

# BULLETIN

League of Women Voters  
Arlington, Massachusetts

[www.lwva.com](http://www.lwva.com)

## January 2010

### Calendar

1/11	Monday 7 pm	LWVA Board Meeting at Angela Olszewski's home, 1 Watermill Place, Apt. 428. All members welcome. Directions on page 6.
1/15	Friday 5 pm	Deadline for absentee voting for the special Senate election.
1/19	Tuesday 7 am to 8 pm	Special Election to fill U.S. Senate vacancy. If you can give rides to the polls, please call Claire Maytum at 781-643-9241.
1/24	Sunday 6 pm	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Observance, Town Hall. <b>Note that this is the Sunday after the actual Monday holiday.</b> See page 3 for details.

### Town Election Calendar

2/11	Thursday 5 pm	Deadline for obtaining blank nomination papers for Town offices.
2/15	Monday 5 pm	Deadline for Town Meeting members who are candidates for re-election to give written notice thereof to the Town Clerk.
2/22	Monday 5 pm	Deadline for submitting all nomination papers to the Town Clerk's office for certification of signatures.
3/8	Monday 5 pm	Deadline for filing certified nomination papers with Town Clerk.
3/22	Monday 8 pm	Voter registration deadline for Town Election.
4/10	Saturday 8 am to 8 pm	Town Election.

Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski: Co-Presidents  
[CarolynMParsons@msn.com](mailto:CarolynMParsons@msn.com), [amolshzewski@gmail.com](mailto:amolshzewski@gmail.com)  
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## Co-President's Message

Hello,

As I write this message, southern New England is experiencing a blizzard. The weather outside is frightful; inside it is quite delightful.

Leslie Kirwan, former Secretary of Administration and Finance in the Deval Patrick administration, gave an insider's view on the workings of the State House at the holiday party. League members and friends peppered Ms. Kirwan with questions. The hospitality of Joan and James Robbio in hosting this event is most appreciated.

Each year the League is a sponsor of the Dr. Martin Luther King birthday observance in Arlington. This sponsorship makes a strong public statement in support of justice and equality for all people. Your presence at this event on Sunday, January 24 (details page 3) also makes a strong public statement. I urge you to attend with friends and family, bring a finger food to share, and enjoy the fellowship.

As co-president of the League, I will be participating in an effort to promote enhanced diversity in Arlington's Town Meeting membership. This initiative is being organized by the Diversity Task Group of Vision 2020. The League has a publication on its website entitled "How to Run for Town Meeting". Hard copy of this pamphlet will be offered for distribution. Do you have other ideas as to how the League may help?

Wishing you a happy, healthy New Year,

Carolyn

### LWVA LEADERSHIP 2009–2010

Carolyn Parsons, Co-President	781-646-9309
Angela Olszewski, Co-President	781-648-8649
Meredith Zona, Organization VP	781-648-2753
Patricia Muldoon, Action VP	781-648-1019
Patricia Lieberman, Local Action VP	781-646-1987
Kathleen Colwell, Treasurer	781-646-4522
Anne Linn, Secretary	781-643-0356
Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director	781-646-9711
Deborah Sirotkin Butler, Publicity	781-646-8204
Carma Forgie, Speaker Series	781-643-7622
Katharine Fennelly, Voters' Guide	781-648-1794
Kim Haase, Bulletin Editor	781-643-3429
Margaret Reiners, Bulletin Mailing	781-646-9611
Janice Bakey, Email Coordinator	781-643-4345
Phyllis Maddox, Webmistress	781-646-4362

The BULLETIN is published monthly except during the summer and December by the League of Women Voters of Arlington, PO Box 461, Arlington, MA 02476.



# **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance**

**22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary  
Sunday, January 24, 2010**

**Guest Speaker:  
State Representative Marie P. St. Fleur  
Fifth Suffolk District**

**Music by: Love Devine**

**Tapas** begins at 6 p.m. in Town Hall.  
Please bring finger food or dessert to serve six.

**Program** begins at 7:30 p.m.

Robbins Memorial Town Hall  
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476  
Call 781-643-4345 for information

*A free-will offering will benefit the Martin Luther King Memorial in  
Washington, DC, the African American  
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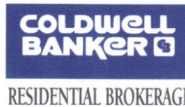


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## **November First Friday Lunch Discussion RUTH YANNETTI ON ARLINGTON'S RECYCLING PROGRAM**

*By Clare Gordon*

Ruth Yannetti, Coordinator of Recycling for the Town of Arlington, gave a positive assessment of Arlington's success in channeling an increasing fraction of waste toward recycling and away from the expensive tipping fees for burning unsorted trash. She gave a comprehensive update on new developments and encouraged everyone to participate.

Arlington started Single Stream recycling in the fall of 2009. All recyclable items may now be placed in the same container (instead of the past practice of sorting into one container for paper, another container for glass/plastics/metals, and corrugated boxes flattened and cut to size). Those who wish may continue the old practices and will have their recyclables collected as before. There has been no change in the collection of yard waste either in special paper bags or in marked barrels.

Now recycling is much easier and more flexible! Residents can retain their old blue Arlington recycling containers and continue to separate if they want or choose one container up to 32 gallon size and simply mark it with a sticker to separate it from other trash. Cardboard boxes can be put out as they are, nested, or filled with other recyclables. Stickers to mark containers ("Recycled" or "Yard Waste") are available free at the Library or DPW building.

Other collection points have been established in Town (at the DPW yard and at some schools) for papers and books, useful when larger quantities need to be disposed of or for times when residents miss the regular collection. Brochures are available at the library and online that suggest good ways to give away unwanted items that others would reuse. Those who attended this First Friday received sturdy recycling bags, and these will be distributed in the future at special recycling events in Town.

It is hoped and anticipated that easier Single Stream recycling and enhanced recycling opportunities will encourage wider participation in the programs, as has occurred in other communities. In any case, the Town will probably have to evaluate a "Pay As You Throw" program in 2010 to help deal with budget shortfalls.

Please check the town's recycling website for up to date information on what to recycle, how to do it, collection schedules and answers to your questions.

[http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public\\_Documents/ArlingtonMA\\_DPW/Recycle/index](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/Public_Documents/ArlingtonMA_DPW/Recycle/index)

**Directions to Angela Olszewski's home, 1 Watermill Place, Apt. 428 (Phone: 781-648-8649)**

Watermill Place is a condo building located next to the Old Schwamb Mill on Lowell Street in Arlington Heights.

From Arlington Center:

Follow Mass. Ave into the Heights. At Nicola's Pizza, bear right onto Lowell Street. Pass a few houses. Watermill Place will be on your right. Continue to the end of the building to the large Watermill Place sign. Turn right into the parking lot and drive past the green awning. There will be marked visitor spaces in front of you. If none are available you can park on Lowell Street, on the side where the building is.

From Park Avenue:

Follow Park Avenue down the hill to Mass. Ave. Continue straight and cross over Mass. Ave. (Brigham's Ice Cream and UPS Store are on two of the corners). Go over a bridge (Gold's Gym on the right). Take the first (sharp) right onto Lowell Street (Peter Pan Superette on the corner). Go over another bridge. There are about six houses very close together on the left. Watermill Place is on the left after the houses. Take a left into the driveway and drive past the green awning (entrance) to marked visitor spaces. If no spaces are available, you can park on Lowell Street, on the side where the building is.

Enter the building at the green awning and press 428 to ring my phone and get buzzed into the building. My condo is on the fourth floor.



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## **Holiday Party Features Leslie Kirwan, Former Secretary of Administration and Finance**

*By Kim Haase*



The LWVA's annual Holiday Party December 3 was another great success, hosted once again most graciously by Joan and Jim Robbio. Guests filled the Robbios' living room almost out the door to hear our guest speaker, Leslie Kirwan.

Kirwan described her 25-year career in government, often in times of difficult economic choices, and then answered questions from LWVA members and friends. Until last month, when she left to take a position as Dean of Administration and Finance for Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Kirwan was Secretary of Administration and Finance in the Patrick administration.

Kirwan, who lives in Arlington, is a Cambridge native. Her first job out of Harvard College, working for Cambridge Mayor Frank Duehay, came just as Proposition 2½ forced cities and towns to cut their budgets. Now interested in state and local finances, Kirwan went on to Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and then to a series of increasingly responsible jobs in state government. At the Department of Revenue, she helped cities and towns try to make Proposition 2½ work at the local level without devastating cuts in services. During 10 years as CFO at the Massachusetts Port Authority, she shared the painful experience of September 11, 2001, then helped the authority become the first airport to comply with the resulting new security standards.

Kirwan was the first cabinet member hired by Governor Patrick after the 2006 election. The state already faced a structural deficit caused by many years of tax cuts, then incurred a loss of revenue caused by the recession. The Governor was determined to minimize cuts to education, health care, and public safety, while fostering job creation in areas like life sciences, where the state excelled. But much of the budget is non-discretionary, and the Administration was forced to make painful cuts in areas such as higher education, the environment, and transportation.

Part of Kirwan's cabinet role was to chair the Connector Authority, which implemented the health insurance products mandated by the 2006 health reform law. To determine the minimum required level of coverage was a delicate balancing act between adequate care and cost. The current health reform focused on increasing coverage (97% are now insured), but cost control has to follow. The current system rewards hospitals and doctors for performing high numbers of expensive procedures rather than for keeping people healthy. The task is to move away from this fee-for-service model to "global budgeting," where caregivers are allotted a fixed amount based on the number of patients and must allocate the funds to maximize those patients' health. Some organizations – Blue Cross, Atrius Health (Harvard Vanguard), Mount Auburn Hospital – are working with this model, but many hospitals and doctors resist it, invoking the specter of "rationed care."

Kirwan answered many questions on topics that included casino gambling, the Cape Wind project, and cuts to services to the poor and elderly. She agreed with League members that some cuts end up costing more than they save – for example, cuts to immigrant health care that force people into emergency rooms, and cuts to home health care for the elderly that force people into nursing homes. She noted that anti-immigrant feelings, and powerful vested interests such as the nursing-home lobby, can cause legislators to make decisions that are not in the best interests of state finance.



Leslie Kirwan converses with LWVA members at the Holiday Party. Left to right: Angela Olszewski, Meredith Zona, Kirwan, Barbara Muldoon.

*Photo by Phyllis Maddox*

## **State League Testifies Against Casino Gambling**

*Testimony to the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies in Opposition to S. 174 and H. 4068*

*By Louise Haldeman  
League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Casino Gambling Specialist*

*October 29, 2009*

For the second time in less than two years, the Massachusetts Legislature is considering changes to its gambling laws that would allow Class 3 gambling in the state. The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts strongly opposes any such measure.

In the early 1980s, when there were proposals to build casinos in the western part of Massachusetts and in Hull, the League undertook an extensive study of the subject to see if casinos would indeed be a benefit to the Massachusetts economy. What we learned, as we considered the pros and cons, convinced us that they would not. Since that time, both before and after Governor Patrick's proposal of 2008, we have continued to review the arguments and examined many independent studies and articles written by specialists in economics, sociology, law, taxation, and psychology, as well as concerned citizens.

It is clear that, even in times of economic prosperity, gambling is merely a minor asset to the wealth of a given state. The social costs associated with those persons who become addicted to gambling, as well as the infrastructure costs to nearby communities, far outweigh any financial benefits. Permitting the introduction of Class 3 gambling, with all of its well-documented attendant problems, at a time when the Commonwealth and its citizens are struggling with the effects of the recession, will only perpetuate our economic woes.

*(Continued on next page)*



**State League Testifies Against Casino Gambling (Cont.)**

Although the supporters of casinos have tried to characterize them as “recession proof,” the experience of neighboring states proves that not to be the case. Casinos are laying off employees, thus adding to an already existing unemployment problem. All are experiencing a decline in profit. Some are facing bankruptcy. Even when casinos do well, no state has solved its fiscal problems by the introduction of casinos. Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and New Jersey - states closely resembling our own - have much higher taxes than Massachusetts. Their casinos have not helped.

Gambling is a business that drains the economy; it does not bolster it. Independent research has shown that for every \$1 earned in revenue from gambling, \$3 is spent in the costs associated with it. Casinos in particular require a vast infrastructure to support them. There are demands on roads, water, waste disposal, public safety, and housing for the work force. Study after study has demonstrated that the amount of revenue generated by casinos has not proved equal to the expenses incurred by nearby communities.

The number of jobs created through gambling is vastly overstated, other than those in construction, which are themselves transient. Few truly new jobs are created. Casinos are self contained, offering many services on the premises. The restaurants, gas stations, and small shops which would ordinarily flourish in the shadow of larger industries simply cannot compete successfully with those at the casino itself. As existing small businesses are forced to close, the owners and former employees may well take jobs at the casino instead, which means the casinos are more an agency for job transfer than a creator of jobs.

Furthermore, with the increase in the incidence of embezzlement and similar crimes by persons whose gambling habits get out of hand, other businesses and industries become extremely reluctant to open new facilities in the vicinity of casinos. Serious unemployment problems continue to exist in the states which have casinos.

Massachusetts has an excellent record when it comes to the passage of laws and regulations that are designed to protect the health of its citizens. We promote good environmental standards and measures designed to improve the public health and the welfare of our children. For the state now to promote gambling, knowing that many citizens will be adversely and tragically affected, is contrary to the standards of public welfare we have set for ourselves.

Massachusetts needs industries and businesses that will expand the wellbeing and wealth of its citizens. It needs jobs that provide decent wages and that people can be proud of having. It does not need an industry that will only weaken its long-term development.

For all these reasons, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts opposes the implementation of Class 3 gambling in the state, in particular the passage of S. 174 and H. 4068, and urges the members of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies to also oppose these bills.

*The LWVMA issued the following press release December 21.*

## **League of Women Voters Cancels U.S. Senate Candidates' Forum at Faneuil Hall**

BOSTON-The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts has cancelled its U.S. Senate Candidates' Forum scheduled for Wednesday, Jan 13, at Faneuil Hall.

The League decided to cancel after Attorney General Martha Coakley, the Democratic candidate, did not commit to the forum before the League's deadline so that arrangements could be completed.

State Sen. Scott Brown, the Republican candidate, and Joseph Kennedy, an independent candidate on the ballot, accepted the League's invitation to participate in the event, which would have been the final candidates' forum before the Jan. 19 election.

"The League of Women Voters' charge for the past 90 years has been to present the voters with critical information they need to make a decision. We did not feel we could do that in this compressed election period without including all of the candidates on the ballot in a candidates' forum," said Zaxaro Bennett, president of the Massachusetts League. "We are disappointed by Attorney General Coakley's unwillingness to commit in time for us to properly plan this event."

The League's candidate forum was initially the only proposed debate to include all three candidates who will be on the ballot.

Since the primary election Dec. 8, Coakley's campaign has urged all potential debate sponsors to include Kennedy, who is not related to the late Sen. Ted Kennedy, as well as the Democratic and Republican candidates.

Despite repeated attempts by the League to secure a commitment, the Coakley campaign failed to respond to the invitation, issued to all the candidates at the same time, before the League had to decide whether to hold the forum.

The League is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization that pioneered the U.S. Presidential debates and has a 90-year history of hosting candidate forums on the state and local level. This fall, the Massachusetts League, with WCFR, sponsored the only candidates' forum in the primary season to include both Democratic and Republican candidates, at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization. The League encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and works to increase understanding of major public policy issues. For more information on the state and local Leagues, see the website, [www.lwvma.org](http://www.lwvma.org).

We welcome new members at all times.
Contact Ann Fitzgerald, annfitz@rcn.com, if you have any questions.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ARLINGTON
Membership Application/Renewal Form

\*\*Fiscal Year runs from April 1 to March 31\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Precinct \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_ Please indicate if you do NOT want your contact information sent to Arlington League members

\_\_\_\_\_ Basic Membership Dues..... \$50
\_\_\_\_\_ 2nd member in household ..... \$23
\_\_\_\_\_ Student (full-time) ..... \$20
\_\_\_\_\_ Contribution to help the LWV in Arlington, add \$ \_\_\_\_\_
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If \$50 is a hardship, please pay what you can and let us know that this is your dues payment.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: League of Women Voters of Arlington
MAIL TO: Kathy Colwell, 60 Claremont Ave., Arlington, MA 02476

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Please check areas of interest and activity even if you can't be actively involved THIS year.

SPECIAL LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

- Join the Board. Position: \_\_\_\_\_
Action: phone calls \_\_\_\_\_ letters \_\_\_\_\_
Bulletin: mailing \_\_\_\_\_ soliciting ads \_\_\_\_\_
Membership
Nominating Committee
Publicity Writer
Voter Service: Rides to the polls \_\_\_\_\_
Candidates Night
Voters' Guide
Attend State League's Phonothon
Be a discussion leader at local meetings
Fundraising activities
Offer meeting refreshments
Post fliers and deliver brochures
Host a meeting in my home
Monitor elections for nonprofit organizations

FOLLOW ISSUES, KEEP LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY INFORMED

- \_\_\_\_\_ Congress/Presidency/Election Process
\_\_\_\_\_ Discrimination/Equal Employment/Civil Rights
\_\_\_\_\_ Education/Child Care
\_\_\_\_\_ Environment/Recycling
\_\_\_\_\_ Health Care
\_\_\_\_\_ Justice/Courts/Prisons
\_\_\_\_\_ Land Use
\_\_\_\_\_ Taxation/Budgets/Deficits
\_\_\_\_\_ Transportation/Urban Policy
\_\_\_\_\_ Voting Rights
\_\_\_\_\_ Warrant Articles Review
\_\_\_\_\_ Welfare Policies/Basic Human Needs
\_\_\_\_\_ Women's Issues
\_\_\_\_\_ Zoning/Community Development/Land Use

OBSERVE AT TOWN BOARD MEETINGS\*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Selectmen (Mondays)
\_\_\_\_\_ Redevelopment Board (Mondays)
\_\_\_\_\_ School Committee (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)
\_\_\_\_\_ Conservation Commission (1st & 3rd Thurs.)
\_\_\_\_\_ Housing Authority

SKILLS LEAGUE COULD DRAW ON

- \_\_\_\_\_ Computer database \_\_\_\_\_ Fundraising
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\_\_\_\_\_ Desktop publishing \_\_\_\_\_ Other
\_\_\_\_\_ Web site maintenance
\_\_\_\_\_ Membership development
\_\_\_\_\_ Moderating meetings

BEST TIME TO CALL YOU:
(for phone tree reminders) Call before \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock

\*Some of these can be seen on cable TV

# Drivers Needed

For the General Election for the U.S. Senate seat

**Tuesday, January 19**

The League will need drivers to take voters who otherwise are unable to get to the polls.

**If you can give an hour or two on Election Day to help with this community service, please give Claire Maytum a call at (781) 643-9241.**

This service is very much appreciated by voters who find that they need it.  
Thank you!

**January 2010**

League of Women Voters of Arlington  
Post Office Box 461  
Arlington, MA 02476

