



Bulletin

September 2004

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www.LWV-Andovers.org

President: Peggy Kruse Membership: Jennessa Durrani Editor: Michael Frishman

League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover

President's Message

Welcome to an action-packed League season!

In an effort to bring League members together to discuss topics of interest, we are introducing discussion groups on subjects such as Teen Rage Parties and the Dover Amendment. The discussions will be led by people with special knowledge about the subject. Check the calendars in the Handbook and at the back of each Bulletin for dates. Suggestions for discussion topics are welcome.

We plan to continue our popular monthly "Lunch and Conversation" at Panera's (Rocky Ace mall behind Burger King) in North Andover. For all League members, new members and veterans, this is a great opportunity to socialize with other League members and find out what's going on with your League and around town.

Affordable Housing Forum
Sept. 30, 7:30 PM
Andover Library

These informal gatherings will now be the 14th of each month, with the next Tuesday, September 14. When the 14th falls on a weekend, we will meet the Friday before the weekend. Join us when you can.

In this busy election season, we hit the ground running with many contested state and national elections. Our Voter Services team, Diana Walsh, Heather Holman, Carol Baffi-Dugan, and Nina Senatore, will be

Remember to Vote!
Tues., Sept. 14
State Primary Election

spearheading the League's contributions to our democratic process. More volun-

teers are always welcome; see details inside.

Know Your Town Fair, headed by Heather Moody Holman, will be Saturday, September 18, 10 AM - 1 PM at Old Town Hall, Main Street, Andover. Contact Heather (978-269-2252) to sign up for a table or show

up to browse the many activities available throughout the region.

Come mingle!

Our Affordable Housing study group, co-chaired by Joan Duff and Annette Nickerson, is spon-

soring an educational forum September 30, 7:30 PM at Andover Memorial Hall Library. This forum will focus on what is being done by other Massachusetts communities to increase and preserve affordable housing in their towns. Please contact Joan or Annette if you'd like to join this important study group.

I'm thrilled to announce that Jennessa Durrani is joining our League board as Membership chair. Her talents and energy will be real assets to us.

Many thanks to Carole Stanley Pelchat, Cynthia Barakatt, Stefani Traina Goldshein, Diana Walsh and Diane Hender for their meticulous work on the League Handbook over the summer. The Handbooks will be distributed in September; if you have not received your copy by mid-September, please let me know.

Thanks also to our League sponsors; we appreciate your support!

I look forward to an exciting year. Please contact me at 978-474-0176 with questions or suggestions as the year goes on. – *Peggy Kruse*

LWVUS National Convention

By Peggy Kruse

In June, I attended the LWV National Convention in Washington, DC, as a delegate from LWV-A/NA. Of 1,300

eligible delegates, 744 attended. The convention had many similarities to our Town Meetings; they even run the convention using many of the rules advocated by our LWV-A/NA: Total debate was limited to 20 minutes/subject, pro-and-con mikes were used, and presenters of motions were limited to two minutes with subsequent speakers limited to

LWVMA Administration of Justice

The Administration of Justice Committee needs new members, having lost a few key people over the last year. The committee works on court reform, death penalty, prison issues, and sentencing. The committee meets the second Tuesday of the month, September - June, 10:00 AM, Framingham Town Hall basement conference room. To join the Committee or to just help us choose future priorities please attend our Sept. 14 meeting. Speaker Liz Marshall, is the previous LWVM Specialist. To receive updates and meeting reminders, please email pmmLWV@houserock.org or call Patti Muldoon, LWVM Administration of Justice Specialist, 781-648-1019.

League Specialists Wanted

Be involved!

LWVMA is currently recruiting specialists in several areas to serve on the LWVM Program & Action Committee. Requirements for the position include keen interest in the subject and a desire to lobby for the League. We especially need specialists in the following areas:

Basic human needs	Children's issues
Citizens' rights	Domestic violence
Redistricting	Legislative director
State government/public personnel	

We will train all specialists prior to serving. The time commitment is one meeting a month and the rest of the time is up to the individual specialist.

If you are interested, please contact Diane Jeffery, vice president of Program & Action, 781-762-6026, or djeffery@lwvma.org.

LWV day at the United Nations

The Status of the Environment Around the World

October 5, 2004

Registration and security check: 9 AM

Briefings: 10 AM – 12:45 PM - \$50

Lunch: 12:45 PM - \$30 UN Tour: 2:30 PM - \$10

Sponsored by the LWV of NY in association with the UN Dept. of Public Information. For more information or to reserve space, contact the LWV NY toll-free at 1-866-598-6971. Deadline for registration: September 17.

one minute each.

Death Penalty: A motion to support abolition of the death penalty was defeated. This motion received a majority vote, but did not receive the 2/3 majority needed to pass. One speaker stated that her state League had polled their local Leagues, but did not get consensus on this issue. She and other speakers argued that this was an issue that should have grassroots input and should not be decided by the delegates to the national convention. This decision by the delegates applies to the League's advocacy on the national level only and does not affect the state League's advocacy or positions. For example, LWVMA has a position supporting the abolition of the death penalty; that position is still valid, but we can only advocate *as League members* at the state level, not at the national level.

eVoting: In an issue that gave the LWV front-page mention in *The New York Times*, delegates overrode the national League board about the need for a paper trail (e.g. paper receipt) with electronic voting machines. The new position does not mention paper trails directly, but says that the LWVUS supports voting systems that are "recountable." While the keyword "recountable" does not necessarily mean "paper trail," this amendment gives flexibility to state and local Leagues to advocate for paper trails as they deem appropriate. (Due to the top-down application of League positions, the national stand against paper trails prevented state and local League advocacy for them. Now that the national League position no longer says that paper trails are unnecessary, state and local Leagues may advocate in favor of them.)

Civil Liberties: Delegates voted to give the League's "Individual Liberties and Citizen's Right to Know" position the highest priority for education and advocacy. The national board was concerned that, as this brought the number of highest-priority action items to three, the national staff would be stretched too thinly to be effective. Therefore, a request was made to increase the per-member-payment (PMP) by an additional \$2.25 to cover hiring new staff to meet this mandate. This PMP increase was defeated (however, a PMP increase of \$0.80 was approved to cover other expenses.)

No Child Left Behind: A motion to have the national League increase its monitoring of NCLB was defeated. The national board requested that this be given as a "direction to the board," rather than a motion as the former gives the board more flexibility.

ERA: A motion to have the national League actively work to pass the ERA amendment was defeated. Six states are planning ERA ratification bills; ratification in three more states is needed to adopt the ERA. The national board requested that this also be a "direction to the board."

Instant Runoff Voting: A motion to concur with the

LWVCA position in favor of an instant-runoff voting system (to ensure election by a majority vote without needing a second trip to the polls for a second election) was defeated. Other Leagues, including LWVMA, are conducting their own studies of this issue, and requested that their studies be allowed to finish without being preempted by a new national position.

Other highlights of the convention included:

- Panel on Homeland Security, including Jamie Gorlick,

member of the 9/11 Commission.

- Global Democracy by Richard Lugar, R-IN, Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Committee.
- Colorado's Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) by Toni Larson, Exec. Director of Indept. Higher Ed. of Colorado. The significance of TABOR to Massachusetts is that there is a move to introduce TABORs in every state. TABOR requires voter approval of any state tax increase (similar to Prop. 2½, but on the state level),

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANDOVER/NORTH ANDOVER 2004-2005 MEMBERSHIP FORM

The League of Women Voters is a vigorous advocate for voters, voters' rights and education about public issues. Your dues provide important support to the League at the local (LWV-A/NA), state (LWVM) and national (LWVUS) levels. The current distribution is: \$23 to the LWVUS, \$23 to LWVM and the remainder supports the work of our local League. Prompt payment of your dues ensures that all three levels can continue uninterrupted service to members and to the community at large. The League's fiscal year is July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005.

I/We wish to join the League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover at the level noted below for the twelve month period beginning **July 1, 2004**.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>_____ \$55 Individual Member</p> <p>_____ \$60 Contributing Member</p> <p>_____ \$75 Household Member
2 persons in same household</p> <p>_____ \$55 Associate Member(non-voting)</p> | <p>_____ \$75 Sustaining Member</p> <p>_____ \$100 (and over) Patron</p> <p>_____ \$35 Senior Citizen
(65 and over)</p> <p>_____ \$25 Student (under 18, nonvoting)</p> |
|---|---|

_____ In addition to my membership, I'd like to make a contribution of \$_____.

_____ Enclosed is a separate check, my tax-deductible contribution of \$_____ to the Education Fund, which supports the League's educational activities.

Please make checks payable to:

"LWV OF ANDOVER/NORTH ANDOVER"

Membership
LWV of Andover/North Andover
P.O. Box 514, Andover Mass. 01810

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

AREAS OF INTEREST/OTHER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES YOU ARE INVOLVED
IN _____

imposes revenue and spending limits on public institutions, and limits revenue options.

- Lobbying Congress: After a briefing on how to lobby, we were issued talking points, a letter from the LWVUS president, and set loose on Capitol Hill to lobby our senators and representatives about the SAFE Act, a measure to place limitations on the USA Patriot Act's use of surveillance and the issuance of search warrants.

Legislative Update

By Carole Pelchat

At the time of this writing, the Massachusetts Legislature is on vacation. They will return to formal session January 3, 2005, although they will be holding informal sessions several times a week in the interim.

Following is the status of legislation supported by the LWVM in the 2003-2004 legislative session:

Mass. Health Care Trust Bill (S686) – This bill will create a health care trust appointed by the Governor with representation from consumers, professionals, and government to guarantee every Mass resident high-quality health care, affect economies by increasing efficiency in the provision of health services, and lessen the rate increase in health care costs.

This bill went through both houses, was enacted, and was forwarded to the Governor July 23. The Governor vetoed the bill and returned it to the House August 9. It has been placed on the calendar for the next session.

Prohibiting Discrimination in Insurance Policies (S930/H3797) – These bills prohibit discrimination in insurance on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, marital status or national origin for state regulated policies sold to residents of the Commonwealth.

A public hearing was held March 9. An order to authorize a joint Senate and House committee on Insurance to investigate related insurance regulations was reported on favorably April 5 and referred to the Senate committee on Ethics and Rules April 8 (Brewer of Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin, Murray of Plymouth and Barnstable, Menard of First Bristol and Plymouth, Montigny of Second Bristol and Plymouth, Lees of First Hampden and Hampshire, Tisei of Middlesex and Essex).

An Act Relative to Equitable Coverage in Annuity Policies (S888/H3537) – These bills would require that state-regulated annuity policies sold to residents of Massachusetts must be gender neutral in all the terms and conditions of the contracts.

A public hearing was held March 9. An order to au-

The LWVMA PHONOTHON 2004

is coming soon – please be as generous as you can when you get your letter/call! The League depends on your generosity especially in this important election year.

thorize a joint Senate and House committee on Insurance to investigate related insurance regulations was reported on favorably April 5 and also referred to the Senate committee on Ethics and Rules April 8. **An Act to simplify and make more equitable the provisions of Chapter 70 relating to the distribution of state aid and the requirements for spending by local governments (S321/H2404)** – These bills are intended to assure that the state's education aid is progressively distributed among the cities and towns, using a formula that is able to remain in place for the long term and that guarantees an aid program comprehensible to any interested citizen.

These bills were referred to the committee On Education, Arts, and Humanities. A public hearing was held April 15, 2003. They were reported favorably to the committee on House Rules May 17 (Scaccia of Boston, Miceli of Wilmington, Correia of Fall River, DiMasi of Boston, Speliotis of Danvers, Kennedy of Brockton, Binienda of Worcester, Ciampa of Somerville, Harkins of Needham, Turkington of Falmouth, Connolly of Everett, Ayers of Quincy, Kelly of Dalton, Frost of Auburn, Poirier of North Attleborough).

An Act to provide timely access to emergency contraception (S546/H2438) – These bills would provide timely access to emergency contraception (RU 486) for victims of sexual assault or rape.

These bills were referred to the committee on Health Care January 1, 2003. A public hearing was held June 11, 2003. It was reported on favorably and referred to the committee on Senate Ways and Means, which recommended that the bill be passed. It was passed to the committee on House Ways and Means June 21, 2004 (Rogers of Norwood, Ruane of Salem, Larkin of Pittsfield, Flynn of Bridgewater, Speliotis of Danvers, Travis of Rehoboth, Kennedy of Brockton, Turkington of Falmouth, Connolly of Everett, Galvin of Canton, Goguen of Fitchburg, Kafka of Sharon, Pedone of Worcester, Kulik of Worthington, Swan of Springfield, Fennell of Lynn, Kaprielian of Watertown, Garry of Dracut, Naughton of Clinton,

Creedon of Brockton, Fallon of Malden, Wolf of Cambridge, B. P. Golden of Boston, Rivera of Springfield, Petruccelli of Boston, Haddad of Somerset, deMacedo of Plymouth, Frost of Auburn, Hill of Ipswich, Hillman of Sturbridge, Poirier of North Attleborough).

Sustainability/Natural Resources

By C. Joyce Ringleb

The committee has been very busy over the summer. The tapes of our previous workshops on Organic Lawn Care have been edited and will be broadcast on our Community Access channels – watch the on air schedules for time and date. I am sure you will learn a lot and be eager to attend our next workshop in March 2005.

We have an exciting year planned for all of you; following is what we have scheduled so far:

Join us for a tour of the Andover Water Treatment Plant October 6, 2004, 10:45 AM immediately following the monthly Board meeting, which will be at that location. If you plan to attend please arrive a few minutes early; unfortunately the building is not handicap accessible and we will be going up and down stairs. Invite a friend to join the tour and meet League members.

We will present a talk on water quality/conservation November 8, 7:00 PM, Edgewood, North Andover. Also, in November we hope to schedule a speaker on the meaning and application of sustainability – watch for details.

In March 2005, we have scheduled two exciting events: “Healthy Kids & Pets”, co-sponsored with Parent to Parent, March 2 and the Organic Lawn Care Workshop, again at West Parish Church, March 26, 2005. Our guest speaker will be Ann McGovern, from DEP.

Please join us for our September 13, 7:30 PM, meeting, Andover Memorial Hall Library small activities room.

Affordable Housing

The Affordable Housing Study Group second educational forum will be held Thursday, September 30, 7:30 PM at the Andover Memorial Hall Library. The theme of this forum is “Initiatives for Affordability: What Other Communities Are Doing.” Speakers include:

Bonnie Heudorfer, author of “Taking the Initiative,” strategies for communities to enhance and increase affordability (the report web link is: http://www.chapa.org/resources_publications_taking_the_initiative.htm), Lauren Rosenzweig, Chair of the Acton Planning Board and Nancy Tavernier, Chair of the Acton Community Housing Cor-

poration.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for the forum. Joan Duff, 978-685-3212.

Voter Service

By Diana Walsh

We have a busy Fall starting with the state primary September 14 and running up to the November 2 Presidential election. The national and state League web sites are excellent sources of information and also have links to other reputable sites, so I urge you to log on to www.lwv.org and www.lwvma.org.

Important dates to note:

- September 14 Massachusetts state primary
- September 30 First Presidential debate, 9:00 PM
- October 5 Vice Presidential debate
- October 8 Second Presidential debate
- October 13 Last day to register to vote in the Presidential election
- October 13 Third Presidential debate
- October 14 State Candidates debate, Andover
- November 2 Presidential election

We will be holding a voter registration drive at Wyeth Industries the week of September 20 (day to be determined) and will be working with Andover Town Clerk Randy Hanson to register students and others (dates also to be determined).

In an effort to encourage voters to become informed about the candidates and issues, I will be organizing places to watch the debates in groups, with discussion to follow. Time shifting via taping of the debates is a possibility.

Please plan to attend the debates we will sponsor for our state senator and representatives, October 14, 7:00 PM at Andover Memorial Hall Library.

I am looking for volunteers at the polls to help voters find their precincts September 14 and November 2. Please consider signing up for a 2 hour shift.

You will find the new Massachusetts Voters’ Bill of Rights printed in this issue. It was prepared by LWVM and signed by William Galvin, Secretary of State of the Commonwealth and by our state president Madhu Sridhar on June 16, 2004, at the State House. This new document delineates your voting rights and reflects a number of important changes made to the voting process by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) passed in 2002 including the requirement to show identification for first time voters, what type of identification is acceptable and the right to cast a

Massachusetts Voters' Bill of Rights

Your voting rights are protected. These rights are guaranteed to qualified registered voters.

You have the right to vote if you are a qualified registered voter.

You have the right to cast your ballot in a manner that ensures privacy. You have the right to vote without any person trying to influence your vote and to vote in a booth that prevents others from watching you mark your ballot.

You have the right to remain in the voting booth for five minutes if there are other voters waiting and for ten minutes if there are no other voters waiting.

You have the right to receive up to two replacement ballots if you make a mistake and spoil your ballot.

You have the right to request assistance when voting from a poll worker or anyone of your choice, except your employer or an officer of your union or their representatives.

You have the right to vote if you are disabled. The polling place must be accessible, and there must be an accessible voting booth.

You have the right to vote if you cannot read or write or cannot read or write English.

You have the right to vote but must show identification if: you are a first-time voter who registered to vote by mail and did not submit identification with the voter registration form; or your name is on the inactive voter list; or your vote is being challenged; or if requested by the poll worker. Acceptable forms of identification are: Massachusetts driver's license, other printed documentation containing your name and address such as a recent utility bill, rent receipt on landlord's letterhead, lease, or a copy of a voter registration acknowledgment or receipt.

You have the right to vote by absentee ballot if: you will be absent from your city or town on Election Day; or if you have a physical disability that prevents your voting at the polling place; or if you cannot vote at the polls due to religious belief.

You have the right to cast a provisional ballot if you believe you are a qualified registered voter but a poll worker tells you that you are ineligible to vote.

You have the right to follow up any challenge to your right to vote through the complaint process.

You have the right to vote if you are not currently incarcerated for a felony conviction and have registered as a voter after your release.

You have the right to take this Voters' Bill of Rights or any other papers, including a sample ballot, voter guide or campaign material, into the voting booth with you. Please remember to remove all papers when you leave the booth.

You have the right to vote at your polling place any time between 7 am and 8 pm for state and federal elections—hours may vary for local elections. If you are in line at your polling place when the polls close at 8 pm, you have the right to vote.

You have the right to bring your children into the voting booth with you.

*If you feel that your right to vote has been violated in any way,
call the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Elections Division at 1-800-462-VOTE (8683).
This call is free within Massachusetts.*

Prepared by the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, June 2004

provisional ballot. I urge you to read it thoroughly.

Contact me with any questions or if you would like to volunteer for a Voter Service activity 978-689-3740 or margo1m@comcast.net.

Government Study: Senior/Youth Centers

The committee met in June to get a jump start on Fall. A preliminary outline was formulated and research assignments were divided. The committee realizes that this is a large topic encompassing many view points and ones that can be very emotionally charged and polarizing. Our objective is to look at all aspects of the Senior/Youth/Community Center before making a recommendation to the Board and then to the membership – on a very tight time schedule, as we plan to complete the study well before Andover Town Meeting 2005. The first meeting in September is at Rusty Dunbar's, Alden Road, Andover. All comments and suggestions are welcome. Lolli Sumberg 978-475-7455 email lollisumberg@comcast.net

LWV-A/NA Non-Partisan Policy

At their June meeting, the LWV-A/NA Board reviewed and updated our non-partisan policy. In brief, aside from the president and voter services chair, there are no restrictions placed on the political or civic involvement of any League members. The president and voter services chair, as well as the League as a whole, must remain strictly non-partisan in all public matters. The full text of the policy is printed in the Members Handbook.

Know Your Town Fair: Sept. 18

Know Your Town Fair will be back in front of Old Town Hall, Main Street, Andover, Saturday, September 18 (the same day as Art in The Park). Over 150 organizations have been invited; if we hear from any new ones we will of course work to include them. This is a great time to learn about activities and groups throughout the Merrimack Valley. This opportunity on Main Street required us to limit participants' tables to card table size. We will be setting

up at 9:00 AM and the event will be 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM. The "pre-registration" has been very positive, we are fortunate to build on the good results of past fairs. This year we are asking for a \$5.00 donation to the LWV/ANA to help cover our expenses. I am grateful for the help offered by Peggy Kruse, Diane Hender, Andrea Zaimes and Joyce Ringleb. It is not too late to join in and help in hanging posters or to host on the morning of the event. Please tell your friends and especially newcomers to come by and say hello. – Heather Moody Holman, 978-269-2252, hholman@andoverliving.com

Help! Wanted: Observer Corps

Are you interested in learning more about how our town governments function? We are still looking for observers for the Andover and North Andover Boards of Selectmen, Finance Committees, and School Committees. Becoming an observer is a great way to witness democracy in action. Informing fellow League members about the meetings through your reports helps others become more knowledgeable citizens. Our Observer reports, often and highly praised, also provide valuable research for the annual Warrant Forum held before Andover's Town Meeting. Please consider becoming an observer. This is a perfect opportunity for job sharing; you don't have to commit to an entire year. Contact Stefani Goldshein (978-470-3140) for further information.

Read-Along Alert

10th annual Andover Community Read-Along
November 15-19. Contact Stefani Goldshein (978-470-3140) or Sondra Finegold (978-470-1584) for further information.

<p>Remember to Vote! Tues., Sept. 14 State Primary Election</p>
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Election Reminder Service – www.votinginfo.info A service of the League of Women Voters

- Do you
- ✓ Know the voter registration deadlines?
 - ✓ Know the dates of the election?
 - ✓ Know how to find out where your polling place is?
 - ✓ Know if you need to bring ID to the polls?

Subscribe to this free, nonpartisan service to receive important election reminders
Sign up all the voters in your family, at your school, and at your workplace

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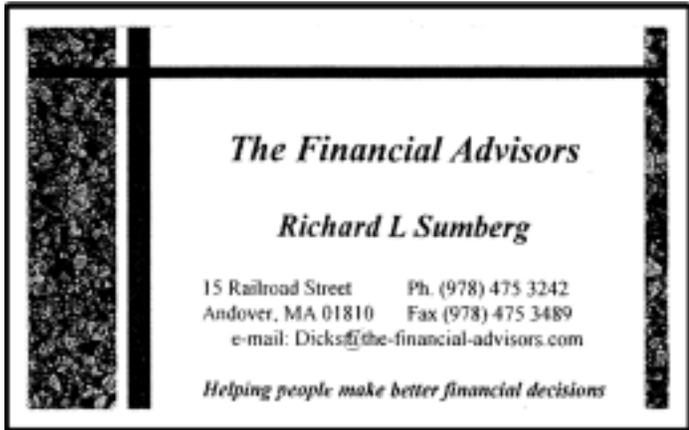
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League of Women Voters Andover/North Andover Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- Wed 8 Board Meeting – 7:15 PM, Stefani Goldshein, 6 Roulston Cl, Andover
- Thu 9 Government Study (see page 7) – 10:00 AM Rusty Dunbar, 8 Alden Rd., Andover
- Mon 13 Sustainability/Natural Resources – 7:30 PM, Andover Library Activities Room
- Tues 14 State Primary Election
- Tues 14 Lunch and Conversation – 11:30 AM Panera's (Rte 133 & 125)
- Sat 18 Know Your Town Fair – 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Andover Town House, Main St
- Wed 22 October Bulletin Deadline (email frishma@comcast.net)
- Thu 30 Affordable Housing Forum – 7:30 PM, Andover Library

OCTOBER

- Sun 3 LWVMA Phonothon – 6:00 - 9:00 PM, Coldwell Banker/Hunneman, 305 N. Main St., Andover
- Tues 5 LWV Day at the United Nations, NYC: Status of the Environment Around the World
- Wed 6 Board Meeting – 9:15 AM, Water Treatment Plant, Andover (Haggetts Pond, Lowell St/Rt 133) – a tour of the Water Treatment plant will follow at 10:45 AM.
- Wed 13 Last day to register to vote in the Presidential election
- Thur 14 Lunch and Conversation – 11:30 AM Panera's (Rte 133 & 125)
- Thur 14 State Senate and Representative Candidates Debate – 7:00 PM, Andover Library
- Wed 20 November Bulletin Deadline (email frishma@comcast.net)
- Sat 30 LWV Fall Conference (note new date)

League of Women Voters Andover/North Andover

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