



Westwood/Walpole League of Women Voters

Volume 7 issue 2

September 2008



Kick Off

Welcome back to another full year of League Activities

Fall Kick Off leads the way—Come! Bring a Friend!



A Panel Discussion on Health Care

Topic: Is There an Rx for Health Care?

Date: Monday, September 22, 2008

Place: FIRST PARISH OF WESTWOOD-UNITED CHURCH HALL
(Corner of Nahatan & Clapboardtree Streets)

Gathering time: 7 pm

Panel Discussion begins: 7:30 pm; followed by Q & A

Panel Members

Melissa Shannon, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the Massachusetts Office of Medicaid.

John Chessare, MD, MPH, President, Caritas Norwood Hospital

Jennifer Chow, Grantmaking Program Manager—BC/BS of Massachusetts Foundation

Eileen McAnneny, Esq., Senior Vice President of Associated Industries of Massachusetts (A.I.M.)

Need more information? Contact —

Marcia Hirshberg at 781-326-8784 or email at hberg40@comcast.net

Not a member? Join us and make a difference!

info@lwvwestwoodwalpole.org

Visit our web site at:

www.lwvwestwoodwalpole.org



See you there!!
Monday September
22, 2008,

First Parish of
Westwood-
United Church
Hall

Fall Kick-off
Meeting
Panel discussion on
Health Care

Inside this issue

- Health Care position
- Dues are Due
- Increasing our membership
- Voter Service, Ballot Questions
- Calendar events
- Fall Conference

The **Bulletin** is published ten times a year, September-June, by the League of Women Voters of Westwood/Walpole MA. Visit the **Westwood/Walpole lwv** at www.lwvwestwoodwalpole.org, **LWVMA** home page at www.lwvma.org and the **LWVUS** home page at www.lwv.org

LWVU POSITION ON HEALTH CARE

Statement of Position on Health Care, as Announced by National Board, April 1993:

GOALS: The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care.

BASIC LEVEL OF QUALITY CARE: Every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care. Dental, vision and hearing care also are important but lower in priority. The League believes that under any system of health care reform, consumers/ patients should be permitted to purchase services or insurance coverage beyond the basic level.

FINANCING AND ADMINISTRATION: The League favors a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums. As the United States moves toward a national health insurance plan, an employer-based system of health care reform that provides universal access is acceptable to the League. The League supports administration of the U.S. health care system either by a combination of the private and public sectors or by a combination of federal, state and/or regional government agencies.

The League is opposed to a strictly private market-based model of financing the health care system. The League also is opposed to the administration of the health care system solely by the private sector or the states.

TAXES: The League supports increased taxes to finance a basic level of health care for all U.S. residents, provided health care reforms contain effective cost control strategies.

COST CONTROL: The League believes that efficient and economical delivery of care can be enhanced by such cost control methods as:

- * the reduction of administrative costs,
- * regional planning for the allocation of personnel, facilities and equipment,
- * the establishment of maximum levels of public reimbursement to providers,
- * malpractice reform,
- * the use of managed care,
- * utilization review of treatment,
- * mandatory second opinions before surgery or extensive treatment,
- * consumer accountability through deductibles and co-payments.

EQUITY ISSUES: The League believes that

- * allocating medical resources to underserved areas,
- * providing for training health care professionals in needed fields of care,
- * standardizing basic levels of service for publicly funded health care programs,
- * requiring insurance plans to use community rating instead of experience rating,
- * establishing insurance pools for small businesses and organizations.

ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO INDIVIDUALS: The League believes that the ability of a patient to pay for services should not be a consideration in the allocation of health care resources. Limited resources should be allocated based on the following criteria considered together: the urgency of the medical condition, the life expectancy of the patient, the expected outcome of the treatment, the cost of the procedure, the duration of care, the quality of life of the patient after treatment, and the wishes of the patient and the family.

DUES ARE DUE



**Help your membership chair!
Pay now.**

Make Checks payable to LWV;

Mail to: P.O. Box 294, Westwood, MA 02090



<u>DUES</u>	
New Student	\$25
New Single or returning member	\$25
New Single or returning member supporting	\$35
New Family	\$45
New Family supporting	\$55
<hr/>	
Renewal Student	\$25
Renewal Single	\$50
Renewal Single supporting	\$60
Renewal Family	\$75
Renewal Family supporting	\$85



HELP INCREASE OUR MEMBERSHIP

- Invite friends and family to join the League
- Give a membership as a gift
- Bring your friends and family to League events like :

Fall Kick Off

**Monday, September 22 at 7 pm social time; 7:30 pm panel begins
First Parish of Westwood— United Church Hall**

REPORTS



Westwood/Walpole League of Women Voters Reconciliation Statement August 1-31, 2008

Starting Balance			\$8,449.44
Income/Deposits			
	Dues	687.00	
	Member Contributions	40.00	
	Interest	1.06	
Total Assets			\$9,177.50
Expenses			
	LWVM 1st quarter assessment	348.45	
	LWVUS 1st quarter PMP	446.50	
	Marcia Hirshberg—stamps-memb.	42.00	
	Printworks— memb. Brochure	83.00	
Total Expenses			\$ 919.95
Current Balance			\$8,257.55

VOTER REGISTRATION—AUGUST REPORT



In August Voter Registration Tables were set up in Westwood and Walpole to make sure people are registered and ready to vote in the Primary on September 16 and on the General election on November 4th.. In Westwood Jane's grand-daughter's Kris Kilroy and Sherrie McGowan (two future leagues) staffed the table at Roche Bros while Judy Barrington was at the Westwood Post Office block. They did pretty well.

But Walpole gets the gold star. Phoebe

Nancy Farris reports "I registered two people on the spot and gave out approximately a dozen absentee applications and about 8 registration forms.

The last people who came in before I closed was a mother and new college student. The mother had just mentioned to her daughter that they needed to go to the Town Hall and get her registered before she left for college...and there I was for them!!! They were both delighted:))!!

Jane Nash stopped by to visit Nancy at the Stop and Shop in Walpole and was amazed at the number of people who were either stopping by to chat with Nancy or shooting a greeting.

Thank you Nancy Farris, Phoebe Joseph and Jane Nash for organizing this valuable public service. Special thanks to those who volunteered to help them Kris Kilroy, Sherrie McGowan, Patty Stewart and Judy Barrington. Thank you Stop and Shop in Walpole and Roche Bros in Westwood for providing space.

Registration Tables will again be set up on October 4 and 11th in both Westwood and Walpole. Volunteer it's a good thing to do and it easy

Westwood: Call or email Jane Nash 781-769-1185 : jane.nash@comcast.net

Walpole: email Phoebe Joseph " phoebejoseph@msn.com

VOTER SERVICE

Sources for Voting Information

www.Votinginfo.info

www.vote411.org

Offices on the Ballot for 2008

FEDERAL OFFICES

[President](#)

[Vice President](#)

[United States Senator](#)

[United States Representative](#)

STATE OFFICES

[Governor's Council](#) (all 8 districts)

[State Senator](#) (all 40 districts)

[State Representative](#) (all 160 districts)

COUNTY OFFICES

County Commissioner (some counties no longer elect County Commissioners)

Register of Probate (some counties no longer elect Registers of Probate)

Do you know someone that is not registered to vote? www.vote411.org

LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR NOVEMBER 4TH ELECTION IS OCTOBER 15, 2008

Local Voting Registration Information

Walpole: Ron Fucile, Town Clerk Rfucile@walpole-ma.gov

Westwood: Dottie Powers, Town Clerk dpowers@townhall.westwood.ma.us



VOTER SERVICE—Ballot Information

Massachusetts Ballot Questions: Election 2008

QUESTION 1: ABOLISH STATE INCOME TAX (5.3% flat tax)

Although this would put \$3,600 (on average) directly into the bank accounts of the average taxpayer each year, it would wipe out 40% of the state budget and take with it a whole host of social services that we've come to enjoy over the past few decades. *

QUESTION 2: DECRIMINALIZE MARIJUANA POSSESSION

This would replace criminal penalties for possession of one ounce or less of the drug with civil penalties, making it comparable to a parking ticket.

QUESTION 3: BAN GREYHOUND RACING

Would place a permanent ban on greyhound racing in Massachusetts. This has been tried twice before and was defeated both times.

* League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Position on Question #1

LWVMA is a member organization of the Coalition for Our Communities in opposition to Question #1 Ballot Initiative to repeal the state income tax.

LWVMA Fiscal Policy Specialist, June Michaels, is working with the Coalition on a VOTE NO on QUESTION 1 campaign. The income tax question on the ballot this fall is a reckless proposal that will have severe and immediate consequences for everyone in the state. The binding referendum will take \$12.7 billion –nearly 40 percent- out of the state budget, driving up local property taxes and leading to drastic cuts in services.

For more information visit www.VoteNoMA.com

Be sure and access <http://votenoquestion1.com/> for more information.

PROPOSED CALENDAR



September

- 15 Distribution of "Know Your Town Booklet" (Westwood)
- 16 Massachusetts State Primary
- 22 Kick Off, 1st Parish Hall, Westwood MA, 7:00 p.m., Topic: Health Care

October

- 05 Steering committee meeting (all members are invited to attend call 781-326-8784)
- 10/4, 10/11 Voter service registration & information
- TBA LWVM Phonathon-check www.lwvwestwoodwalpole.org for up to date information
- 16 or 23 Local Program: *Understanding the State Ballot*
Check Website www.lwvwestwoodwalpole.org for current information
- 18 Fall Conference, Worcester Crowne Plaza 9:00am
- 20 Walpole Town Meeting

November

- 11/4 Presidential and State elections

December

- TBA Annual Holiday Party with Legislators/Collection for the DeVanna Domestic Violence Action

SAVE THIS DATE

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Citizen

Education Fund

FALL CONFERENCE 2008

Finding the Common Wealth

Saturday, October 18, 2008

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

(Registration begins at 8:15 a.m.)

Featured Speaker



Lt. Governor Tim Murray

Fall Conference 2008 Workshops.

Ballot Question 1

Costs of eliminating the State income tax.

What are the severe and immediate consequences of this proposal?

Healthcare For All

Housing and Homelessness Initiative

Consensus Recorder and Discussion Leader Training

Effective League Lobbying

League Moderator Training.

Look for registration information in the upcoming

Massachusetts Voter.

For more information, please contact the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts.

Phone: 617-523-2999 | Fax: 617-248-0881 | Email: lwwma@lwwma.org

LWVUS Convention Summary 2008



Summary of LWVUS Convention

987 members attended
 49 States and DC attended
 31 Delegates from Massachusetts
 Nationally there are 850 Leagues with Total Membership of 67,726
 New per member payment adopted:

FY 2007-2008	\$28.80 current
FY 2009-2009	28.00
FY 2009-2110	29.10

LWVUS Board Recommended Program

The LWVUS should retain all LWVUS positions on Representative Government, International Relations, National Resources, and Social Policy.

The LWVUS should amend the LWVUS Principles to say: “the LWVUS believes that all powers of the US government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: executive, legislative, and judicial.”

The LWVUS also recommends a Health Care program to educate members and communities to be better prepared to do health care advocacy as needed.

⇒ **It was voted to adopt all of these recommendations for the next two years.**

Local Leagues Non-Recommended programs: (only those most favored listed)

Global Climate Change (Global Warming)

⇒ But there is a LWVUS climate change task force

Health Care as Priority Action

National Popular Vote (eliminating the Electoral College)

⇒ There is a National Popular Vote (NPV) compact Study Committee

More on these see www.lwv.org; search by Board Members, when screen comes up—sort by date—chose 3 or 4

LWVUS Executive Board for next biennium



President—Mary Wilson, New Mexico



1st VP—Elisabeth MacNamara, Georgia



2nd VP—Judy Duff, Minnesota



Sec/Tres—Elaine Wiant, Texas