

# Hingham Voter

## Fall 2018

*celebrating 85 years*



**The League of Women  
Voters of Hingham**

### A note from the Chair

During my first five years as a member of the League I watched as the Steering Committee worked endlessly to provide opportunities that included learning about issues and candidates, registering citizens to vote, and attending informational forums. When asked if I would take over as chair, my first question was, "How long is the commitment?" Having assumed it was much longer, I was surprised when the response was only two years. I thought, "I can do this....just keep it afloat....how hard can this be?"

I must admit that when the three-plus boxes of documents, signs, stickers, etc. etc. arrived on my porch, I lost a little sleep and that full container of chocolate ice cream in the refrigerator managed to disappear in one sitting! BUT the more I read, the more energized I became. This responsibility brought with it the opportunity to continue making democracy work. What could be more important!

At the annual meeting in May 2019 I will pass the gavel on to a new chair. The steering committee has stayed true to the promise that they would support me with ideas and action, and the membership has never disappointed. I am very appreciative.

A goal for the Board this year is to revise the governance structure provisions of our bylaws so that they reflect the current organizational model of our League. This is a work in progress but the steering committee is dedicated to accomplishing the goal and we are well underway. Having the bylaws reflect our current organizational structure allows for more involvement, and with our membership at 61 and counting, we want everyone to be involved.

As the year progresses, you will learn more about this reorganization. We invite you to come aboard and join us as the League of Women Voters Hingham continues its important work.

Regards,  
Elizabeth

*The League of Women  
Voters is a non-partisan  
political organization that  
encourages active and  
informed participation of  
citizens in government.*

### **Steering Committee**

Elizabeth Danis, Chair  
Eva Marx  
Jane Malme  
Carolyn Locke  
Eileen McIntyre  
Nina Wellford-Price

### **Treasurer**

Nancy MacDonald

### **Communications and**

#### **Facebook**

Eileen McIntyre

#### **Website**

Liza O'Reilly

### **School Outreach**

Lisa Stein

### **Candidates Night**

Chris Wilk

### **Membership**

Kate Boland

## ALL MEMBER WINE AND CHEESE KICK-OFF

The home of Anne Fanton was the perfect location for our September 27 Wine and Cheese gathering. Reconnecting with friends, meeting new members, and hearing about the year ahead while enjoying tasty refreshments provided by the Steering Committee made for a lively evening. All were welcomed especially our 15 new members Lynn Anderson, Paula Bagger, Diane DeNapoli, Wendy Ellison, Karen Hughes, Robert Hughes, Dr. Sherry Johnson, Nancy Perry, Mona Pohl, Sarah Jenner Seddon, Judie Shapiro, Caitlin Shea, Beth Sullivan, Katie Sutton, and Charlene Taylor. Many thanks to Envoys Nina Wellford Price and Nancy Bettinger for sharing information and handouts about the LWV MA Legislative Envoy Program.



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## VOTER REGISTRATION



Members of the LWV Hingham have been very busy registering voters, updating mailing addresses, and pre-registering 15 and 16 year-olds. Many thanks go to Lisa Stein, Kate Boland, Marisa Costello, Julie Strehle, Cnythia Galko, Nancy Bettinger Wendy Ellison, Eva Marx, Beth Sullivan, Linda Kutsch, Elizabeth Danis, and Mona Pohl for volunteering for this most important initiative.

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## ANNUAL MEETING 2018 SURVEY RESULTS

At the Annual Meeting in May we asked all those in attendance to complete a brief survey. Below are the results. The responses are interesting and certainly provide valuable information for the League.

1. Why did you join the League?
  - Joined out of loyalty to an organization that changed my life when as a young mother in '69-'70 gave me a new career.
  - Opportunities to do something that matters
  - Desire to get greater voter participation!
  - To be involved locally and learn more about governmentt-local, state, and national. Also to meet wonderful people!
  - Being around intelligent, supportive women and learning about community and history
  - Important to be an active participant and citizen and help educate people on the importance of participation
  - Voter education
  - I think it's so important for everyone, especially underrepresented groups, to have a say in how our government is run.
  - To speak to others who enjoy issues, care about good government.
  - Young mother wants to meet and work with others who are interested in government and local issues.
  - Lifelong interest
  - I find town/local issues more approachable. Feel it's easier to have an impact. LWVH seemed a way to get involved.
  - Learn about Hingham, meet people interested in political issues
  - Voter registration initiatives
  - Wife recruited
  - Leagues commitment to fight against climate change
  - To encourage citizens to study issues before they vote
  - For information and social contacts with like-minded women
2. What about our history impressed/excited you?
  - I had been in Leagues in other towns, so know the organization and wanted to get back to it for a long time. Talking with friends in Leagues from other towns gave me a push. We all need to talk to our friends about Leagues.
  - Unique in what it does for our community and state and is made up of a great group of men and women
  - Persistence!
  - Length/commitment of members
  - Involvement in exciting actual change
  - Presidential debates
  - Fact that LWV came out and got me the vote in 1919
  - Respect for the League, relevance of program
  - Ability to stay relevant over 100 years!
  - How many very important issues, policies have been adopted on a higher stage thanks to League actions/efforts

- Positions taken based on study and consensus; voter participation efforts
  - Consistent, cohesive message regarding civil rights
  - Devotion to nonpartisan; dedication to justice
  - The longevity of this chapter
3. What issues would you like to see our League address? How would you want to be involved?
- AVR
  - Planning Board issues
  - I would like to help out more to bring our great resources to Cohasset!
  - Voter registration high school/seniors: transportation to poll
  - Expand to region—South Shore League
  - State funding for education—fair and equal public schools
  - Affording housing—invite HAHT and Housing Authority; help members understand housing in Hingham
  - Legal issues- Avalon, Planning Board
  - I love the forums held in homes, Candidates Night, State of the State in particular
  - Environmental issues
  - Continue support of the Path to 100% Renewal Energy. Glad to participate.
  - Perhaps South Shore League established
  - Continue to focus on local issues
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**VOTE! NOVEMBER 6 VOTE! NOVEMBER 6 VOTE!**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

November 6	VOTE! Bring a friend or neighbor along!
November 15	Affordable Housing in Hingham with Tim White, Chair HAHT
January 23	Consensus Meeting on LWNMA Study of The Ballot Question Process
February 27	Warrant Review
March 19	State of the State Forum
April 10	Candidates Night
May 2	Annual All Members Meeting

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## Don't Wait- Engage

By Kate Boland, LWV Hingham Membership Chair

Well 62 members and counting! It is exciting to see our League continue to grow and our membership is reflecting the League of Women Voters growth across Massachusetts and the United States. It feels great to be a part of a non-partisan organization and actually do something positive!

***So you are a member now... What should you do? Engage!***

When you are a LWV of Hingham member you are also a member of the bigger movement- LWUS and LWVMA. It is your opportunity to engage in all of the work that needs to be done!

**Attend a LWVH Board Meeting-** See the work being done, join the conversation and you will want to be a part of it!

**Candidates Forum-** Pitch in with our Hingham Candidates forums. Chris Wilk is a master but she needs timers, question collectors, question writers etc. You will work with someone who is on top of this program and incredibly nice too. Or become [trained to be a Moderator](#). This LWVMA training can be invaluable for your job, organizations and committee work.

**Poll Watching-** Have you ever been trained to be a poll watcher and worked at polls that could possibly have an issue e.g. machines breaking down, lines leading down the street, running out of ballots, incorrect language ballots, disability hurdles? We're so lucky in Hingham. [Sign up here to work polls](#) in Boston, Dorchester, Hyde Park, Mission Hill, JP, Lawrence, Lowell, Worcester, Springfield, Randolph, Brockton, and Stoughton. You pick the time and location. League training is at Harvard Law, BU Law and Boston Bar Association. See our FB post for info.

**Register Voters-** Our local League would like to expand our voter registration efforts and we need help! It would be great to pitch in and help Chair Lisa Stein register students in Cohasset, Weymouth and Notre Dame. The LWVMA has had requests for members to register voters at: MIT, Patagonia, Mass Audubon (Marshfield) and \*Google (\*They are running [our high school videos](#) "Get in the Game" in their offices too. Check out those creative kids. )

**Read the LWV Newsletters-** We are all swamped with emails however the [LWVH](#), [LWVMA](#), LWVUS newsletters give plenty of opportunities for you to stop feeling frustrated and to do something!

**Spread the Message-** There are great [resources](#) developed by our League (Eileen McIntyre) to be an informed voter. The LWVMA [www.InformedVoterMA.org](http://www.InformedVoterMA.org) asks questions of the candidates and is a wealth of voter information. Sign up on the site and you will be informed when the candidates have uploaded their answers. Send it to neighbors, MA family and post it on FB. And like our FB page!

**Pass out I Voted Today Stickers-** Voters love to wear them and the sticker reminds others to not forget to VOTE!

**Testify at the State House-** Or sit in on [the League's testimony](#) and see how the democratic process works.

The list goes on and on.

There is always the option to be a member and support our work with your dues/donation. We all get busy and have limited time. Maybe you will find time in the future or just quietly enjoy seeing all of the work being done knowing you contributed. That is good too.

## Education Forum Highlights

By Eileen McIntyre, LWV Hingham Communications Chair

Many thanks to Julie Strehle for hosting our October meeting. Michelle Ayer, Chair, Hingham School Committee and Vice Chair Liza O'Reilly discussed with us education projects that are front-and-center for the Committee and the Town this Fall. High priority items include the superintendent search and the need to replace Foster School.

- The search for a new school superintendent to replace the retiring Dot Galo (who retires at the end of the 2018-2019 school year) began months ago with focus groups and a survey of stakeholders as input to a candidate profile. Based on that criteria, a search is now underway and a Screening Committee has been named. The Committee targets having a new superintendent selected in January, allowing for an orderly transition. More on the process, including Candidate profile, at link below.
- The need to replace Foster School is another top priority and the Town awaits a November response to Hingham's second application for state funds to pay a portion of this project. If we get good news from the state, the Foster School Building Committee can begin working with the feasibility study budget approved at Town Meeting in April 2017.

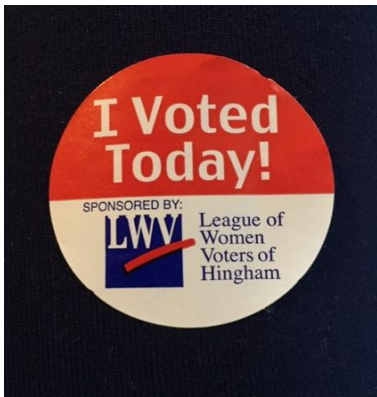
<https://hinghamschools.com/http-hinghamschools-com-school-committee-superintendent-search/>

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## MA Senate Candidates Night for Plymouth and Norfolk County

Organized by Chris Wilk, the MA Senate Candidates Night was held October 19 at Town Hall with Karen Price from the LWV Needham serving as our moderator. Senator Patrick O'Connor, Dr. Katie McBrine, and Stephen Gill voiced their positions on a variety of issues. Thanks go to Chris, Karen, assistants Carolyn Locke, Kate Boland, and Nancy Bettinger, and all of you who submitted questions for the event. The forum can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KURerF-4Gic&feature=youtu.be>

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I Voted Today stickers available at Town Hall during early voting—October 22-November 2 Hingham Town Hall.

- Need voting information? Visit [www.InformedVoterMA.org](http://www.InformedVoterMA.org).
- Curious where the LWV MA stands on ballot questions? Visit [www.LWVMA.org](http://www.LWVMA.org).
- Want to pass out stickers on November 6? Contact Nina Wellford Price at [nina@steelepress.com](mailto:nina@steelepress.com)
- Want to keep democracy working? VOTE and encourage a neighbor or friend to VOTE

THANK YOU for finding LWV Hingham on:



We



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and also when you



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