



The League of Women
Voters of Hingham

HINGHAM VOTER

Serving the Towns of Hingham, Hull, Cohasset and Norwell

Fall 2016

Steering Committee: Eva Marx, Catherine Salisbury, Jane Malme, Anne Fanton, Kate Boland

Treasurer: Marisa Costello; **Website:** Liza O'Reilly; **School Outreach:** Elizabeth Danis; **Candidates**

Night: Chris Wilk

CALENDAR (subject to change)

September 7, 2016- Steering Committee Meeting, 1:00 pm, 338 Main Street

September 17, 2016- LWVMA League Leaders' Lunch, 10:00 am, Hingham Community Center

September 28, 2016- Fall Membership Fondue Social, 7:00 pm, 338 Main Street

October 26, 2016- Member Forum, Town Administrator Ted Alexiades, 7:00 pm, 9 Partridge Dr.

November 16, 2016- Sip N Chat Charter School Discussion, 7:00 pm, location TBD

January TBD, 2017- All Member Charter School Consensus Meeting, 10:00 am @ Library

February 15, 2017- Warrant Review, 7:00 pm @ Town Hall

March 8, 2017- State of the State (MA Representatives and Senator), 7:00 pm, location TBD

April 5, 2017- Candidates Night, 7:00 pm, Town Hall

April 27, 2017- Sip and Chat, 7:00pm, location TBD

May 5, 2017- All Member Annual Meeting, 6:30 pm, location TBD

DO YOU KNOW OUR LEAGUES HISTORY?

1. Our League is 83 years old.
2. When digging in an archive box we found two proclamations from the Hingham Board of Selectmen...could there be more?
 - a. April 20-24, 1981 was named **League of Women Voters Week** by Board of Selectmen (BOS) Eugene Bickford, Oscar Beck, and Joseph Daley for our contributions to the Town of Hingham.
 - b. September 29-October 4, 1985 was named **League of Women Voters Week** by BOS Edward Leweicki, John Brady, and Kate Mahoney.

STEERING COMMITTEE LETTER

Each September I feel a renewed sense of excitement for our League's upcoming year and seeing our members again. We are a great bunch! We can all be very proud of our accomplishments over the past 83 years!

Recently I was stopped in the CVS parking lot and drawn into a lovely discussion with a gentleman in town (whom I barely know) who has sat on many town committees. As I walked away after our conversation, he called after me and said, "Thanks to the League for all of its hard work!"

Weeks later at the recent League Leaders' conference I was reminded why the League works so hard and the value of the League's non-partisan reputation. I would like to share

LWVMA's President Jean Cherdack's comments related to our Charter School Study timeline which started in 2015, well before the ballot question was put forward:

"Is The League Too Slow?"

Pundits and activist groups respond to issues and events almost instantly. News is all over the net and TV immediately. Why does the League take so long?

Most of the major issues this nation is facing today are more than a decade old. It is generally not the quick response but the reasoned, well researched policy base that produces progress. The League must be in the fight for the long haul. We cannot jump from event to event. We cannot afford to have a short attention span. We cannot be

just another voice about the issue of the day, to be heard once and then lost in the rush of later 'news.' We cannot achieve our goals with flip judgements and catchy offhand remarks.

"For better or worse, the policies and direction of this nation's lawmakers are the results of decades of building political bases, of carefully nurtured ideas, and of patient effort. The League must learn from this and its own experience. Women did not get the vote from some overnight social media campaign."

The Steering Committee is looking forward to another informative year and, as always, thank you for all of your hard work and contributions to our League!

Kate

ANNUAL MEETING REPRISE

Catherine Salisbury

Our Annual Meeting was held on May 10, 2016 at Rafael's Restaurant at the South Shore Country Club in Hingham. Following dinner, the Honorable William P. Joyce, retired Immigration Judge, United States Immigration Court, spoke to our members. Judge Joyce explained that there are two kinds of visas. The first is a non-immigrant visa (such as for a student, a tourist, or a businessman). The second visa is a green card which gives the immigrant permanent status and a path to citizenship.

Judge Joyce made a number of recommendations for the current system based upon his years of experience. He suggested that 1) there should be a way for students who are educated here to stay here; 2) if undocumented immigrants are ordered deported, they should in fact be deported; 3) if a person came here illegally, he or she should be able to leave without problems; and 4) people with temporary visas should be accounted for to make sure they leave on time. Judge Joyce concluded by saying that our country has a patchwork 19th-century immigration system which needs to be modernized.

Steering Committee Chairman Kate Boland called the meeting to order and presented the 2015 Annual Meeting minutes, which were accepted by the members. Treasurer Marisa Costello presented the 2015-2016 financial report and an estimate for next year's expenses. Erica Sweeney gave a report on our current membership total (44) and Eva Marx distributed and explained our proposed Membership Meeting Policy. The policy was discussed and adopted. Catherine Salisbury presented the slate for our 2016-2017 Steering Committee, Treasurer, Candidate's Night and Publicity Chair, School Outreach Chair, and Website Coordinator. She cast one vote for each candidate which members affirmed.

THE HINGHAM PLYMOUTH COUNTY STUDY COMMITTEE REPORT Catherine Salisbury

At its May 16 meeting the Steering Committee received the Plymouth County Study Report prepared by LWVH member and Board of Selectman-appointed Committee Chair Jane Malme. The Selectmen's charge to the committee was to determine whether and how the Commonwealth might assume Plymouth County's current functions and what the financial impact would be on the Town of Hingham if this occurred.

THE WELL-INFORMED VOTER Catherine Salisbury

Our member Eileen McIntyre is writing a series of columns entitled "The Well-Informed Voter," several of which are being published in the *Hingham Journal*. The columns are intended to educate voters on upcoming primary and general elections, the candidates, the mechanics of tallying the votes both for the candidates, the ballot questions, and identifying voter turnout.

We are grateful to Eileen for undertaking this important task. Eileen's columns will run through the November election and possibly resume around and following our Town election. The articles can be found on our website as well as the Hingham Journal. Be sure to check the various resources regarding the 2016 ballot questions on [the LWVMA website](#).

LWVMA LEAGUE LEADER LUNCHEON

The Hingham League was honored to host the 2016 League Leaders Luncheon at Hingham's Community Center on September 17. Steering Committee members Eva Marx, Cathy Salisbury, Anne Fanton, Jane Malme, and Kate Boland were joined by School Outreach Chair Elizabeth Danis and Well Informed Voter-writer Eileen McIntyre.

Fifty-five members representing 25 Leagues from across the state from Chatham to Springfield gathered to discuss the following topics:

What's New at LWVMA?
How LWVMA Supports Local Leagues
2016 Ballot Questions

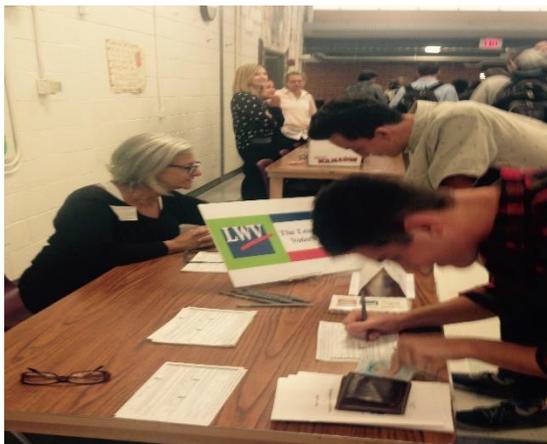
Charter School Study Nominating Process
Election 2016- Idea Sharing
Local Leagues Basics Handbook

Although it was tough to sacrifice enjoying four hours outside on a beautiful day, the meeting was informative, restorative, and an opportunity to meet members from the various Leagues. Our League demonstrated its baking prowess by providing dessert!



Hingham High Voter Registration

School Outreach Chair Elizabeth Danis and LWVH member Lisa Stein registered 16 students including John Mills and Mathew Chiappinelli at Hingham High recent voter registration.



CHARTER SCHOOL STUDY

LWVMA President Jean Cherdack and Needham member Karen Price addressed the Charter School Study timeline during opening comments at the League Leaders Luncheon in September. Although completing the study and reaching consensus by the November 2016 general election would have been desired, when we voted to research the subject the ballot question was not proposed.

In February 2015, the State Program Planning Committee proposed the topic. At the May 2015 LWVMA Convention, members voted to proceed with the study. A Study Committee was organized, and research was conducted from July 2015-September 2016. Local league consensus reports are due February 1, 2017. Our consensus meeting is scheduled for January 2017.

A committee of Hingham League volunteers (more are always welcome) will begin preparing for our **November 16- Sip n Chat** member discussion. All members are encouraged to read all of the non-partisan LWVMA study materials and will participate in our Leagues consensus process. We suggest going [to the link](#) and printing the research for your review. Here is a sample of the information.

The non-partisan research for our review and consensus has been conducted over 15 months by 11 LWVMA members from across the state. The research is presented in 4 sections, each of which addresses critical questions. Some examples are below.

I. Fundamentals I: Charter Schools and Public Education in MA (8 questions total)

- A. Why were charter schools established?
- B. What is a Commonwealth Charter School?
- C. What is the judicial and legislative background for charter schools?

II. Charter School Accountability (11 questions total)

- A. Who authorizes charter schools?
- B. How does MA hold charter schools accountable?
- C. What information are charter schools legally bound to share with the government and public?

III. Other issues (6 questions total)

- A. How do charter school admissions work?
- B. Are charter school teachers certified, licensed, and evaluated in the same way as district schools?
- C. How do charter schools in MA compare academically to district schools?

IV. Funding (6 questions total)

- A. Chapter 70 and the Foundation Budget
- B. Calculating the district budget
- C. Critiques of the funding process

