

Newsletter



Volume 19, Issue 1

visit us online at www.lwvnewton.org

March 2013

LWV Newton Supports Newton Override

By Sue Flicop

At the Thursday, January 10, 2013 membership meeting, LWVN members voted unanimously in favor of the debt exclusion override for the Angier Elementary School, and all present but one voted to support the operating override and the debt exclusion override for the Cabot Elementary School.

We have had two in-depth discussions of the override proposals since the Mayor first presented them, and found that though there is concern about increasing taxes in a tough financial climate, the support of our members is based on several beliefs:

- That the annual 2.5% increase in taxes is not sufficient to provide all the services and the quality education we have come to expect in Newton;
- That the 2.5% figure was actually an arbitrary number proposed many years ago;
- That the City of Newton has postponed proper maintenance on its buildings and roads for too long;

- That the Angier and Cabot schools are in terrible shape, and the school system needs more capacity for increased enrollment; and
- That pedestrian and bicycle safety needs to be improved, especially as residents increasingly enjoy walking and biking in our community.

Many of our members felt that the proposed operating override wasn't large enough to cover all our needs for the next five years, but voting against the proposal would have catastrophic consequences for the children in our community as well as residents.

We encourage all League members and Newton residents to support the three proposals and work together to improve our services in Newton.

If you are able and interested in volunteering in this effort, Building Newton's Future, the pro-override advocacy group, needs volunteers for phone banks and canvassing. Please visit [Building Newton's Future](#) for more information and to sign up.

Voters Needed on Election Day to Collect Signatures!

By Rhanna Kidwell

With the override election just two weeks away, we are gearing up for another signature collection effort for the charter commission. We hope many of you will be able to join us again! The 2008 override election saw a turnout of nearly 25,000 voters, so we have another great opportunity to pursue charter reform.

We are learning from our last effort and making a few changes, to maximize the yield per volunteer:

- We plan to concentrate our volunteers in the busiest locations, with fewer time slots. Feedback from November indicated that collecting was more successful when volunteers were in teams

(easier to attract attention, easier to cover all exits, easier to capitalize on a rush of voters), so we are aiming for clusters of volunteers in 12 high-volume locations.

- In November we found voter traffic to be very low outside of the 7-9 a.m. and 5-7 p.m. time slots, so we are going to focus our volunteer effort on those times. (If you can't stay two full hours, just do what you can.)
- We hope to have a "captain" at each location so that you can get your supplies (clipboards, petitions, t-shirts) onsite and not have to pick them up ahead of time.

Continued on page 3

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DIRECTORS
2012-2013

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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization. Regular membership is open to all citizens (men and women) of voting age; associate membership is open to young people and noncitizens. Your annual dues give you membership in local, state and national leagues.

For more information about the League of Women Voters, including information on joining us, call 617-383-4598 or visit www.lwvnewton.org.

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on Facebook!**

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Membership

Ann Grantham

Newsletter & Website

Anne Borg
Sue Flicop



LWVN needs (more than) a few good League members for both long-term and short-term commitments – have fun while you help LWVN!

- LWVN Transportation Study
- Observers for Board of Aldermen Finance Committee
- Events planning
- Photographer to record events for our Facebook page
- Membership Team
- “Ambassadors” to greet / sign in people at events
- Publicity
- Fundraising
- Print and electronic communications: newsletter, monthly postcard, email blasts, website, LWVN Facebook (training provided!)
- Committees (Environmental Issues, Education, Elections, Housing, Municipal Finance, Archives)

Contact Anne or Sue at info@lwvnewton.org if you are interested or have any questions.

LWV Massachusetts Day on the Hill

By Alison Leary

LWV Massachusetts is holding its annual Day on the Hill (DOTH) lobbying event on Wednesday, March 13, in the Gardner Auditorium, Massachusetts State House. The theme this year is: *Democracy is not a Spectator Sport*. Registration begins at 9:30am, the program will be from 10:00am - 12:00noon. For more information, please see the DOTH workbook and advocacy booklet on the LWVMA [website](#).

After the program, LWV Newton members will be meeting for lunch from 12:30-2:00pm with our state delegation. If you would like to join us, please RSVP to info@lwvnewton.org by March 11.

Flash Forward to Spring!

By Ann Grantham

On February 28, LWVN members and non-members joined together for a membership "social" at the Waban Library Center.

League members shared with the group the many activities going on in the League this year. The presentations were clear and listeners' questions brought out even more details. "Thank yous" go to Nancy Criscitiello, Ellen Glusman, Sharyn Roberts, Sue Rosenbaum, Rhanna Kidwell, Alison Leary, Lynn Scheller, and Linda Morrison for their presentations. We all came away with a deeper appreciation of all that it takes to support a good democracy.

Co-President Sue Flicop made a public "thank you" to Russo's and Silver Lake Liquors for the donation of delicious platters and refreshments. We also thank the Waban Library Center for letting us meet in their wonderful space.

This event reminded us of the importance of having time to connect with League friends and to reflect on Newton and the activities that we do together. It has been suggested that this style of event happen more often, so that members can ask a friend to come along and meet us. Membership in the League is open to all women and men 18 years and older.

Collect Charter Signatures, continued from page 1

One thing that may work in our favor is that in a local election, a higher percentage of voters will be knowledgeable about local issues, so educating may be easier. Also, our November effort has created buzz, so more people know about the charter petition drive.

You can sign up [online](#). The password is: "newton13." We need volunteers, so please forward the link to anyone who might be interested.

For information about the Newton League's efforts for charter reform, please visit the [Charter Initiative page](#) on our website.

March Topic Meeting: Local Program Planning

Join the League to discuss our program proposals for next year. We will talk about the local Education Consensus Study, committee proposals, and action priorities.

Date: Thursday, March 14

Time: 11:30am-1:00pm

Location: NewTV Conf. Rm., 23 Needham St

For more information, please visit our [League Program Planning page](#) on our website.

League Local Action

The League has been very busy this year advocating for our positions and action priorities. You can find a complete [local action list](#), with links to the correspondence, on our website.

Save the Date!

LWVN's *Champagne & Chocolate* is back!

Sunday, April 28 (after Newton Serves)

Special guest: Kevin Johnson
Vice Chair, Common Cause

League of Women Voters of Newton



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LWVN CALENDAR

MARCH

- 12th **Tues.**, 7am-8pm, **Newton Special Election – Override Vote**
- 13th **Wed.**, 9:30am-12:00pm, **LWV Massachusetts Day on the Hill**, Gardner Auditorium, Mass. State House

MARCH, CONT.

- 14th **Thurs.**, 11:30am-1:00pm, **March Topic Meeting: Local Program Planning for 2013-2014**; NewTV Conference Room, 23 Needham Street

Save the Date!
LWVN Champagne & Chocolate
April 28, after Newton Serves

→ *Don't forget to check our online calendar for any late-breaking changes!*
www.lwvnewton.org

→ *Find us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/lwvnewton*

Keep up with the workings of the Board of Aldermen!

Read the *LWVN Docket Digest*, available each week at www.lwvnewton.org.