

Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 10

December 2001

Transportation Planning: Ideas from Fall Conference Workshop

by Anita Capeless

The Transportation Workshop at Fall Conference on October 13 was filled to capacity. Sandy Findar, LWVM Transportation Specialist, brought together a trio of knowledgeable and enthusiastic speakers for the panel on "The Comprehensive Transportation Plan."

Mary Roderick, the Citizen Representative on the MBTA-Mass Bay Authority Advisory Board, explained the budget of over one billion dollars and how it is allocated. Hasty Evans, the former head of planning for the MBTA, pointed out that the MBTA is the fourth largest transit system in the United States. The planning for the Artery-Tunnel project was 15 years ago, planning for the next 50 years is occurring now. She felt that people need to be realistic about expenditures and be familiar with the planning documents. She emphasized the need to know your legislators, transit planner, and highway commissioner.

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Attorney General Cautions Voters: Be Careful in Signing Ballot Question Petitions

from the Attorney General's Office

BOSTON — The Attorney General's Office has received several complaints about deceptive practices by some people gathering signatures on certain initiative petitions. Voters said they have been asked to sign a petition for a law to ban the slaughter of horses for human consumption, but when they indicated they want to sign that petition, they said they were given another, different petition to sign — one that proposes a constitutional amendment stating that only the union of one man and one woman shall be recognized as a marriage in Massachusetts.

After receiving those complaints, the Attorney General Tom Reilly's Office did some spot checks which revealed that some voters may have signed a petition they did not support. Based on these complaints, the Attorney General advises the following:

- Carefully read the actual piece of paper you are being asked to sign. Make sure that you first read the summary of the proposal that is printed at the top of, or on the other side of, the paper you are signing. People gathering signatures may have deceptively placed a stack of petitions on a clipboard so that the petition on top, which is shown to voters to read, deals with one issue (such as the slaughter of horses), but the petitions underneath, which are given to voters to sign, may deal with a separate issue (such as marriage).

- Look for a large capital letter printed in the lower-right corner on both the front and back sides that identifies the ballot question. The horse-slaughter petition is marked "A"; the marriage petition is marked "E." Information about the letters used to identify other petitions is available from the Secretary of State's Elections Division at 1-800-462-VOTE.
- If you believe you may have been deceived into signing a petition and want to ensure that your name is not certified as a legitimate signer of that petition, immediately contact your local registrars of voters in writing. State that you want to ensure you are not counted as a signer of a particular petition, and identify that petition by its subject and, if possible by the letter printed in the lower-right corner. State that, if your signature appears on that petition, you want your signature withdrawn and not certified. Be sure to state your name, address and telephone number and be sure to sign the letter in the same manner as you would have signed your signature on a petition. Deliver the letter to your local registrars of voters' office as soon as possible. This will maximize the chance that, if your signature is on a petition you did not wish to sign, your signature will not be counted.

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LWVN Officers and Directors 2001-2002

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Newsletter

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Editor	Andrea Kelley	617964-4609

Committee Members

Deborah Hirsch	617965-1475
Liz Lieberman	617244-4402
Linda Morrison	617332-6539

The LWVN Newsletter is published nine times per year. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization open to all citizens of voting age. For more information about the League of Women Voters, call 617-964-0014.

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www.tiac.net/users/unnewton/LWV

Harvest Yield at Holiday

Our efforts this fall have yielded some nice results. We are adding members and bringing new interests to current leaguers. Membership, which continues to be a major focus, has begun to show success with fourteen new members added this fall. Now that the CPA has been passed with our support we are working on its implementation. Unit meetings are attracting a regular following with meetings successfully held for three months now, and plans in place for the topics through the winter. Voters' Service efforts culminated in providing rides to the polls and reporting election results. We are saddened by the death of Michael Lipof soon after the election. There will be a special election to fill his seat, so Voters' Service efforts may not be quite over yet.

Plans for the spring are shaping up and there's still plenty of time to add the League to your New Year's resolutions. We have lots of room to absorb new energy. We are discussing a district wide version of "Don't Stand There, Run" in preparation for next year's state elections. We will be discussing education reform, trade, and more. Plans for a forum on class size are underway. We are working on co-sponsoring a forum with the Green Decade Coalition, and the Judicial Independence Project continues to roll along.

So thanks to all of you working so hard! And Happy Holidays to you.



Amelia Koch

Goals of the LWVN Newsletter

by Andrea Kelley, Editor

This Newsletter is the Newton League's major communication tool to its members. Published nine times a year, (the tenth issue is the Annual Meeting Workbook), it almost feels like a monthly. Two issues are usually combined during slower times of year, such as midwinter and late summer.

When each new board forms in the spring, it establishes priorities for the year based on what was approved at the Annual Meeting. These goals and areas of focus typically reflect the suggestions from Local Program Planning. Through the newsletter, members are kept informed about these priorities whether they be forums, events, unit meetings, voters' service activities, statements, letters to the editor, etc.

State and national League issues are also reflected in our local newsletter, but less often as those levels of LWV publish their own newsletters which go directly to all members.

Our newsletter is not a daily, weekly, or even a monthly publication. Therefore, the information it contains is more likely to be an update on an issue, an ongoing topic or committee work, or an event in the recent past. Likewise, notification of plans for something occurring in the near future is also common.

If there is a matter that is very timely, the league uses postcards, flyers and phone calls to contact you. For instance, if an Action Alert is suddenly issued or a meeting or event is called without much notice, you will be notified by one of these other means.

The calendar section on the last page of the Newsletter lists special and regularly scheduled meetings. Board meetings and working board meetings fall into the latter category, so you can anticipate in advance when they occur. Occasionally, by the time an issue reaches your home, events listed have

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Election Results in Recounts

by Ann Grantham

Recount results
Bryson beat Harney by 27 votes,
Kellogg beat Rosenbaum by 38 votes
Schneider beat Staulo by 122 votes

By the time you read this, the results of the recount should be over and the elected candidates will be making plans for the next years in city government. The recount will be held in the War Memorial Auditorium. It will begin at 9 a.m. on Monday, December 3rd. The results from counting the machines and absentee ballots and possible contested ballots will be known by mid-afternoon.

Election night results showed Polly Bryson winning reelection over Jay Harney by 28 votes in the race for Ward Alderman from Ward 4. It is interesting to note that both candidates submitted papers for a recount. This race will be audited first.

School Committee audits will follow. All voters elect a school committee member from each ward. Each and every precinct of the city's eight wards will be examined and a winner will be determined for School Committee members from Ward 5 and Ward 6. Election night results showed Patricia Kellogg winning by 41 votes over

Susan Rosenbaum in Ward 5 and Leslie Schneider defeating Robert Staulo by 122 votes in Ward 6. ■

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Attorney General Cautions Voters

Although the time is passed for this December's petitions, the deceptive bait and switch tactic of using one topic petitions to disguise the issues of other petitions being signed at that time is used in many elections, so be on the look out for this in future election seasons. As an educated voter, always carefully read the summary before signing.

CONTACT: BETH STONE
 (617) 727-2543 ■

Legislative Redistricting

By Ruth Balser and Kay Khan,
 LWVN Members and Legislative Representatives

The Massachusetts House of Representatives recently passed a bill that redraws the boundaries of its 160 districts, as is required by the constitution. Initially, the House leadership proposed eliminating a district in Newton, which would have placed us in the same district. After 4 days of public outcry, an amendment was passed that restored 2 districts in Newton, allowing each of us to seek re-election from a separate district. The amendment eliminated a district in Cambridge. Many of our constituents have asked us to explain the chain of events.

The House Leadership unveiled its redistricting plan on October 18th and scheduled a vote for October 22nd. While our most immediate concern was to save the Newton district and avoid pitting the two of us against one another, we had several other objections to the redistricting plan and process. First, we felt that 4 days (which included a weekend) did not allow Representatives or the public sufficient time to review the plan and consider alternatives, given the complex population and geographic statistics that needed to be analyzed. Second, when we considered which other incumbents were being pitted against one another, we noted that women legislators were being disproportionately hurt. Only 25% of the current state legislators are women; a plan that was guaranteed to reduce our numbers was alarming. Additionally, the plan did not sufficiently enhance the voting power of minorities. Finally, more communities were divided by this plan than is currently the case.

In order to appreciate the challenge of this year's redistricting process, it must be noted that due to significant population shifts in the last ten years, three new districts had to be created in southeastern Massachusetts and along the I-495 corridor. Consequently, it was necessary to eliminate districts elsewhere.

Typically, when confronted with the necessity of eliminating a district, the Legislature targets seats being vacated. The courts have recognized the protection of incumbency as a legitimate principle of redistricting, since it allows the elected Representatives of the people to continue to have the opportunity to serve.

When it became clear that a district would be eliminated in the metro-Boston area, many looked to the seat being vacated by Cambridge Representative Jarrett Barrios. Eliminating that seat would be sensitive because that district's last three Representatives were persons of color. However, the black and Hispanic population in that district fell to less than 20% in the 2000 census. By eliminating the Barrios district, another district in Cambridge ended up with a higher percentage of black and Latino residents than any district in Cambridge prior to redistricting. Therefore, we felt comfortable filing an amendment which restored the Newton district by eliminating the Cambridge one because it allowed the incumbents in Newton the opportunity to seek re-election without diminishing the potential for a minority influenced district in Cambridge.

In addition, the original House plan had moved the 2 remaining Cambridge Reps further out of Cambridge and into its suburbs. Our amendment restored one as a wholly Cambridge district and the other to its current majority Cambridge status. Also, the original House plan had created problems for quite a number of nearby districts. Eliminating the Barrios district made it possible to satisfy the concerns of those other districts.

During the debate on our amendment, the Cambridge delegation offered a further amendment. They proposed adding more Cambridge precincts to a Boston-based district, arguing that would retain a minority influenced district. However, moving the precincts around as they proposed would have inadvertently reduced

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Committees - in - Action

E d u c a t i o n

Focus Increasing high school enrollments, school financing, testing & standards

Members Nancy Crowley Anne Larner
Deborah Hirsch Robin Maltz
Andrea Kelley Beth Wilkinson
Andrea Kozinetz

Contact Beverly Spencer 617965-6365
Board Liaison

H u m a n R i g h t s

Focus League outreach, relevance and support for the human rights of Newton's diverse populations

Members Joan Bates Ruth Nemzoff
Marion Cowan Holly Gunner
Anne Larner

Contact Holly Gunner, Chair 617964-0767

L a n d U s e / T r a n s p o r t a t i o n

Focus Interrelationship between land use and transportation and its effects on Newton & surrounding communities

Members AnnaMaria Abernathy
Anita Capeless
Carol Ann Shea
Susie Heyman

Contact Anita Capeless 617969-9483

L o c a l A c t i o n

Focus Various local issues

Members In formation - all welcome

Contact Carol Ann Shea 617969-2121
Deb Crossley 617244-7597
Co-chairs

I n t e r n a t i o n a l T r a d e

Focus Study existing U.S. trade policies, and problems arising from a global economy

Members Priscilla Leith
Fran Seasholes
Mary Huse
Linda Morrison

Contact Priscilla Leith 617969-6837

N e w s l e t t e r

Members Jane Leighton Liz Lieberman
Deb Hirsch Linda Morrison

Contact Andrea Kelley 617964-4609

You may call committee contact or a Board officer or director to learn more about current committee work. All are welcome to participate.

Election Thanks

by Bonnie Carter

Many thanks to our members and friends who offered rides to the polls on Election Day!!! Lillian Astrachan, Marianne Louderback, Sally Lynch, Susanne Potts, and Harriett Swire.

Many thanks to the stringers who went to the polling places to get the results and report them to NewTV!!! They were: Ann Grantham, Nicole Payne, Marty Cowden, Barbara Herson, Ann Hartner, John & Sandy Butzel, Bev Spencer, Ann Dorfman, Andrea Kelley, Carol Ann Shea, Louise Hauser, Andrea Kelley, Bob and Anita Capeless, Carol McPherson, Bonnie Carter, Robin Maltz, Doug Dickson, Pat Acton, Lynn Scheller, Barbara Gore, Rohna Shoul, Andrea Kozinetz, and Joan Portnoy.

Thanks to NewTV staff members Matt Kaplan and Walt Sawyer for setting up the spread sheet. Thanks to NewTV staff member Judi Kelemen for answering the phone. And also thanks to Judy Jaffe and Walt Sawyer for entering all the data.

It's a lot of numbers for so many candidates and so many (31) precincts! We apologized to Newton News host Burt Mummolo for not being clear that the results were incomplete because in some of the precincts the printer pack sheets were taken down. He made an on-air apology to the viewers on Monday's Newton News. Next time, we will be better prepared. ■

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Transportation Planning

Barbara Lucas, Chief Transportation Planner at the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), outlined the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Plan for 2000-2025. She urged that there be community representation at designated MPO workshops.

The Transportation Plan for the Boston Region comprises the policies, strategies and priorities for the region's transportation system for the next 25 years. Preparation of a long-term transportation plan is a federal requirement for all metropolitan areas and its primary use is to set regional priorities for federally funded projects. The new plan is being prepared in accordance with the requirements of TEA-21, the current Federal Transportation Act.

The MAPC is one of fourteen members of the MPO charged with oversight of the federally funded transportation program for the Boston region. As a voting member of the MPO, the Council represents 101 cities and towns (including Newton) in the transportation decision-making process.

The MPO is responsible for the development, review, and approval of three key documents: the Regional Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program and the Unified Planning Work Program.

The economic vitality of Massachusetts is dependent upon a strong transportation infrastructure. From commuting to commerce, the means by which we move people and goods impact our ability to attract new growth and support existing industry. Continued and careful investment is critical to the long term success of the metropolitan Boston area.

For more information, see <http://www.plan2000.org> ■

Education Reform

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts
Program & Action
133 Portland Street
Boston, MA 02114
lwvma@ma.lwv.org

November 2001

To: Local League Presidents
From: The Education Reform Study Committee
Re: Background Materials and Consensus

The background information for the consensus on Education Reform is in the final stages of preparation and should be in the hands of local League Presidents by late November/early December. Paper copies will be mailed under separate cover to all League presidents and it will also be available on line from the League office or from Louise Haldeman - louisesh@msn.com

The consensus will be due in the League office on March 13. This date should be kept in mind when scheduling local consensus meetings.

For each meeting you will need a discussion leader and recorder and someone to give some background information. If you need help with training (it's not that hard) contact your field service representative or the LWVM Local League Services Committee. As this is a state study, all participating Leagues will be addressing the same consensus questions. Please do not rewrite the questions or substitute your own.

After all consensus reports are received, a committee, separate from the study committee, will review the reports and determine whether there is a consensus on the questions and what that consensus is. Their report will then be submitted to the State Board for approval. Assuming that a consensus has been reached, then such consensus will become part of the State League program and may be used both by the state League and local Leagues in the furtherance of program objectives.

If there are any questions about the study or procedures please contact Julie Altschuler (617)489-0240 or Louise Haldeman, (978)369-8562 Co-chairs.

Consensus questions

- Should there be statewide curriculum standards for Massachusetts's students?

If yes, how should such standards be developed? Should the standards be developed to set minimum standards only or should they also be used to raise the level of academic performance for all students? What latitude, if any, should individual school districts have in using the standards? What should be the role of the local community?

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of state wide-curriculum standards?
- How should the performance of students and districts be measured?
- What is the role of standardized tests, (for example, the MCAS, Stanford, CAT, or Iowa tests) in assessing student and district performance relative to meeting the curriculum standards?
- What other measures could school districts use to assess their curriculum and student and school performance? What is the role of alternate forms of assessment such as "portfolios" in determining student performance?
- Should meeting the state standards be a requirement for graduation from high school and/or for admission to state colleges and universities? If yes, what criteria should be used by a school district to establish that a student has met the state standard?

If state standards have not been met, what actions should be taken by the state, the district, and the student to provide a remedy? ■

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

- ☐ I would like to join the League of Women voters of Newton. Enclosed is my check for \$50 payable to LWVN.
- ☐ **Lifetime membership \$1000**
- ☐ I would like to receive materials about the League.
- ☐ I would like to be contacted by a League member to talk about LWVN.

Mail this form (and your check, if joining) to:
Andrea Kozinetz Holtz at 8 Stoney Brae Road,
Newton Highlands, MA 02461

LWVUS Trade Update

by Carol Reimers, Local League Services
Vice President

Eleanor Revelle, Chair of the LWVUS Trade Update Task Force informs us that the LWVUS Trade Update Task Force has drafted, and submitted to the LWVUS Board, a proposed new position on trade. In drafting the position, the task force relied heavily on the input received from members through the four surveys in The National Voter and from the more detailed comments submitted in response to a set of open-ended questions sent to all Leagues in March 2001.

The LWVUS board has now approved submitting the proposed new position to the membership for concurrence, and the task force is in the process of developing a "concurrence kit" to be sent to all Leagues by the end of the month, to assist Leagues in holding concurrence discussion meetings for their members.

LWVUS is seeking concurrence directly from individual members. Members will receive the proposed new position - and a response form to indicate whether or not they concur with that position - in the December 2001/January 2002 National Voter. Leagues can schedule their concurrence discussion meetings in January or February.

Members will be able to submit their responses either by mail, by fax, or online in the Members Only Trade Update section of the LWVUS website. The postmark deadline for concurrence response forms is March 18, 2002. The fax/online deadline is March 22, 2002.

The League has reached a critical point in the update of our almost 30-year old position on trade. We will need a high level of member participation in the concurrence to be sure we have the member understanding and agreement required for a new position that will allow the League to play an effective role in setting future trade policy for this country. ■

A Membership Note

from Elaine Reisman, Membership Chair

To all League members, new and old:

It has been rewarding to talk with people in our community and to realize the respect that is afforded the League. Most people join the League out of the conviction that it is, indeed, an effective organization which can 'make a difference'. Some members pay dues, receive publications and come to an occasional meeting. Others are more involved on study committees, on the board or as observers at governmental meetings. We welcome as much input as you can give and want to encourage you to think of how you might help out.

Here are some ways in which
you can become involved

JUST A LITTLE:

- help with mailings
- make phone calls to encourage membership or attendance at meetings
- host a meeting
- attend a unit meeting

Here are some ways in which
you can become involved

JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE:

- participate in a study committee
- become an observer at meetings of the Board of Aldermen, the School Committee or some other governmental committee

Please call me to volunteer to help.
Call Elaine S. Reisman 617-244-6439

We welcome the following new members:

Jane Bond
75 Varick Road
Waban 02468
617-244-1087

Ida Kotell Colchamiro
23 Vineyard Road
Newton 02459
617-332-5645

Ann Dunham Ewart
56 Chapin Road
N Center 02459
617-928-0468

Marsha Freed
48 Warren St.
Newton 02459
617-965-3987

Gail Glick
24 Carleton Street
Newton MA 02458
617-964-5252
gailglick@aol.com

Cecelia Heiligman
125 Seminary Ave. Apt.
132
Auburndale, 02466
617-332-6161

Mary Huse
221 Highland Ave.
W. Newton 02465
617-332-4538

Jennifer K. Leith
162 Islington Road
Auburndale, MA
02466
617-253-4926

Eileen Mitchell
160 Pine St. Unit 21
Auburndale 02466

Elizabeth Moumene
120 Forest Ave.
West Newton 02465
617-965-3457

Jessica Zulueta
47 River St.
WN 02465
617-928-1840

*we warmly welcome our
first high school student
member of the year!*

International Trade Committee

Next meeting of the LWVN International Trade Committee will be Tuesday, December 11 at 9:30 am at the home of Fran Seasholes, 163 Cypress Street, Newton Center. All LWVN members welcome. Contact person: Priscilla Leith, 617-969-6837. ■

What do your dollars purchase?

Your Dues, or Per Member Payments (PMP) to LWVM

*Carol Reimers, League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, Local League Services Vice President,
and Erin Pastuszewski, Membership Chair*

Many League members wonder why a portion of the dues local Leagues collect is sent to LWVM and what local Leagues get back from LWVM. Following is a summary of the PMP structure and an outline of the services your state League offers to you. Your local League payments cover around 50% of LWVM's expenses.

PMP Rate Structure: For an individual or first household member, the state PMP paid to LWVM is \$23. A second or additional household member's state PMP is \$5.75, and a student member's state PMP is \$2.30. (LWVUS also collects PMPs of \$21 from individual and first household members and \$10.50 from second or additional household or student members.) No state or national PMP is due for honorary 50-year members and state- or nationally-recruited members who do not pay dues to a local League.

Services Purchased by Local League Payments to LWVM:

Local Leagues receive many services from LWVM in return for their per member payments, including:

Information: Publications on League issues, study guides, "how to" memos for local League leaders, LWVM website, and legislative updates. The Voter is mailed to all LWVM members, to our legislators, and to our supporters informing us of local League news, the latest in program and citizen education issues, legislative updates, and more.

Advocacy: State board members, LWVM program specialists, the LWVM presidents, and the legislative director lobby the State House for League positions and keep us up to date on specific program areas.

Voters Service: Publications, sometimes in alliance with other organizations, election kits, publicity, our toll free Voter Information Phone, newspaper articles, the Voters Guide, compiled and edited by LWVM and published in the Boston Globe, all support the League at both state and local levels. The DNet site on the Internet provides an opportunity for all residents to "Make Democracy Work."

Training: Leadership, management, advocacy, and voters service training at statewide and regional meetings. Training is also provided to individual Leagues when requested.

Service to Local Leagues: Regional Field Service Representatives meet with local League presidents on a regular basis. Members of the Local League Services Committee answer questions and provide advice and materials to local Leagues. State board reports are sent monthly to local League boards to keep them informed about state activities, to share information about other local Leagues, and to offer assistance regarding administrative tasks.

LWVM Staff and Office: LWVM maintains an office in Boston, easily accessible to the State House and public transportation. The staff typically includes a Director of Administration, an Administrative Assistant, a part time office assistant, a part time financial assistant and a part time website administrator. These employees handle mail, phones, faxes, and emails, as well as implementing projects for state volunteers.

Intangibles: Visibility, reputation, credibility. The LWVM has been developing these intangibles at the national, state, and local levels for the past 80 years. Although most League members think of themselves as local League members we need each other at all levels to be complete. ■

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Goals of the LWVN Newsletter

already occurred, especially if they are early in the month. These have typically been listed in the previous month's calendar as well to give you notice in ample time. Keeping the listing preserves a record of the activity for our archives, and a thorough record of what we've done.

Every month our Newsletter is posted on the Newton League website. This is available while the newsletter is still at the printer's, so is the most timely way to be updated while the hardcopy is still in process, and possibly delayed during reproduction, labelling or in the bulk mail bins of the Postal Service. When you are eager and just can't wait for the mail, check it out at: <http://www.tiac.net/users/unnewton/LWV/index.html/>

If you ever have any questions about meetings, events, or times, call anyone listed on the list of Officer and Directors on page 2, or the relevant person under Committees in Action on page 4. ■

**PRISCILLA M.
LEITH, MBA**

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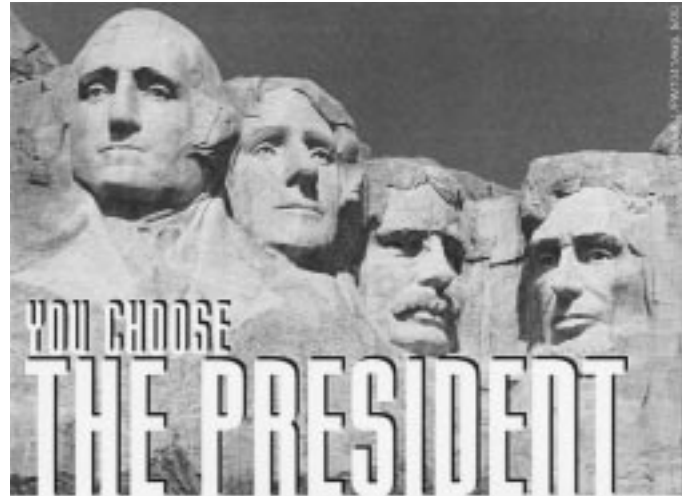
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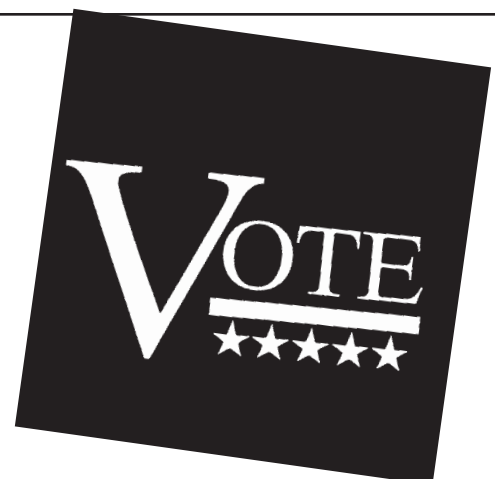
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Paul Eldrenkamp
617 254-7673

*Our politics may lean to the left,
but our work... NEVER!*



LWVN CALENDAR

December

- 2 Sun., Holiday party, 5-8 pm at Ruth Neiberg, 72 Dalton Road, N. Centre. Look for your invitation in the mail.
- 4 Tues., 9:30 am International Trade Committee, at Mary Huse, 221 Highland Ave. (not Street), W. Newton, call Priscilla Leith 617-969-6837, all LWVN members welcome
- 5 Wed. Board meeting 7:15 pm at E. Reisman, 28 Fairway Drive, W. Newton
- 11 Tues., 9:30 am International Trade Committee, at F. Seasholes, 163 Cypress Street, N. Center

January

- 2 Wed., 6:30 pm. Working Board meeting at Amy Koch's house, 117 High St., NUF.
- 8 Tues., 9:30am International Trade Committee at L. Morrison, 14 Floral Place, N. Highlands.
- 9 Wed., 7:15 pm. LWVN Board meeting
- 9 Wed., 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. Daytime Unit Meeting. State Study: Education Reform, w/consensus. Location: A. Capeless, 19 Saxon Rd, N. Highlands.

- 7 or 8, Mon. or Tues., 6 pm. State Study: Education Reform Consensus for LWVM. Evening Unit Meeting, for supper. Location: TBA. Call Pat Acton at 617-965-5572 for more info.
- 9 Wed. LWVN Board meeting, location tba
- 28 Mon. January 28, 7 pm. Green Decade public forum at Newton Free Library.

February

- 13 Wed., 11:30am - 1:30pm, Unit meeting on International Trade, location TBA
- 25 Mon., 7 pm. Tentative LWVN-Green Decade public forum on World Trade and the Environment.



NEWTON LEGISLATIVE ROUNDTABLE
airs on Channel 10 (the blue channel)
on AT&T Broadband on:

Mondays	1:30 pm, 5:30 pm, 10:30 pm
Tuesdays	3 am, 5:30 am, 9 am, 1:30 pm, 5:30 pm, 10:30 pm
Wednesdays	3 am, 5:30 am, 9 am

Redistricting

Continued from page 3

the black and Latino influence. In addition, the affected Boston-based district would have been moved so far into Cambridge that the incumbent representative would have been significantly undermined. We felt that would be unfair to his constituency.

The House did not support the Cambridge amendment. We believe that the House embraced our amendment because it accomplished many redistricting goals. It restored Newton's districts and allows each of the incumbents to seek reelection in separate districts. It enhanced the opportunity for women to serve in the House. It strengthened the Cambridge incumbents' districts. It enhanced the clout for Latino and black voters in a Cambridge district. And it improved the representation of many other districts.

We were delighted that we were successful in preserving the two districts in Newton. However, we remain dissatisfied with the process. Decisions were based on complicated population and geographic information from computer programs available only to the Leadership. Representatives and the public should have had complete access to the information, in a timely manner, so alternatives could have been considered. Only in that way can we ensure a truly representative democracy. ■

League of Women Voters of Newton

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