



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NEWTON

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March 21, 2012

The *Newton TAB*

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To the Editor:

How do candidates get their name on the ballot?

Answer: By filing nomination papers which are circulating now.

Over the next few months, when you see volunteers on the street, clipboard in hand, asking for signatures please take the time to stop and participate in this important democratic process. Your signature means that you allow this person to be considered as a candidate. It does not mean that you will vote for him/her, but it does mean you think that this person is a good candidate for the office they are seeking. If you are not familiar with the candidate and do not feel comfortable signing, you can ask for more information. Most volunteers will provide you with a candidate's brochure. Nomination papers will display the name of the candidate and the state seal.

Once signatures are collected they are validated at the city level and counted to ensure that the person has sufficient support of the people and can then be listed on the ballot.

You must be registered to vote to sign nomination papers. If not, you can easily register online at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleifv/howreg.htm or visit city hall in person. Bring identification that includes your name and current address, for example: a valid driver's license, photo identification, a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document showing your name and address. The Newton League of Women Voters also has a table at many city events including the 4th of July festivities and farmers' markets where we have voter registration forms.

Please take the time out of your busy schedule to sign nomination papers. Remember how many people have fought and died for this right – and the many people around the world who are dying for the right to choose their representatives now.

-- Anne Borg and Sue Flicop
Co-Presidents, League of Women Voters of Newton