



# Bulletin

December 2004

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P.O. Box 514  
Andover, MA 01810

[www.LWV-Andovers.org](http://www.LWV-Andovers.org)

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

## League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover

### Working the Polls

By Diana Walsh

Andover had record Election Day turnout, close to 17,000 people, 88 percent of registered voters. League volunteers helped in a number of ways. Nineteen members assisted with “precincting,” that is, helping voters find their precincts as they enter their polling location. Thank you Cynde Egan, Peggy Kruse, Stefani Goldshein, Heather Holman, Joyce Ringleb, Jennessa Durrani, Carole Pelchat, Pat Edmonds, Vicky Johnston, Emily Kearns, Nancy Mulvey, Thea Shapiro, Tina Girdwood, Colleen Kiezulas, Rusty Dunbar, Michael Frishman, Lisa McDonald, Amy Janovsky, and Ronna Markell, and in Methuen, Mary Marzec.

Five of us (who had previously been deputized by Andover Town Clerk Randy Hanson to register voters this fall on a special state form) assisted with the inactive voters. Voters who were registered in Andover at one time are moved to an inactive category if they haven’t voted for several years or if they fail to return a completed census form which is mailed to every household annually. You can imagine the reaction of someone who showed up to vote in this contentious election and was told at their precinct table that they are listed as “inactive” and therefore could not vote at this time! Fortunately, most people could be re-activated by completing a form at the Clerk’s table. That’s where Carol Baffi-Dugan, Nina Senatore, Diane

**It's Still Time  
Sign Up Now!**

**Holiday  
Dinner**

**&  
LWV State  
Position Meeting  
Wed. Dec. 1  
See Page 2**

Hender, and I were stationed.

Throughout the day we re-activated approximately 500 voters, also a record. Most people were quite pleasant as we checked their status online, followed up with those staffing the computers in the Clerk’s office, assisted them with the paper work and checked their identification. A number of people arrived without proper ID, that is it did not show their current address. We had to turn them away even if we knew very well who they were and where they have lived for years. During my shift, 5 or 6 people went home and returned with an ID or a piece of mail with their name and address on them.

The “We are a Full Service Operation” award goes to Nina Senatore who not only helped with the paper work, but walked voters back to their voting line and collected the voting statistics all day long and with grace and humor. Carol Baffi-Dugan earned the “Persistence Instead of Frustration” award for digging deeper and asking the right questions that led at last to allowing a young marine, recently discharged, to cast a provisional ballot.

It was an interesting day and all of us came away with great admiration for Randy Hanson and her staff. Their expertise, patience and professionalism was impressive and as Andover residents we should be thankful that our elections ran smoothly, again.

### Running For Office Workshop

The League’s annual *Running for Office Workshop* will be January 12, 7:00 PM, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Andover Town Offices. Town Clerks Randy Hanson and Joyce Bradshaw will describe the election process including requirements on filing nominating papers and important dates. A representative from the State Office of Cam-

### LWVM announces:

- Day on the Hill – March 23, 2005
  - LWV MA Convention – May 13-14, 2005
- Mark your calendars and red Handbook now!*

## Thank You for Election Day Help!

*On behalf of the Town Clerk's Office, I would like to thank the League for all the help and support you gave the Town during this busy Election year.*

*Your members have given us immeasurable support this past year. We literally cannot put these elections together without the help of the League and many departments of the Town. We had an 88% turn out at this election alone and that means a lot of precinct information had to be handled by your volunteers.*

*Our Townspeople rely on your precinct services as does this office and we appreciate your volunteer commitment on Election Day in Andover.*

Randy Hansen, Andover Town Clerk

paigned and Finance will discuss campaign financing and reporting and two local elected officials will be available to describe his/her experiences with the election process.

## President's Message

It's been a busy month for the League! Our gala membership event, Chocolate at the Addison, was a real treat! It was fun to see familiar faces and to meet new ones; the 50 plus attendees included more guests than members! We encouraged any interested guests to join the League. After socializing over chocolate and wine, we moved to the "Director's Choice: Winslow Homer" exhibit, where the new Addison director, Brian Allen, regaled us with historical and personal anecdotes that helped put the paintings into perspective. Thanks to

Jennessa Durrani, our membership chair, for bringing this wonderful event to fruition.

Election Day was a time of palpable excitement in town. Diana Walsh coordinated the League's Andover precincting efforts; thanks to all who pitched in! We even had a branch precincting effort in Methuen. Mary Marzec, a Methuen resident, recently joined the LWV of Andover/N. Andover because Methuen doesn't have a LWV of its own. After hearing about precincting, she contacted the Methuen City Clerk – and spent a good part of Election Day doing precincting at one of the Methuen polling places, sitting at a table with a LWV sign on the front of the table. Way to jump right in, Mary!

The Water Quality and Conservation Forum held at the Edgewood retirement community in North Andover was a success both for the League and for Edgewood. As always, the League's Sustainability group arranged for a thought-provoking evening with knowledgeable speakers. The thing that struck me about this evening was how receptive the Edgewood audience was. We were told that this was Edgewood's first educational seminar. Based on the attentive questions from the audience, and the eagerness to talk to the speakers after the 1½ hour seminar ended, I would hope that this is the first of a long, proud tradition of educational seminars at Edgewood.

The Sustainability group's next endeavor, a Healthy Homes seminar by Beth Tener of Sustainable Steps New England, gave numerous tips for minimizing our negative impact on the environment. The tips ranged from simple (turn down your water heater to 120°) to potentially more difficult (live close to where you work). Thanks to Joyce Ringleb and her Sustainability group for organizing these educational events.

The Community Read-Along was again well-received by the Andover schools. Many thanks to Stefani Goldshein, Sondra Finegold and their enthusiastic crew.

# HOLIDAY DINNER

***Please remember to bring the Program Information on pages 13-14***

Our holiday dinner will be held at the Andover Historical Society (Blanchard House, 97 Main Street) Wednesday, December 1, 6:30 to 9:00 PM. For a change of pace, the Board decided to have a catered event this year, with Raspberries providing a delicious buffet. Wine and hors d'oeuvres start at 6:30, dinner buffet at 7:15. We will start reviewing the State LWV positions around 8:00. \$20 per person, **RSVP please by 11/22/04**. For more information, call Amy Janovsky (978-475-8655).

## RESERVATION FOR HOLIDAY DINNER

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed for: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20 per person)

**Please return to:** Amy Janovsky, 6 Snowberry Road, Andover, MA 01810

## Read-Along

The Community Read-Along celebrated its tenth anniversary last month. Over 150 town officials, retired teachers, senior citizens and other community leaders shared their love of reading and stories with Andover schoolchildren and created a memorable event for all who participated. The 2004 Read-Along coordinators left to right: Co-Chair Sondra Finegold, Mary Ellen Hassey, Jane Sullivan, Rhonda Wiener, Kelly Rehman, Renita Johnson, Ronna Markell. They coordinated the Read-Alongs at St. Augustine's, High Plain Elementary, South School and The Pike School. Missing from the picture are Co-Chair Stefani Goldshein, Penny Kohut, Susie Novick, Stephanie Bryant, Karen Krichmar, Lori Aronovitz, Deb Sloan.



Coordinating 158 readers is a big job!

Thanks also to the state LWV for its support. The state League staff and officers respond promptly to phone calls and emails, providing informational material for our programs and clear answers for how-to questions. The state LWV provided liability coverage for our events at the Addison Gallery and the Andover Historical Society. The state LWV's Fall Conference covered a lot of ground with excellent speakers. Thanks, folks!

Please feel free to contact me at 978-474-0176 with any suggestions or questions that you have about the League. I hope to see you Dec. 1 at the Holiday Dinner. Happy Holidays to all! – *Peggy Kruse*

## Sustainability/Natural Resources

*By C. Joyce Ringleb*

The sustainability committee held two very successful education events this past month. The first, November 8, at Edgewood, North Andover, was on water quality, quantity and conservation that we co-hosted with the residents of Edgewood. The audience was very attentive throughout. Willard Robinson videotaped the presentation and the tape is available to anyone who is interested.

At our second event, November 15, at The Savings Bank in Andover, Beth Tener of Sustainable Step New England discussed sustainable practices for the home. A

### LWV Andover/North Andover 2004-2005 MEMBERSHIP

\_\_\_\_\_ \$55 Individual    \_\_\_\_\_ \$60 Contributing    \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 Sustaining    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 (and over) Patron  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$75 Household (2 persons in same household)    \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Senior Citizen (65 and over)  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$55 Associate Member (non-voting)

\_\_\_\_\_ 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.

Send checks payable to: **LWV OF ANDOVER/NORTH ANDOVER:**

**Membership, P.O. Box 514, Andover, MA 01810**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Interest \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you!** Jennessa Durrani, Membership, 978-470-3290

handout from that evening that presents strategic questions to help you move towards Sustainable practices is available on request or through the SSNE website [www.ssne.org](http://www.ssne.org). This event was also recorded for North Andover cable; an edited version will soon be available on request.

Our next meeting January 10, 7:30 PM, at The Savings Bank is open to all so please come and join a very energetic committee. In March, we will co-host a meeting with Parent to Parent – watch for it in the calendar.

In January, we will begin an update of the other indicators to building a sustainable community such as solid waste and recycling, which, as we enter budget season, will include a look at the:

*“Other Stabilization Fund”* When the LWV conducted the PAYT (pay as you throw) Study Unit last year, we learned about the 20-year contract between the Northeast Solid Waste Committee (NESWC) communities including Andover and the waste-to-energy incinerator. The contract ends in September 2005. The NESWC organization currently holds “Tip Fee Stabilization Funds” for each member town plus several smaller funds. The towns are drawing down the balances in these funds this year to reduce the cost of disposal. Any money remaining in these funds will revert to the towns at the end of the contract. Last year, at the time of the study Andover’s share was over \$3 million dollars in the NESWC Stabilization Fund.

And in closing, if you have items you don’t need any longer that are too good to put in the trash – here is a great website for you: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Freecycle\\_NorthAndoverMa](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Freecycle_NorthAndoverMa).

## Teens, Parties and Parents

The League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover is co-sponsoring with Andover CARES and Parent to Parent a forum on teen parties and parental liability. The forum is free and open to the public and will not be on cable or taped for later broadcast; it will be Thursday, January 13, 7:00 PM, at the Andover Library.

The focus of the discussion will be:

- what motivates adolescents to participate in out-of-control parties;
- how the parties come to occur;
- how they may be facilitated by parents and other adults;
- the parents’ liability if they find themselves “hosting” a party where teens have access to alcohol;
- what to do if it happens to your child or in your home.

Speakers include Mike Marcoux, Andover High School guidance counselor, Bill Fahey, Director of Andover Youth Services, and representatives from the Essex County District Attorney and the Andover Police.

Parents of teens, and even of pre-teens, should attend this meeting. Come and hear exactly what *could* happen to any of our children.

## Reproductive Choice

*By Faith Johnson*

In the midst of the post election gloom that has settled upon proponents of a woman’s right to decide when or if she will become a mother, I see two small rays of hope. On the national level, the chairperson of Republicans for Choice, Ann Stone, has told Carl Rove, only half in jest, that there would be revolution in the streets if Roe is overturned and she thinks he believes it. We all should communicate our agreement with Ann Stone to Carl Rove and the President.

On the state level, the resignation of Tom Finneran from the House of Representatives should mean that many bills that he blocked will come to the floor. We expect that legalizing the morning after pill will be one of those bills. Pro-choice lobbyists are confident that if the bill is voted upon, it will pass. However, your support with letters or e-mail would be helpful.

## LWVM Voting Systems Study

*By Diana Walsh*

The Massachusetts State League has asked the local Leagues including ours to participate in a comprehensive study of different voting systems, their advantages and disadvantages. The state League has compiled material on systems used in elections for: 1) a single office, such as plurality-majority systems, two-round runoff and instant runoff systems, and 2) voting systems used in elections for legislative bodies such as proportional representation, list systems, mixed member systems and choice voting.

We will have two informational units (attend one) on January 18 and 22. Then we will hold two consensus units (attend one) on January 25 and 29 ( See calender for times, the locations have not yet been determined but will be posted on our website calendar ([www.lwv-andovers.org](http://www.lwv-andovers.org)) when determined and printed in the January Bulletin calendar. The consensus questions will be printed in the January Bulletin.

Given the problems we continue to have across the

U.S. with our current voting systems, this study will help us understand the advantages and disadvantages of our system and some alternatives.

To get you started, the following article, from the Voting Systems study materials posted on the state website ([www.lwvma.org](http://www.lwvma.org)), contains information about systems used in elections to a single office. Also included are two very interesting charts (pages 8-9) that show the number of women in legislatures around the world, the voting systems in use in those countries and statistics about voter participation and voting system in those countries.

### **Voting Systems for Election to a Single Office**

The American election system is in trouble. The cynicism is so deep that many people do not even show up at the polls. Only 37% of the electorate voted in the congressional elections of 2002.

Political scientists and politicians are attempting to reinvigorate the system by advancing campaign finance reform, term limits, and voting by mail. According to polls, voters are disillusioned with the choices available to them, the negative campaigning and mudslinging, and the lack of discussion of the issues. Less than 44% of the electorate think elections are fair to the voter. Recently voting systems are being examined and discussed by political parties, states, and citizen action groups as possible ways to counter this alienation.

#### **Voting Systems**

The information in this article is designed to help you learn about different voting systems. A voting system is the set of procedures used to elect people to public office. The particular system used is important because it determines not only how we vote but how the votes are counted, and ultimately, who is elected, who runs the government, what policies are implemented, and who suffers and who gains from those policies.

This article talks about voting systems that are used in elections for single offices, that is, in elections where the candidates are all running for one office such as the governorship or the state treasurer.

The voting systems described here can also be used for district elections for legislative bodies, such as electing state representatives or state senators. This article will cover many of the advantages and disadvantages of each use; however, this is *not* a full discussion of the possible voting systems for legislative bodies. Further possibilities will be covered in a future article. This one will focus on the uses of these systems for single offices.

Voting systems for single offices fall into two categories: plurality-majority systems and majority systems. The

two most-often used majority systems are two-round runoff voting and instant runoff voting, or IRV.

#### **Plurality-majority voting systems**

Plurality-majority is the oldest voting system. This is the system most used in the United States and most familiar to us. Basically voters vote for one candidate and the candidate with the most votes wins. This system is often called “winner-take-all” or “first past the post.” If more than two candidates are in the race, the candidate with the most votes wins, even if she receives less than a majority – that is, even if the candidate gets less than 50% plus 1 of the votes. In this case, the winner has received a plurality of the votes.

#### **History of Plurality-Majority Voting**

Britain was using plurality-majority voting in the 16th century, and the United States inherited it. As European countries in the 18th and 19th centuries were becoming parliamentary democracies, almost all used plurality-majority voting systems. Most European democracies have since moved away from this system.

Until 1842, most of the states voted their entire Congressional delegation as one statewide at large district. Then Congress passed legislation mandating single-member districts to ensure that all representatives of a state would not be elected from one geographic section.

The following lists the arguments made in favor and against the plurality-majority voting system by its supporters and its critics. Please note that some of these arguments are based on fact; others are opinions.

#### **Advantages of the plurality-majority voting system**

- Because the system is so common, *administrators feel comfortable* with it, find it easy to use and vote counting is straightforward.
- Plurality-majority voting systems have the advantage of being simple, *easy to use* and easy to understand – just mark the ballot for your preferred candidate.
- The single member district puts emphasis on *geographical representation* and helps ensure a voice for varying sections that may have special characteristics or problems.
- Plurality-majority has reinforced the two-party system, leading to *single-party legislative majorities* and to an efficient government, not dependent on coalitions of a number of parties.
- Depending on the racial or ethnic makeup of a district, there may be *some minority representation* especially if they are geographically concentrated.

#### **Disadvantages of the plurality-majority voting system**

- The *majority rule is violated* when a candidate wins with percentages less than 50%. As an example, in 1998 in the Massachusetts 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District primary election, Michael Capuano won over nine other candidates with only 23% of the vote. He may have won because he was the strongest candidate, but maybe because he was from

## ***TELL A TEACHER TODAY!***

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Citizen Education Fund  
announces the

### **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Online Student Essay Contest for Massachusetts grades 4-12**

**Go to [www.lwvma.org](http://www.lwvma.org) for essay questions, rules & prize info**

**A teacher/advisor of the winners in grades 4-12  
will receive a classroom educational grant.**

**Winners will receive U.S. Savings Bonds and invitations to read their essays  
in Faneuil Hall on April 10, 2005.**

**Watch for more details about this special awards event.**

**Contest Deadline is February 28, 2005**

***The Online Student Essay Contest is funded by Bank of America***

the largest city, or maybe because the other nine candidate divided a majority that opposed his nomination.

- In a race with three or more candidates in which the winner receives less than 50% of the vote, the *majority of voters did not support the winner*. This can lead to unfair party representation, for example, in races for legislative seats in which one party captures, say, 55% of the vote statewide but 75% of the seats.
- Plurality-majority voting makes it *more difficult for minority groups and supporters of third parties to be represented* in proportion to their numbers.
- Political parties manipulate the districts, often referred to as *gerrymandering*, to arrange it so that the party in power gets most (or all) of the offices.
- This system leads to many seats that are *safe seats* with a lack of competition. This discourages voter turnout since the voter often feels his vote won't make a difference.
- A plurality-majority voting system *may discourage sincere voting* because voters may fear that a vote for a candidate with weak support will not help elect a winner. Sincere voting is when voters vote for their real choice and do not feel pressured to vote for a candidate they think has a better chance of winning.
- Votes for a candidate with *weak support may spoil a win for the potentially stronger candidate*. For example, in a three-candidate election, 10% of voters vote for Candidate A, 43% vote for Candidate B and 47% vote for Candidate C. Voters for A would prefer B over C, but C wins with 47% of the vote even though a majority of the voters are not supporters.
- Plurality-majority voting reinforces a two-party system and thus leads to two viable candidates. In these races, *negative campaigning* may seem an easy and good strategy to turn people away from one's opponent.

- Substantial numbers of citizens may feel they have *no real representation*. As many as 66.6% in a three candidate race and higher percentages in races with more candidates may oppose the person who has won the race to represent them.

#### **Majority Voting Systems**

Majority voting systems can be subdivided into two different systems. Runoff voting systems are types of majority voting systems used to ensure that the winning candidate has a majority, not just a plurality of the vote. The most common is the two-round runoff system, which is used in several southern states for their federal and state elections and for many local elections. It has also been used for mayor in various cities such as San Francisco. This system is also used in France.

#### **Two-round runoff voting system**

In a two-round voting systems, there are two rounds of voting, usually separated by a few weeks. In the first round, voters mark their ballot for one candidate. If a candidate gets a majority – that is, wins 50% + 1 of the votes – a winner is declared and there isn't a second voting round. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes, then only the top two vote-getters from the first round are placed on the ballot for the second round – the runoff election. For example, in the first round of voting let's say there are six candidates, but none of them receive more than 50% of the vote. A runoff vote is then needed, and when voters go to the polls for the runoff, they will find the names of only the top two vote-getters on the ballot. After this election, one of the two candidates will get a majority and be the elected winner.

The two-round runoff system shares some of the same advantages and disadvantages of the plurality-majority system. The following lists the arguments made in favor and

against this system by its supporters and its critics. Please note that some of these arguments are based on fact; others are opinions.

#### **Advantages of the two-round runoff voting system**

- Runoff elections *eliminate spoilers*. A candidate's chances of winning will not be hurt due to votes for another candidate with less support but with similar positions.
- The winner is guaranteed *majority support*.
- *A legislative mandate* is given by a majority election.
- *Sincere voting* is encouraged in the first round. Sincere voting is when voters vote for their real choice and do not vote for a candidate they think has a better chance of winning.
- *More votes are "effective,"* that is, since a majority and not a plurality is required; at least 50% + 1 votes lead to the election of a winner.
- There can be *less negative campaigning* during the first round of voting. Candidates do not want to alienate any voter who might vote for him/her in the runoff election.

#### **Disadvantages of the two-round runoff voting system**

- Significantly *lower voter turnout* in the second election occurred in 67% of all state and federal runoffs.
- A second round of voting *adds to the public expense of administering elections*. The cost is estimated at \$1 to \$2 per resident. There are also the expenses to the two candidates running in a second election. Thus this system undermines campaign finance reform.
- *A possible winner could be eliminated*. Because the top two finishers in the first election are on the runoff ballot, it is possible that the third-place finisher could have enough support to win if other candidates had not been in the race.

#### **Instant Runoff Voting**

IRV also known as majority preferential voting. According to Hendrik Hertzberg, author of two books, *Monopoly Elections* and *Candidates*, "The voting (for IRV) is as simple as the counting the vote is complicated, but that's what computers are for."

#### **How IRV Works**

When there are three or more candidates for an office, voters rank the candidates as to their first, second, third, etc. choice. If no candidate receives a majority (50% + 1) of the first-place votes in the first count, a series of runoff counts are conducted as follows:

1. The candidate who received the lowest number of votes is eliminated.
2. Ballots that gave first place to the eliminated candidate are marked so that their original second choice is counted as first choice, the original third choice becomes second choice, etc.
3. Ballots are then recounted.
4. If this retabulation produces a candidate with a majority of first-place votes, then that candidate is the winner.

5. If no candidate receives a majority, the process (steps 1 through 4) is repeated until a candidate with a majority emerges.

#### **History of IRV**

Instant Runoff Voting was invented in the 1870s by a professor at MIT. Australia adopted the system early and uses it still. IRV election laws were first adopted in the U.S. in 1912, and versions were used for party primaries in four states – Florida, Indiana, Maryland, and Minnesota. During the 1930s, IRV played little role in selecting primary winners because most winners received a majority of the vote. The next major use of IRV came in 1975 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. A third party emerged, contributing to the likelihood that a candidate would be elected with less than a majority. When IRV was used, the first African-American mayor was elected. The IRV law was challenged in court but was upheld as constitutional.

IRV has been used in Ireland and Australia for some time. The Mayor of London is now elected with IRV. It has recently been adopted in San Francisco and Vancouver, WA, city elections, as well as in Santa Clara County elections. Currently, legislatures in California, Hawaii, New Mexico, Massachusetts, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin are considering instant runoff voting. In 2002, voters in Alaska defeated an initiative to implement IRV statewide.

The following lists the arguments made in favor and against IRV by its supporters and its critics. Please note that some of these arguments are based on fact; others are opinions.

#### **Advantages of the IRV system**

- A candidate elected by a majority of the voters has a *higher degree of political legitimacy* than one elected by a plurality.
- Minority votes are transferred instead of discarded, thus *eliminating the spoiler* effect of third-party votes that occurs in plurality voting.
- Voters are more likely to have the opportunity to vote for their *true preference* because IRV encourages more candidates to run.
- *More competitive elections* may result in increased voter turnout as minor party supporters feel their vote will be acknowledged in some way.
- Multiparty systems may emerge, offering voters a *wider choice of candidates* and bringing about legislative bodies that more closely represent the variety of views of the electorate.
- The expense of *runoff elections is eliminated*, since voters have already expressed their choices for the second rounds. This is effective campaign finance reform.
- *Less negative campaigning* and mudslinging may take place because candidates know that winning may require the second- and third-choice vote of their opponents' sup-

porters.

- Voters can vote for their true preference without fear that their vote will help elect their least favorite candidate.
- Instant runoff voting *cannot be manipulated* because indicating a second and third choice can never hurt your first choice.

**Disadvantages of the IRV system**

- A thorough, extensive and equitable voter education effort is required to ensure that voters understand how IRV works. This is an added one-time expense to the public.
- Election administrators would need retraining to master the process of transferring the ballots. In jurisdictions where ballots are hand-counted, IRV ballots will take more time to count than counting ballots in a majority-plurality vote but will take less time than would be required for a runoff election. Software to count IRV ballots is available for all computer voting (including scanning) equipment.
- Voters accustomed to plurality elections might be disturbed if the candidate with the largest number of first-choice votes is defeated in a later round of counting.
- IRV voting does not guarantee that the winner will receive a majority of votes cast. This is possible if voters fail to mark enough preferences or if remaining transfer preferences are for eliminated candidates.

Watch for additional informational articles both in this Bulletin and in the *Massachusetts Voter*.


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**Women in Legislatures Around the World**  
 (“PR” refers to a having a form of proportional representation. “District” refers to use of winner-take-all, single seat districts electing one representative. “Mixed” refers to a mix of systems.)

Country	Women	Election Date	System
Sweden	5.3%	02	PR
Denmark	38%	11/01	PR
Netherlands	36.7%	1/03	PR
Finland	36.5%	3/99	PR
Norway	36.4%	9/01	PR
Iceland	35%	5/99	PR
Austria	33.9%	11/02	PR
Germany	32.2%	9/02	PR*
South Africa	29.8%	6/99	PR
Spain	28.3%	3/00	PR
Bulgaria	26.2%	6/01	PR
Australia	25.3%	11/01	District\$
Belgium	23%	6/99	PR
Switzerland	23%	10/99	PR
Latvia	21%	10/02	PR
Poland	20.2%	9/01	PR
Portugal	19.1%	3/02	PR
Slovakia	19.3%	9/02	PR
U'd Kingdom	17.9%	6/01	District#
Estonia	17.8%	3/99	PR
Czech Repub.	17%	6/02	PR
United States	14.3%	11/02	District#
Ireland	13.3%	5/02	PR***
France	12.2%	6/02	District\$
Italy	11.5%	5/01	Mixed**
Lithuania	10.6%	10/0	PR
Hungary	9.8%	4/02	Mixed
Greece	8.7%	4/00	PR
Russia	7.6%	12/99	Mixed*

\* 50% by single-seat, plurality election  
 \*\* 75% by single-seat, plurality election  
 \*\*\* STV Voting  
 # Single-seat districts, elected by plurality  
 \$ Single-seat districts, with majority provision  
 Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union and The Center for Voting and Democracy

**BLACKDOG**  
  
 ph: 603.898.0868  
 fx: 603.898.0821  
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 Salem, NH 03079  
 www.blackdogbuilders.com  
**DESIGN  
 BUILD  
 REMODEL**



## Voter Turnout Around the World

Country	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	2000	Average	System
Italy		92%		91%		87%				90%	Mixed**
Iceland	89%				88%					89%	PR
Greece			86%			84%				85%	PR
Belgium	85%				83%					84%	PR
Sweden	83%			84%						84%	PR
Australia			83%			82%				83%	PR***
Denmark				82%				83%		83%	PR
Chile			82%							82%	PR
Argentina	89%		78%		80%			78%		81%	PR
Turkey	80%				79%					80%	PR
Portugal	78%				79%					79%	PR
Spain			77%			81%				79%	PR
Austria	80%			76%	79%					78%	PR
Brazil				77%						77%	PR
Norway			74%				77%			76%	PR
Netherlands				75%						75%	PR
Germany				72%						72%	PR*
United Kingdom		75%					69%			72%	District#
Finland	71%				71%					71%	PR
Ireland		74%						67%		71%	PR***
Thailand	58%				64%	65%				62%	District&
Ecuador				66%		68%		48%		61%	PR
France			61%				60%			61%	District\$
Canada			64%				56%			60%	District#
Luxembourg				60%						60%	PR
Mexico	50%			66%			54%		60%	58%	Mixed**
Peru					58%					58%	PR
Bolivia			50%				62%			56%	Mixed**
Venezuela			50%							50%	Mixed**
Dominican Republic				31%		62%				47%	PR
United States		55%		39%		49%		35%	47%	45%	District#
Switzerland	40%				36%					38%	PR
Colombia	26%			29%				40%		32%	PR
Guatemala				14%	33%					24%	PR

\* 50% by single-seat, plurality election    \*\* 75% by single-seat, plurality election

\*\*\* STV Voting    # Single-seat districts, elected by plurality    \$ Single-seat districts, with majority provision

Source: International Institute for Democracy and Electoral

## Observer Corps

### Andover Planning Board

*By Gail Mann*

#### Discussions and public hearings: October 26

**Powder Mill:** Tocci Building Corporation representatives presented samples of brick, grouting and roofing materials to the Board. Discussion indicated approval of the selected samples of field and accent brick, grouting and shingle material for roofing.

**Osgood Street off Frontage Road:** Stephen Colyer submitted an Advisory Report to approve Article 24 of the 2004 Town Meeting authorizing the Board of Selectmen to discontinue the dead-end section of Osgood Street between Frontage Road and the I-93 right-of-way. Mr. Colyer re-

ported that the dead-end portion is not used by the public and has been as a secondary access by the Professional Center for Child Development which requested and submitted Article 24.

#### Continued Public Hearings

**Reynolds Street Definitive Subdivision Plan:** On July 13, 2004, the Board convened concurrent public hearings on an application submitted by Vale Realty for a subdivision plan on land owned now or formerly by Timothy Barash. These hearings have continued through numerous sessions to ensure compliance with subdivision rules and regulations. Most recently, the issue of conformance to design standards and its impact on the surrounding neighborhood has become the focus of the hearings. Numerous neighbors and abut-

ters attended this October 26 hearing to voice their opinion regarding road access, legal rights for accessing a private way, potential build-out of the neighborhood and relocation of proposed drainage. A number of the abutters have expressed a desire to connect their driveways to the portion of Reynolds Street that is now a private way to be used by the proposed subdivision. Neighbors attending the hearing indicated that the proposed subdivision would have a negative impact on their neighborhood. Public Hearings will continue to be held at future Planning Board Meetings to further discuss these issues.

**Swan Crossing, 211-212 Beacon Street:** Modification of Special Permit for New Multi-Family Construction-Attached Cluster and Special Permit for Earth Movement: Based on concerns of the Fire and Police Department regarding adequate emergency access, CA Investment Trust has proposed a 30-foot wide emergency access road along the perimeter of Andover Country Club parking lot which will require an access easement for the 30-foot wide easement limited to emergency vehicles only. Also discussed was the need for enhanced landscaping to buffer Route 495. The Public Hearing on Swan Crossing was moved to the November 23 meeting.

**Crystal Circle Definitive Subdivision Plan:** Proposed changes to the original subdivision plan were submitted at the October 12 meeting. The original plan was approved in August 1992 and is subject to the terms of a warrant article (Article 80) approved at 1996 Town Meeting authorizing an intermunicipal agreement between Andover and Tewksbury for exchange of utility services, along with understandings regarding plowing of the roadway, etc. The changes presented on October 12, are significant changes to the conditions approved in 1992 and the 1996 Town Meeting warrant. At a minimum, the Planning Board will evaluate the developer's proposals as a formal modification to the original plan to be reviewed in the normal review process. The modified plan will need to meet all current design standards of the Town's zoning and subdivision regulations and should undergo a complete review of legal implications and liabilities associated with the utilities and the private roadway.

### **Special Planning Session, November 16**

Over 25 Zoning Bylaws have been identified by the Planning Board and Staff for consideration and review. The Board and Staff will distill what needs to be done and prioritize laws for review, in addition to looking at new ways to triage and reduce procedures associated with various bylaws.

On November 16, the Board focused on Bylaw 7.7 Special Permit for Context Sensitive Development. This bylaw is a high priority due to the number of permits for small subdivisions that are candidates for this type of special permit. As town land becomes scarcer, the need to ap-

ply context sensitive considerations becomes a critical factor in protecting the open space and rural characteristics of Andover. Present at the meeting was a representative of the Zoning Board of Appeals who concurred with the need for investigation and more definitive specifics for context sensitive development. The Town wants to be sure that all developers have sufficient information to ensure that each development is being considered equally based on the same criteria. The Planning Board and staff noted that it would be beneficial to include representatives from Zoning as well as Public Works as this complex topic continues to be discussed.

The regulation regarding the width of private roadways to support context sensitive subdivisions was discussed at length due to considerations regarding emergency vehicles and the potential liability for the Town should a catastrophe such as fire or death occur due to lack of proper access. Other issues discussed included the lot size and footprint of the house and how to protect property of abutters, traffic conditions, impact on the neighborhood and the need to protect open space. The Board was in agreement that all requirements of the Andover Subdivision Rules and Regulations must be met and that this permit is not intended to replace any portion of those regulations.

Board members indicated there is a need for continued discussion of this important topic and the need to educate and inform the public before any warrant can be submitted to Town Meeting. The Staff will revise and edit the current version of 7.7 Special Permit for Context Sensitive Development and continue the review at future planning sessions.

## **Andover Townwide PTO**

*by Diane Hender*

**November 12** Dr. Marcia O'Neill, assistant superintendent, presented Andover's MCAS results for 2004, including the "high stakes" 10<sup>th</sup> grade tests for which a passing score in both English Language Arts and Math is required for high school graduation. The levels, in a range of 200 to 280, are: *advanced* (260-280) indicating a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the subject matter; *competent* (240-259) indicating a solid understanding, *needs improvement* (220-239) indicating partial understanding, and *warning* (200-219) indicating minimal understanding.

MCAS data are reported in four formats: raw scores; scaled scores (200-280); performance levels; and test item analyses. This last method enables districts to identify the strengths and weaknesses of individual students, to assess and modify school-house or system-wide curricula, and to provide summary reports to parents and the community.

No Child Left Behind requires that, by 2013, all students be at a competent level of proficiency as measured by their state's assessments; "needs improvement" no longer

will be considered passing. In the interim, districts must achieve annual yearly progress by either attaining their states' targets or demonstrating incremental improvement. Andover has met the target, although the number of Andover students at the advanced/competent and NI/warning levels over the past three years has been constant overall, varying up or down by only a few percentage points. Of special concern are grade 4 Math and grade 8 Math and Science & Technology/Engineering, although the figures are consistent with state statistics. The technology/engineering strand appears to be the area of greatest weakness locally. It is a resource-heavy curriculum for which funding will have to be sought from the private sector.

Of Andover's 447 10<sup>th</sup>-grade students who took the MCAS exams in the spring of 2004, 97% satisfied both the Math and English Language Arts requirements; 1% (5) students achieved competency only in English, 1% (3) only in Math, and 1% (6) failed both. For these students, now juniors, and the 28 new-to-the-district seniors who either have never taken or not previously passed MCAS, Andover High School is providing tutoring and small group workshops. There is particular concern for students currently in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade who are out-of-state transfers or for whom English is not the primary language.

Although most of the tests are given in the spring, the MCAS schedule begins in September with English in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Currently, Reading is tested in grade 3, English Language Arts in grades 4, 7, and 10, Math in grades 4, 6, 8, and 10, and Science & Technology/Engineering in grades 5, 8 and 10. A Social Studies "test of the test" is being added in the spring of 2005 for students in grades 5, 7, and 10. Undoubtedly, testing compromises teaching time, and many educators agree that these paper and pencil assessments should be just one of several means used to evaluate student achievement.

Andover school administrators also are concerned about the impact of reduced resources – personnel, textbooks, instructional leadership – throughout the district. They are beginning to see the effect of three years of cuts and pull-backs, and are worried further about the financial implications of No Child Left Behind. The cost of full implementation could easily outpace Special Education costs. An ad hoc committee was suggested to statistically analyze the impact to date of MCAS and NCLB to determine what resources have been redirected from the curriculum to meet the requirements.

**Article 1, Special Town Meeting** During a discussion of Special Town Meeting, particularly Article 1, the issue of lack of support was raised. Suggested reasons for the negative vote included a lack of trust in government, the feeling that teachers already are paid enough, and the belief that the Town has the money and should give a larger percent-

age to the schools.

**Collaboration with Realtors** Local realtors have expressed a desire for more information about, and interaction with, Andover schools. Dr. Bach will be making a presentation before their organization, and some of their group will undertake a staffing/space needs/capacity study of the district. In addition, the realtors have requested contacts from each of the buildings to serve as resources for parents contemplating moving to Andover.

Next meeting: 9:30 AM, Friday, December 10.

## Membership

*By Jennessa Durrani*

Welcome a new member – and update your handbook:

Elizabeth Klaiman

Abbotts Pond - 12 Bryan Lane

Andover, MA 01810 978-475-6063

## New to the League?

Are you new to the League and would like to become more involved? Here are some upcoming events that you could try out:

- Join us at the monthly Panera's lunch: This informal social gathering is the 14<sup>th</sup> of each month (or the Friday before the 14<sup>th</sup> when the 14<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend). In the past, new members have taken advantage of this lunch to meet other League members and find a niche for themselves. We generally put a booklet or tote sack with the LWV logo at the table, so that newcomers can identify the League group. The next lunch will be Tues., Dec. 14, 11:30 AM at Panera's at the intersection of Rts. 133 and 114 in North Andover.
- Come to the annual Holiday Dinner, Weds. Dec. 1 at 6:30 PM at the Andover Historical Society (signup info page 2 in this Bulletin). You can meet other League members during the social hour and dinner, following which you can learn about the activities of the state LWV.
- Join us for an informal discussion about teen parties, drinking and parental responsibility (Jan. 13) or the Dover Amendment (Feb. 10).
- Help decide what position the League should take regarding voting systems. Join us in January for the Voting Systems consensus meetings (see calendar for time and date, locations still to be announced).
- Call Jennessa Durrani, membership chair, 978-470-3290 to discuss upcoming events. We can arrange for someone to meet you before one of the League events and accompany you to a meeting.

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## State Position Review at the Holiday Dinner December 1

We will review and vote to retain, drop or update the LWVM public policy positions.

We will also suggest one new issue for study/concurrence on the state level. During the discussion, please feel free to bring up any news items that relate to the policy positions or call Stefani Goldshein (978-470-3140) before December 1 with any thoughts on items you would like to see emphasized. Please bring this sheet with you to the dinner, along with your red handbook. The LWVM Program In Brief is:

			<i>Government: Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive; that has a fair and adequate fiscal basis; that protects individual liberties established by the constitution; and that assures opportunities for citizen participation in government decision-making.... (LWVUS)</i>
			<i>Citizen rights: Protection of basic constitutional rights. Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision-making. (LWVUS)</i>
			<i>County government and regional planning: An effective state government. An intermediate level of government to solve regional problems (either through a revised county structure or an emerging regionalism). Regional planning on a statewide basis. High visibility for county and/or regional government. Home rule for counties.</i>
			<i>Courts: A judicial system that provides equal justice for all through effective, modern administration, qualified judicial personnel, a strengthened probation service, and procedures and practices that ensure due process of law.</i>
			<i>Election process (Campaign financing) Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process. (LWVUS)</i>
			<i>Executive Branch: A strong executive branch with lines of authority and responsibility clearly defined.</i>
			<i>Fiscal Policy: Support of a state and local tax structure that will have an equitable impact on taxpayers and adequately support state services with consideration of the effect on the state's economy. Distribution of state aid in a manner that will equalize municipal resources. A comprehensive state budget system that will provide a basis for the evaluation of the cost and effectiveness of current state programs and long-range capital expenditures. Up-to-date, uniform and accurate property valuations. Efficient management of the revenue collection systems.</i>
			<i>Home rule: An effective state government. Home rule for Massachusetts cities and towns in local matters.</i>
			<i>Legislature: An effective state government. A strong and highly visible legislative branch that is districted on the basis of population into contiguous, compact, single-member districts by an appointed, bipartisan commission, and that maintains its traditional role as a democratic forum.</i>
			<i>Public personnel: A public personnel system based upon merit principles and enlightened practices.</i>
			<i>Voting rights: Protect the right of every citizen to vote; encourage all citizens to vote. (LWVUS)</i>
			<i>Natural Resources: Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest by recognizing the interrelationship of air quality, energy, land use, waste management and water resources. (LWVUS)</i>
			<i>Social Policy: Promote social and economic justice, secure equal rights for all and combat discrimination and poverty. (LWVUS)</i>
			<i>Child abuse prevention and treatment: The prevention of child abuse and neglect. The protection and care of children experiencing abuse and neglect.</i>
			<i>Corrections: A sound corrections system for the rehabilitation of the adult and juvenile offender.</i>

Retain	Update	Drop	
			interrelationship of air quality, energy, land use, waste management and water resources. (LWVUS)
			<b>Social Policy: Promote social and economic justice, secure equal rights for all and combat discrimination and poverty. (LWVUS)</b>
			<b>Child abuse prevention and treatment: The prevention of child abuse and neglect. The protection and care of children experiencing abuse and neglect.</b>
			<b>Corrections: A sound corrections system for the rehabilitation of the adult and juvenile offender.</b>
			<b>Day care: A coordinated state policy for quality day care for the children of Massachusetts with adequate funding for implementation by the responsible state agencies</b>
			<b>Domestic Violence: The prevention of domestic violence. A strong statewide response to domestic violence that is integrated, interdisciplinary, and adequately funded, involving all segments of the criminal justice system, the medical community, the schools, social services, and the private sector, with a primary focus on the safety of victims.</b>
			<b>Education: LWVUS has acted under the LWVUS position supporting equal access to education. State positions in education address: statewide standards, equal opportunity, fiscal autonomy, school committee/teacher relationships, higher education, special education and special education financing, curriculum standards, assessment, graduation requirements, assistance.</b>
			<b>Equality of opportunity: Support equal access to education, employment and housing. Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA. (LWVUS)</b>
			<b>Handgun control: Elimination of the private possession of handguns and assault weapons.</b>
			<b>Health care: An affordable health care system that provides equal access to quality health care for all.</b>
			<b>Legalized casino gambling: Opposition to the establishment of legalized casino gambling in Massachusetts.</b>
			<b>Meeting basic human needs: support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families. (LWVUS)</b>
			<b>Reproductive choices: Freedom of individuals to make informed reproductive decisions.</b>
			<b>Transportation: A statewide public transportation service, accessible to all, that provides access to jobs, housing and services while creating minimum disruption of the environment. Public monies allocated flexibly to meet public transportation needs.</b>

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# League of Women Voters Andover/North Andover Calendar

## DECEMBER

- Wed 1 **Holiday Dinner** and LWV State Position Review – 6:30 PM, Historical Society, 97 Main St., Andover  
 Fri 3 Centers Study – 9:30 AM, Lollie Sumburg, 4 Woburn St, Andover  
 Tue 14 Lunch and Conversation – 11:30 AM Panera’s (Rte 133 & 125)  
 Wed 15 January Bulletin Deadline (email frishma@comcast.net)

## JANUARY

- Wed 5 Board Meeting – 9:15 AM, Amy Janovsky, 6 Snowberry Road, Andover  
 Mon 10 Sustainability/Natural Resources – 7:00 PM, The Savings Bank, 84 Main St., Andover  
 Wed 12 Running for Office Workshop – 7:00 PM, Andover Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Bartlet St.  
 Thu 13 **Discussion: Teens, Parties and Parents** – 7:00 PM (co-sponsor Parent-to-Parent) Andover Library  
 Fri 14 Lunch and Conversation – 11:30 AM Panera’s (Rte 133 & 125)  
 Wed 19 February Bulletin Deadline (email frishma@comcast.net)

**Voting Systems** (attend one of each): *Informational Units – 7:00 PM Tue Jan 18, 10:00 AM, or Jan 22; Consensus Units – 7:00 PM, or Tue Jan 25, 10:00 AM Jan 29, mark your calendar - locations TBA*

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