

# Newsletter

---

## Newton's Override Information and Discussion

---

**We will hold two meetings: a panel presentation in the evening and an informal discussion during the day.**

**MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2008**

7:00 – 9:00 pm

Newton North High School's  
Little Theatre

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2008**

*(Please note that this takes the place  
of the monthly Topic Meeting  
originally scheduled for April 9)*

11:30 am – 1:30 pm

At the NewTV Conference Room  
(no cameras)

23 Needham Street, Newton Highlands  
617-964-0014  
[www.lwvnewton.org](http://www.lwvnewton.org)

Newton's \$12 million override question and the issues surrounding it are already the subject of much heated discussion in the city. To more fully understand the city's municipal finances, past and future, the Newton League of Women Voters invites members and the public to join us in a balanced discussion of the issues. The Newton League has been looking at municipal finance issues since last year. Our working group on this subject participated the state League's study of municipal finance.

As a result, we have spent the past two years studying municipal finance and the details of Newton's funding and its budget. Most importantly, our working group studied the Blue Ribbon Commission Report and learned that

the city's budget is in deficit and that it will need to be dealt with this year either by funding it with a Prop. 2 1/2 override or by cutting services.

The fruits of our labors will be discussed for the public and our membership in two meetings. We will offer an evening session at Newton North High School Little Theatre on Monday, April 14 at 7:30pm. For those who cannot attend evening meetings, we will hold a second discussion Wednesday, April 16 at NewTV (take note that the April 9 topic meeting is cancelled and rescheduled for this new date) at 11:30am. We hope to see you at one or both of these meetings.

**If you have questions, call the League  
at 617-964-0014. ■**

---

## LWVN Receives \$200 Grant for Recruiting Poll Workers

---

**P**oll workers are critical elements in the election system. They are the unsung heroes that powerfully affect the experience that voters have on Election Day. Poll workers' duties on Election Day range from setting up and closing down voting machines to determining when to check a voter's identification and guiding voters who have to cast a provisional ballot.

On election days poll workers are a vast workforce. On Election Day 2006, there were 691,349 poll workers employed in nearly 113,000 polling places across the nation. According to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, in 2004 the average age of a U.S. poll worker was 72.

Recently, Massachusetts passed a new law that no longer restricts poll workers to people who are registered voters in that community. This allows broader hiring of poll workers, which should help eliminate poll worker shortages that some communities experience.

This same new law allows communities to hire up to two 16 and 17 year olds to serve as poll workers in each polling place. Now Massachusetts joins 29 other states that allow young people to serve as poll workers. This swells the number of potential poll workers with technologically savvy young people who may be less apt to be intimidated by new computerized election equipment.

Equally important: recruiting young poll workers gets them involved in the civic life of their communities and in the elections that are fundamental to the health of our democracy. The hope that they will become life-long voters.

The efforts of the LWVN have paid off as we have received a \$200 pass through grant for already training twenty students who worked at the polls on February 5, 2008 for the Democratic and Republican primary elections. We look forward to training more for the November election. ■

## LWVN Officers and Directors 2007-2008

### OFFICERS

President	Sue Rosenbaum	617-332-0306
Vice President	Ann Grantham	617-964-0333
Vice President	Sharyn Roberts	617-969-9588
Vice President	Terry Yoffie	617-965-1796
Clerk	Sue Flicop	617-232-2310
Treasurer	Andrea Kozinetz	617-964-6490

### DIRECTORS

Anne Borg	Topic Meetings	617- 244-6366
Bonnie Carter	Voter Education	617- 969-0686
Deb Crossley	Local Action	617- 244-7597
George Foord	Municipal Finance	617-332-1654
Andrea Kelley	Observer Corps	617- 964-4609
Priscilla Leith	Local Action	617-969-6837
Robin Maltz	Membership	617-969-1554
Lisa Mirabile	Webmaster	617- 332-5374
Sharyn Roberts	Voters Service	617- 969-9588
Sharon Stout	Fundraising	781-856-0004

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Robin Maltz, Chair	617-969-1554
Jody Klein	617-244-4767
Carol Ann Shea	617-571-2942
Barbara Sydney	617-332-2160
Terry Yoffie	617-965-1796

### OFF BOARD SPECIALISTS

Asst. Treasurer	Pat Acton	617-965-5572
Housing	Roberta Leviton	617-965-0016
Human Rights	Holly Gunner	617-964-0767
Legislative Roundtable	Lucia Dolan	617-332-1893
Membership	Elaine Reisman Co-chair	617-244-6439
Recycling	Barbara Herson	617-964-7463

### NEWSLETTER

Editor Ann Grantham 617-964-0333  
To receive an **audio version** of this Newsletter call Sue Rosenbaum at 617-332-0306.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization open to all citizens of voting age. For more information about the League of Women Voters, call 617-964-0014.

PO Box 610207  
Newton, MA 02461  
617-964-0014  
<http://www.lwvnewton.org>

# March Roars in and out as our League continues Onward

**B**alancing the three E's – namely the economy, energy, and the environment. On March 19th the League's annual Day on the Hill, the Newton Leaguers actively participated in a discussion revolving around these topics. The featured speakers included State Representative Daniel Bosley, the chair of the Joint Committee on Economic and Emerging Technologies, State Senator Pamela Resor, and most impressively the State League Program Specialists who spoke about League-sponsored legislation. The specialists spoke about issues related to the environment, casino gambling, health care, education, and the administration of justice. It was good to share this experience with our own legislators as well as Deb Crossley, Dorothy Litt, Susan Neisuler, Toby Richard, Sharon Stout and Sharyn Roberts who agreed to share her view of the day with the LWVN membership via this Newsletter.

Speaking about the administration of justice, did you know that once you turn seventeen you are considered to be an adult in Massachusetts? Well, it is still illegal for you to purchase liquor, but if you are found with some, you will be charged as an adult (even though the reason it is illegal is because you are a juvenile.) Although our laws are conceived with good intentions, there are often some unintended consequences when they are implemented. One of our Newton residents tries to help our juveniles when they get trapped amid some of these unintended consequences. Please join us for some champagne and chocolate (or just chocolate if you are not yet 21!) and hear from Newton Attorney Anne Bader Martin as she describes her view from the trenches and discusses some of the problems inherent in our legal system. Please look for your invitation or look on our website for more details about this event which will take place on Sunday afternoon, April 6th from four until six o'clock. For more information about Anne Bader Martin, you can visit the website <http://www.OneCanHelp.com>.

April will also offer us the opportunity to become better informed about Newton's financial picture. Please attend one or both of the meetings mentioned on page one. With an override scheduled for May 20th, now is the time for the League to make our voice heard. We have spent the past two years studying municipal finance; the details of Newton's funding and the budget, and as an organization, we assume the important task of presenting a balanced presentation to our LWVN members and members of the community at large.

As the board meets in our April working board and board meetings, we will determine the position that the League will take on this ballot question. Board meetings are open to all LWVN members.

To keep up to date, go to [www.lwvnewton.org](http://www.lwvnewton.org) and click on "Calendar."

Sue Rosenbaum  
President, LWVN

## Can We Interest You?

The Nominating Committee met in February to begin the process of making recommendations for the 2008-2009 LWVN Board of Directors. If you are interested in joining the board or would like to submit a name for consideration, please contact Robin Maltz at 617-969-1554 or [robinm@comcast.net](mailto:robinm@comcast.net). ■

The League of Women Voters of Newton  
cordially invites you to the sixth

*Champagne  
and Chocolate*  
RECEPTION

featuring

**ANNE BADER-MARTIN:**

“Unintended Consequences of the Law:  
Stories from the Trenches”

**Sunday, April 6, 2008 4:00-6:00PM**

*At the home of*  
Laurie and Paul Gershkowitz  
50 Green Park Road Newton Corner

You may be surprised to learn how our legal system works and when it doesn't. What can we do to help? Please join us for an interesting discussion and some delectable goodies catered by Ellie Nelson.

Since 1990, attorney Anne Bader-Martin has specialized in representing teenagers and young adults in Criminal law, Care and Protection (Abuse and Neglect) situations, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, and Education matters.

She is also the President and Founder of One Can Help, Inc. This non-profit organization is dedicated to helping court-involved, low-income children and families. One Can Help works directly with court-appointed attorneys and social workers to provide financial assistance to help motivated clients improve their lives.

Anne Bader-Martin graduated from New England School of Law and Kings College London. ■

# What can we do to help?

Since 1990, attorney Anne Bader-Martin has specialized in representing teenagers and young adults in Criminal law, Care and Protection (abuse and neglect) situations, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, and Education matters.



Anne Bader-Martin

A graduate from New England School of Law and Kings College London, she is the President and Founder of One Can Help, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to helping court-involved, low-income children and families.

One Can Help works directly with court-appointed attorneys and social-workers to provide financial assistance to help motivated clients improve their lives.

Join us at the home of Laurie and Paul Gershkowitz, 50 Green Park, Newton Corner from 4:00-6:00 p.m on Sunday, April 6, 2008, to learn of her interesting work. ■

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to join the League of Women Voters of Newton. Enclosed is my check for \$55 payable to LWVN.
- Lifetime membership \$1000**
- I would like to receive materials about the League.
- I would like to be contacted by a League member to talk about LWVN.

My email address may be shared with State and National LWV

**Mail this form (and your check, if joining) to:  
Andrea Kozinetz Holtz at 8 Stony Brae Road,  
Newton Highlands, MA 02461**

# Balancing Economics, Energy and the Environment and My Day on the Hill

by Sharyn Roberts

This was the first time that I had been to Day on the Hill as a member of the League. I had visited the state house and our state legislators previously as a Girl Scout leader. This time I didn't need to constantly count little noses and could concentrate on the presentations made by our legislators and fellow League members.

Our visit followed on the heels of a 13-hour day of hearings on casinos in Massachusetts. Discussions were raging before the vote in the State legislature.

Following an informal reception of coffee and coffee cake, we proceeded into Gardner Auditorium to be greeted by our Massachusetts League President **Diane Jeffery**. We were then regaled by State Representative **Daniel Bosley**, of First Berkshire County and the chair of the Joint Committee on Economic and Emerging Technologies. He encouraged us to keep educating the public on the issues so that it becomes part of what we do as standard operating procedure. This includes a growing green technology involved in weatherizing our homes, renewable technologies such as wind, solar, and geothermal, and information technology (IT).

**State Senator Pamela Resor** of Middlesex and Worcester Counties then spoke to us. She is the Chair of the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee, the Vice-Chair of the Labor and Workforce Development Committee, and also serves on the Senate Committees on Ways and Means; Education; Children and Families; Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development. She has been working on legislation involving a graduated income tax; keeping open space; giving local government the tools to grow while balancing the pressures of development; maintaining our infrastructure while

protecting the environment; smart growth to decrease our carbon footprint while creating walkable, liveable communities; public transportation; water conservation. Her legislative focus has been on the need to balance community issues with individual issues.

We then heard from an interactive panel of **Massachusetts League Program Specialists** headed by our Vice President of Program and Action, **Carole Pelchat**, who spoke on the status of the Empowering Voters Project now involved in Election Day Registration reform S.2514.

**Patti Muldoon's** topic was Administration of Justice. There is a need to reduce the number of people in Massachusetts prisons. One out of every hundred people is in prison because of the standards of sentencing that were started twenty years ago. This rate of incarceration is the highest in the world; even higher than in the People's Republic of China. If a person in his/her 20's is in MA, s/he has a 1 in 30 chance of being imprisoned. An Act to Revise Mandatory Minimum Drug Sentences, S.884," is sponsored by State Senator **Cynthia Creem** and would allow access to parole for non-violent drug offenders after a percentage of time served.

**Clare Gordon** then spoke on Basic Human Needs and "An Act Improving the Earned Income Credit for Working Families, H.3036," which keeps low income people in the work force. This bill also addresses affordable housing.

**Mary Frantz**, our panelist on Education discussed "An Act Simplifying and Making More Equitable the Provisions of Chapter 70 Relative to the Distribution of State Aid, S.313/H.1944." It is sponsored by Senator Pamela Resor and is known in the legislature as "the League's Bill" on education finance.

Unfortunately, it has been referred for further study which means it will not be looked at for quite some time.

**Elizabeth Dunn** is working on Equal Rights/Reproductive Rights. She presented "An Act Relative to Equitable Coverage in Annuity Policies, S.622/H.901," co-sponsored by State Senator **Therese Murray** and Representative **Ruth Balsler**. This legislation requires that state-regulated annuity policies sold to residents of Massachusetts must be gender-neutral in all the terms and conditions of the contracts, including premiums and benefits. Under current contracts, women pay more than men to get an equivalent monthly annuity payment or pay the same as men for a smaller monthly benefit when they retire. The insurance companies believe that this is "fair discrimination." It is also one of the reasons that the national ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) still has not passed.

**Louise Haldeman** spoke on Casino Gambling which is represented by "An Act Establishing and Regulating Resort Casinos in the Commonwealth, H. 4307." Some of the main fiscal issues associated with the Governor's proposal about which the League is greatly concerned are:

- gambling is a business that drains the economy; it does not bolster it
- gambling revenues fail to solve state fiscal problems
- casinos will not bring an economic multiplier effect to our area
- the negative impact of casinos is most intensely felt within a fifty mile radius of the facility.

Panelist **Judy Deutsch** covers Health Care and is following five different bills which include the dangerous under-

*Continued on page five*

---

# LWVN Testimony on Proposed Sidewalk Clearing Ordinance

---

*Presented to the Aldermanic Public Safety & Transportation Committee, February 6, 2008*

---

*Susan Rosenbaum, LWVNewton President*

The League of Women Voters of Newton supports an ordinance requiring all property owners in Newton to clear their sidewalks of snow and ice. It is a community need and a community responsibility.

The goal of this law should be to provide pedestrians and wheelchairs in Newton with safe and fully accessible sidewalks in all areas of the city. To do this, the draft ordinance needs to be strengthened. Real consequences must occur for non-compliance. There must be rigorous enforcement. More importantly, elected city officials need to demonstrate the political willpower to fine constituents to enforce the ordinance when necessary.

There are several roadblocks to enforcement that should be removed.

Vendors who pile snow at intersections or plow private driveways and

dump the snow onto other people's property or sidewalks should be held responsible and/or fined. The City's hired snow plow contractors who do this should be required to place the snow in a proper location.

The City should compile a list of contractors available for hire to clear snow and ice from sidewalks and make it available to property owners before the start of the snow season. Then people who travel, plan to be out of town, and cannot or do not want to clear their own walks will have the lead time to hire the help they need – so that this ordinance can work. The current “volunteer” list compiled by Human Services and Public Works Departments with 30 names is totally inadequate. As an alternative, someone in City Government might coordinate the entire sidewalk clearing operation as is done with the street plowing, sanding

and salting operations during each storm.

Clarify what sidewalks City crews will plow and when. “Primary”, “secondary” and “tertiary” sidewalk routes need to be clearly defined. The public needs to understand how these routes are designated, who determines their designations and why. This information should be broadly disseminated for community understanding and support of the City's sidewalk snow removal plan.

The League of Women Voters of Newton believes all residents want and deserve the freedom to walk safely on the sidewalks in winter. They should not be forced to walk in the street.

We hope our public officials will rise to the challenge and implement a workable, enforceable and equitable system to see that this happens. ■

---

*Continued from page four*

## My Day on the Hill

staffing of nurses, the need to reduce health care costs and improve patient care, and containment of costs for prescription prices. These are sponsored by a large number of state senators and representatives.

Lynn Wolbarst, the Environment and Natural Resources Specialist has testimony in support of “An Act for a Healthy Massachusetts, Safer Alternatives to Toxic Chemicals”. All state League positions can be viewed online at [www.lwvma.org/issues.shtml](http://www.lwvma.org/issues.shtml).

Our group met for lunch with our Newton legislators, State Senator Cynthia Creem, Representative Ruth Balser, Representative Kay Khan, and Representative Peter Koutoujian and

their legislative aides. This meeting was our time to lobby for legislation. Deb Crossley came fully prepared with topics. There was discussion of the upcoming casino vote and how to raise revenues in other ways such as removing the tax exemption from alcohol which could raise approximately \$180 million. Deb requested that they support the movement of city employees from local to state health care insurance coverage. Our legislators reminded us that municipalities first need their city unions to approve such a move. Deb next encouraged them to support legislation encouraging the use of the HERS (Home Energy Rating System) method by home inspectors when a house is either about to be sold or when home

improvements are made. This scores the relative energy efficiency of a dwelling unit. There was discussion about using either the carrot or stick approach (incentives vs. mandates).

Representative Koutoujian remembers filing a bill about four years ago on energy house ratings and promised us he would revisit this bill.

It was very satisfying to talk with legislators who were so supportive of the League's positions. Perhaps you can tell, I enjoyed my Day on the Hill and plan to attend again next year. Please join me. ■

---

## Committees - in - Action

### Observers

Coordinator: Andrea Kelley  
617-964-4609

ELECTION COMMISSION Nancy Criscitiello  
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES Deb Crossley  
NEWTON FREE Mary Adelstein  
LIBRARY BOARD

### Committees

#### LOCAL ACTION

Focus *Community Preservation Act*

Contact Deborah Crossley 617-244-7597  
*Co-Chair*  
Priscilla Leith 617-969-6837  
*Co-Chair*

#### Members

Anna Maria Abernathy Andrea Kelley  
Leslie Burg Jody Klein  
Lucia Dolan Terry Yoffie  
George Foord

#### ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Focus *Adoption of an Energy Action  
Plan in Newton*

Contact Lucia Dolan 617-332-1896  
*Co-Chair*  
Beth Lowd 617-325-1370  
*Co-Chair*

Members Mary Adelstein  
Jane Baier  
Carol Bock  
Deb Crossley  
Sharyn Roberts

...

Feel free to call committee contacts  
or a Board officer or director to learn more.

*Welcome  
New Member!*

KATHARINE S. STOVER  
72 St. Mary's Street  
Newton Lower Falls 02461  
617 244-4621  
STOVERS@aol.com

## Fond Remembrances



*Eloise Houghton  
1921-2008*

“Sparkling memories of you, Eloise... Your interest and love of humankind absorbed your mind.

*Stella Penzer*

•

“Eloise was civic minded everyday of her life, even her answering phone reflected something to do with her thought for each day. Once concerns about people touched her, they remained with her.”

*Audrey Cooper*

•

“Eloise and I would take walks together and talk about politics and how Eloise was determined to deal with less popular elements in the city that needed to be considered, because that was the courageous thing to do.”

*Louise Hauser*

•

“I can remember her saying ‘We are all bound together in a bundle of love.’ Despite a rather nasty campaign against a citywide scatteration of affordable housing projects, she really believed what she professed.”

*Mary Adelstein*

•

“She was one of the founders and the conscience of the Newton Community Development Fund. She spoke from the heart with moral values. An annual Eloise K. Houghton Award goes to one or more residents of the housing connected with NCDF, who exemplify her spirit of giving through community service volunteerism.”  
*Bob Engler, President of the Board of Directors of the Newton Community Development Fund*

Eloise Houghton served as the  
13th President of the League of Women Voters of Newton  
from 1963-1967.

*Environmental Action Committee*

The Honorable Mayor David Cohen  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton Centre, MA 02459



Dear Mayor Cohen:

The League of Women Voters of Newton applauds you for choosing an Energy Services company to implement energy conservation improvements in the City of Newton's public buildings.

We look forward to your quick approval of a completed contract allowing NORESCO to begin work this summer on Day Middle School and the whole city audit.

We greatly appreciate your timely action on the ESCO contracts, which will ensure the swift implementation of energy conservation measures in our buildings, bring the ensuing energy cost savings to our city and reduce our city's carbon footprint.

Respectfully,

Susan Rosenbaum  
President, League of Women Voters of Newton

*Newsletter Sponsors*

  
VANTAGE GRAPHICS

Commercial Printing  
Direct Mail • Brochures • Newsletters • Publications

**sales@vangraph.com** **617.796.9900**





**Garden City Homes, Inc**  
324 Walnut Street  
Newton, MA 02460  
**Business (617) 969-2121**  
Cell (617) 571-2942  
Fax (617) 527-2973

**Carol Ann Shea**  
Owner Broker

Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated 

Stephen P. DesRoche, P.L.S.  
President

NEPONSET VALLEY SURVEY ASSOCIATES, INC.  
Land Surveyors & Civil Engineers

Phone: 617-472-4867  
Fax: 617-472-2682  
Cell: 617-653-3801

95 White Street  
Quincy, MA 02169



**Pierce Conway DESIGN**

*visual communications*  
**508.651.7902**  
design@pierceconway.com

## LWVN CALENDAR

### March

- 11 Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. **Working Board Meeting /Potluck** at the home of Bonnie Carter, 177 Homer St., 617-069-0686.
- 12 Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. **Topic Meeting "Newton's Capital Budget and How It Works"** with Verne Vance at NewTV, Brown Bagging encouraged. Contact: Anne Borg 617- 244-6366
- 14 Friday, 9:00 a.m., **Local Action Committee**, Contact Priscilla Leith 617- 969-6837.
- 19 Wednesday, **Day on the Hill**, Annual Lobby Day, MA State House, Contact Sue Rosenbaum 617-332-0306.
- 25 Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., **Local Program Planning/Board Meeting** at the home of Sue Flicop, 163 Suffolk Rd., CH, 617-232-2310.

### April

- 3 Thursday, 6:30 p.m., **Working Board/Potluck**, at the home of Terry Yoffie, 393 Waverly, 617-965-1796.
- 4 Friday, 9:00 am, **Local Action Committee** at the home of Lucia Dolan, 20 Devon Road, Newton Centre, 617-332-1893.

- 6 Sunday, 4-6 p.m., **Champagne and Chocolate Fundraiser**, Anne Bader-Martin, speaker at the home of Laurie and Paul Gershkowitz, 50 Green Pk., Newton Corner. Contact Sharyn Roberts, 617-969-9588.
- 13 Sunday, 2-4 p.m. **LWVM Making Democracy Work Event** Ninth Student Essay Awards, Faneuil Hall, Boston.
- 14 Monday, 7-9:30 p.m., **Panel Presentation on Newton's Override**, Newton North High School's Little Theatre. Contact: 617-964-0014.
- 16 Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Newton Override Discussion**, NewTV Conference Room. Brown Bagging encouraged. Contact 617-964-0014.
- 18 Friday, 9:15-10:45 a.m., **Environmental Committee** at the home of Lucia Dolan, 20 Devon Rd. Newton Centre, 617-332-1893.
- 29 Tuesday 7:30 p.m., **LWVN Board Meeting** at the home of Lisa Mirabile, 12 Scribner Pk., Auburndale, 617-332-5374.

*Save the Date* – Annual Meeting Tuesday, May 27th

Legislative Roundtable



For current schedule, log on to [www.Newtv.org](http://www.Newtv.org)

## League of Women Voters of Newton

PO Box 610207  
 Newton, MA 02461  
 617-964-0014  
[www.lwvnewton.org](http://www.lwvnewton.org)

### What's Inside

- Newton's Override Information* .....1
- LWVN Receives Grant* .....1
- From Our President* .....2
- Champagne and Chocolate* .....3
- One Can Help* .....3
- Day on the Hill* .....4
- Sidewalk Clearing Ordinance* .....5
- Remembering Eloise Houghton* .....6
- Environmental Action Committee* .....7