



# *BULLETIN*

League of Women Voters  
Arlington, Massachusetts

*www.lwva.com*

## October 2014

### Calendar

10/13	Monday 7 p.m.	LWVA Board Meeting at Meredith Zona's home, 1 Andrews Way. Directions on page 6.
10/15	Wednesday 8 p.m.	Last day to register to vote in the state election. The Town Clerk's office (730 Mass. Ave., second floor) is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
10/20	Monday 7:30 to 9 p.m.	Forum on Community Preservation Act at Hardy School, 52 Lake St. (entrance on Brooks Ave.) in East Arlington. All are welcome.
10/23	Thursday 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.	Forum on Community Preservation Act at the Arlington Senior Center, 27 Maple St. in Arlington Center, with State Senator Ken Donnelly. All are welcome.
10/26	Sunday 2 to 3:30 p.m.	Forum on Community Preservation Act at 20 Westminster Ave. in Arlington Heights. All are welcome.
11/4	Tuesday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	State election. If you can give rides to the polls, please contact Phyllis Maddox. See last page for details.

### Thanks to Our Primary Election Day Drivers

The LWVA provided 10 rides to the polls on Primary Election Day September 9. Many thanks to our drivers Carolyn Parsons, Elizabeth Thompson, Joan Martin, and Ann Fitzgerald. Please see the last page of this Bulletin for information about volunteering for the November 4 election.

**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

Isn't the fall a wonderful time of year? I feel energized as the heat seems to have gone; the air conditioner has been banished to the closet.

Setting up the League booth with Phyllis Maddox and my husband, George, at Town Day went smoothly. I do as told, moving forward and backward and from side to side holding a leg or piece of canvas so that the tent can be erected without much ado. Phyllis Maddox has quilted a table cover and a League banner so that the booth looks quite spiffy. Many citizens registered to vote or updated their voting status; we welcomed a new member, and a few others expressed interest in joining the League; and lots of information on the ballot questions was handed out.

The website in support of passing the Community Preservation Act in Arlington is up and running. It is <http://www.arlingtoncpa.org>. The committee would like to do a targeted mailing to those voters most likely to actually vote, but money is needed. If you are able to help, donate through the website at [http://www.arlingtoncpa.org/p/donate\\_1.html](http://www.arlingtoncpa.org/p/donate_1.html) or send a check payable to CPA Ballot Committee to Christine Carney, 98 Richfield Road, Arlington, MA, 02474. This is so very important as local residents seem to have no idea that the ballot question even exists. A few forums have been scheduled for October, and, hopefully, the Advocate will begin running letters to the editor.

A senior at Arlington High School has asked the League to register students who are eighteen years of age by November 4, the date of the state election. Elizabeth Thompson, Voter Service Chair, is handling this request. The League has received permission from the Town Clerk and the Principal. Hopefully, the registration of a few students will be done sometime next week. The League is then planning to set up a registration time in the spring when more students will have turned eighteen.

Now I am off to Windham, NH, to have lunch with my granddaughter and do some gardening. Happy fall!

*Carolyn Parsons*

### LWVA LEADERSHIP 2014–2015

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
Abigail Fair, Publicity	781-643-0666
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.

## LWVMA Opposes Ballot Question 1: Eliminating Gas Tax Indexing



This proposed law would repeal a law passed in 2013 and eliminate the requirement that the state's gasoline tax be adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index.

### **LWVMA opposes this question and urges a NO vote.**

We believe indexing the gasoline tax to the Consumer Price Index provides funding needed to maintain and improve the state's transportation infrastructure. Our opposition to this question is based on this position in *Where We Stand*, the LWVMA positions document, available at <http://lwvma.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Where-We-Stand.pdf>.

**“Fiscal policy: Goal:** A state and local tax structure that will have an equitable impact on taxpayers and adequately support state services with consideration of the effect on the state and local economies; distribution of state aid in a manner that will equalize municipal resources; a comprehensive state budget system that will provide a basis for the evaluation of the cost and effectiveness of current state programs and long-range capital expenditures; up-to-date, uniform and accurate property valuation; and efficient management of the revenue collection systems. (1969-1979, 1992-93) *Where We Stand*, p. 18

“The League has taken action in support of new state taxes because members recognize their responsibilities to provide adequate revenues to pay for the service programs they urge the Legislature to provide.” p. 20


If the ballot question passes, the state could lose millions in dedicated transportation revenue over the next 10 years. Our transportation system has been underfunded for many years, with an inability to safely maintain our roads and bridges. If the initiative passes and the indexing is repealed, it will be difficult to keep pace with rising transportation costs. The legislature is reluctant to pass a gasoline tax increase every session as evidenced by the lack of an increase for years. Further, if the question passes, it sends a strong message to the legislature on the risk of votes to raise necessary tax revenue.

### **Resources:**

The Committee for Safer Roads and Bridges — the umbrella coalition opposing this ballot question

Transportation for Massachusetts — a general transportation coalition of which LWVMA is a member: <http://www.t4ma.org>, 617-233-1655

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*Initial Free Consultation for League Members*

## LWVMA Supports Question 2: Expanding the Beverage Container Deposit Law

This question would update the state's current deposit law, the Bottle Bill, to include most non-carbonated beverages. It would also increase the handling fee and make other changes to the existing law.



**LWVMA supports this question and urges a YES vote.**

We believe an expansion of the Bottle Bill will greatly increase the rates of recycling and reduce litter. Our members have worked hard to collect the signatures necessary to put this question on the ballot. Our support of this question is based on these positions in *Where We Stand*, available at <http://lwvma.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Where-We-Stand.pdf>:

**“Source reduction:** LWVMA played an active role in the statewide coalition promoting the Bottle Bill and was especially successful in the areas of fundraising and local group endorsements. With the implementation of the Bottle Bill in 1983, the League reached one of its goals -- a 7 percent reduction in the solid waste stream. To date there have been few new refillable bottles; instead there has been an increase in the number of plastic soft drink containers. The current non-reusable beer and soft drink containers are able to be recycled, whether plastic, aluminum or glass. Since 1988, the League has worked in support of legislation that would promote environmentally acceptable product packaging. Packaging would be reusable or made of recycled materials.

**“Recycling programs:** Concern and enthusiasm are strong at the local level. Many suburban communities have initiated recycling programs. The League has provided technical assistance to local recycling programs. Continuing problems are marketing low-value materials (such as glass and paper), high collection costs for curbside pickup and the need for additional markets.” *Where We Stand*, p. 33

An update to the bottle bill has been pending in the state legislature for over 12 years; the original version passed in 1983, before the popularity of bottled water and tea. Although enough legislators support the update to make it law, it has never been brought to a vote in the House, despite passing the Senate during the last two legislative sessions. Opponents to the bill have largely been big business interests, including bottlers and supermarkets. Polls show widespread public support for an expansion of the Bottle Bill. About 80% of the containers with a deposit are redeemed and/or recycled, compared to only 23% of containers without a deposit.

### Resources:

LWVMA website: <http://lwvma.org/the-environment/> and <http://lwvma.org/member-resources/updated-bottle-bill-resources/>

Updated Bottle Bill Coalition: <http://www.massbottlebill.org/ubb> (Includes fact sheets, information, contacts for speakers)

Massachusetts Sierra Club: <http://sierraclubmass.org/wp/>

MASSPIRG: <http://www.masspirg.org/>

Environmental League of Massachusetts: <http://www.environmentalleague.org/>

Container Recycling Institute: <http://www.bottlebill.org/about/mythfact.htm> (Background information on deposit laws)



**Directions to Meredith Zona's home, 1 Andrews Way:**

From the west end of Arlington, turn onto Overlook Rd., at the lights on Summer St. across from the skating rink. Keep to the left at the fork and travel about 1/2 mile to Ridge St. Turn right on Ridge St., then first left on Cherokee Rd., first right on Old Colony Rd., and first right on Andrews Way. *Andrews Way is a short street that looks like a driveway. 1 Andrews Way is directly ahead on the left. You may want to park on Old Colony Rd. The entrance through the garage is a little easier for those not used to climbing many stairs to get to the front door.*

From Arlington Center, travel on Mystic St. towards Winchester and take slight left on Old Mystic St. (about 3/4 mile north of Summer St.), then 2nd left onto Hutchinson Rd, 2nd left onto Morningside Dr., 1st right onto Windmill Lane, first left onto Old Colony Rd., and 1st left onto Andrews Way; see directions in italics above.



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## LWVMA Supports Question 3: Expanding Prohibitions on Gaming

This question would prohibit casinos, any gaming establishment with slot machines, and wagering on simulcast greyhound races, even if licenses have already been granted.



**LWVMA supports this question and urges a YES vote.**

We have long opposed casinos and other gambling in Massachusetts, arguing the costs in services needed and social impact outweigh projected gains in tax revenue and employment. Our support of this question is based on this position in *Where We Stand* available at <http://lwvma.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Where-We-Stand.pdf>:

“Legalized casino gambling: Opposition to establishment of legalized casino gambling in Massachusetts. (1982) ... Members opposed the legalization of casino gambling, weighing the stimulus to increased employment, tourism and tax revenue against the demands for social and municipal services, police protection and the establishment of a state regulating body.” p. 46

Massachusetts adopted, after long debate, legislation which allows for three “resort style casinos” and one slot parlor to be located in different parts of the state. At least one casino should go to a Native American tribe. The legislation came about after vigorous opposition in which the LWVMA took part but it also had great support among those who saw it as an economic boost. Massachusetts adopted a very tight licensing process with rigorous standards for license applicants and the requirement that the consent of the host community be obtained. To oversee the process it set up a gaming commission. Several communities have voted against having casinos in their towns and some have embraced the idea. The Supreme Judicial Court ruled in June that the ballot question was not an unconstitutional taking of property and could be allowed to go forward.

### Resources:

Repeal the Casino coalition—information and statistics, contacts for speakers: <http://www.repealthecasinodeal.org>, 617-869-0601

## LWVMA Takes No Position on Question 4: Earned Sick Time for Employees

This question would entitle employees in Massachusetts to earn and use sick time according to certain conditions.

**The League has no state or national positions that would let LWVMA take a stand on this question and so we neither support nor oppose this question.**

## LWVA Town Day Booth Again a Success

As Carolyn Parsons notes in her Co-President's Message on page 2, the League had a busy time with our Voter Service activities at Town Day. Many thanks to our volunteers: Phyllis Maddox, Carolyn Parsons, Anne Linn, Ann FitzGerald, Kim Haase, Elizabeth Thompson, Kathy Fennelly, Liz Blumenthal, Patti Muldoon, and Joan Martin.

Below, Elizabeth engages with a voter, while Kim looks up another voter's precinct. Liz is on the right.

*Photo by Phyllis Maddox*



### Information for Voters on LWVMA Website

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts' Voters' Guide to Statewide Offices--governor, Lt. governor, attorney general, secretary of state, treasurer and state auditor--is now available at <http://lwvma.org/voting-and-election-information/voters-guide-to-statewide-offices-2014/>. The Guide provides the candidates' answers to questions on issues. Tell your friends!



**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

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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 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

**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

# Rides to the Polls

We will be offering rides to the polls for the State Election on  
**Tuesday, November 4.**

We'll be offering rides from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you can help  
as a driver, please let me know by calling  
781-646-4362 or emailing  
PhyllisMaddox@rcn.com. (Please note that my email address  
has changed.)

On Election Day or during the week before, those who need  
rides should call my cell at 781-354-0907.

— *Phyllis Maddox*

**October 2014**

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

