

# *BULLETIN*

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

## November/December 2018

### Calendar

11/6	Tuesday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	General Election. If you can give rides to the polls, please let Phyllis Maddox know. Details on last page.
11/13	Tuesday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board meeting at Anne Linn's home, 7 Linden St. All members welcome. Directions on page 2.
11/29	Thursday 6 p.m.	LWVA Holiday Party at Joan and Jim Robbio's home, 4 Bradley Rd. Details on page 3. Friends and family welcome!
1/6	Sunday 1 p.m.	LWVMA Ballot Question Study Consensus Meeting, Sanborn House, 15, High St., Winchester. Snow date 1/13. <b>Save your red Information for Voters booklets and bring them to this meeting, along with pages 7-10 of this Bulletin.</b>

**We extend a warm welcome to our newest member:**

**Theodore (Ted) Peluso, 438 Mass. Ave. Apt. 420, 02474**

**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

Dear League Members,

The weather has turned cooler and fall is upon us. As I write this, we are in the midst of early voting and Election Day is approaching.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with voter service activities, especially voter registration and rides to the polls. The LWVA hopes to further its activities surrounding the topic of voting in the coming year. Holidays are also fast approaching.

We are happy to host Jennifer Raitt, Arlington's director of planning and community development, as the speaker at our holiday party. More details are available in this bulletin. I hope to see you there!

Wishing you and your families happy and healthy holidays!

*Angela Olszewski*

### *Directions to Anne Linn's home, 7 Linden Street:*

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 2018–2019**

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, Treasurer	617-966-4521
Anne Linn, Secretary	781-643-0356
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, Voters Service Committee	781-646-9611
Janice Bakey, Email Coordinator	781-643-4345
Colleen Kirby, Board Member at Large	781-648-2447
Nancy Gray, Board Member at Large	781-646-4590
Susan Born, Voters Service Cmte	617-448-4179
Wendy Forgie, Voters Service Cmte	617-669-2052
Mel Goldsipe, Voters Service Cmte	781-325-2778
Paulette Schwartz, Voters Service Cmte	781-646-1722

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!

Thursday, November 29, 2018

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 Jennifer Raitt.**

Jennifer Raitt is the Town of Arlington's Director of the Department of Planning and Community Development. Please come to learn about what's in the planning stages for our community's business, residential and open space/recreational areas, and our historic and cultural resources, and bring your questions and ideas.

**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 **Sunday, November 25**, 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 [meredith.zona@stantec.com](mailto:meredith.zona@stantec.com). Looking forward to seeing you there!

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## The LWVMA Study on the Massachusetts Ballot Question Process



Two years ago the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts voted to study the ballot question process in our state, and a study committee was formed to research the topic, compile background materials, and design consensus questions.

Ballot questions have been around since the formation of the Commonwealth, but the process for allowing citizens to initiate laws, amendments, and repeals has only been in effect for the past 100 years. The 1919 state election was the first time citizen-initiated ballot questions appeared, as a result of an amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution (Article XLVIII) in 1918.

The State League has no position on ballot questions in general, though it takes positions on specific questions in accordance with its program. Ballot question procedures are different in every state, so we can't concur with another state's study. League members and others who have been involved with ballot questions have observed aspects of the ballot question process that would be worth studying, thus enabling LWVMA to have positions on the process in Massachusetts. If the League decides that changes would be worth implementing, it could propose steps to advocate for such changes.

The scope of this LWVMA study is to

- Review the Massachusetts laws and regulations that govern statewide citizen-initiated ballot questions (initiative and referendum process)
- Consider the consequences of current laws and regulations
- Propose concrete next steps that LWVMA could take to enact change, if the study results in recommended change

Study materials are posted on the LWVMA website at <https://lwwma.org/the-lwwma-study-on-the-massachusetts-ballot-question-process/>.

The consensus questions appear in this Bulletin, and Arlington League members will meet in January in Winchester, along with Winchester League members, to consider and vote on the questions. There's a great deal of background material, as always with a League study, so we encourage members to read and consider this material over the next few months and to attend one of the webinars.

Also, **save your red "Information for Voters" booklet** from the election and bring it to the consensus meeting as a reference for several consensus questions. (But if you lose it, you can print a copy from the LWVMA website.)

### Join a Ballot Question Study Webinar

The ballot question process study committee is presenting a webinar on the study, with two remaining times available, each covering the same material. Topics will include an overview of the study, study materials, role of local Leagues/Units/MALs, consensus meetings, reporting consensus results, and getting further help.

Information about signing up for a webinar was sent to all members in October and is on the LWVMA website.

By offering webinars at different times, the committee hopes to reach as many people as possible. One of the webinars will be recorded and will be available for viewing. The remaining webinars are Tuesday, November 13, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., and Wednesday, November 14, from 3 to 4 p.m.

The Study Committee members are Karen Price, Co-Chair, LWVMA board, LWV-Needham; Donna Hooper, Co-Chair, LWVMA board, LWV-Lexington; Karen Callanan, LWVMA Member at Large; Carol Patey, LWV-Needham; and Florence Seldin, LWV-Cape Cod Area.



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for its contribution to  
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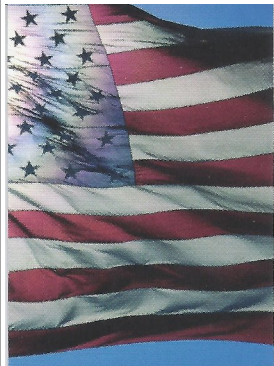
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## Consensus Questions for the Ballot Question Study

The questions are extracted from the 18-page LWVMA Study Guide on the ballot question process. They don't include the supporting material or pros and cons in that document, which you should have read, along with the 36-page Study Report, which contains additional background material.

### Section I: Understanding the Ballot Questions (Refer to "Information for Voters" red booklet, 2018)

#### Consensus Question 1

1. Should additional efforts be made to ensure **petition summaries** are written for the greatest understanding by voters?

Yes       No       No consensus

#### Consensus Question 2

The remaining questions in this section are based on the premise that the "Information for Voters" red booklet should be understandable and accessible to all voters.

2. This question has 2 parts, each regarding the **statement of fiscal consequences** in the "Information for Voters."

2A. Do the statements of fiscal consequences in the "Information for Voters" red booklets from 2016 and 2018 provide voters with the information they need to make an informed decision on the potential fiscal impact of passing the ballot question(s)?

Yes       No       No consensus

2B. Should voter information beyond the 100-word statement of fiscal consequences found in the "Information for Voters" red booklet be available, such as through public meetings, webinars, telephone call-ins, websites, etc.?

Yes       No       No consensus

#### Consensus Question 3

3. Should the arguments in favor and against in the "Information for Voters" red booklet be prepared by an independent source such as a citizen group appointed for that purpose rather than, or in addition to, the proponents and opponents identified by the Secretary of the Commonwealth?

Yes       No       No consensus

*(Continued on next page)*

**Consensus Questions (Continued)**

**Consensus Question 4**

4. Should there be a limit to the length (e.g., number of words or number of pages) of **the full text** of a proposed law for an initiative petition (and eventual ballot question)?

Yes       No       No consensus

**Consensus Question 5**

5. Should the Secretary of the Commonwealth periodically review and update the means of disseminating and publicizing the “Information for Voters” red booklet?

Yes       No       No consensus

*(Continued on next page)*

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**Consensus Questions (Continued)****Section II: Signature Requirements****Consensus Question 6**

6. Currently there is a limitation on the number of signatures that can be certified from any one county. (NOTE: Answer “yes” or “no” to both A and B.)

6A. Should that limitation be modified to reflect population variation while still ensuring geographic dispersion of signatures?

Yes       No       No consensus

6B. Should that limitation be eliminated?

Yes       No       No consensus

**Consensus Question 7**

7. Should every identifiable, unique signature on a petition be counted toward the required total, rather than rejecting, for example, all signatures on a page because of one error or stray mark?

Yes       No       No consensus

**Consensus Question 8**

8. In a petition for law, a second round of signatures must be collected after the legislature has had time to act. Only signatures from registered voters who did not sign the first round can be counted. Should this second round be eliminated?

Yes       No       No consensus

**Section III: Signature Gathering****Consensus Question 9**

9. Should there be regulations governing signature collectors?

Yes       No       No consensus

**Consensus Question 10**

10. Should the Secretary of the Commonwealth provide training opportunities for signature collectors?

Yes       No       No consensus

*(Continued on next page)*

**Consensus Questions (Continued)****Section IV: Legislative Involvement and Responsibilities****Consensus Question 11**

11. An initiative petition for a **constitutional amendment** requires two votes, one in each of two successively elected Legislatures. Should the second vote be eliminated?

Yes       No       No consensus

**Consensus Question 12**

12. Should there be a period during which the legislature is not allowed to change a citizen-initiated law passed or repealed by ballot question?

Yes       No       No consensus

**Section V: Campaign Financing for Ballot Questions****Consensus Question 13**

13. Should Massachusetts seek ways to limit the amount of money that can be spent on ballot question campaigns?

Yes       No       No consensus

**Consensus Question 14**

14. Should accurate information on campaign donations to and expenditures from ballot question committees be available to the public prior to the election?

Yes       No       No consensus

**Section VI: The Initiative and Referendum Process in Massachusetts****Consensus Question 15**

15. Should the current initiative and referendum process by which citizens can do the following (A-C) be retained?

A. Initiate laws

Yes       No       No consensus

B. Initiate constitutional amendments

Yes       No       No consensus

C. Repeal laws through referendum

Yes       No       No consensus

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 \_\_\_\_\_
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\_\_\_\_\_ Please indicate if you do NOT want your contact information sent to Arlington League members

\_\_\_\_\_ Basic Membership Dues..... \$60
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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
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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
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Voter Service: Rides to the polls \_\_\_\_\_
Candidates Night
Voters' Guide
Attend State League's Phonathon
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

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- Selectmen (Mondays)
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School Committee (2nd & 4th Thursdays)
Conservation Commission (1st & 3rd Thurs.)
Housing Authority

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- Computer database
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\*Some of these can be seen on cable TV

## **Drivers Needed for General Election!**

For the General Election on November 6,  
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  
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**November/December 2018**

League of Women Voters of Arlington  
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