



The League of Women
Voters of Hingham

Hingham Voter

Serving the Towns of Hingham, Hull, Cohasset and Norwell

October 2011

LWVH Board 2011 - 2013

President:	Kate Boland president@hingham.ma.lwvnet.org
VP Voter Ed. & Service:	Kathleen Nugent votereducation@hingham.ma.lwvnet.org
Secretary:	Eva Marx secretary@hingham.ma.lwvnet.org
Treasurer:	Marisa Costello treasurer@hingham.ma.lwvnet.org
Membership:	Liza O'Reilly membership@hingham.ma.lwvnet.org
Publicity & Candidates Night:	Chris Wilk publicity@comcast.net
Web Site/ Newsletter:	Lynn Cotter webmaster@comcast.net
Fundraising:	Kim Letts fundraising@comcast.net
School Liaison:	Mary Kenyon schools@hingham.ma.lwvnet.org

Upcoming Events

****New Member Wine & Cheese****
"Share the League with Others"
 Tuesday, October 18 @ 7:00 p.m.
 Kate Boland's Home
 338 Main Street, Hingham
 RSVP to kateboland@comcast.net

Planning Board Forum
"What is Developing in Hingham?"
 Wednesday, November 16 @ 7:00 p.m.

President's Letter

Welcome back, I hope all of you have had a restful summer! Personally, during the past four months I have experienced two distinct feelings. The first was "Excitement over the many interesting events we have planned for the coming year." The second thought was - "Whoops, why did I take on this position as President? Can I do it?" Then I was reminded of an approach my daughter uses when confronted with a challenge, "break it into parts, it will seem easier." So I did.

Part I- Today our League is building on long term strength because of the tremendous work done by members in the past.

This summer, I have reviewed boxes of past studies and was humbled at the breadth, depth, and intelligent research our League members have contributed to over the past 50 plus years. After attending the Government Study Committee's meetings this summer, discussing the legislative practice of Open Town Meeting (LWVH member Eva Marx sits on this Committee), I listened to comments made by committee members, on multiple occasions respectfully addressing the LWVH's long term contributions to our town. And recently, I was reminded of the high opinion we have earned while in recent discussions with the Advisory Committee Chair and Board of Selectmen this

summer when referencing out Town Meeting Study goals and our next steps. All of these accomplishments remind me of our responsibility to be accountable to our League and I (we) represent one voice- the League of Women Voters of Hingham. May I never tarnish that well earned respect.

Part II- We have the strength of an enthusiastic, very capable Board which reflects our membership.

Kathleen Nugent is returning as **VP Voter Education** who facilitated the "successful new Forums" last year that were some of our most highly attended meetings.

Eva Marx as the new **Secretary** brings institutional memory as a long term LWVH member and is a former Advisory Committee member.

Marisa Costello; Treasurer is taking on this position again as a seasoned Board member.

Liza O'Reilly, Membership Chair is a new Board member and contributor to the Town Meeting Committee.

Chris Wilk returning head of **Publicity** has not only guided our messages but also fine tuned our **Candidates Night**.

Kim Letts is returning to build on her successful **Fundraising** position.

Lynn Cotter, our hailed former Co-President, will return as **Website and Newsletter** content manager.

.....President's Letter continued from page 1

New LWVH member **Mary Kenyon** as **School Liaison** also sits on the East School Council. I am ever so grateful to these women, with all of their other commitments, jobs and family responsibilities.

Part III- Our membership is growing and fully engaged in our town.

It is wonderful to see with all of the other commitments our members are involved in; we have grown our attendance at events. Last night I sat in the Board of Selectmen's meeting to try and find out more about the pending Middle School project. I looked around I could see at least 4 League members scattered in the room. In fact I had received an email about the meeting from Marisa Costello and noticed names included that I knew were on both sides of the issue. It was classic Marisa and LWVH member. Her message was; it doesn't matter what side you are on just get out there and get the facts to be an informed voter!

So in closing, we are building from strength. I have set personal goals to grow membership and welcome back members. We will be also looking at archiving our past. As the chronicle celebrating Hingham's 375 Anniversary stated about Eleanor Roosevelt's trip to Hingham.

"She first visited the Ammunition Depot then 'stunned a meeting of League of Women Voters by dropping by unannounced, and trying to sit unnoticed in the back of the room'."

Now that helps to frame the important work we do.

Did you know.....?

The Town of Hingham sends out an email message every Monday with a weekly list of all town board and committee meetings and their minutes. Anyone can sign up for this notification by visiting the town's website at <http://www.hingham-ma.gov/>. Click on "Join Our Mailing List" on the right side of the homepage .

Welcome New Members

We welcome our newest member, Mary Kenyon to the League. Mary is an avid cyclist and member of the East School Council. She has recently also joined the LWVH Board as School Liaison, where she will help to register new voters at the High School. Welcome Mary!

Sponsorship Opportunities

We have decided that the VOTER is enjoyed by many who like to have a hard copy to read at their leisure. Unfortunately, there are extra mailing and printing costs incurred. We are in need of people who would like to sponsor an issue of the VOTER for the upcoming year.

Looking for Annual Speaker Suggestions

If anyone has any great ideas for a speaker for Annual Meeting in May, please send them our way to Kate Boland at kateboland@comcast.net. We want to get on their calendar as early as possible.

Government Study Committee

A great way to learn about Hingham town government is to attend the Government Study Committee meetings. The Government Study Committee's mission is to review and look at the town's governance, and come up with ways that may improve or achieve greater efficiencies.

This Statement was developed by our League as a response to the National Clean Air Ads in May 2011

In May 2011, the League of Women Voters of the United States ran an advertising campaign identifying selected U.S. Senators who voted against Clean Air legislation. The League of Women Voters of Hingham supports the national League's advocacy position on the Clean Air Act. However, the LWV of Hingham feels that the process and execution of this campaign was flawed. The LWV of Hingham held a membership meeting to discuss the campaign's execution and outcomes. As a result, the LWV of Hingham has sent a letter expressing our concerns to the LWVMA and LWVUS. We feel that the following statement summarizes our position:

“While we support advocacy for Clean Air, we feel that the process and execution of the May 2011 ad campaign in Massachusetts was flawed.”

Please feel free to use this statement if you are questioned about this issue. The letter the LWVH sent to state and national is below.



The League of Women
Voters of Hingham

July 11, 2011

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts

133 Portland Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Dear President Valentine,

The League of Women Voters of Hingham would like to report our concerns regarding the Clean Air media campaign which aired May 2011 in Massachusetts.

First of all, many of our members expressed concerns about the appearance of partisanship implied by the singling out of an office holder. Had other Senators who voted the same as Senator Brown been identified, the campaign might not have been perceived as partisan.

Secondly, many members felt uncomfortable with the lack of transparency regarding the identity of other organizations that helped fund the campaign. We feel it is important that the boards of the LWVMA and LWVUS disclose any organizations and individuals who fund advocacy ads in conjunction with the League, to its members before release of those ads. In addition, members feel that this information should be made public within the framework of any campaign.

Finally, Hingham members strongly urge the LWVMA and LWVUS, to provide all leagues with a plan for public relations and media communications including press releases and a timeline of activities, before conducting future advocacy media campaigns within the state. Reasonable prior notice will allow us to inform our general membership, communicate appropriately to the local media, and respond to voters who rely on the support of programs we provide in our community.

In summary, the League of Women Voters of Hingham supports the National League's advocacy position on the Clean Air Act. However, the LWV of Hingham feels that the process and execution of this campaign was flawed.

Cordially,

Kate Boland, President on behalf of the
League of Women Voters of Hingham

Cc: Elisabeth MacNamara, President
League of Women Voters of the United States

Citizenship Pop Quiz

How much do you know?

1. What are the colors of our flag?

Red, White, and Blue.

2. How many stars are there in our flag?

50

3. What color are the stars on our flag?

White.

4. What do the stars on the flag mean?

One for each state in the Union.

5. How many stripes are there in the flag?

13

6. What color are the stripes?

Red and White.

7. What do the stripes on the flag mean?

They represent the original 13 states.

8. How many states are there in the Union?

50

9. What is the 4th of July?

Independence Day.

10. What is the date of Independence Day?

July 4th

11. Independence from whom?

England

12. What country did we fight during the Revolutionary War?

England

13. Who was the first President of the United States?

George Washington

14. Who is the President of the United States today?

Currently Barack Obama

15. Who is the vice-president of the United States today?

Currently Joseph Biden

16. Who elects the President of the United States?

The electoral college

17. Who becomes President of the United States if the President should die?

Vice - President

18. For how long do we elect the President?

Four years

19. What is the Constitution?

The supreme law of the land

20. Can the Constitution be changed?

Yes



LWVH members
at the Fall Social
in September

Events for the Year

Be in the know...

Don't miss these League of Women Voters of Hingham Programs!

September 18, 2011	3:00 p.m.	Kick off the Year Social
October 18, 2011	7:00 p.m.	Wine and Cheese- Share the League with Others
November 16, 2011	7:00 p.m.	Planning Board Forum- What is Developing in Hingham?
January 25, 2012	7:00 p.m.	School Committee Forum- Educate Yourself!
February 29, 2012	7:00 p.m.	Warrant Review- Be Prepared for Town Meeting
March 15, 2012	7:00 p.m.	State of the State- Bradley and Hedlund- <i>Always informative and Entertaining</i>
April 11, 2012	7:00 pm.	Candidates Night- Meet Your Candidates
May 20, 2012	7:00 p.m.	Annual Meeting — Don't Miss This Year's Speaker!

* You will be notified as to locations and unforeseen changes 781-749-5946

Wine & cheese

The League of Women Voters of Hingham

Would like you to join us on

October 18th at 7:00 p.m.

For an Evening of Wine, Cheese & Information

At the Home of Kate Boland, 338 Main St, Hingham

R.S.V.P. to Kate Boland at kateboland@comcast.net

League of Women Voters of Hingham Update

Our three plus years of Town Meeting research continues to build on the success of our 2010 Article.

- President Kate Boland sent the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee Chair John Asher a letter from our League with two documents that were drawn up by the Committee with special help from Cathy Salisbury, addressing the need to assist citizen petitioners, boards and committees when submitting Articles for Town Meeting.
- The two documents are titled: "How to Submit Petitions for Articles for Hingham Open Town Meeting" and "Guidelines for Articles Submitted for Open Town Meeting". They were also added to our website.
- Liza O'Reilly has updated the "Citizen's Guide to Open Town Meeting" document on our website and the Town's website. She has worked with Chris Wilk and Eva Marx to submit an article to the Hingham Journal to alert voter to the changes in Town Meeting procedures.

League of Women Voters of MA Senate and House Bills Update

SB 150: An Act Relative to an Independent Analysis of Expanded Gaming in the Commonwealth, was supported with testimony by Louise Haldeman, LWVMA Casino Specialist.

HB 3711: An Act Establishing Expanded Gaming in the Commonwealth, opposed by LWVMA, which was passed in the House on September 15. LWVMA President Eva Valentine joined former state Senator Susan Tucker and United to Stop Slots members at a State House rally opposing Class III gambling (slots and table games) on September 13. Vice President and Program and Action Chair Carole Pelchat along with members of the United to Stop Slots coalition, met with Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Gregory Bialecki on September 21 to discuss problems with the current bill and its implementation. The Senate is currently voting on amendments to the bill, which will necessitate a conference committee to resolve.

HB 890/SB 1650: An Act Updating the Bottle Bill, which adds a deposit to noncarbonated beverages including mineral water, flavored and unflavored water, vitamin water, and other water beverages, tea, sports drinks, isotonic drinks and all other non-alcoholic carbonated and noncarbonated drinks in liquid remain in the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy. A ballot initiative in support of the "Expanded Bottle Bill" developed by the Massachusetts Coalition to Update the Bottle Bill has been put aside, and all efforts will be focused on getting the bill passed and implemented.

HB 1469: An Act Relative to Patient Safety requires the development of nurse to patient assignment standards, a patient acuity system and creates support systems to increase and retain nurses, is in the Joint Committee on Public Health, which heard testimony from Judith Deutsch, Health Care Specialist, on September 20.

HB 1063/SB 190: An Act Relative to Healthy Youth requires each school district or public school that offers sexual health education to provide medically accurate, age-appropriate education, is in the Joint Committee on Education, which received testimony from Terry Yoffie, Education Specialist, on September 20.

SB 185: An Act Preventing Students from Dropping Out of School, is in the Joint Committee on Education, was accepted for support by the LWVMA Board. On September 27 testimony was given to the Joint Committee by Terry Yoffie, Education Specialist.

League of Women Voters of US Updates

The Clean Air Promise: After Labor Day and with Congress back in session, the League continues to raise awareness of the public health consequences of weakening EPA enforcement of the Clean Air Act. Ohio, Michigan, Montana and New Jersey launched their Clean Air Promise campaigns with highly visible events in August. League President MacNamara helped to launch the Promise campaign in Missouri. Earlier this month, the League [sent a letter](#) to members of the House of Representatives asking them to make the Clean Air Promise.

House Passes Sweeping Anti-Clean Air TRAIN Act: On September 23, [leading environmental groups](#) called on the Senate to reject the TRAIN Act and commended the White House veto threat.

Pollution Regulation Delays: In an early September [statement](#), the League voiced disappointment with President Obama's decision to delay issuing a new clean air standard for ozone smog pollution. Late this month, the League and coalition groups sent [a letter to the White House](#) expressing deep concern that the Environmental Protection Agency will not meet its commitment to propose long overdue Clean Air Act standards limiting dangerous carbon pollution from new and existing power plants. The League asked the President to reaffirm the administration's commitment to issue strong standards as the Clean Air Act requires.

Global Day of Climate Action: On September 24, [Leagues and others around the world](#) called attention to the need to get off of fossil fuels and move towards a sustainable, renewably-powered future. The League

Voting Rights Protection – Hard at Work and Having an Impact: Leagues continue to work to protect voting rights and we see the impact at the state level.

Federal Judge Upholds Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act: Late this month, in a significant ruling, a federal judge upheld section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, which requires states with a history of voter suppression to seek approval before implementing changes to their voting laws. Recent state legislative sessions demonstrate the need for such continued oversight – multiple legislatures implemented voter photo ID and proof of citizenship requirements as a prerequisite to voting as well as shortening early voting periods and attacking Election Day registration.

Leagues Lead Fair Redistricting Battle Nationwide: This month, in addition to the activity in [Texas](#), [League leaders in Allentown and Pittsburgh \(Pennsylvania\)](#) provided testimony at official redistricting hearings. They urged the state's Legislative Reapportionment Commission to adopt a fair and transparent process that results in districts that preserve the cores of existing communities, do not dilute the voting strength of minority voters, and establish improved partisan balance across the Commonwealth. In [Florida](#), the League and its partners celebrated an [important court victory](#) upholding the state's new Fair Districts amendments. Meanwhile, the [Ohio](#) League was [commended](#) for its role in promoting a fairer process through its successful redistricting competition, and the League of Women Voters of [Arizona](#) continued to celebrate the winners of its own [redistricting competition](#), while serving as an ongoing "watchdog" of the state's redistricting commission.

*****The highlights above are abbreviated. Please see the State and National League websites for complete information.***

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
HINGHAM**

WWW.HINGHAM.MA.LWVNET.ORG

189 Union Street
Hingham, MA 02043

*Democracy: The more you use it,
the better it gets!*