



League of Women Voters Of Weston

October, 2019

No. 212

OPENING MESSAGE

Katty Chace

League of Women Voters of Weston

President..... Katty Chace
781-891-1087

Treasurer..... Tack Chace
781-891-1087

Membership..... Lenore Zug Lobel
781-789-3920

Bulletin Editor Katherine Wolfthal
781-891-9549

This LWV/Weston Newsletter is published monthly except June, July and August. The LWV is a nonpartisan political organization open to all citizens of voting age.

League of Women Voters of Weston
15 Conant Road, Weston MA 02493

VOTER INFORMATION

1-800-882-1649

League of Women Voters
of Massachusetts
133 Portland Street
Boston MA 02114
(617)523-2999

Submit articles
to Katherine Wolfthal by e-mail at
kate@weichi.com

This Saturday morning at 11:00, we will hold our first coffee hour of the year at the library. Representative Alice Peisch will be our guest, speaking about her priorities for this legislative session, no doubt including the recently released Education Reform Bill. There will be plenty of time for questions and concerns, so please join us then.

On Tuesday, November 12th at 7:00 pm, Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian will be speaking about issues of interest to League members, including the treatment in prison of inmates suffering from addiction and mental illness. This program was organized by the Newton League, in collaboration with other Leagues, including Weston. It will take place at the Angier Elementary School at 1697 Beacon Street, in Waban (Newton). You can find more details about Sheriff Koutoujian's biography on page 10 of this Bulletin.

The Needham League is presenting a theatrical event to observe the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters on Sunday, November 3rd at 3:00 pm. They are bringing the musical "We Did It for You! Women's Journey Through History" to Needham's historical Town Hall in Needham Center. The play has evidently gotten raves. Ticket prices are \$15 for adults/ \$10 for students in advance, \$20 at the door. Details are available elsewhere in this Bulletin.

The Massachusetts League of Women Voters is supporting two of the several referendum questions on the ballot for the November 2020 and the 2022 ballots. They are Ranked-Choice Voting, which would only apply to state offices, and was recently adopted in Maine, and a constitutional amendment to restore the right to vote to prisoners who have committed a felony. This right was removed in Massachusetts in 2000, and still exists in the states of Maine and Vermont. The League's guiding principal is that, while these inmates may have committed a crime, they are still citizens. I am collecting signatures on these petitions, and will bring them to your door if you'd like to sign one or both. (Call me at 617-891-1087.)

The Special Town Meeting is scheduled for the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, December 3 at 7:00 pm at the High School Auditorium. The main article involves financing for the Josiah Smith Tavern plan to bring in a restaurant. You can find some information about this renovation on page 13 of this Bulletin.

Welcome to new member, Shirley Small-Rougeau. Shirley was active in founding a League

in her previous hometown in Louisiana. She resides at Brook School. We're very pleased she has joined us!

This is the time to renew your membership in the League. We value your support even if you are not able to be active. We have kept dues at \$60 for an individual, \$85 for a household membership. You can find a membership form at the end of this Bulletin.

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2019 - MARCH 2020

October 26, Saturday.....	LWVW Coffee Hour
11:00 a.m., Community Room	Representative Alice Peisch
Weston Public Library	
November 3, Sunday.....	Musical Production on
3:00 p.m., Needham Town Hall	Women's Journey Through
Great Plain Ave., Needham Center	History
November 12, Tuesday.....	LWVW Board Meeting
9:15 a.m., 155 Conant Rd.	All members welcome
(Katherine Wolfthal, 781-891-9549)	
November 12, Tuesday.....	Meeting with Sheriff Peter
7:00 p.m., Angier Elementary School	Koutoujian, co-sponsored
1697 Beacon St., Waban (Newton)	with the Newton LWV
November 17, Sunday.....	Forum on Education Funding
2:00 p.m., First Parish of Sudbury	Hosted by Sudbury LWV
	and First Parish
December 3, Tuesday.....	Special Town Meeting
7:00 p.m.	
Weston High School	
March 3, Tuesday, 2020.....	Presidential Primary
(Precincts 1 and 2 now vote at Town Hall)	
Extended Hours Expected	

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WHEN IT'S TIME FOR ACTION

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President Donald J. Trump
The White House
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U.S. Senators

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
(617) 565-3170
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-4543
Contact:
www.warren.senate.gov/?p=email_senator

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
617-565-8519
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-2742
www.markey.senate.gov/contact.cfm

U.S. Representative 5th District

The Honorable Katherine Clark
1415 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2836
<http://katherineclark.house.gov/>

Governor

Governor Charlie Baker
Office of the Governor
State House, Room 280
Boston MA 02133
(617) 725-4005
<http://www.mass.gov/governor/constituent-services/contact-governor-office/>

State Senator 3rd Middlesex District

The Honorable Michael J. Barrett
(617) 722-1572
State House, Room 213A
Boston MA 02133-1054
E-mail: Mike.Barrett@masenate.gov

State Representative 14th Norfolk District

The Honorable Alice Hanlon Peisch
(617) 722-2070
State House, Room 473G
Boston MA 02133-1054
E-mail: alice.peisch@mahouse.gov

Weston Board of Selectmen

781-786-5020
Weston Town Hall, P.O. Box 378
11 Town House Rd.
Weston, MA 02493
E-mail: selectmen@westonmass.org

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Kathleen Rousseau

The October meeting was held at the home of Beth Keane.

We are continuing to receive membership dues from old and new members.

Coffee Hour: Alice Peisch will be joining us at the Weston Library on October 26 at 11:00. We were unable to schedule her visit last winter, so this is a chance to find out what is happening in the Great and General Court.

There was a long discussion about what is going on with 40-B proposals for Weston. A document was submitted to use a land-area calculation to fight future proposals, but it was not accepted.

Barbara Fullerton asked why we could not use the houses on the Case Estates land for low-income housing. Apparently there are regulations that make it extremely expensive to put in the necessary new septic system.

Voter registration at the High School has lately been less successful because students register on-line. We discussed ways in which to encourage them, feeling that this would be best done by teachers.

The town planner will tell people not to put artificial turf on their land, following more concerns about its health problems. Barbara Fullerton has been checking on safer ways to deal with poison ivy near our paths and will talk with the Conservation Commission and Board of Health.

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3. Deter deer from your yard by using deer fencing or natural repellents. (Ask us about our natural deer repellents!) Deer can carry ticks near the home.
4. Keep playground equipment, decks, and patios away from yard edges and trees and place them in a sunny location, if possible.
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SHOULD WE BE USING ROUNDUP IN WESTON?

Barbara Fullerton

It is not an unusual sight lately to notice patches of dead, brown foliage by the side of the road, even in the middle of a damp summer. The dead foliage in most cases has been sprayed by an herbicide, most often Roundup, because it was poison ivy, or some other invasive weeds that were not wanted in that location. It is usually faster and cheaper to spray with an herbicide than to pull the plants manually or use a "weed whacker".

A large part of the public believes the evidence presented by the chemical companies that Roundup is safe. There is, however, another story to be told about the danger to people and the environment.

Roundup (trade name) is an herbicidal product familiar to most people based on glyphosate. It was first sold in 1974 to farmers as a way to kill weeds using a chemical that was less toxic to people and the environment than some that were previously used. Since the late 1970's, the volume of **glyphosate-based herbicides (GBHs)** has increased about 100 times.

The use of the herbicide continues to increase because of the development of glyphosate resistant crop seeds (Roundup-Ready glyphosate-tolerant) and the emergence of glyphosate-resistant weeds, necessitating the use of more herbicide, and herbicide containing more toxic chemicals such as 2,4-D and dicamba. GBHs are also now sprayed on crops close to the time of harvest, which accelerates crop drying and allows harvest to begin sooner. This leads to the observed increase of **herbicide residues** in crops such as grains or soybeans that eventually find their way into **consumer foods**. (Monsanto's patent expired in 2000, so there are now additional herbicides produced under other names containing glyphosate.)

Most testing of Roundup in manufacturer-based studies has been done on glyphosate alone (the "active" ingredient), rather than on the final formulation of Roundup that includes other chemicals considered to be adjuvant, or "inert", but added to improve the performance of the active chemical. The identity of the inert ingredients is proprietary and is not revealed by the manufacturer. This makes it difficult for researchers to study the effects of the herbicide components. The common research solution to this problem is to compare the effects of glyphosate alone to the effect of the total Roundup formula. It was demonstrated in 2005 that the **inert ingredients** in Roundup **greatly boost the toxicity** of the weedkiller.



Glyphosate kills plants by inhibiting an enzyme that is part of a metabolic process present only in plants and not in mammals. This led to the idea that glyphosate would pose minimal risk to mammals, and so the exposure level limits set by regulation were not thought to be so critical. More recent evidence has shown that GBHs **can adversely affect mammalian biology and health**.

The wide and increasing use of GBHs has resulted in the almost **ubiquitous contamination of the environment, with a concomitant increase in residues in humans**. A 2014 study in 38 states

found glyphosate and its metabolites in rivers, lakes, streams, rain, **soil and sediment, and groundwater**. It has also been found in **human urine samples and mother's breast milk** at levels higher than allowed by drinking water regulations and within the range of concentrations where developmental toxicity has been seen in animal studies. It has been found in **food products**, such as bread, soy-containing products, corn, and **baby food** containing rice, wheat, or oats.

In 2015 the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) identified glyphosate as a probable **human carcinogen**. It has been linked to **non-Hodgkin lymphoma**, a cancer of the lymphatic system.

Kidney disease has reached high levels in regions that heavily use glyphosate, such as Sri Lanka and Central America. Farmers with kidney disease received large exposures consistent with lab studies showing kidney effects on animals.

Concerns about the effects on **human reproduction** persist. Exposure of Canadian male farmers to GBHs was associated with an increase in miscarriage and premature birth in farm families. The decrease in sperm health worldwide may also be associated with the exposure to herbicides.

Widespread spraying of herbicides poses a risk not only to people who may be exposed to residues in their food, for example, but also to **wildlife in the vicinity**. The loss of natural foraging vegetation affects the food sources for animals in the area and changes the local habitat. Roundup kills all vegetation in an area where it is sprayed, which eliminates pollen-containing plants which affects pollinating insects which then affects insect-eating birds. **We all want to encourage "pollinators", so here we can take positive action to do so**. Even though much **wildlife is not affected directly, they may be indirectly impacted**. We already know that frogs are very sensitive to chemicals in the environment, and frogs are on the decline. They are "the canaries in the coal mine."

Unsealed court documents from Monsanto in 2017 revealed the attempt by the company to cover up any research evidence showing toxicity of the chemical and especially its connection to cancer. There were also suggestions that academic researchers were paid to put their names on research actually conducted by the company in order to publicize favorable results.

Around the world and in the U.S., governments at many levels are **banning the use of glyphosate-based herbicides**. These include Austria, Italy, the Netherlands, and the Czech Republic, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and many towns in California. As of several months ago, **Wellesley banned glyphosate**. They use integrated pest management and not pesticides. They use minimal spraying for invasives, using **Garlon 4** when needed, and use the "cut and dab" method on stems if necessary. (Some would say that this is yet another chemical being used, but for the moment it does not seem to have all the bad effects of glyphosate associated herbicides.)

There is more information available on glyphosate and Roundup than can be covered in this short overview. **The bottom line is that research done by scientists show human health effects and effects on the plants and animals in our environment when glyphosate associated herbicides are used.**

How much of these chemicals are **already in our bodies** and those of **our children**? We don't know, but we know that there is already some. Let's not make ourselves test subjects in the experiment to see how long it takes to see the affects. **We should be concerned at the use of these chemicals and minimize or eliminate their use in our yards and public lands whenever possible.**

Resources:

1. Bonn, D. Roundup Revelation- Weed Killer Adjuvants May Boost Toxicity. Environmental Health Perspectives, (2005), 113(6): 403-404.
2. Cuhra, M., et.al. Glyphosate: Too much of a good thing? Frontiers in Environmental Science, (2016), 4:28. **(Good review)**

3. Hakim, D. Monsanto weed killer Roundup faces new doubts on safety in unsealed documents. The New York Times, March 14, 2017. <https://nyti.ms/2niuL6A>.
4. Kogevinas, M. Probable carcinogenicity of glyphosate. British Medical Journal, (2019), 365: 1136-7.
5. Myers, J.P., et.al. Concerns over use of glyphosate-based herbicides and risks associated with exposures: a consensus statement. Environmental Health, (2016), 15:19. **(Good review)**
6. Owagboriaye, F.O. Reproductive toxicity of Roundup herbicide exposure in male albino rat. Experimental and Toxicologic Pathology, (2017), 69:461-468.
7. Sirinathsinghji, E. A roundup of Roundup reveals converging pattern of toxicity from farm to clinic to laboratory studies. Institute of Science in Society, (2015). **(Good review)**
8. Zhang, L. et. al. Exposure to glyphosate-based herbicides and risk for non-Hodgkin lymphoma: A meta-analysis and supporting evidence. Mutation Res. : Review Mut. /Res., (2019), in press.



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On, Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 7:00pm, the League of Women Voters of Newton (LWVN) will host a community discussion led by **Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian**. Sheriff Koutoujian will talk about the work of the Middlesex Sheriff's Office, partnerships with local law enforcement and efforts to address the needs of justice-involved individuals with substance use and mental health disorders. He'll also discuss innovative programs for incarcerated military veterans and young adult offenders. This topic meeting will take place at **Angier Elementary School** in Newton, at 1697 Beacon Street, Waban, MA 02468.

Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian



Peter J. Koutoujian has been Middlesex Sheriff since he was sworn in by former Governor Deval Patrick on January 21, 2011. In February of 2019, Koutoujian was elected as Vice President of Major County Sheriffs of America, representing sheriffs from the most populous counties in the country. Koutoujian currently serves as President of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association, and is a founding member of Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime & Incarceration, a group committed to reducing rates of incarceration. He has also been recognized as a "Champion of Justice Reform" by the Coalition for Public Safety - a national bipartisan collective advancing criminal justice reform.

Prior to serving as sheriff, Koutoujian served as a state legislator holding several leadership positions, including Chairman of the Joint Committee on Financial Services and Chairman of the Joint Committee on Public Health. Additionally, he chaired the Commonwealth's OxyContin and Other Drug Abuse Commission created in 2004. A staunch public safety advocate, Koutoujian has also led efforts around victims' rights and suicide prevention.

A lawyer by trade, Koutoujian served as a Middlesex County prosecutor before being elected to the Massachusetts Legislature. Koutoujian is a graduate of Bridgewater State University, the New England School of Law and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

RSVPs to info@lwvnewton.org are appreciated!

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COUNCIL ON AGING LOCAL AND GLOBAL DISCUSSION GROUP

CURRENT TOWN ISSUES

Thursday, November 14, 1:15 p.m.

In anticipation of Weston's Special Town Meeting on December 3, the Local and Global Discussion Group of the Weston Council on Aging will focus on current town issues at its upcoming November 14 meeting.

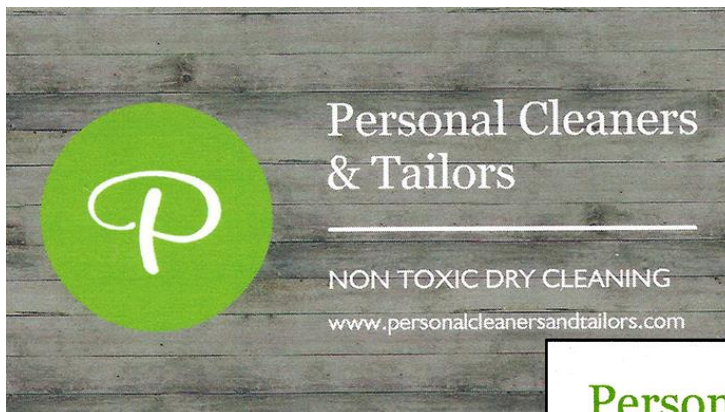
Among the topics to be considered is the Josiah Smith Tavern, the one item now on the warrant. Other issues will include: the status of 40Bs in town, parking and dog walking at Cat Rock and other conservation areas, the "pay-as-you-throw" proposal for the Transfer Station, and a brief presentation and Q&A session with a member of the Finance Committee.

Town Manager Leon Gaumond is also planning to attend.

The meeting will be held from 1:15 to 3:00 pm in the Great Room of the Weston Council on Aging. The meeting is open to the public, with an emphasis on an interest in the issues and civil discussion around the table. Participants are invited to stay until 4 pm to continue their discussions on an informal basis.

Moderator will be Joel Angiolillo.

For further information on this meeting or on the group in general, contact Paul Sullivan (781-893-5005; paulrsullivan@yahoo.com) or Susan Wagner (508-733-8810; susanwgnr@gmail.com).



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INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSED JOSIAH SMITH TAVERN RENOVATION

To be voted on at the December 3 Special Town Meeting



FRIENDS OF JOSIAH SMITH TAVERN

What Are We Voting For at Town Meeting?

Construction funds to make the building habitable and code-compliant.

- The building is not permitted for human occupancy. The Tavern has been officially condemned.
- There is no insulation, fire protection, adequate fire egress, or on-site parking.
- The waste disposal system does not comply with the health code.
- The Tavern has no plumbing, toilet facilities, or handicapped accessibility, and has only minimal heat.
- The Barn framing is structurally compromised.
- The Barn is subject to mold and mildew.
- The Barn kitchen and toilet facilities are inadequate and do not meet commercial standards.



Josiah Smith Tavern: A Time Line

- 1756: Josiah Smith purchases the land from Joseph Bigelow Jr.
- 1757: Original five-bay section of the tavern is constructed.
- 1782: Death of Josiah Smith. His son Joel Smith (1749-1817) takes over as landlord.
- c. 1805: Approximate date for addition of east rooms and meeting hall (ballroom).
- 1817: Death of Joel Smith. His son-in-law, George Washington Pierce, takes over as landlord.
- 1828: Purchase by "Col" Russell Wood of Taunton. J. T. Macomber is acting landlord.
- 1838: Russell Wood sells to Josiah Warren. The tavern business ends.
- 1842: Josiah Warren sells to brothers Marshall and John Jones.
- 1901: Theodore Jones, son of John Jones, deeds one undivided third of the house and eleven acres to his daughters Alice and Ellen.
- 1947: Death of Alice Elizabeth Jones
- 1950: Death of Ellen Marion Jones
- 1950-51: SPNEA (Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, now Historic New England) inherits the property and leases it to the town for a 20-year renewable period.
- 1952-53: Renovation includes removal a section of the porch on the original five-bay section and restoration of the original front door and first floor windows. Two rooms are renovated for the Women's Community League Children's Exchange.
- 1972: The Weston Historical Commission asks the selectmen to change the sign at the Jones House to read Josiah Smith Tavern and requests organizations using the building to refer to it by that name.
- Mid-1970s: The Women's Community League renovates the barn for its headquarters.
- 1983: SPNEA sells the property to the town for \$48,542 and transfers the \$97,084 endowment to the town.
- 2007: The exterior is restored at an approximate cost of \$670,000, using Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds approved May 2004 and May 2006.

May 2008: Town Meeting approves a special act authorizing the Board of Selectmen to grant a liquor license for the JST. (Approved again at Weston Town Election in May 2009.) In May 2008, voters also approved design fees for the first JST/Old Library reuse proposal, proposed by the Josiah Smith Tavern and Old Library Committee.

November 2009: Special Town Meeting votes down additional design funds for the first proposal, ending work on the JST/OL plan.

November 2013: Special Town Meeting rejects zoning change needed for proposal by Urbanica, a development company.

2015: The Friends of the Josiah Smith Tavern is formed as a 501c3 non-profit organization with a mission of preserving and maintaining the tavern. The Friends will lease the building from the town.

May 2017: Town Meeting approves CPA funds for design fees for the Friends proposal: a restaurant in the barn and connector and space for three community non-profits in the main building: Weston Historical Society, Women's Community League, and Weston Forest and Trail Association.

December 3, 2019: Special Town Meeting will vote on the use of Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds for the construction cost of restoring the Josiah Smith Tavern.

Important Architectural Features of the Josiah Smith Tavern

The tavern was built in two stages—1757 (west five bays) and c. 1805 (east two bays).

First Floor

- * original front entrance and tight-turn-around staircase
- * first-floor keeping room where cooking took place—note the bake oven.
- * Georgian style paneling in the original two front rooms and keeping room. Compare this to the Federal style mantels in the front room of the addition and the second floor ballroom

Second Floor

- * high curved ceiling of the “ballroom.” This room, part of the addition, was used at times for town meetings, private schools, and social events and later divided into bedrooms for the Jones sisters
- * graining on the doors in the upstairs hall between the two original front bedrooms

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**SUDBURY LWV AND FIRST PARISH HOST FORUM
ON EDUCATION FUNDING
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 2:00 P.M.**

How Massachusetts funds education and the impact on student outcomes is a hot topic as the state legislature takes up major reforms.

The League of Women Voters of Sudbury and First Parish of Sudbury Unitarian Universalist are co-sponsoring a public forum “State Education Funding: Does It Make the Grade?” Sunday, Nov. 17, at 2 p.m. at First Parish. The forum is free and open to the public.

Speakers will discuss the history of education reform and how the current funding system works, the education budget reforms pending in the legislature, and the need to close the achievement gap for students in our education system. There will be a question period after the presentations.

Mary Frantz, education finance specialist for the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, will review the history of education reform and the development of the current foundation budget funding system.

Anastasia Martinez, policy analyst with the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, an independent research and analysis organization, will outline the changes in education funding proposed in the pending legislation, the Student Opportunity Act, and the impact those changes will have on school districts.

Norma Shapiro, vice president of the board of Citizens for Public Schools, an education

advocacy organization, will address the impact of funding discrepancies among school districts and the need to provide funding that will close the achievement gap between wealthy and poorer school districts.

Questions on education funding can be submitted in advance via email to lwvforumquestions@gmail.com.

The forum will be live-streamed on Facebook at facebook.com/LWVSudbury.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages informed and active participation in government and works to increase understanding of major public policy issues.

First Parish of Sudbury is a Welcoming Unitarian Universalist congregation.

The forum was organized by the Faith In Action committee at First Parish and the League’s education committee.

Contact: Nancy Brumback
nancy.brumbach@gmail.com
978-440-8304

###

Note to Editors: Reporters and photographers are welcome at this event



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League of Women Voters of Weston MEMBERSHIP FORM 2019-2020

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, political organization, which encourages informed and active participation in all levels of government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We serve the local community in many ways:

- Sponsor Candidates and Issues nights before elections
- Provide voter information and conduct voter-registration drives
- Encourage voter participation with banners and rides to the polls
- Study local, state and national issues and hold open meetings
- Act upon carefully considered positions by lobbying and circulating petitions
- Publish a "Know Your Town" booklet
- Train members to be active and involved citizens.

Our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30. As a Weston member, you also belong to and receive publications from the State and National Leagues.

Name _____ Date _____ Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____ Check one: ☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

I enclose a check made payable to **The League of Women Voters of Weston*** for:

- \$60 Individual Membership (covers required local dues to the State and National Leagues)
- \$85 Family Membership (two individuals in the same household) Name of second household member: _____

Any contributions above and beyond regular dues are greatly appreciated and assist our local league in providing more services and offsetting our operating expenses.

\$_____ TOTAL ENCLOSED

☐ \$_____ LWV Education Fund (Tax-deductible contribution made payable by separate check to the LWV Education Fund)

Return form to: Katty Chace, 15 Conant Rd., Weston, MA 02493

Do you know a friend who might be interested in joining the League of Women Voters?

Name, address & phone _____

* It is the policy of the LWV of Weston that no resident shall be refused participation in the League because of inability to pay. If a hardship preventing payment of dues exists, please contact Katty Chace at 781-790-1087.