

BULLETIN

League of Women Voters
Arlington, Massachusetts

www.lwva.com

January 2016

Calendar

1/4	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Anne Linn's home, 7 Linden St. All members welcome. Directions on page 2.
1/9	Saturday 7:15 p.m.	"Stigmas" exploration with True Story Theatre and Arlington's Diversity Task Group, The Arlington Center yoga studio, 369 Mass. Ave. Details on last page.
1/10	Sunday 2 to 5 p.m.	LWVUS Money in Politics Study Consensus Meeting, Sanborn House, 21 High St., Winchester. All members are encouraged to attend. See pages 5-11 for background links and consensus questions.
1/18	Monday 7:30 p.m.	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Observance at Town Hall, 730 Mass. Ave. See page 3 for details.
2/1	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Angela Olszewski's home, 1 Watermill Pl., Unit 428. All members welcome. Directions on page 6.

League members from Arlington and Winchester took part in the consensus meeting for the national League's Constitutional Amendment Study at Sanborn House in Winchester on November 7.

The consensus meeting for the Money in Politics Study will be held at the same location January 10.

Photo by Phyllis Maddox



Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski: Co-Presidents
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Co-President's Message

Our seasonal holiday gathering was delightful. Our speaker, Fire Chief Robert Jefferson, talked about his background and the challenges of maintaining three fire stations, supervising a diverse community of firefighters, and presenting a budget to Town Meeting. He was absolutely terrific. Our hosts, Joan and James Robbio, provide such a welcoming setting, and the potluck dinner is just the best.

As the League is a co-sponsor, I urge you to attend the Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Observance event. Bring your family and friends to meet other members of the community that you might not otherwise have the opportunity to meet. It seems to me that this year it is especially important to reinforce the value of Arlington as a welcoming community. (I wrote the same words last year. Maybe next year it will be different.)

The discussion was quite lively in coming to a consensus on a number of questions for the Constitutional Amendment Study. I found myself having one opinion, completely changing my mind, and then returning, or not, to my original position with a number of thoughts bumping into each other in my head. The process of amending the Constitution and what criteria to consider in this process may have opposing arguments that are equally valid.

Please consider coming to the Money in Politics consensus meeting and lending your voice to the discussion. The questions to be answered are included in pages 5-11. Links to the League national website are provided to give you more background information – more information than I could digest in a single session.

Happy New Year!

Carolyn Parsons

Directions to Anne Linn's home:

7 Linden Street is just off Park Avenue in Arlington Heights. If you are coming from Massachusetts Avenue, it is a left turn, just after Florence Avenue and before Oakland Avenue. If you are coming from Route 2, of course, it is a right turn just after Oakland Avenue.

It is the first house on Linden Street, on the right.

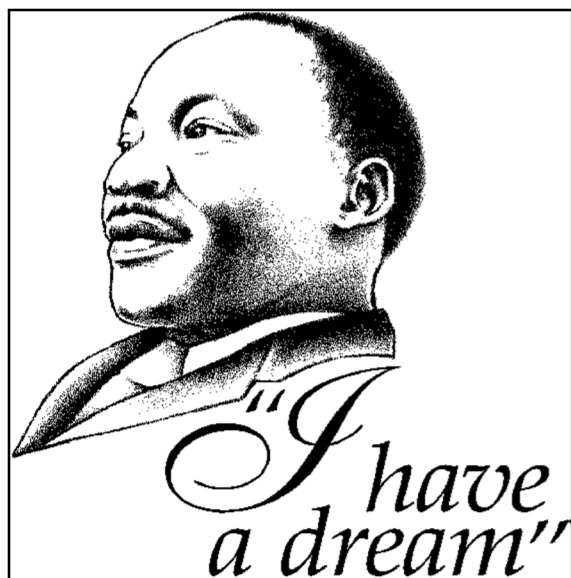
LWVA LEADERSHIP 2015–2016

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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.

28th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance

Monday, January 18, 2016



**Guest Speaker:
Tito Jackson**
Boston City Councilor

Special Feature:
**50 Years of METCO
in Arlington**


Music:
**Newton Myrtle Baptist
Gospel Ensemble**

Doors open at 6:45 p.m. with light refreshments
Program begins at 7:30 p.m.

**Robbins Memorial Town Hall
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476**

*We will be collecting non-perishable goods for the Arlington Food Pantry.
A free-will offering will benefit public and nonprofit programs that further the
goals of Dr. King.*

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Initial Free Consultation for League Members

LWV Money in Politics (MIP) Study Consensus Questions With Links to MIP Committee Papers



This update on Money In Politics builds on the League's current position on campaign finance. The consensus questions in **Part I** address the goals of campaign finance regulation in terms of democratic values. The questions in **Part II** relate to the extent to which First Amendment protections like free speech and freedom of the press should apply to various speakers and activities in the campaign finance context. **Part III** asks about methods of campaign finance regulation. **You are asked to respond to the questions without regard for the Supreme Court's current views on the First Amendment.** In responding to each question, please interpret the words in their most general sense. Keep in mind that the LWV intentionally words positions that are derived from member study in the broadest possible way so that our positions have relevance for many years. Future national Boards will determine when and how to apply our positions.

An optional comment section is included at the end of each of the three parts. Please note that while comments will be read and considered, only responses to questions can be tabulated.

Because issues around Money in Politics and its First Amendment implications are so complex, there is some overlap in the topics covered in the background papers. For each of the three question parts below we have matched papers to provide helpful background information on those topics. All of the readings can be found at <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/money-politics-review>.

PART I QUESTIONS: Democratic Values and Interests with Respect to Financing Political Campaigns

Background Readings

Here are readings that provide background on the issues that the Part I questions are asking about:

- *Money in Politics: Introduction and Overview* (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/money-politics-mip-introduction-and-overview>)
- *Shifts in Supreme Court Opinion about Money in Politics* (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/money-politics-shifts-supreme-court-opinion-about-money-politics>)
- *The Role of the Supreme Court in Interpreting the Constitution* (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/money-politics-role-supreme-court-interpreting-constitution>)
- *Evidence of Spending's Impact on Electoral and Legislative Outcomes* (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/evidence-spending-impacts-electoral-and-legislative-outcomes>)
- *Corruption and Rationales for Regulating Campaign Finance* (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/money-politics-corruption-and-rationales-regulating-campaign-finance>)

(Continued on page 7)

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 the former Nicola Pizza, bear right onto Lowell Street and 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. (Digumm's Ice Cream and the UPS Store 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 none are available, you can park on Lowell Street, on the side where the building is.

Enter the building at the green awning. The name list is alphabetical by last name. Press A to get to the middle of the alphabet, then press Z repeatedly to arrow down to my last name, Olszewski. When my last name is highlighted, press the CALL button.



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MIP Consensus Questions (Continued)

1. What should be the goals and purposes of campaign finance regulation? *(Please respond to each item in Question 1.)*

- a. Seek political equality for all citizens.
 Agree Disagree No consensus
- b. Protect representative democracy from being distorted by big spending in election campaigns.
 Agree Disagree No consensus
- c. Enable candidates to compete equitably for public office.
 Agree Disagree No consensus
- d. Ensure that candidates have sufficient funds to communicate their messages to the public.
 Agree Disagree No consensus
- e. Ensure that economic and corporate interests are part of election dialogue.
 Agree Disagree No consensus
- f. Provide voters sufficient information about candidates and campaign issues to make informed choices.
 Agree Disagree No consensus
- g. Ensure the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections.
 Agree Disagree No consensus
- h. Combat corruption and undue influence in government.
 Agree Disagree No consensus

2. Evaluate whether the following activities are types of political corruption: *(Please respond to each item in Question 2.)*

- a. A candidate or officeholder agrees to vote or work in favor of a donor's interests in exchange for a campaign contribution.
 Agree Disagree No consensus
- b. An officeholder or her/his staff gives greater access to donors.
 Agree Disagree No consensus
- c. An officeholder votes or works to support policies that reflect the preferences of individuals or organizations in order to attract contributions from them.
 Agree Disagree No consensus
- d. An office holder seeks political contributions implying that there will be retribution unless a donation is given.
 Agree Disagree No consensus

(Continued on next page)

MIP Consensus Questions (Continued)

e. The results of the political process consistently favor the interests of significant campaign contributors.

Agree Disagree No consensus

OPTIONAL COMMENTS (250 word limit):**PART II QUESTIONS: First Amendment Protections for Speakers and Activities in Political Campaigns**

This set of questions is designed to determine the extent to which the First Amendment protections of free speech and freedom of the press should apply to different speakers or activities in the regulation of campaign finance. Free speech and free press provide essentially the same protections to speakers, writers, publishers and advertising, whether or not they are part of the institutional press, and largely regardless of the medium. Essentially, these protections extend to any conduct that is expressive. Many of the options below would be found unconstitutional by the current Supreme Court, but we are seeking your League's views, not those of the Court. These are broad, overarching questions about spending to influence an election, including independent spending, contributions to candidates, broadcast news and other communication expenditures.

Background Readings

Here are readings that provide background on the issues that the Part II questions ask about:

- *The First Amendment* (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/money-politics-first-amendment>)
- *The Debate: Can Government Regulate Money in Politics?* (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/money-politics-debate-can-government-regulate-money-politics>)
- *Hard, Soft and Dark Money* (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/hard-soft-and-dark-money>)
- *Independent Expenditures* (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/money-politics-independent-expenditures>)
- *The New Soft Money, pp. 17-27* (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/new-soft-money-daniel-p-tokaji-renata-e-b-strause-e-book>)

1. Many different individuals and organizations use a variety of methods to communicate their views to voters in candidate elections. Should spending to influence an election by any of the following be limited? (Please respond to each item in Question 1.)

a. Individual citizens, including wealthy individuals like George Soros and the Koch Brothers.

Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus

(Continued on next page)

MIP Consensus Questions (Continued)

b. Political Action Committees, sponsored by an organization, such as the League of Conservation Voters, Chevron, the American Bankers Association, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), whose campaign spending comes from contributions by individuals associated with the sponsoring organization, such as employees, stockholders, members and volunteers.

Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus

c. For-profit organizations, like Exxon, Ben and Jerry's, General Motors, and Starbucks, from their corporate treasury funds.

Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus

d. Trade associations, like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Wind Energy Association, and the American Petroleum Institute, from the association's general treasury funds.

Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus

e. Labor unions, like the United Autoworkers and Service Employees International, from the union's general treasury funds.

Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus

f. Non-profit organizations, like the Sierra Club, Wisconsin Right to Life, Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, American Crossroads, and Priorities USA, from the organization's general treasury funds.

Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus

g. Non-partisan voter registration and GOTV (get out the vote) organizations and activities, like the LWV and Nonprofit Vote.

Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus

h. Political parties, like the Republicans, Libertarians, and Democrats.

Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus

i. Candidates for public office spending money the candidate has raised from contributors.

Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus

j. Candidates for public office spending their own money.

Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus

(Continued on next page)

MIP Consensus Questions (Continued)

2. The press plays a major role in candidate elections through editorial endorsements, news coverage, and other communications directly to the public that are often important to the outcome. Should such spending to influence an election by any of the following be limited?

(Please respond to each item in Question 2.)

- a. Newspapers, like the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal.
 Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus
- b. Television and other electronic media, like Fox News, CNN, MSNBC, and CBS.
 Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus
- c. Internet communications, like Huffington Post, Breitbart, Daily Kos, and individual bloggers.
 Spending banned Some spending limits Unlimited spending No consensus

OPTIONAL COMMENTS (250 word limit):**PART III QUESTIONS: Methods for Regulating Campaign Finance to Protect the Democratic Process****Background Readings**

Here are readings that provide background on the issues that the Part III questions are asking about:

- *Options to Reform Money in Politics* (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/options-reforming-money-politics>)
- *Action in the States* (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/money-politics-action-states>)
- *Enforcement of Federal Campaign Finance Law* (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/mip-enforcement-federal-campaign-finance-law>)

In order to achieve the goals for campaign finance regulation, should the League support?
(Please respond to each item in Question 1 a and b.)

- a. Abolishing SuperPACs and spending coordinated or directed by candidates, other than a candidate's own single campaign committee.
 Agree Disagree No consensus
- b. Restrictions on direct donations and bundling by lobbyists? (Restrictions may include monetary limits as well as other regulations.)
 Agree Disagree No consensus

(Continued on next page)

MIP Consensus Questions (Continued)

c. Public funding for candidates? Should the League support: *(You may respond to more than one item in Question 1 c.)*

i. Voluntary public financing of elections where candidates who choose to participate must also abide by reasonable spending limits?

Agree Disagree No consensus

ii. Mandatory public financing of elections where candidates must participate and abide by reasonable spending limits?

Agree Disagree No consensus

iii. Public financing without spending limits on candidates?

Agree Disagree No consensus

2. How should campaign finance regulations be administered and enforced? *(You may choose more than one response for Question 2.)*

a. By an even-numbered commission with equal representation by the two major political parties to ensure partisan fairness (current Federal Election Commission [FEC] structure)?

b. By an odd-numbered commission with at least one independent or nonpartisan commissioner to ensure decisions can be made in case of partisan deadlock?

c. By structural and budget changes to the FEC (e.g., commission appointments, staffing, security, budget, decision making process) that would allow the agency to function effectively and meet its legislative and regulatory mandates.

d. No consensus.

OPTIONAL COMMENTS (250 word limit):

Stained glass on the landing of Sanborn House, where the joint Arlington-Winchester consensus meeting will take place on January 10.

Photo by Phyllis Maddox



Fire Chief Jefferson Speaks on Arlington's Emergency Response at Holiday Party

By Kim Haase

The annual LWVA Holiday Party potluck on December 9 was, as usual, a convivial occasion with abundant and delicious food. Our very gracious hosts, once again, were Joan and Jim Robbio of Bradley Road.

Bob Jefferson, our guest speaker, provided attendees with many insights into the workings of the Arlington Fire Department. He spoke first about the Department, then answered questions. Chief of the Department since 2008, he grew up in East Arlington and started as a firefighter in 1982. He has been a Town Meeting Member since 1990. He appreciates very much the Town's support of the Department, which currently has 77 firefighters, along with 3 civilian staffers and the Chief, for a total of 81. The three recently refurbished stations provide rapid coverage of all parts of the town.

The Department's most urgent equipment need is a replacement for their 1994 ladder truck. It also has six firefighter vacancies, most of which will be filled soon: four new hires, all local veterans, ready to start after they complete their Academy training, scheduled for February.

The Department responds to over 5,000 911 calls per year and about three times as many other service calls. 60% of the emergencies are medical. They have a number of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), but no Advanced Life Support (ALS) staff -- we can do without them because we are lucky to have Armstrong Ambulance in town for ALS calls.

Many firefighters spend time on the fire safety program in the elementary schools. They also perform smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector inspections and engage in daily training. They appreciate the opportunity to use a house scheduled for demolition for training in search and rescue operations.

The number of fires in town is lower than it used to be, owing to better prevention and modern technology such as smoke detectors and sprinkler systems. For the same reason, fire damage has also been reduced. The very serious Arizona Terrace fire last spring was an exception, with not only a death but serious and costly damage.

For an ordinary single-alarm fire, confined to one room of a house, a crew of 15 is sent, with a hose line and 500 gallons of water. A two-alarm fire, with double the crew, is called when an additional room is involved. In that case the hose is hooked up to a hydrant. When the fire is on more than one floor, a third alarm is called and a ladder truck is sent. How many alarms to call is up to the deputy chief or chief. Whether another town is brought in depends on the location of the fire.

Chief Jefferson's biggest worries currently are hazardous materials, such as carbon monoxide, and medical calls, especially drug overdoses (EMTs have been carrying Narcan for a long time). Another is tanker trucks using Route 60 as a cut-through because some cities have banned them. When one overturned at the Mystic Valley Parkway rotary a couple of years ago, we were fortunate that it was carrying only #2 fuel oil instead of gasoline; the road was closed for only 4 hours, and Clean Harbors managed to recover 97% of the fuel.

(Continued on next page)

Holiday Party (Continued)

Residency is an important requirement for new hires, since knowledge of the town streets is essential for rapid response. Ideally, candidates have grown up in town. However, eventually many have to move out of town because it is less and less affordable. About half now live in town; the others are required to live within 15 miles. Firefighters spend some of their down time quizzing each other on Arlington's streets so they know them as well as possible.

It is the Chief's opinion that it is unfortunately not feasible to reopen the Highland Fire Station as a polling place. It lacks appropriate access for the disabled, and as a functioning garage, it is chilly, dirty, and smelly, with slippery floors.

Hostess Joan Robbio, Fire Chief Bob Jefferson, and LWVA Co-President Carolyn Parsons at the Holiday Party December 9.

Photo by Phyllis Maddox



State League Mounts Effort on Behalf of Carbon Pricing Bill

LWVMA Energy and Resource Conservation Specialist Launa Zimmaro (r) testifies in favor of Sen. Michael Barrett's Carbon Pricing bill (S.1747) at a packed October 27 hearing of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy. See <https://lwvma.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/S.1747-carbon-pricing-FINAL-2.pdf> for her testimony.

Photo by Patti Muldoon



The LWVMA's Launa Zimmaro speaks at the well-attended Carbon Pricing forum on December 3 at First Parish Unitarian Universalist in Arlington.

Photo by Phyllis Maddox



The League welcomes new members at all times. Thank you for your support.

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..... \$60
_____ 2nd member in household \$23
_____ Student (full-time) \$20
_____ Contribution to help the LWV in Arlington, add \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

If \$60 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: Ann FitzGerald, 162 Summer St., Unit 1, Arlington, MA 02474

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

SPECIAL LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

- Join the Board. Position: _____
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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 _____
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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 Thursdays)
_____ Conservation Commission (1st & 3rd Thurs.)
_____ Housing Authority

SKILLS LEAGUE COULD DRAW ON

- _____ Computer database _____ Fundraising
_____ Graphic design _____ Writing articles
_____ 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

Stories That Explore What It's Like to Feel Stigmatized

Have you ever felt someone was stereotyping and dissing you or a group you belong to? Or have you felt that if you told someone about your life preferences or physical situation or drug use -- that they would stigmatize you and not accept you? Even if you needed to ask for help or share your pain with someone? Have you ever stigmatized yourself or someone else?

On Saturday, January 9, 2016, True Story Theater and Diversity Task Group will present "Stigmas" at 7:15 pm at The Arlington Center yoga studio.

The True Story improv troupe will invite audience members to share briefly their stories about feeling stigmatized or about realizing they have stigmatized another person or group. The troupe will then play back the story in movement, dialog, or song. Audience members describe these shows as deeply moving experiences that open and enhance their understanding of how other people experience the world.

We hope you will come to "Stigmas" and briefly share stories about feeling stigmatized or stereotyped.

Admission fee is \$15 regular, \$5 reduced fee. The Arlington Center studio is located at 369 Mass Avenue, Arlington.

This program is one in a series of True Story Theater's Living Brochure Project events.

January 2016

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

