



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF ANDOVER/NORTH ANDOVER**

Bulletin

www.lwv-andovers.org

February 2012

Steering Committee: Maureen Sundberg and Stefani Traina

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From Your Steering Committee

By Maureen Sundberg and Stefani Traina

Dear League Members,

We hope you'll mark your calendars and attend the February 29th program about political ads. Many thanks to Lois Karfunkel for approaching the League to sponsor what promises to be an informative and thought-provoking evening with Dr. Harry Wessel, Chair of the Political Science Department at Merrimack College.

Also, don't forget that the last day to register to vote in the March 6 presidential primary is **Wednesday, February 15**. To help alleviate some of the confusion about redistricting, Andover Town Clerk, Larry Murphy has written a guest column about Andover's newly drawn precincts. You may link to the information on polling places on the town's website by clicking [here](#).

Looking back to January, many thanks go to the organizers and participants in the Running for Office Workshop on January 18: Joyce Bradshaw, Larry Murphy, Paul Salafia, Brian Gross, and Michael Sullivan of OCPF. Thanks also go to Andover Library Director, Beth Mazin, for her informative talk on February 1st about what makes a 21st century library.

Both towns will hold elections on March 27 this year. Be sure to mark your calendars to attend our March 10 Candidates' Afternoon in Andover and our March 14 Candidates' Night in North Andover. Details about who is running for local office appear later in this Bulletin.

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Finally, we are 91 members strong as of January 31st. Thank you for your support of our local League. We've weathered some difficulties over the past several months, and we still need more volunteers if we are going to carry out all of our work. In the meantime, we are holding things together and looking forward to a lively election year and to providing opportunities for you to learn about the issues affecting your communities. If you value what we do, join us in planning some of our upcoming events. We'd love to have you.

Winter/Spring 2012 Calendar

For the most up-to-date calendar visit our [website](#).

February

- 15 Wed Last day to register to vote in MA Presidential Primary
- 16 Thu Ballardvale Fire Station Replacement Committee Public Meeting 7:00 p.m., Memorial Auditorium (see article for more details)
- 29 Wed Political Advertising and the Voter 7:00 p.m. Memorial Hall Library Dr. Harry Wessel, Merrimack College Department of Political Science

March

- 6 Tue MA Presidential Primary Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- 7 Wed Last Day to Register to vote in Andover & N Andover Town Elections
- 7 Wed Steering Committee Mtg, 12 Noon Panera Bread, Rtes 114&133
- 10 Sat Andover Candidates' Afternoon 1:00 p.m., Memorial Hall Library
- 14 Wed North Andover Candidates' Night 7:00 p.m., NA Senior Center
- 21 Wed Andover Budget Forum, 7:00 p.m. Memorial Hall Library
- 27 Tue Town Elections

April

- 30 Mon Andover Town Meeting - 1st night 7:00 p.m., AHS Field House

May

- 1 Tue Andover Town Meeting - 2nd night 7:00 p.m., AHS Field House

June

- 8-12 F-M LWVUS 50th Annual Convention Washington Hilton

12 Tue North Andover Town Meeting

Political Advertising and the Voter

by Lois Karfunkel

On Wednesday, February 29 at 7:00 p.m. at the Andover Memorial Hall Library, the League will be sponsoring an exciting and important discussion on the regulation of political advertising and the practical implications of false advertising by candidates and their supporters. The League is pleased to have Professor Harry Wessel, Chair of the Political Science Department, Merrimack College, a specialist in the role of mass media in politics, discuss this increasingly pressing issue. With the help of videos of some famous past political ads, Dr. Wessel will explore with us what role political advertising has in the political system and what are the parameters of permissible political advertising.

In this election year we are all aware of the enormous amount of political advertising, most of it negative, employed in an effort to win elections. And a continued onslaught of negative ads may be expected as the money to run them continues to be donated. Unlike candidates, third parties can raise unlimited amounts of cash whereas candidates are limited to donations of \$2,500 or less.

Now that political advertising has become a game-changer in political campaigning, thanks to the 2010 U.S. Supreme Court decision in the *Citizens United* case, it is important that voters understand the rules that regulate political advertising. To what extent do political ads influence voters? Do the same rules that apply to commercial advertising, where untrue and deceptive statements are illegal and subject to serious regulatory enforcement, apply as well to political ads? When are ads considered false? What recourse is there to the candidate who is subjected to allegedly defamatory claims? Where is the balance between free political speech and illegal political speech? And is there an effective remedy?

With the help of this program, the League hopes that when you next see a political advertisement on television -- and you can be sure you will see many of them during this hotly contested election year -- you will be better able to be an informed voter.

Presentation Regarding Replacement of

Ballardvale Fire Substation

by Becci Backman, Committee Member

Thursday, February 16, 7:00 p.m.
Memorial Auditorium (Doherty Middle School)

As a member of the Ballardvale Fire Station Replacement Committee (BFSC), I encourage you to attend a joint meeting hosted by the Board of Selectmen and School Committee on February 16 at the Doherty Middle School Auditorium. The BFSC will make a brief presentation and answer questions from the Board of Selectmen and School Committee. The floor will then be open for questions from the public to members of any of the committees.

The charge of the BFSC is to:

1. Determine whether the existing 120 year-old fire substation in Ballardvale needs to be replaced; and if so
2. Recommend where it should be located.

The answer to the first question is a resounding YES. The existing station is in very poor condition and is too small. It can accommodate only a small custom-built fire engine and a boat - there is no space for an ambulance. Not only should the station be replaced, but there is urgency to completing the replacement.

After 3 years of study, examining more than 40 potential sites, the BFSC has concluded that the location which best serves the needs of south Andover residents and businesses, and is the most economical to develop, is the corner of Woburn and Andover Streets, the site of the ball field beside South School. This site was recommended in a 2007 study prepared for the Town, and the BFSC, after independent analysis, agrees with the recommendation. The chief author of the 2007 study will be available at the meeting to make a brief presentation regarding updated statistics, and to answer questions.

Among the topics the BFSC has considered and will highlight at the presentation are:

1. The requirement, largely due to the railroad tracks running through Ballardvale, to relocate the fire substation to the east side of the tracks. The critical

issue is minimizing response times for fire and rescue calls.

2. Why other Town-owned properties are not viable options.

3. Requesting that the School Committee relinquish control of the ball field in exchange for Town-owned land behind South School.

4. The traffic and parking issues at South School.

5. Relocating the ball field to land behind South School.

Refer to the town [website](#) for additional information.

Voter Service News

by Stefani Traina

Local elections are an opportunity for interested residents to step up and serve their communities by running for office. The candidates in each town as of 5:00 p.m. on February 7 are:

Andover

Office	Candidate(s)
Moderator (1yr)	Sheila M. Doherty*
Board of Selectmen (3 yr) <i>2 open seats</i>	Larry Bruce Ann T. Cobleigh Daniel H. Kowalski Brian P. Major* Paul L.D. Russell, Jr.
School Committee (3 yr) <i>2 open seats</i>	David A. Birnbach* Ann W. Gilbert*
Gr. Lawrence Vocational Technical School Committee <i>1 open seat</i>	Marilyn Fitzgerald*
Punchard Free School Trustee (3 yr)	Earl G. Efinger* Eric Stubenhaus*

(2 yr)	Donald F. Schroeder James E. Sutton
(1yr)	John H. Atchison, Jr.*

North Andover

Office	Candidate(s)
Moderator (3 yr)	Ramsey A. Bahrawy Mark S. DiSalvo Francis Philip Macmillan, Jr.

Board of Selectmen (3 yr) <i>2 open seats</i>	Bill Gordon* Carl M. Reppucci Joe Edward Smith Richard M. Vaillancourt
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School Committee (3 yr) <i>2 open seats</i>	Laurie A. Burzlaff* Andrew Patrick McDevitt George Vozeolas
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North Andover Housing Authority
(unexpired term to 2014)
1 open seat Stephen C. Long
(Current Appointee)

*indicates Incumbent Candidate

Town of Andover Redistricting

by Larry Murphy Town Clerk

Effective January 1, 2012 Andover's precinct lines changed. Andover retains 9 precincts, but with new and different boundaries. Our state representative districts also changed. In addition, Andover is now split between the newly created 3rd and 6th Congressional Districts. The purpose of this article is to explain the redistricting process and the results.

Every ten years the Federal government conducts a national census; this was last done in 2010. The year following the Federal census, Massachusetts towns are required to review their precincts based on the Federal census population numbers. The idea is simple in concept. You take the population number

from the Federal census and divide that by the total number of precincts. This gives you the so-called "target population" for each precinct. No precinct can have more than 4,000 residents.

Andover's population according to the 2010 Federal census is 33,201. Dividing that by 9 we arrived at a target population for each precinct of 3,689 residents. In re-drawing the precincts we are permitted to vary the population for each precinct by plus or minus 5% of the target population. This means that each Andover precinct has to have a minimum of 3,505 residents and a maximum of 3,873 residents. Our goal was to maintain as nearly as possible the existing precinct boundary lines so as to impact the fewest number of voters. We were largely successful. Approximately 95% of Andover's registered voters will remain in their same voting precinct. Only about 5% of registered voters will be voting in a new precinct. Municipal reprecincting was completed state wide last summer.

State Districts

Once municipal reprecincting was completed the legislature turned to the task of redrawing the State Senatorial and Representative Districts. Andover remains in the 2nd Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District. We have seen a change in our State Representative Districts. Prior to the change Precincts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 9 were in the 17th Essex District while Precincts 1, 7 & 8 were in the 18th Essex District. The 17th and 18th Essex Districts were dramatically changed under the new redistricting plan. Precincts 2, 3 & 4 are now in the new 17th Essex District while Precincts 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, & 9 are now in the new 18th Essex District.

Maps of the new State Senate and Representative Districts can be found on the Massachusetts General Court web site at www.malegislature.gov by choosing "Redistricting" on the home page.

U.S Congressional Districts

Massachusetts lost a seat in the U.S. Congress based on the 2010 Federal census. The Massachusetts Congressional delegation was reduced from ten seats to nine seats. The Special Joint Committee on Redistricting, a joint committee of the Massachusetts Senate and House, was tasked with creating the new Congressional Districts. The Joint Committee chose to go with, as nearly as possible, zero deviation from

the "target population" for each new Congressional District. Of the nine new Congressional Districts created six have populations of 727,514 while three have populations of 727,515.

The Joint Committee's insistence on zero population deviation between Congressional Districts created unfortunate results for a number of Massachusetts communities, including Andover. Before redistricting, Andover had been entirely in the old 5th Congressional District. Andover now finds itself split between the newly created 3rd and 6th Congressional Districts. We are not just split along precinct lines. Andover, like nine other Massachusetts communities, finds itself with a split within its precincts between Congressional Districts.

Precincts 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6 are entirely within the new 3rd Congressional District. Precincts 1 & 8 are entirely within the new 6th Congressional District. Precinct 7 is split with roughly three-fourths of the population in the 3rd Congressional District and the remainder in the 6th Congressional District. Precinct 9 is also split with 3,610 residents of Precinct 9 in the 3rd Congressional District and one neighborhood of 14 residents in the 6th Congressional District.

Maps of the new 3rd and 6th Congressional Districts can be found on the Massachusetts General Court web site at www.malegislature.gov by choosing "Redistricting" on the home page.

The Special Joint Committee on Redistricting released its Congressional Districts redistricting plan on November 7th with a one week public comment period before it was scheduled to go to the full legislature for approval. I communicated with the Committee on November 10th expressing my concern with the plan, especially the inconvenience to the public, and the difficulties and additional cost involved with managing split precincts on election day. I pointed out to the Joint Committee that splitting Andover's Precincts 7 and 9 between the 3rd and 6th Congressional Districts could be avoided by allowing a 1/10 of 1% variation from the target populations for the 3rd and 6th Districts; and that Andover could be placed wholly within the 3rd Congressional District with a modest 1.12% variation from the target populations for these Districts. Despite my objections, and those of others with similar concerns, the plan was adopted by the

legislature and signed into law.

Splitting precincts between Congressional Districts presents challenges for elections with seats in the 3rd or 6th Congressional Districts on the ballot. In 2012 we have two such elections, the State Primary in September and the Presidential Election in November; (the March 6th Presidential Primary and the March 27th Annual Town Election do not have Congressional seats on the ballot).

Balloting

We will be using several different ballots for elections with Congressional races:

The ballot for Precincts 2, 3, & 4 will include the 17th Essex State Representative District and the 3rd Congressional District;

The ballot for Precincts 5, & 6 and most of Precincts 7 & 9 will include the 18th Essex State Representative District and the 3rd Congressional District;

The ballot for Precincts 1 & 8 and portions of Precincts 7 & 9 will include the 18th Essex State Representative District and the 6th Congressional District.

As you can see from the above, voters in Precincts 7 & 9 will not all receive the same ballot this year for the September State Primary Election or the November Presidential Election. We will take steps to educate the affected voters. Precinct 9 is the easier to deal with because of the small number of voters in that precinct who will be taking the ballot for the 6th Congressional District. I plan to reach out to those voters personally. Precinct 7 is more problematic because of the relatively large number of voters who will be receiving the ballot for the 6th Congressional District. We will have to divide Precinct 7 into two sub-precincts, 7A & 7B, with separate voter lists and check-in tables at the polling place. We will send out written notices to all affected households.

The new precinct map, including the Congressional Districts, can be found on the Town website at www.andoverma.gov. The map can be found in the "What's New" section of the home page by choosing "New Andover Voting Precincts". The map can also be found on the Town Clerk's web page. Voters can also search for their precinct by address by going to the

Town Clerk's web page. Under "Main Menu" on the Town web site home page; choose "Department Directory", then "Town Clerk", then "Precinct Search". This will bring you to the Secretary of the Commonwealth's web site where you can search for your precinct by address.

If you have questions please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 978-623-8255 or by e-mail at lmurphy@andoverma.gov or townclerk@andoverma.gov.

LWV ANA Nonpartisan Guidelines

Approved at June 2, 2004 Board Meeting
Re-adopted at September 7, 2011 Board Meeting

The following restrictions and permissions apply to activities at local, state, and national levels.

League President and/or Steering Committee and Voter Services Chair

The President and/or Steering Committee and the Voter Services chair MAY NOT:

- Circulate nominating petitions.
- Endorse a candidate.
- Display a candidate's yard sign.
- Attend or host a political function held for the purpose of introducing or fundraising for a candidate.
- Make a campaign contribution to a candidate (either above or below the reporting level)
- Run for a local charter commission.
- Run for elective office, whether partisan or nonpartisan.
- Serve in any position in a political party.

The President and/or Steering Committee MAY NOT:

- Accept an appointment to a local commission, board or committee if such service would be in conflict with the League's program. This restriction does not apply to the Voter Services chair.

The President and/or Steering Committee and Voter Services chair MAY:

- Sign nominating petitions, whether partisan or nonpartisan.
- Attend informational campaign functions to which all candidates have been invited.
- Accept an appointment to a local commission, board or committee if such service would not be in conflict with the League's program.

All other League members

Apart from the restriction given below about displaying LWV yard signs, no restrictions are placed on the political or civic involvement of all other League members, as long as they are not representing the League during this involvement. Any questions should be brought to the League board.

The following restriction applies to all LWV ANA members and non-members: Any political yard sign, including candidate's signs, ballot question signs, or warrant article signs, may not be simultaneously displayed with a League get-out-the-vote sign.

Political activity of spouses and relatives

The political activities of a spouse or relative of a League board member are considered separate and distinct from the activities of the board member. However, the President and/or Steering Committee and Voter Service chair must keep in mind that their impartiality may be called into question if their spouse engages in high-profile political activity, such as running for elective office.

In memory of a LWV member

by Phila Slade

Lois Fisher, a long time member of the League of Women Voters, died recently at the age of 93. She was, "always a progressive thinker" to quote her obituary, and was one of the first to join when we proposed a North Andover league; one of the 20 needed to begin the provisional league process. She was also a member of the local People for Peace, and of PFLAG.

LWVUS News

There is an opportunity to take action at the end

[of this article.](#)

League Calls on President to Make Nominations to the FEC

Statement by Lloyd Leonard, Director of Advocacy for the League of Women Voters of the United States (November 3, 2011)

The League of Women Voters has been working for fair and open elections for many decades. We have supported campaign finance reforms at the national level and in the states in order to protect our democracy from corruption and to ensure that the voices of regular voters can be heard.

This year, we see incredible dangers ahead. Special interests are spending huge sums of money to influence the upcoming elections and to influence the public officials that will be chosen in those elections. This special interest spending promises to be of historic proportions - and they are not spending this money out of the goodness of their hearts. Campaign spending is an investment for special interests and their lobbyists. They will expect a return on that investment.

We face this situation because the Supreme Court has turned the special interests loose - and it comes because the FEC is not enforcing the laws that we do have.

Any legal system depends on enforcement. When the police are absent or asleep, then the law will be broken all the time, and those who break the law will go unpunished. When it comes to enforcing campaign finance laws, the FEC is definitely asleep. There is no cop on the beat to protect the public interest.

Five of the six FEC commissioners are serving expired terms, and each of them is legally barred from being reappointed. This system is clearly broken and it's the President's responsibility to begin the process of fixing it.

It is time for the President to step up to the challenge, just as he promised he would in his campaign four years ago. In September 2007, he said, "As president, I will appoint nominees to the Commission who are committed to enforcing our nation's election laws." We are waiting Mr. President.

It is also time for Congress to provide effective oversight on the current FEC. The League is troubled that the hearing today in the Committee on House

Administration does not include an opportunity for concerned citizens and concerned organizations to speak. We are worried that no one will ask the hard questions about the FEC's failures on the job.

We must face the facts. Our campaign finance system is corrupt. Big money special interests threaten to drown out the voices and concerns of ordinary citizens. And big money gets special treatment from our elected officials.

Right now, the ball is in the President's court. He needs to make some good nominations to the FEC, either on his own or with the assistance of a blue-ribbon committee to make recommendations to him.

With elections on the way, our democracy can't wait any longer.

Sign the Petition to Put SuperPacs Out of Business

Let's fight back against the big money pouring into political campaigns this year. Sign the petition on The White House website [here](#) urging President Obama to appoint new commissioners to the Federal Election Commission (FEC).

NOTE: To successfully sign the petition, you need to create an account on WhiteHouse.gov and respond to a confirmation email. Use our helpful step-by-step guide [here](#) to do this. We need at least 25,000 signatures of support by February 10, 2012, to get a response from The White House.

About the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters is a 91-year old national nonpartisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of individuals in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League neither supports nor opposes candidates for office, elected officials or political parties at any level of government.

The Andover/North Andover League focuses on topics directly impacting the citizens of our communities.

League membership is open to all citizens, both women and men.

Membership Form

Sign up [online](#) or complete and mail the form below. When you sign up online you will have the option of paying by credit card or PayPal. The League's membership year is July-June.

_____ New _____ Renewal

_____ \$55 Basic Member

_____ \$60 Contributing Member

_____ \$75 Sustaining Member

_____ \$100+ Patron

_____ \$35 Senior Citizen (65 yrs. old and over)

_____ \$35 Student (under 24 yrs. old)

_____ \$75 Household Dues (2+ persons in same household)

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

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

Please make checks payable to:
"LWV OF ANDOVER/NORTH ANDOVER"

Mail form and check to:
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P.O. Box 514, Andover MA 01810

Member Information

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____