

Hingham Voter

Winter 2018

celebrating 84 years



**The League of Women
Voters of Hingham**

A note from the Chair

During the holidays I visited with a friend's family who was in town from Philadelphia. I met Addy, the new three-month-old granddaughter. Marveling at her soft, little hands, expressive face, and big blue eyes, I was reminded of my first who was certainly more husky but he, too, once weighed 13 pounds and was about 24 inches long. Twenty-seven years later that little bundle has grown to 6'4" and weighs, well, let's just say, more!

This is much like our very own LWV Hingham. In 1933, when a group of ladies organized the Hingham League, one can imagine that there were only a handful of members very dependent on the successes and advice of other Leagues in the state and nation. During the next 85 years the League would grow in membership and advocacy as it sponsored such initiatives as to improve town meeting, promote sustainability in our environment, support drug and alcohol education, promote equality in housing access, encourage recycling, and preserve open spaces.

It took dedicated members willing to step up to leadership challenges and requests to keep pushing that ball up the hill....certainly not easy but rewarding.

What will our daughters and sons see when they look back 50, 75, 100 years from now? What issues were so important that they caused action by our membership? Is pushing the ball still a priority?

With the Centennial Celebration on the horizon, let us take the opportunity to appreciate the work of our founders as we rededicate our efforts to educate, advocate, participate, and grow!

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
Catherine Salisbury
Jane Malme
Carolyn Locke

Treasurer

Nancy MacDonald

Communications and Facebook

Eileen McIntyre

Website

Liza O'Reilly

School Outreach

Lisa Stein

Candidates Night

Chris Wilk

Membership

Kate Boland

Upcoming Events

February 28	Warrant Review	Lucy Hancock, Chair Advisory Com.
March 7	State of State Forum	State Representatives and Senator
April 4	Candidates Night	Town Hall
May 2	Annual Meeting	South Shore Country Club
July 4	Annual Festivities	Family Celebration Hingham

Mark your Calendar!

The Steering Committee is excited to announce Freddie Kay, Fellow at Access to Justice Fellows Program and President of the Women's Suffrage Celebration Coalition of MA, as our guest speaker for the Annual All Member Meeting on Wednesday, May 2, at the South Shore Country Club. This promises to be a very informative evening. Stay tuned for more information about this event!

WORKING TOGETHER by Eileen McIntyre, LWV Hingham

The League of Women Voters attracts as its members women who are fully engaged in their personal and professional lives. We all love that! And we recognize that many have limited available time to dive into LWV committee work. Got it! Considering that, as we launch new initiatives, we are looking for creative ways to spread the load among our busy members. At our last meeting we distributed a brief list of specific projects – many of a light-lifting, short term nature. Thanks so much to the 4 members who already have signed up for some of these assignments! The list is now shorter, but we still have some interesting opportunities:

The Steering Committee is looking for:

Just 2 more members to join the [LWV of Hingham Centennial Celebration Committee](#), which will have an initial meeting within the next month. Contact [Elizabeth Danis](#).

The Communications team now is looking for help with three remaining projects:

[For our Facebook page](#): We are seeking an interested member to work with Eileen McIntyre to create a list of dates (perhaps 1-2 items per month) that are important in suffragette history. Our objective is to have a list of items that we can use as the basis of "On this day in Suffragette history" Facebook postings on suffragette history, ideally starting this spring/summer and leading up to the centennial of the 19th amendment in August 2020. Please contact [Eileen McIntyre](#).

[For our new website's online Google Calendar](#), we'd like to make effective use of this new website feature by adding to the Google calendar the specific 2018 events listed in the Well-Informed Voter Calendar—This is a short-term assignment that will get you involved with the new website. Please contact [Liza O'Reilly](#).

[For our members in Cohasset and Weymouth](#) we'd like to create versions of the Well-Informed Voter Calendar that incorporate key dates for local elections in those towns. Ideally, we would launch these versions with the 2019 update of the Well-Informed Voter calendar. Perhaps a member from one of these towns would be interested in working on this. Please contact [Eileen McIntyre](#).

LWVH WELCOMES GORDON CARR

By Catherine Salisbury

Newly elected Planning Board member Gordon Carr was our invited guest speaker at the November, 2017 Planning Forum held by the League of Women Voters at member Christine Wilk's house. Gordon's background is in planning. He presently holds the job of Deputy Director of the Department of Strategic & Business Planning at Massport. Having been born and raised in Hingham, Gordon is familiar with the planning issues that have presented themselves to the voters at Town Meeting. He is enthusiastic about being able as a Planning Board member to direct the future of the Town.

Asked to explain the details of the 10 zoning articles that propose amendments to the Town's Zoning Code, Gordon explained that 5 were housekeeping articles to clarify existing language which is ambiguous in the Code. One of the other relates to allowing accessory dwelling units in residential units in all residential districts in the Town by Special Permit. The four remaining articles cover the sales of medical marijuana. Although Hingham residents voted against the legalization of the use of recreational marijuana in a statewide ballot referendum, statewide the ballot question passed and it is now legal to possess marijuana and smoke it for recreational use in Massachusetts.

The question that will be before the 2018 Town Meeting is whether to allow retail stores which will sell recreational marijuana to be located within the Town of Hingham. Voters will be presented with a choice of banning these sales or allowing them by permit subject to regulation. These issues are complicated by state action creating the Cannabis Control Commission which will have superior authority to write state regulations governing the sale and use of Medical Marijuana.

Gordon mentioned that the South Hingham Study Committee Final Report, dated Nov. 2017, had just been released. It contains a wealth of information about the Town and concludes a multi-year review by the South Hingham Study Committee.



A big thank you to Chris Wilk for hosting our November Forum on November 15. The meeting was very informative and provided an opportunity for members to ask questions of our guest, Gordon Carr.

Take a Bow!

Many thanks to Liza O'Reilly who worked tirelessly with LWV US and LWV California to bring our website into the 21st century and to Eileen McIntyre who keeps our Facebook page as well as the new Well Informed Voter Calendar up-to-date. Visit <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/hingham> and www.facebook.com/LWVhingham/ to see the impressive work of our League.

The Place to Be!

The Hingham Heritage Museum was the place to be at our meeting on January 25. Twenty-six League members and guests had the opportunity to peek into the boxes, learn the how and why of archiving, and visit the Museum. Many thanks to archivists Michael Achille and Bob Malme and to Steering Committee member Carolyn Locke for planning and organizing the evening's program.



Meet our Legislative Envoys

Nina Wellford Price and Nancy Bettinger are our Legislative Envoys. This is a new program started by LWV MA to help link the state League's Legislative Action Committee with local Leagues. Nina and Nancy will get to better know our legislators; learn about state League priorities and our legislators' priorities; serve as conduits between the state League, our local League, and our legislators; and advance state League legislative priorities. We look forward to learning more about this new program in the future.



Democracy Is Not a Spectator Sport!

LWV Hingham participates in Day on the Hill in October and in January.

