

# Local League Positions - Andover/North Andover

Underline: Andover only    *Italics: North Andover only*

The League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover supports:

## Town Government

### I. Government

- A. The Selectman-Town Manager form of government.
- B. Adding a recall amendment for elected officials to the Town Charter provided
  - 1. The amendment is written so as to prevent its capricious use  
and
  - 2. The amendment can be added without electing a charter commission.
- C. *The need for a town charter with a written definition of duties and responsibilities for town officials and major town boards.*
- D. *Coordination of related town boards wherever possible.*
- E. *A Charter defining which town officials should be elective and policy-making and which should be filled by hired professional specialists.*

### II. Town Meeting

- A. Open Town Meeting.
- B. Publicizing the procedure for citizens to include items on the warrant.
- C. In advance of the Town Meeting, annual publication of moderators' rules and procedures that are not *Robert's Rules* in the Finance Committee Report and in various media. Moderators should give a brief explanation of customs and procedures of Town Meeting at the start of each meeting.
- D. Reasonable hours for opening and adjourning Town Meeting with no new business introduced after 10:00-10:30 PM unless a majority of those present vote to do so.
- E. Delayed cablevision of Town Meeting and archiving of the video tapes, both financed by the town.
- F. There should be no quorum requirement for Town Meeting.
- G. Consent agendas.
- H. Improved public education about warrant articles prior to Town Meeting through town media, civic organizations and private media, and ensure distribution of the warrant to every household.
- I. The use of pro and con microphones, at moderator's discretion, when appropriate.
- J. Strict enforcement of time limits for speakers, presenters and communicators.
- K. Inclusion of recommendations of appropriate boards in Finance Committee report/warrant, as required by law.
- L. Disclosure by speakers of any vested interest or the absence of any vested interest when speaking to an article, as required by town bylaw.
- M. Advocating for the expanded use of technology to make Town Meeting more user friendly.