



BULLETIN

League of Women Voters
Arlington, Massachusetts
www.lwva.com

November/December 2016

Calendar

11/7	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Anne Linn's home, 7 Linden St. Directions on page 2.
11/8	Tuesday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Election Day. If you can give rides to the polls between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., please contact Phyllis Maddox at phyllismaddox@rcn.com or 781-646-4362.
12/7	Wednesday 6 p.m.	LWVA Holiday Party at Joan and Jim Robbio's home. See page 3 for details.

January Events

We don't yet have a date for the January Board meeting or for our upcoming joint consensus meeting with Winchester on the Charter School Study, so watch for your January Bulletin for this information.

The questions for the Charter School Study consensus meeting appear on pages 9-14. Much more information is available on the LWVMA website at <https://lwvma.org/member-resources/charter-school-study/>.

Welcome New Member!

We extend a warm welcome to our newest (actually returning) member, Lynn Taber of 23 Buena Vista Road 02476, 781-643-6176.

Carolyn Parsons and Angela Olszewski: Co-Presidents
CarolynMParsons@msn.com, amolszewski@gmail.com
Ann FitzGerald: Membership AnnFitz@rcn.com

Kim Haase: Bulletin Editor c.haase@comcast.net
Margaret Reiners: Bulletin Mailing mlreiners@gmail.com

Co-President's Message

The fall season is my favorite time of year. The air is crisp; the screens on a number of windows will be removed to welcome lots of light. Our cat, Phebe Wing Dudley, refused to go outside to be combed this morning as it was just too windy.

The League hosted a wonderful forum with Sheriff Peter Koutoujian in October. (See pages 6-8.) He was most candid, stopping to ask if a representative from the press was present, and then not really waiting for an answer. It was a pleasure that so many people were in attendance. Fully half the room was filled with people whom I have never seen before. A couple came from Concord with lots of questions for the Sheriff. The paving of Massachusetts Avenue added unforeseen tension as to just exactly when the road would be closed to access from the library parking lot. What a pill! The League thanks Colleen Kirby, LWVMA Criminal Justice Specialist and member of the Arlington League, for organizing this event.

The League will welcome Marc Breslow as our speaker for the holiday gathering in December. (See page 3.) Marc will be able to address energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate change mitigation policies. Angela Olszewski reminds me often that the League has the best speakers and potluck dinners. Please come.

A number of League members have been busy registering new voters and conducting "How to Vote" classes. The League thanks Anne Linn, Elizabeth Thompson, Patricia Muldoon, and Colleen Kirby for organizing these activities.

Early Voting has been implemented in the Town. As I write this message, there is no police presence at Town Hall, but ballots are now being put into covered tubs with slots instead of open tubs. I wonder how the ballots will be counted.

Carolyn Parsons

Directions to Anne Linn's home, 7 Linden St.:

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.

LWVA LEADERSHIP 2016–2017

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
Joan Martin, Local Action VP	781-646-0752
Kathleen Colwell, Treasurer	781-646-4522
Anne Linn, Secretary	781-643-0356
Elizabeth Thompson, Voter Service	781-646-5942
Ann FitzGerald, Membership Director	781-646-9711
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
Colleen Kirby, Board Member at Large	781-648-2447

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.



You're Invited to LWVA's Holiday Party!

Wednesday, December 7, 2016
6:00 - 9:00 PM
Joan Robbio's Home

Mark your calendars now for the Arlington League's
annual holiday potluck party!

Appetizers and drinks will be served at 6:00.
Main course will start at 6:30.

**Our featured guest speaker this year will be
Marc Breslow.**

An Arlington resident, Marc founded Sustainable Arlington and co-founded Massachusetts Climate Action Network. Now he is Policy and Research Director for Climate XChange, based in Boston. His current focus is on passing carbon pricing legislation in Massachusetts, an issue the LWV of Massachusetts has endorsed, using much of his analysis.


Friends and family members are welcome.

Directions to Joan Robbio's house, 4 Bradley Road:

Leaving Arlington Center via Mystic Street (Route 3), take a left onto Ridge St. Bear right at the island rotary. Take the third right after the rotary onto Winchester Rd., then the fourth right onto Bradley Rd. Joan's home is the third house on the right.

Please let Meredith Zona know by Friday, December 2, if you can attend and what dish you would like to bring. If you need a ride, please tell Meredith and we'll make arrangements. Call her at 781-648-2753 or e-mail Joseph.Zona@comcast.net. Looking forward to seeing you there!

LAKOTA BAKERY




781 646-0121

Tuesday-Friday
8:30 am - 8:00 pm

Monday & Saturday
10:00 am - 6:00 pm

1375 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

lakotabakery.com



FITNESS FIRST

**Arlington's Neighborhood
Health Club
Since 1982**

471 Mass. Ave. Arlington (781) 643-4300
Club Hours: M-F 5:30 am to 10 pm, S-S 8 am to 6 pm

MEMBER AMERICAN GEM SOCIETY 

Swanson
Jewelers Inc.

DAVID R. SWANSON
CERTIFIED GEMOLOGIST
APPRAISER
WWW.SWANSONJEWELERS.COM



717 MASSACHUSETTS AVE.
ARLINGTON, MASS. 02476
PHONE (781) 643-4209
FAX (781) 643-0977

COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

NANCY N. SOLOMON, GRI
REALTOR®, Notary Public

(781) 648-6500 OFFICE
(617) 281-0029 CELL
(781) 648-9222 FAX
Nancy.Solomon@NEMoves.com

637 Mass. Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

www.NewEnglandMoves.com
Owned And Operated By NRT LLC.



arlington children's center

17 irving street * arlington, ma * 02476

781 646 9307 www.arlingtonchildrenscenter.org

LEONE & LEONE
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

A GENERAL PRACTICE LAW FIRM EXPERIENCED
IN REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS
AND PROBATE MATTERS

ALSO CONCENTRATING IN:
CONDO CONVERSION - WILLS AND TRUSTS
ESTATE PLANNING - GUARDIANSHIPS
PROBATE MATTERS - BUSINESS LAW

DAVID A. LEONE
JOHN D. LEONE
SUZANNE M. LEONE

637 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

(Tel) 781-648-2345 - (Fax) 781-648-2544
www.LeoneLaw.com - John@LeoneLaw.com
Initial Free Consultation for League Members



Arlington Heights Nursery School

*A creative and joyful learning environment
for infants, toddlers and preschoolers*

10 Acton Street, Arlington, MA 02476
(t) 781-646-8499 (f) 339-707-6013
www.ahnschool.org

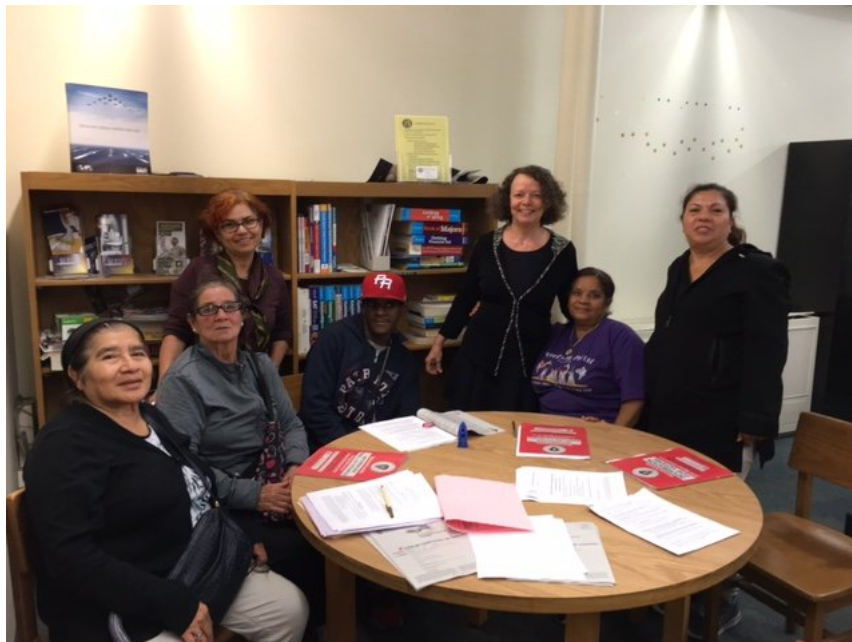
LWVA Members Educate New Voters

Members of the League of Women Voters of Arlington conducted voter education classes both for new immigrant voters and for inmates of the county correctional facility.



On October 3, Patricia Muldoon and Colleen Kirby of the LWVA, along with Doris Orellana of Arlington, taught a new voter class at Middlesex Jail and House of Corrections for individuals in custody. They helped 24 people fill out absentee ballot applications and then mailed them. Those in custody who are not serving a sentence for a felony can vote absentee without being officially registered.

On October 5 and 6, Patricia Muldoon, Colleen Kirby, and Doris Orellana taught two classes, "How To Vote," in English and Spanish, for new voters, through Arlington Community Education, at Arlington High School.



Doris Orellana and Colleen Kirby, standing left and center, and five students at their Arlington Community Education class on October 6.

Photo supplied by Colleen Kirby



Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian talks about community justice at Robbins Library October 24. Article starts on next page.

Photo by Phyllis Maddox



**Salutes the
League of Women Voters
for its contribution to
our community**

**Arlington Community Media, Inc.
Your Connection to Arlington Television**

85 Park Ave, Arlington, MA
781-777-1115
<http://acmi.tv>

WANAMAKER
Hardware Inc.



1298 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476
(781) 643-1900

*Family owned and operated. Serving the community
for over 85 years.*

- Sharpening Service
- Locks Re-keyed
- Lamps Repaired
- Aluminum Windows and Screens Repaired
- Glass Cutting
- Window Shades Cut
- Computerized Paint Mixing
- Gift Certificates
- Copier Available

Specials and Coupons Online
www.wanamakerhardware.com

True Value

Sheriff Koutoujian Addresses Citizens on County Justice Initiatives

*By Colleen Kirby
LWVMA Criminal Justice Specialist*

A large and attentive crowd filled the Community Room of Robbins Library on October 24 to hear Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian speak at an event hosted by the League of Women Voters of Arlington and co-sponsored by the Mystic Valley NAACP, the Mass Incarceration Working Group of the First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington, the Massachusetts Communities Action Network, the Jobs NOT Jails Coalition, the League of Women Voters of Winchester, and the Arlington Human Rights Commission.

I introduced the Sheriff by providing some facts and figures to place the Middlesex County justice system in context. According to the Prison Policy Initiative, based in Northampton, even though Massachusetts has the lowest incarceration rate of any state in the US, it has a higher rate of incarceration than nearly all other nations in the world. Of the 2.3 million Americans in custody, over 600,000 of them are found in our Houses of Correction (HoC) and local jails. Nationally about 2/3 of these individuals are held while waiting trial, which means that they are still innocent, until proven guilty, and yet are kept in custody.

Sheriff Peter Koutoujian is responsible for nearly 1000 men at the Middlesex HoC and Jail and some women who are held in custody in Framingham. He thanked one of the cosponsors for the extensive questionnaire they had him complete in August, saying they now used it as a go-to document, since it helped them focus their thoughts.

The Sheriff described the men under his purview as the “canaries in the coalmine,” but not in the sense that they are weaker individuals; these are the people who first get caught up in the ills of our society. He talked about how back in 2005 we were dealing with the OxyContin crisis, now with opioid addiction, and always there is alcohol abuse. We need support systems in place so people can get treatment without going to jail, he said, but if they do, this is why he started the nationally recognized Medication Assisted Treatment and Directed Opioid Recovery (MATADOR) program using Vivitrol. Medication-assisted treatment begins while they are in custody, but it continues for at least 6 months after they get out.

Arlington Board of Selectmen member Joe Curro said, “I was very pleased that Sheriff Koutoujian took the time out of his busy schedule to speak with our residents about the important and ground-breaking work that his office does, whether working with veterans in the HUMV program; recognizing and addressing the challenges of substance abuse and mental illness faced by so many; or providing valuable training opportunities to local law enforcement.” The recent gun buy-backs in Arlington, Belmont and Cambridge in partnership with local law enforcement removed nearly 300 weapons from these communities. (HUMV stands for Housing Unit for Military Veterans.)

About 50 people attended the event, so there were many audience questions. In response to one about why half of the men in custody are awaiting trial, Sheriff Koutoujian mentioned the need for a validated risk assessment tool to gauge the need for bail to bring this number down, and spoke about targeting transitional services to those most at risk for returning to custody, rather than involving larger numbers of low risk individuals in post-release oversight. He also thought that those awaiting trial should be eligible for programming, instead of just waiting.

(Continued on next page)

Sheriff (Continued)

In response to a question about providing more programming, the Sheriff explained how those in custody are charged phone fees and canteen fees, which is what ends up paying for the programming behind the walls, and wondered aloud whether these fees are the best way to fund programs or whether they may be burdening already cash-strapped individuals and their families.

Sheriff Koutoujian expressed the desire for a regional women's facility so that women can start getting more programming like that offered to the men. And he recognized the different needs of women in custody, as they are more likely to suffer from mental illness, trauma and domestic violence. He also warned that utility outages become not just an inconvenience, but also a public safety issue, when it happens in a facility where routines are changed for individuals who need stability.

As a member of the Council of State Governments criminal justice reform process, Sheriff Koutoujian expressed hope that new state legislation combined with the White House data-driven justice initiative will help break the cycle of reincarceration. He said we need to make sure we "don't send the wrong people to jail," and make better use of diversion programs.

Note: This article has been submitted in a slightly different form to some news outlets.

Arlington Earns a Silver Medal for Early Voting Options

On October 19, the Massachusetts Election Modernization Coalition honored 201 of the state's 351 municipalities with Gold and Silver Medals for offering voters substantial early voting options. Arlington was one of 167 municipalities awarded a Silver Medal for offering one early voting site for every 35,000 people, at least one weeknight of evening voting each week in the two-week early voting period, and four or more hours of weekend voting. (To win a Gold, Arlington would need two weeknights of early voting per week instead of one. A Gold also requires six or more hours of weekend voting, which Arlington does provide. 34 communities won Gold Medals.)

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is a member of the Coalition, along with the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, Common Cause Massachusetts, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Economic Justice, the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group, MassVOTE, and more.

The Coalition campaigned for passage of the 2014 Election Modernization Law that established early voting and other reforms. Last fall, it launched the Early Voting Challenge to encourage municipalities to go beyond the floor set by the law (one location operating during business hours) and meet the Coalition's recommended standards, based on a Common Cause report on best practices from other states.

October Voter Service Report

By Elizabeth Thompson, Voter Service Chair

Anne Linn and I registered voters at Arlington High School. We had 5 students register (one filled out and signed the form and then decided to go herself to the Clerk's office to turn it in). This number is lower than in 2015 and 2014. That may be a quirk of the age distribution at AHS, with perhaps fewer seniors who were going to turn 18 before the next Election Day. There may also have been some eligible students who went on their own to the Clerk's office with their driver's license and filled out the form there and registered. We have no way of tracking those numbers and it's not crucial.

Given that the students only took about 5 minutes to finish and sign the form before dashing back to their pals in the cafeteria, Anne and I decided not to burden ourselves with walking the big precinct poster from the Stop and Shop parking lot into the school and then downstairs. We were blessed with sunny tranquil weather as that large poster would be difficult to carry in strong wind or in rain .

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Charter School Consensus Study Consensus Questions

Editor's Note: You'll find the background material for the Consensus Study at <https://lwvma.org/member-resources/charter-school-study/>. Please print this Bulletin article and bring it to the consensus meeting, or print the 11-page version on the LWVMA website.

This study and these consensus questions are designed to develop a broad position on charter schools for the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts to use in evaluating legislation and ballot questions and in participating in the conversation on this topic. For some of the questions, the response may seem obvious; the question is asked to determine if there is a consensus of our membership on the subject. For other questions, local Leagues may not come to a consensus, and, if that is the case with most of the Leagues participating in the study, the LWVMA position on charter schools will not cover an issue where there is no consensus.

1. Should charter schools continue to ensure equal access to all interested students, making every effort to have their applicants be comparable to the percentage of students in sending district schools with respect to income, English Language Learner status, special needs status, ethnicity, and gender?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ No consensus

YES: Massachusetts requires charter schools to develop and implement student recruitment and retention plans that include deliberate, specific strategies to attract, enroll, and retain a student population demographically comparable to the population of similar grades in schools from which the charter school enrolls students. Charter schools should have recruitment plans that will appeal to all students. Part of education is learning about other people and how to get along in society.

(Continued on next page)

Consensus Questions (Continued)

However, some charter schools have missions that support segments of the population, and these missions should be supported even if they yield a student body not demographically equivalent to the sending district(s) as long as the recruitment process is open and accessible to all students. For example, a charter school focusing on math and science will attract students with that focus, but the school should assure that all students in the district(s) that school serves are aware of the opportunity and have the chance to apply, with the applicants selected by lottery if there are more applicants than openings.

NO: Charter schools were created in part to provide alternatives to district schools. They should accept whoever chooses to apply, with a lottery if there are excess applicants, as required by law. Charter schools should not have to make extra efforts to recruit various categories of students to apply just to balance their applicant pool. Such efforts are expensive and would not necessarily result in a demographically balanced student body given the lottery requirement. Some students thrive in schools where they are in a homogeneous population.

Background information on this question is on pages 13-16 of the Fundamentals document.

2. Should charter schools in Massachusetts continue to be non-profit schools?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ No consensus

YES: Although Massachusetts law allows charter boards to contract with for-profit Educational Management Organizations to run charter schools on a day-to-day basis, the law forbids for-profit companies from applying for charters. Charter schools are public schools funded by taxes. Public education is a fundamental responsibility of state and local governments and should not be contracted out to for-profit providers. The profit motive would introduce financial incentives into the operation of a charter school.

NO: Some other states do allow charter schools to operate on a for-profit basis. Financial records and educational achievement are still subject to review by authorizing agencies. The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools states that, on a national basis, "Charter schools choose their own management structure: 67 percent of all charter schools are independently run, non-profit, single site schools; 20 percent are run by non-profit organizations that run more than one charter school; and just under 13 percent are run by for-profit companies. For-profit charter schools have to meet financial oversight regulations, just like any company the government contracts with to provide a service."

Background information on this question is on pages 11-12 of the Fundamentals document.

3. (a) Massachusetts has created both district and charter schools. Should the state therefore assure both types of school are adequately funded and in a way that does not disadvantage either type of school?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ No consensus

Clarification of the question: This question seeks a League consensus from which to develop a position on charter school funding. Rather than a consensus question that deals only with the current methods of funding charter schools, this question would establish two criteria that must be met by any proposal—current or future—for funding charter schools. Those criteria of adequacy and fairness could then be used to support, oppose or suggest modifications to specific funding proposals.

YES: It is the responsibility of the state, having created both district and charter schools, to ensure that they are funded adequately and fairly. Any funding proposal, including the current methods and methods proposed in the future, must ensure that both types of schools are funded adequately. Those proposals must not disadvantage either type of school.

(Continued on next page)

Consensus Questions (Continued)

NO: State education funds are limited. The state, through its budgeting process, might be unwilling or unable to develop an adequate funding proposal for charter schools that would not create a disadvantage for district schools or an adequate funding proposal for district schools that does not create a disadvantage for charter schools.

3. (b) Would the current process of per-pupil tuition payments to charter schools from local school districts be fair if the state fully funded its reimbursement program for district schools and if the state covered the actual costs of programs such as special education for all public schools?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ No consensus

The "Funding Massachusetts Charter Schools" document contains an explanation of the terminology and funding process that is needed to understand and respond to this question.

4. Should the foundation budget funding formula be adjusted periodically to accurately cover costs associated with required areas, such as health insurance and costs for educating special education, English language learner and low-income student populations?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ No consensus

YES: The foundation budget funding formula should accurately calculate the costs of an adequate education in each school district. This budget is updated annually according to a formula that was built in the mid-1990s and has been adjusted. However, this formula has become unbalanced and inadequate, and needs to be reviewed more often. For example, in 2015, the Foundation Budget Review Commission recommended updating the costs for health insurance and costs associated with programs for special education, English language learner, and low-income students.

NO: The state education budget may not be able to cover the full costs of all required programs. The Foundation Budget Review Committee estimated that the foundation budget would increase by \$822 million with proposed alterations to special education and health insurance calculations. It would be difficult for the state cover these additional costs from current revenue. The state should, therefore, continue to allocate available funds based on the budget formula in place now even though that formula does not reflect actual costs.

Background information on the Foundation Budget is in "Funding Massachusetts Charter Schools."

5. Should the state continue to limit the number of students in charter schools in a district based on a percentage of the net school spending within each school district?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ No consensus

Clarification of question: Massachusetts General Law states "In any fiscal year, no public school district's total charter school tuition payment to commonwealth charter schools shall exceed 9% of the district's net school spending. . . or 18% if the district school is in the bottom 10% of all statewide student performance scores..." "Net school spending" is the total amount spent for the support of public education by a district and includes a wide range of typical school expenses. This law has the effect of limiting the number students in a district who can enroll in charter schools.

YES: The limit sets a ceiling on the financial impact charter schools can have on the district school budget and on the services available to students in the district schools. The impact can be even more severe on underperforming districts that face a higher cap. If the state were to authorize more charter seats in a district than can be covered under the net school spending cap, the state should also provide a different source of funding for tuition for those students.

(Continued on next page)

Consensus Questions (Continued)

If charter schools are allowed to add students without limits, there could be a tipping point where district schools are no longer viable if they lose so much funding that they are unable to provide the programs, services and reasonable class size for the remaining students.

NO: In effect, setting a limit on the number of students in a district who can attend a charter school may unfairly block options that should be available to all students. Charter school proponents argue that, when students enroll in charter schools, the money the state allocates on a per-pupil basis should go to the charter school since charter schools are public schools entitled to public funds. If there continues to be a demand for more charter school seats, then school districts will need to adjust to a declining enrollment.

Background information on this question is on pages 4-5 of the Fundamentals document.

6. Should the state continue to regulate the number and location of charter schools?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ No consensus

Note: Until a district reaches the percentage of its budget allowed under the net spending cap, the number of charter schools has an impact on the number of students, and therefore the total charter school tuition payment by the district.

YES: Controlling the number of charter schools is necessary to control the financial impact on local school districts, since more schools also means more students (see YES response on Q6).

Regulating the number of charter schools allows the state to adequately monitor and regulate them. Massachusetts currently prioritizes the location of new charter schools in chronically underperforming school districts. This policy can help address the student achievement gap between districts.

Left to market forces, charters could choose locations where the per-pupil tuition is the highest, rather than where the need is greatest. Removing limits could allow unchecked expansion of charter schools.

NO: Market forces will better determine the right number of charter schools and where they should be located than arbitrary state limits. More successful charter schools can grow, while less effective ones will not survive.

Background information on this question starts on pages 4-5 of the Fundamentals document.

7. Should the state continue to be the authority to establish and oversee charter schools?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ No consensus

YES: Massachusetts is one of 21 states with one or just a few authorizers of charter schools. The Governor is accountable for the performance of the state authorizer. Restricting authorization to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education permits a consistent approach across the state to determining the location of charter schools, oversight and renewal/revocation decisions. It provides economies of scale by centralizing a function that would be expensive for each district to handle on its own. In Massachusetts, charter schools are established by law to be independent of local school districts. The state has avoided many of the problems of charter schools in other states in part because of its rigorous authorization and oversight processes. There is currently no serious movement to change the way charter schools are authorized in Massachusetts.

NO: There are alternative approaches to authorizing charter schools. Seventeen states, including California and Florida, use local school districts as the charter authorization bodies. The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) recommends that an alternative authorizer such as an

(Continued on next page)

Consensus Questions (Continued)

independent charter board be an option in such cases. Five states allow multiple charter school authorizers, including school districts, independent charter boards, state education agencies, non-profit entities, and colleges and universities. These approaches allow charter applicants to apply to more than one authorizer. NACSA notes that these approaches require strong accountability guidelines for the authorizers to assure a quality charter program. Many of the problems associated with charter schools in other states stem from a lack of such guidelines.

Background information on this question is on pages 8-11 of the Fundamentals document.

8. Should the state foster more cooperation and provide programs to encourage collaboration between district schools and charter schools?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ No consensus

YES: Charter schools were established as part of the educational reform effort to develop innovative ideas as well as to hold district schools accountable. Both goals could be better achieved if the two types of schools worked more closely together. The state should resolve the funding issue that is currently creating competition and friction between the types of schools so cooperation is more likely.

The state should also address the communication, time, and money issues that the State Auditor's report identified as barriers to more effective dissemination and sharing. Simply providing a collection of information on a state website is insufficient. The state could facilitate conferences, workshops, and school visitations where teachers from many schools interact and share ideas.

In addition, with more cooperation, students who might best benefit from the mission of a particular charter school could be identified and encouraged to consider that school. For instance, this is the approach currently taken between the Fitchburg school district and the Sizer charter school.

NO: The state should be working with public schools at the state level, not at the district level; it would take additional staffing and resources to support and monitor cooperation at the district level as well. Charter schools were established in part to provide students with options to the district schools and to be independent of school districts. Charter schools and district schools may choose to work with each other but should not be required to do so.

Background information on this question is on page 19 of the Fundamentals document.

9. Should charter schools be required to meet the same criteria for teacher licensure as district schools?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ No consensus

YES: As public schools receiving public funds, all charter schools should be required to meet all the same licensure requirements as district schools, including requirement for periodic licensure renewal. This helps ensure that all students have access to good teachers.

NO: Effective teacher evaluation is what ensures that students have access to good teachers. Charter schools and district schools already must use the same evaluation criteria. Charter school teachers are also required to take and pass the Massachusetts Tests for Educator License (MTEL Certification) by the end of their first year teaching. There is no need to add the licensure requirement.

Background information on this question is on page 17 of the Fundamentals document.

(Continued on next page)

Consensus Questions (Continued)

10. Should the state continue to ensure that accountability requirements and reporting by charter schools are fair, transparent, and easily accessible to the public?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ No consensus

YES: Complete, reliable information is important to the state in evaluating performance and to parents in deciding on schools for their children. Information available should be determined by a specific set of criteria, and any deviations should be clearly documented. The public needs to be able to easily access, understand, and compare information about the management and performance of charter schools.

NO: Detailed accountability and reporting requirements are not needed. Market forces will better determine which charter schools are successful.

Background information for this question is on pages 9-10 of the Fundamentals document.

11. (a) Should it be a requirement that charter school boards of trustees include parents of children attending that school?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ No consensus

YES: Requiring parents to serve on charter school boards gives parents a greater voice. It would help assure that demographic groups that make up the student body are represented in school governance. Parental involvement is necessary to alleviate any sense of disenfranchisement.

NO: Charter school boards may not be able to find parents willing to meet the state's financial disclosure and other regulations for charter trustees. Parents may have a hard time making a decision to serve the best interest of the school rather than the best interest of their child. Setting aside a certain number of board seats for parent representatives may limit the ability of the board to include the mix of skills necessary for good governance. Charter schools may choose to include parents on their boards, but it should not be required. Parents can be involved in other ways.

11. (b) Should it be a requirement that charter school boards of trustees include people from the community being served?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ No consensus

YES: All public schools should be accountable to those they serve and those who provide funding. Requiring community representation on charter school governance boards helps ensure that local interests are being considered and addressed.

NO: Charter school boards may not be able to find community representatives willing to meet the state's financial disclosure and other regulations for charter trustees. A board member does not need to live in a community being served by the charter school to represent the interest of that community. Specifying the exact makeup of a board may prevent the school from including a needed mix of skills. Charter schools may choose to include community representatives on their boards, but it should not be required. Community representatives can be involved with the school in other ways.

Background information for this question is on page 2 of the Fundamentals document.

**We welcome 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: _____
- 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 Thursdays)
- Conservation Commission (1st & 3rd Thurs.)
- Housing Authority

SKILLS LEAGUE COULD DRAW ON

- Computer database
- Graphic design
- Desktop publishing
- Web site maintenance
- Membership development
- Moderating meetings
- Fundraising
- Writing articles
- Other

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 November Election

For the election on Tuesday, November 8,
the LWVA will provide rides to the polls
from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If you can work a shift as a driver, please call Phyllis
Maddox at 781-646-4362 or email her at
phyllismaddox@rcn.com.

November/December 2016

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

