



League of Women Voters Of Weston

October, 2018

No. 203

OPENING MESSAGE

Katty Chace

League of Women Voters of Weston

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781-891-1087

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This LWV/Weston Newsletter is published monthly except June, July and August. The LWV is a nonpartisan political organization open to all citizens of voting age.

League of Women Voters of Weston
15 Conant Road, Weston MA 02493

VOTER INFORMATION

1-800-882-1649

League of Women Voters
of Massachusetts
133 Portland Street
Boston MA 02114
(617)523-2999

Submit articles
to Katherine Wolfthal by e-mail at
kate@weichi.com

The state election is coming up in just two weeks. You should also be aware that you can vote early at the Town Hall during regular Town Hall hours (Monday through Friday between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm), through Friday, November 2. Special added hours on Tuesday, October 30 until 8:00 pm.

I'll also remind you that there are three referendum questions on the ballot: #1. requiring that that there be more nurses in hospitals, based on a certain nurse-to-patient ratio (The League takes no position on this one); #2. Authorizing a committee to be formed to determine whether a Constitutional Convention should be held to change the definition of a corporation as a "person". This would curtail campaign contributions from corporations. (The Massachusetts League supports this referendum), and #3. whether transgendered individuals should be able to maintain their current right to be classified as the gender of their choosing. (The LWVMA supports a "yes" vote on this question).

Special Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 27. Two articles on the warrant are the renovation of the Case House and the funding of the upgrading of the Town Center. If the Town Center article is ready to move ahead in time, we hope to hold a Coffee Hour at the library in November to give voters a chance to become more informed on the issues involved and to ask questions before the Special Town Meeting.

The Roxbury-Weston Nursery School has been operating at the First Parish Church for as long as the Weston has been involved in the METCO Program, with the support of Weston School buses. Roxbury-Weston has served as a feeder program to the Weston Schools, which has aided the success of our METCO program. Now the Weston Schools are threatening to cease transporting Boston preschoolers to Weston for reasons that are described in greater depth on pages 8-9 of this Bulletin. A petition is being circulated to request that the schools have their buses transport the children to Roxbury-Weston. If you would like to sign that petition, you can find the link on Page 9. This issue will be

discussed at the School Committee Meeting on Monday, November 5 at the Case House.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is conducting a study this year on what rules and process should govern the collecting of signatures to determine how referendum questions should be paced on the ballot. Although our League will not be putting together our own committee to study this issue, the Wayland and Sudbury Leagues probably will, and have invited us to attend their units and then to register our own

consensus. These units will probably take place in January or early February. You can find the consensus questions elsewhere in this Bulletin.

It's time for renewing your membership in the Weston League. Membership dues are the same as last year: \$60 for an individual and \$85 for a household membership. You can find a membership form in this Bulletin. Please renew now, while it's on your mind, so we won't have to chase you down later.

CALENDAR OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2018

October 22, Monday, through November 2, Friday.....Early voting at Town Hall
Weekdays: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
(Tuesday, October 30 - until 8:00 p.m.)

November 6, Tuesday.....Massachusetts State Election
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., Precinct Polling Locations
(Methodist Church, St. Peters, St. Demetrios)

November 13, Tuesday.....LWVW Board Meeting
9:15 a.m. **All Members Welcome**
155 Conant Rd., Weston
(Katherine Wolfthal, 781-891-9549)

November 22, Thursday.....THANKSGIVING

November 27, Tuesday.....Special Town Meeting
7:00 p.m., Weston High School Auditorium

Weston Dental Specialists Group, P.C.

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Dr. Alaa Alwazzan



Dr. Suzanne Noel



Dr. Mario Gatti

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WHEN IT'S TIME FOR ACTION

President

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20510
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

U.S. Senators

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
(617) 565-3170

317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-4543
Contact:

www.warren.senate.gov/?p=email_senator

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
617-565-8519

218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-2742

www.markey.senate.gov/contact.cfm

U.S. Representative 5th District

The Honorable Katherine Clark
1415 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2836

<http://katherineclark.house.gov/>

Governor

Governor Charlie Baker
Office of the Governor
State House, Room 280
Boston MA 02133
(617)725-4005

<http://www.mass.gov/governor/constituent-services/contact-governor-office/>

State Senator 3rd Middlesex District

The Honorable Michael J. Barrett
(617) 722-1572
State House, Room 213A
Boston MA 02133-1054

E-mail: Mike.Barrett@masenate.gov

State Representative 14th Norfolk District

The Honorable Alice Hanlon Peisch
(617) 722-2070
State House, Room 473G
Boston MA 02133-1054

E-mail: alice.peisch@mahouse.gov

Weston Board of Selectmen

781-786-5020
Weston Town Hall, P.O. Box 378
11 Town House Rd.
Weston, MA 02493

E-mail: selectmen@westonmass.org

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Kathleen Rousseau
Secretary

The October meeting was held at the home of Robin Reisman.

We plan on holding a information coffee at the library to present plans for the center of Weston. The date is to be determined.

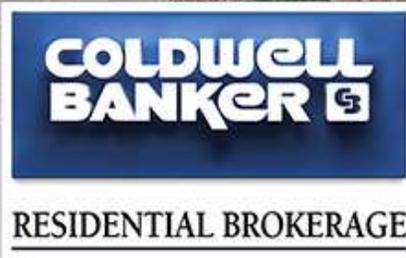
Only a few students were registered to vote at the High School.

Katty will write a letter to the Town Crier on the three ballot issues. The LWVM has no position on Question 1 and supports Questions 2 and 3.

Katty will be moderating the Great Issues Group at the COA this Thursday to discuss articles on the Town Meeting Warrant, referendum questions, and national issues.

There was a long discussion of environmental issues and the Town stewardship of our natural resources.

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WESTON COUNCIL ON AGING
LOCAL AND GLOBAL DISCUSSION GROUP
TO FOCUS ON MIDTERM RESULTS

Susan Wagner

The outcome of the midterm elections on Nov. 6 is anybody's guess. Deciphering the election results, however, and finding our way forward is essential.

If the Democrats gain strength in Congress, impeachment of the president could become a real issue, while health care will remain a priority. If the Republicans do well, on the other hand, we can expect stronger stances on immigration, deregulation, and tariffs among other issues.

The Local and Global Discussion Group of the Weston Council on Aging will focus on the midterm results

and their implications at its next meeting, which will take place at 1:15 pm on Thursday, Nov. 8 at the COA. The event is open to anyone of any age/from any town who is seeking an intelligent and informed discussion of the issues. Emphasis is on broad participation from around the table and on civil and respectful discourse.

For further information about the group in general or this meeting in particular, contact Paul Sullivan (781-893-5005; paulrsullivan@yahoo.com) or Susan Wagner (508-733-8810; susanwgnr@gmail.com).



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WE SUPPORT DIVERSITY IN WESTON! ALLOW THE CHILDREN OF ROXBURY WESTON TO RIDE THE METCO BUSES AGAIN!

Friends of Weston METCO Committee

In 2017, after a 49 year relationship, Weston Public Schools made the decision to discontinue allowing the Roxbury Weston Preschool children to ride the METCO buses to and from Weston each day. We are asking WPS to allow Roxbury Weston students to resume riding the METCO buses, a service that Roxbury Weston was paying for, in addition to providing our own monitor to be responsible for the children, with no incremental pick up or drop off locations. It should be an easy decision!

Currently operating for its 53rd year, Roxbury Weston Preschool is the longest running, voluntarily integrated preschool in the country. It is a place that encourages diversity, education and friendship among children of all backgrounds. The Weston community has supported this program for many years because it allows for Boston children to receive a high quality preschool experience, as well as give Weston children a chance to learn and grow in a diverse setting. It is this shared educational experience at Roxbury Weston that has set the foundation of future success for the Weston METCO students.

METCO was founded in 1965 to assist with desegregating schools in Massachusetts. Roxbury Weston was also founded in 1965, at the recommendation of the Weston League of Women Voters, who were in favor of starting an integrated preschool to demonstrate a commitment to early childhood education and kindergarten readiness, as a path towards the town of Weston participating in the METCO program. In 1967, the town of Weston voted to participate in the METCO program, with the expectation that cohorts of students would enter Weston Public Schools in Kindergarten, following a shared prekindergarten



education at Roxbury Weston. With space available, in 1968 Roxbury Weston prekindergarten students were permitted to ride the Weston school buses transporting the elementary aged children from Boston to Weston and back home again.

Weston Public School's decision to discontinue allowing the Roxbury Weston Preschool children to ride the METCO buses to and from Weston each day has resulted in the Preschool having to secure private transportation, at a cost significantly higher than what we were paying WPS, and this has put the program in a perilous position. The cost of providing private transportation, in addition to scholarship funding for the Boston students at Roxbury Weston, is an unsustainable expense for the Roxbury Weston Preschool and will jeopardize the mission and future of the program.

Roxbury Weston and the Weston METCO program have shared a common goal from the beginning... to provide a strong educational foundation and nurture connections, in order to ensure the successful integration of METCO students into the Weston community. Without Roxbury Weston, the future of the Weston METCO Program could be in jeopardy. Roxbury Weston plays a critical role in the foundation of the Weston METCO program, please help us urge the Weston School Committee to reinstate busing for the Roxbury Weston students.

Please sign this petition (click on link below) and pass it on to your friends and neighbors. Let Superintendent Connolly and the Weston Public School Committee know that this preschool and the METCO Program in Weston are important to you and to the Weston community!

We, the supporters and friends of Roxbury Weston
Preschool and Weston METCO, call on the Weston

School Committee to re-establish transportation
for Roxbury Weston Preschool.

[Sign the Petition](#)

[Signatures](#)

[Maps](#)

[Comments](#)

[Links](#)

WESTON SCHOOLS-ROXBURY WESTON TRANSPORTATION

Brief History

- METCO was founded in 1965 to assist with desegregating schools in Massachusetts.
- The Weston School Committee declined the initial offer to participate on the rationale that the achievement gap between Boston and Weston children would be too great.
- A Weston League of Women Voters subcommittee recommended starting Roxbury Weston Programs, Inc. as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization to determine feasibility and benefits for the Weston Schools. Parents provided transportation.
- Following observations and favorable recommendations by kindergarten teachers, in 1967 the Weston School Committee voted to participate in METCO with the proviso that cohorts of students would enter at kindergarten, following prekindergarten experiences at Roxbury Weston.
- With space available, Roxbury Weston prekindergarten students were permitted to ride the Weston school buses transporting elementary children to Boston.
- After 49 years with relatively few concerns, two incidents (child left at wrong stop and injury from sudden stop) led an interim Superintendent of Schools to recommend discontinuing the transportation arrangement with Roxbury Weston.
- The cost of renting a mini-bus, approximately \$48,000 annually, is an unsustainable expense for Roxbury Weston Programs.

- Roxbury Weston received a one-time grant of \$100,000 from the Cummings Foundation to cover two years, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, of private busing costs.
- The School Committee has identified three concerns for not renewing the busing arrangement: safety, equity, and METCO policy.

1. Actions to Address Safety Concerns

- Roxbury Weston has increased the entry age to 3 years as of September 1. There are no “toddlers.”
- An adult monitor, paid as in the past by Roxbury Weston, will be responsible for supervision.
- Prekindergarten children will embark and debark at a single stop, supervised by the monitor.
- Premiums for any additional liability insurance will be paid by Roxbury Weston.
- Children will wear three-point safety belts, and if below height requirements with a booster seat provided by Roxbury Weston, consistent with National Highway Transportation Safety Board standards.

2. Equity Concerns

- The Weston Schools have historical precedent for providing transportation to private schools for a fee.
- The pertinent equity concern is that nearly all Weston resident children enter kindergarten following a high quality prekindergarten

education. In Boston, nationally accredited prekindergarten is neither affordable nor accessible for the majority of families who enroll in METCO. Boston children entering the Weston kindergartens without high quality prekindergarten experiences have significant disadvantages in gaining readiness for academic success.

- Many urban districts across the country now transport prekindergarten children to provide equitable access to educational opportunity.

3. METCO Inc. Policy

- Due to the long waiting list for families applying to METCO in the 1990's, the former METCO Inc. Executive Director ruled there could be no guarantee for children to be placed in a particular school system, this applied to prekindergarten "feeder" programs, as well as siblings.
- The current METCO Inc. Executive Director supports establishment of partnerships between prekindergartens and elementary schools, as well as keeping siblings together in a single school district.





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LWVMA Stands on Ballot Questions

June 12, 2018—Three ballot questions will be on the statewide ballot November 6. The LWVMA board has determined that LWVMA will support a yes vote on two of them, and local Leagues can advocate for those two. Below are the three questions, in the order they will appear on the ballot, and our stands.

Question 1: To pass a law relative to patient safety.

LWVMA takes no stand on this ballot question.

This proposed law would limit how many patients could be assigned to each registered nurse in Massachusetts hospitals and certain other health care facilities. The maximum number of patients per registered nurse would vary by type of unit and level of care, spelled out in detail in the question. The proposed law would require a covered facility to comply with the patient assignment limits without reducing its level of nursing, service, maintenance, clerical, professional, and other staff.

The League's stated goal for health care is: "An affordable health care system that provides equal access to quality health care for all." One side on this ballot question argues this measure provides for quality health care; the other side argues this measure would damage the health care system financially and make care unaffordable. LWVMA's position could be interpreted to support both sides, and so LWVMA is not taking a stand on this question.

Question 2: To establish a citizens' commission concerning a Constitutional amendment to secure government of the people.

LWVMA supports this question and urges a YES vote.

This proposed law would create a citizens' commission to consider and recommend potential amendments to the United States Constitution to establish that corporations do not have the same Constitutional rights as human beings and that campaign contributions and expenditures may be regulated. Any resident of Massachusetts who is a United States citizen would be able to apply for appointment to the 15-member commission, and

members would serve without compensation. The commission's first report would be due December 31, 2019.

The national League position states that the League could support a Constitutional amendment if it meets certain criteria. Therefore, studying the impact of a Constitutional amendment, as this ballot question recommends, would be consistent with supporting an amendment only after careful consideration. Supporting this question does not commit the League to supporting any recommended amendment.

Question 3: To retain the law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity.

LWVMA supports and urges a YES vote on this question.

This ballot question asks if voters approve of the current law, passed in 2016, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender identity in places of public accommodation. This current law protects the rights of transgender individuals. A yes vote is to keep the current law in place. A no vote is to repeal the law. The exact wording of the question is: "Do you approve of a law summarized below, which was approved by the House of Representatives by a vote of 117-36 on July 7, 2016, and approved by the Senate by a voice vote on July 7, 2016?"

The League supports equal rights for all. Our goal is to secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all and to promote social and economic justice, and the health and safety of all Americans. LWVMA has joined the "Freedom for All Massachusetts" Coalition in support of a yes vote for this question.

Detailed information on each of the ballot questions is available on the Secretary of State's website: <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/>

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<http://www.harpersbazaar.com/beauty/skin-care/a21229/filler-facial-sculptra/>

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League of Women Voters of Weston

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2018-2019

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, political organization, which encourages informed and active participation in all levels of government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We serve the local community in many ways:

- Sponsor Candidates and Issues nights before elections
- Provide voter information and conduct voter-registration drives
- Encourage voter participation with banners and rides to the polls
- Study local, state and national issues and hold open meetings
- Act upon carefully considered positions by lobbying and circulating petitions
- Publish a "Know Your Town" booklet
- Train members to be active and involved citizens.

Our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30. As a Weston member, you also belong to and receive publications from the State and National Leagues.

Name _____ Date _____ Address _____
_____ Phone _____
Email _____ Check one: Renewal New Member

Enclose a check made payable to The League of Women Voters of Weston* for:

- \$60 Individual Membership (covers required local dues to the State and National Leagues)
- \$85 Family Membership (two individuals in the same household) Name of second household member: _____

Any contributions above and beyond regular dues are greatly appreciated and assist our local league in providing more services and offsetting our operating expenses.

\$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED

\$ _____ LWV Education Fund (Tax-deductible contribution made payable by separate check to the LWV Education Fund)

Return form to: Lenore Zug Lobel, 31 Love Lane, Weston, MA 02493

Do you know a friend who might be interested in joining the League of Women Voters?
Name, address & phone _____

* It is the policy of the LWV of Weston that no resident shall be refused participation in the League because of inability to pay. If a hardship preventing payment of dues exists, please contact Katty Chace at 781-790-1087.