- **The creation of the 10-year,**

**\$1 Billion Life Sciences Initiative**

- **Lowering Corporate Tax Rate and Promoting Tax Fairness**
- **Permitting Reform**
- **Investing in our Infrastructure**
- **Auto Insurance Reform**

The Lt. Governor, a former Worcester city councilor and mayor who has been on the receiving end of state cuts, said the administration plan was to cut spending early, just three months into the fiscal year, based on revenue projections, in order to give state agencies and others more time to absorb the hit.

“The longer you wait in the fiscal year, the more pain you cause,” he said. “We’re doing everything we can to prevent having to make cuts the remainder of the year.” Lt. Governor Murray acknowledged that many programs important to League of Women Voters members will have to get by with less money, but he highlighted several that were not cut, including domestic violence prevention programs. “We understand we’re in a crisis right now,” Mr. Murray said of domestic violence rates. “This isn’t just a public safety crisis; it’s a public health crisis.”

League members asked questions about a range of topics, including construction projects, unfunded federal mandates and home foreclosures.

Kelly Marcimo, League President of Shrewsbury asked if Governor Patrick intended to try to revive his casino gambling bill in light of the budget shortfall. This particular issue the League and the Patrick-Murray administration have been at odds. The league has opposed casino gambling as a way to raise state revenues.

The Lt. Governor responded “There’s no plan right now either way. We’ve had the great debate on that issue,” Lt. Governor



*League members enjoying the day at Fall conference at the Crowne Plaza Marriot in Worcester,*

Murray said. “Certainly, we’re not necessarily interested in revisiting old ground.” However, he said, “some in the Legislature may seek to revive the issue.”

Luncheon speaker, Peter Meade, Managing Director of Rasky Baerlein, and chair of the Coalition for our Neighborhoods spoke about their efforts to educate the public to vote “No on Question 1.” The League was a member of the coalition to oppose the ballot question which asked voters to repeal the state income tax.



Following the lively discussion at lunch, members attended workshops in the afternoon. The workshops that offered were Healthcare for All, Consensus Discussion Leader and Recorder Training, Effective League Lobbying, and League Moderator Training.

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

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