

# MEMBER HANDBOOK



**2021**

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**Speaking with One Voice**

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Information listed in this directory is for use in League-related communication between members. This information may not be used or distributed for any other purpose.

## LWVN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The current members of the LWVN Board of Directors are always listed on our website, at [lvvnewton.org/about/board-of-directors/](http://lvvnewton.org/about/board-of-directors/).

The LWVN Board of Directors meets at least monthly. All members are welcome. Meeting times are posted in the calendar section of our website. LWVN Board meetings are usually on the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm. They rotate among board members' houses and/or are held online via Zoom. Please email [info@lvvnewton.org](mailto:info@lvvnewton.org) if you'd like to attend and we'll let you know the address. Attending board meetings is a great way for new members to learn League process and for more seasoned members to stay connected. We hope to see you there.

## HOW TO CONTACT THE LWV

### **LWV Newton**

PO Box 610207  
Newton, MA 02461  
617-383-4598  
[www.lvvnewton.org](http://www.lvvnewton.org)  
[info@lvvnewton.org](mailto:info@lvvnewton.org)

### **LWV Massachusetts**

90 Canal Street  
Suite 414  
Boston, MA 02114  
Phone: (857) 452-1715  
[www.lvvma.org](http://www.lvvma.org)  
[lvvma@lvvma.org](mailto:lvvma@lvvma.org)

### **LWV United States**

1730 M Street NW  
Suite 1000  
Washington, DC  
20036-4508  
202-429-1965  
[www.lvv.org](http://www.lvv.org)

## LWV MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public.

### **LWVUS**

The League of Women Voters of the United States encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

### **LWVEF**

The League of Women Voters Education Fund works to register voters, provide voters with election information through voter guides as well as candidate forums and debates.

## **Our Mission, Vision, and Value**

### **Mission**

Empowering voters. Defending democracy.

### **Vision**

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

### **Value**

We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

## **Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

## PRINCIPLES OF THE LWVUS

*The principles consist of concepts of government supported by the League as a whole and constitute the authorization for adoption of national, state and local Programs.*

The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States. The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial.

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

The League of Women Voters believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.

The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

The League of Women Voters believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.

The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems and that development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

*Source: Impact on Issues, 2020-2022, page 9*

## LWV NEWTON NONPARTISAN POLICY

**Purpose.** The purpose of this policy is to enable the League as an organization to carry on with service to voters, information to citizens, and lobbying and campaigning on issues. Only to the extent that the public and its elected officials are convinced of the League's genuine nonpartisanship, will the League be able to render effective voters service activities and gain a wide base of support for its positions on governmental issues. The policy distinguishes between the League as an organization and the rights of its individual members.

**General.** The League of Women Voters of Newton is a nonpartisan organization that does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. The League's effectiveness lies in its ability to take strong positions on issues in the public interest without regard for partisan affiliation. The League also encourages participation in local government by informing the citizens of Newton about their rights and responsibilities as voters.

**The Policy as it applies to Members.** The League prides itself on having a membership composed of diverse, informed women and men. Its individual members are encouraged to participate fully in party politics and in government at all levels. Many League members have strong affiliations with political parties or candidates, or are elected officials themselves.

### **The Policy as it applies to Board Members:**

1. **Appointive Office:** A board member may accept an appointment to local commissions, boards, or committees if such service would not be in conflict with League program.
2. **Political Party Office:** The president and board member(s) holding voters service portfolios shall not serve in any position in a political party at any level. Other board members may serve on a local political party committee, with notification given to the League board.
3. **Support of Candidates for Public Office:**
  - a. The President, Voters Service Chair, and Voters Guide editors shall not publicly support any candidate for political office at any level. Activities permitted under this policy include: attending informational campaign functions and signing nominating petitions. Activities prohibited include, but are not limited to: circulating nominating petitions; hosting fundraising or campaign functions; making campaign contributions; displaying lawn signs; or adding one's name to an endorsement.

- b. Board members should use discretion to ensure that their personal political activities are not identified with the League in the public mind.
  - c. Candidates for elective office and their campaign managers cannot serve on the Board of Directors. Candidates for Neighborhood Area Councils are exempt from this policy.
4. Other Board Positions Outside League: Board members may not hold leadership positions (either active or honorary) in any group whose stated position is in opposition to the League program.
  5. If any questions arise regarding the nonpartisan policy, the matter will come before the Board for interpretation and discussion. If a Board member resigns from the Board because of a conflict with this policy, that member shall not return to the Board until after the next Annual Meeting. Final decisions about implementing this nonpartisan policy rest with the Board of Directors.

*Approved by LWVN Board of Directors, September 9, 2020. Subject to revision by each incoming board of directors.*

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION POLICY

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

*Source:*

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/policies-guidelines/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-policy>

## THE JANE LEIGHTON AWARD

Whereas Jane Leighton has for many years given generously of herself as a volunteer to the League of Women Voters, and

Whereas, she has contributed her wisdom and strength to further the goals of the League, and

Whereas, she has always willingly served in whatever capacity she has been called upon to fulfill, and

Whereas, she has consistently brought humor and goodwill to all who worked with her,

Now therefore we, the League of Women Voters of Newton, create in her honor “The Jane Leighton Volunteer-of-the-Year-Award” to be given each year to that member who exemplifies some of those qualities that we treasure in Jane.

1980 Jane Leighton	2000 Patricia Acton
1981 Carol Beard	2001 Susie Heyman
1982 Susan Hyde	2002 Elaine S. Reisman
1983 Mary Adelstein	2003 Ann Grantham
1984 Sandra Butzel	2005 Susan Rosenbaum
1985 Anita Capeless	2006 Robin Maltz
1986 Bonnie Carter	2007 Andreae Downs
1987 Enid Paul	2008 Andrea Kozinetz
1988 Doris Shaines	2009 Sharyn Roberts
1989 Barbara Herson	2010 Lisa Mirabile
1990 Nancy Crowley	2011 Terry Yoffie
1991 Judy Jaffe	2012 Ellen Glusman
1992 Helen Jordan	2013 Anne Borg
1992 AnnaMaria Abernathy	2014 Jo Corro
1994 Joan Bates	2015 Sue Flicop
1995 Deb Crossley	2016 Rhanna Kidwell
1996 Carol Ann Shea	2017 Pia Bertelli
& Linda Morrison	2018 Ellen Grody
1997 Barbara Lietzke	2019 Marcia Johnson & Lois Levin
1998 Andrea Kelley	2020 Frieda Dweck
1999 Amelia Koch	

## NEWTON LEAGUE PAST PRESIDENTS

Irene Thresher	-1946	Andrea Kelley	1996-98
Emily Barber	1946-48	Linda Cebula	1998-99
Helen Walker	1948-49	Deborah Crossley	1999-2001
Jane Segal	1949-52	Amelia Koch	2001-04
Petey McClintock	1952-55	Steering Committee	2004-05
Doris Getter	1955-56	Bonnie Carter, Ann Grantham, Amelia Koch, Beth Lowd, Sue Rosenbaum	
Gertrude Greenberg	1956-58	Steering Committee	2005-06
Bea Slotnik	1958-61	Bonnie Carter, Ann Grantham, Amelia Koch, Sharyn Roberts, Sue Rosenbaum (spokesperson)	
Betty Beckwith	1961-63	Sue Rosenbaum	2006-08
Eloise Houghton	1963-67	Terry Yoffie	2008-10
Florence Rubin	1967-69	Leadership Team	2010-11
Margaret Smith	1969-71	Anne Borg, Bonnie Carter, Gail Glick (spokesperson), Ellen Glusman	
Ellen Lipson	1971-73	Anne Borg & Sue Flicop	2011-12
Miriam Erlich	1973-75	Anne Borg & Sue Flicop	2012-13
Jane Leighton	1975-77	Sue Flicop	2013-14
Elaine Leppo	1977	Leadership Team	2014-15
Bonnie Carter	1977-78	Sue Flicop (spokesperson), Bonnie Carter, Lois Levin, Lisa Mirabile	
Judy Lavine	1978-79	Sue Flicop	2015-16
Anita Capeless	1979-81	Pia Bertelli	2016-17
Sandra Butzel	1981-83	Sue Flicop	2018-19
Ann Grantham	1983-85	Marcia Johnson	2019-
Anne Hayden	1985-87		
Nancy Crowley	1987-89		
Mary Adelstein	1989-91		
Bonnie Carter & Judy Jaffe	1991-92		
Bonnie Carter	1992-93		
Carol Ann Shea & Barbara Lietzke	1993-95		
Barbara Lietzke & Andrea Kelley	1995-96		

## VOTERS SERVICE/CITIZEN EDUCATION

Voters Service directly serves the major aim of the League of Women Voters to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government. To educate League members and the general public about government and politics and to encourage their participation in elections, Voters Service provides information about voter registration, elections, candidates for public office, and election issues. This nonpartisan information helps voters reach informed decisions.

Because nonpartisan Voters Service is so important, it is independent from other program aspects of the League and is the responsibility of the entire League Board. Voters Service is aimed at all voting age citizens in the community from high school students to nursing home residents.

## VOTING INFORMATION

### Election Information

City website for Elections: [www.newtonma.gov/government/elections](http://www.newtonma.gov/government/elections)

Newton Election Commission website:

[www.newtonma.gov/government/elections/election-commission](http://www.newtonma.gov/government/elections/election-commission)

#### **Election Commission office:**

Newton City Hall  
1000 Commonwealth Ave,  
Newton Centre, MA 02459  
(617) 796-1200  
(617) 796-1214 Fax

#### **Hours:**

*The City Clerk's Office is currently open by appointment only. Please call 617-796-1200 to make an appointment.*

Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 5 pm  
*Please Note: There are special hours on election days.*

#### **City Clerk**

Nadia Khan, *Acting City Clerk*

#### **Election Commissioners**

Marjorie Ann Butler, Chair  
John P. McDermott  
Nancy M. Levine  
Jan Huffman

## Register to Vote

Massachusetts website on voter registration:

[www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleifv/howreg.htm](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleifv/howreg.htm)

Massachusetts **Online Voter Registration System** :

[www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/) or [RegisterToVoteMA.com](http://RegisterToVoteMA.com)

Use this site to...

- Register or Pre-register to vote
- Update address and/or Party affiliation
- Update name
- Check registration status

### Who can Register to Vote?

You may submit an application to register or pre-register to vote in Massachusetts if:

- You are a citizen of the United States; and
- You are 16 years old (16 & 17 year-olds can pre-register)
- You are not currently incarcerated by reason of a felony conviction.

If you meet all of the above requirements, you may apply online, by mail, or in-person. Sixteen- and 17-year olds can pre-register by filling out a registration form. Their registration will become effective when they turn 18.

### How to Register

- *Preferred:* Online with the Secretary of State, [sec.state.ma.us/ovr](http://sec.state.ma.us/ovr)
- In person at the City Clerk's Office in Newton City Hall
- By mail (mail-in voter registration forms are available at the Newton Free Library or you can [download one](#))

In addition, as of January 1, 2020, if you are a U.S. citizen applying for or renewing a driver's license or state ID at the RMV, or applying for health insurance through MassHealth or the Commonwealth Health Connector, you will be automatically registered to vote, unless you opt out of registering. See [Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth Voter Registration Information](#).

### Registration deadlines

- Twenty (20) days before a state or national election
- Twenty (20) days before city or town elections, town meetings, special primaries and special elections

*NOTE: For all 2020 elections, the deadline to register to vote was 10 days before the date of the election. Check the [Secretary of State's website](#) for the most up to date information.*

## Absentee Ballots

Absentee voting is available for all elections, for those voters who qualify. To qualify for an absentee ballot, you must:

1. Be away from your city/town on Election Day; or
2. Have a disability that keeps you from voting at your polling place; or
3. Have a religious belief that prevents you from voting at your polling place on Election Day

City's webpage on Absentee Voting:

<https://www.newtonma.gov/government/elections/absentee-voting>

### Request an Absentee Ballot

Absentee ballot applications are available at City Hall. You may download an application and mail or deliver it to the City Clerk's office. The application can be found here:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/absentee/English-Absentee-Ballot-Application.pdf>

You may also request an absentee ballot by mail. Send your request to the City Clerk, and include in your request your Newton address, the address of where you would like the ballot sent, and the election(s) for which you require absentee ballots and your signature. Mail your request to:

Newton Election Commission  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459

Requests for absentee ballots may be made up until noon of the day before the election. As a practical matter, however, if you want the ballot sent outside of Newton, you may want to request the ballot further in advance to allow time for delivery. It is possible to have a standing order so that absentee ballots for all the elections in a particular year are sent to you.

Absentee ballots cannot be requested by email or fax.

### Cast an Absentee Ballot

Absentee ballots can be voted over-the-counter at City Hall during regular office hours through noon on the day before the election. You may also cast your ballot by mail using the envelope provided with the ballot.

## **Vote by Mail**

Voting by mail was available to all voters for all elections in 2020. Voters did not need an excuse to vote by mail in 2020. Currently, no-excuse voting by mail has been extended by the state law until March 31, 2021. No-excuse voting by mail is a type of early voting, and it is available for all elections held on or before March 31, 2021.

## **Early Voting**

Thanks to legislation passed in 2014, early voting is now the law in Massachusetts for State General Elections. Voters may cast their ballots for two weeks before a State General Election. The Election Commission will publish the hours and location(s) prior to the start of early voting.

Once an early voter has marked their ballot, the voter's ballot will be held at the City Clerk's Office until Election Day, when it will be distributed to the appropriate polling location for counting.

## POLLING PLACES

For the most up-to-date information on polling locations visit  
<https://www.newtonma.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=65171>.

You can look up your ward, precinct and polling locations at  
<https://apps.newtonma.gov/residential-services>.

### CITY OF NEWTON POLLING LOCATIONS 2020

<u>WARD</u>	<u>PRECINCT</u>	<u>POLLING LOCATION</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
1	1	Lincoln Eliot School	191 Pearl Street
1	2	Grace Episcopal Church	76 Eldredge Street
1	3	Bigelow Middle School	42 Vernon Street
1	4	Pellegrini Playground Fieldhouse	11 Hawthorn Street
2	1	Albemarle Fieldhouse	250 Albemarle Road
2	2	Cabot Elementary School	229 Cabot Street
2	3	Newton Senior Center	345 Walnut Street
2	4	Newton Free Library	330 Homer Street
3	1	Old Horace Mann School	687 Watertown Street
3	2	Peirce School	170 Temple Street
3	3	Franklin School	125 Derby Street
3	4	Franklin School	125 Derby Street
4	1	Burr School	171 Pine Street
4	2	Hamilton Community Center	545 Grove Street
4	3	Williams School	141 Grove Street
4	4	Burr School	171 Pine Street
5	1	Emerson Community Center	51 Pettee Street
5	2	Hyde Community Center	90 Lincoln Street
5	3	Zervas Elementary School	30 Beethoven Avenue
5	4	Zervas Elementary School	30 Beethoven Avenue
6	1	Bowen School	280 Cypress Street
6	2	Bowen School	280 Cypress Street
6	3	Hyde Community Center	90 Lincoln Street
6	4	Mason Rice School	149 Pleasant Street
7	1	Church of the Redeemer	379 Hammond Street
7	2	Bigelow Middle School	42 Vernon Street
7	3	Ward School	10 Dolphin Road
7	4	Ward School	10 Dolphin Road
8	1	Oak Hill Middle School	130 Wheeler Road
8	2	Temple Beth Avodah	45 Puddingstone Lane
8	3	Countryside School	191 Dedham Street
8	4	Shuman Community Center	675 Saw Mill Brook Pkwy

**POLLING LOCATIONS ARE OPEN FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M.**

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

### President

[The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.](#)

*Greeting: Dear Mr. President*

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW

Washington, D.C. 20500

[www.whitehouse.gov/contact](http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact)

### U.S. Congress, Senators

[The Honorable Elizabeth Warren](#)

*Greeting: Dear Senator Warren*

**Senate Address:**

United States Senate

309 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

202-224-4543

Email via form at [warren.senate.gov/contact](http://warren.senate.gov/contact)

**Boston Office:**

2400 JFK Federal Bldg.

15 New Sudbury St.

Boston, MA 02203

617-565-3170

[The Honorable Edward J. Markey](#)

*Greeting: Dear Senator Markey*

**Senate Address:**

United States Senate

255 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

202-224-2742

Email via form at [markey.senate.gov/contact](http://markey.senate.gov/contact)

**District Address:**

975 JFK Federal Bldg.

15 New Sudbury St.

Boston, MA 02203

617-565-8519

### U.S. Congress, Representative, 4th District

[The Honorable Jacob D. Auchincloss](#)

*Greeting: Dear Congressman Auchincloss*

**Congressional Address:**

1524 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

202-225-5931

Email via form at [auchincloss.house.gov/contact](http://auchincloss.house.gov/contact)

**District Address:**

29 Crafts St. Suite 375

Newton, MA 02458

617-332-3333

## STATE AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### Citizens Information Services

617-727-7030 | [www.sec.state.ma.us/cis](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/cis)

### General Information

[Massachusetts House](#): 617-722-2000 | [Massachusetts Senate](#): 617-722-1455

### Information on Pending Bills

[House Clerk](#): 617-722-2356 | [Senate Clerk](#): 617-722-1276

## Governor

[His Excellency Charlie Baker](#)

*Greeting: Dear Governor Baker:*

Governor of the Commonwealth

Mass. State House, 24 Beacon St., Office of the Governor, Rm 280

Boston, MA 02133

617-725-4005

Email via form at [mass.gov/forms/email-the-governors-office](http://mass.gov/forms/email-the-governors-office)

## Governor's Council, District 3

[The Honorable Marilyn M. Petitto Devaney](#)

*Greeting: Dear Governor's Councilor*

### State Address:

State House

24 Beacon St.

Boston, MA 02133

[marilyn.p.devaney@gov.state.ma.us](mailto:marilyn.p.devaney@gov.state.ma.us)

### Home Address:

98 Westminster Ave

Watertown, MA 02472

617-840-7689

## State Senator

### First Middlesex and Norfolk: All of Newton

[The Honorable Cynthia Stone Creem](#)

*Greeting: Dear Senator Creem*

### State Address:

State House

24 Beacon St., Room 312A

Boston, MA 02133

617-527-0707

[Cynthia.Creem@masenate.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Creem@masenate.gov)

### Home Address:

110 Huntington Rd

Newton, MA 02458

617-722-1639

## State Representatives

### **10th Middlesex District**

*Ward 1, Precincts 1 & 4*

[The Honorable John J. Lawn, Jr.](#)

*Greeting: Dear Mr. Lawn*

State House

24 Beacon St., Room 445

Boston, MA 02133

617-722-2460

[John.Lawn@mahouse.gov](mailto:John.Lawn@mahouse.gov)

### **11th Middlesex District**

*Ward 1, Precincts 2 & 3; Ward 2, 3 & 4; Ward 7, Precinct 2*

[The Honorable Kay Khan](#)

*Greeting: Dear Ms. Khan*

State House

24 Beacon St., Room 146

Boston, MA 02133

617-722-2011

[Kay.Khan@mahouse.gov](mailto:Kay.Khan@mahouse.gov)

### **12th Middlesex District**

*Wards 5, 6, 8 and Ward 7, Precincts 1, 3 & 4*

[The Honorable Ruth B. Balsler](#)

*Greeting: Dear Ms. Balsler*

State House

24 Beacon St., Room 167

Boston, MA 02133

617-722-2810

[Ruth.Balsler@mahouse.gov](mailto:Ruth.Balsler@mahouse.gov)

## NEWTON CITY GOVERNMENT

### Mayor

[Honorable Ruthanne Fuller](#)

City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Ave  
Newton Centre, MA 02459  
617-796-1100

### City Council

City Council's Office  
City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Ave  
Newton Centre, MA 02459  
617-796-1210

**President** Susan Albright

**Vice President** Rick Lipof

**Clerk of the Council**: Chris Sullivan, *Acting Clerk of the Council*

Website for the Newton City Council:

[www.newtonma.gov/government/city-clerk/city-council](http://www.newtonma.gov/government/city-clerk/city-council)

To send your comments to all of the City Councilors please use the email:

[citycouncil@newtonma.gov](mailto:citycouncil@newtonma.gov)

## 2020-2021 Newton City Council

### *At-large Councilors*

### *Ward Councilor*

#### **WARD 1**

**Alison M. Leary**

(617) 821-5619

[aleary@newtonma.gov](mailto:aleary@newtonma.gov)

**John Oliver**

(248) 219-3858

[joliver@newtonma.gov](mailto:joliver@newtonma.gov)

**Maria Scibelli Greenberg**

(617) 631-8691

[msgreenberg@newtonma.gov](mailto:msgreenberg@newtonma.gov)

#### **WARD 2**

**Susan S. Albright**

(617) 527-7108

[salbright@newtonma.gov](mailto:salbright@newtonma.gov)

**Tarik Lucas**

(617) 910-7470

[tlucas@newtonma.gov](mailto:tlucas@newtonma.gov)

**Emily Norton**

(617) 795-0362

[enorton@newtonma.gov](mailto:enorton@newtonma.gov)

#### **WARD 3**

**Andrea W. Kelley**

(857) 297-2177

[akelley@newtonma.gov](mailto:akelley@newtonma.gov)

**Pamela Wright**

(617) 559-0807

[pwright@newtonma.gov](mailto:pwright@newtonma.gov)

**Julia Malakie**

(617) 610-2509

[jmalakie@newtonma.gov](mailto:jmalakie@newtonma.gov)

#### **WARD 4**

**Joshua Krintzman**

(617) 558-0699

[jkrintzman@newtonma.gov](mailto:jkrintzman@newtonma.gov)

**Leonard J. Gentile**

(617) 964-5254

[lgentile@newtonma.gov](mailto:lgentile@newtonma.gov)

**Christopher J. Markiewicz**

(617) 332-7231

[cmarkiewicz@newtonma.gov](mailto:cmarkiewicz@newtonma.gov)

#### **WARD 5**

**Deborah J. Crossley**

(617) 775-1294

[dcrossley@newtonma.gov](mailto:dcrossley@newtonma.gov)

**Andreae Downs**

(617) 329-1261

[adowns@newtonma.gov](mailto:adowns@newtonma.gov)

**William B. Humphrey**

(617) 862-2045

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## **Standing Committees of the Newton City Council**

[www.newtonma.gov/government/city-clerk/city-council/council-standing-committees](http://www.newtonma.gov/government/city-clerk/city-council/council-standing-committees)

### **Finance Committee**

[www.newtonma.gov/government/city-clerk/city-council/council-standing-committees/finance-committee](http://www.newtonma.gov/government/city-clerk/city-council/council-standing-committees/finance-committee)

*Meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.*

The Finance Committee reviews requests related to Budget review and transfers, policy oversight and review, capital improvements, and matters relating to the Assessing Department, Parking Fine Administration, City Treasurer and Collector, City Comptroller and Accounting Department, Purchasing Department, Executive Office, Personnel Department, and Data Processing Department.

### **Land Use Committee**

[www.newtonma.gov/government/city-clerk/city-council/council-standing-committees/land-use-committee](http://www.newtonma.gov/government/city-clerk/city-council/council-standing-committees/land-use-committee)

*Holds working sessions on the Tuesdays following the first and fourth Mondays of each month, and Public Hearings on the Tuesday following the second Monday of each month.*

The Land Use Committee reviews matters relating to Special Permit and Site Plan Approval petitions; utility petitions relating to Special Permit and Site Plan Approval projects; zone change petitions relating to individual, specific parcels; sign permits; lodging house and dormitory licenses; licensing of automobile dealers; permits for storage of towed vehicles; and matters relating to Community Preservation housing proposals.

### **Programs & Services Committee**

[www.newtonma.gov/government/city-clerk/city-council/council-standing-committees/programs-services-committee](http://www.newtonma.gov/government/city-clerk/city-council/council-standing-committees/programs-services-committee)

*Meets on the Wednesdays following the first and third Monday of each month.*

The Programs and Services Committee reviews items relating to the Human Services Department, Library, Recreation Department, Law Department (except for claims), Veterans' Services Department, Licensing Commission, City Clerk, Clerk of the Council, Rules of the Council, Election Commission, Health Department, Newton Public Schools, Community Schools, and Newton Housing Authority, as well as matters relating to the interrelationship of the School Committee and Newton Public Schools with other areas of City government.

### **Public Facilities Committee**

[www.newtonma.gov/government/city-clerk/city-council/council-standing-committees/public-facilities-committee](http://www.newtonma.gov/government/city-clerk/city-council/council-standing-committees/public-facilities-committee)

*Meets on the Wednesdays following the first and third Monday of each month; Public Facilities also holds utility hearings on the Wednesday following the third Monday of each month.*

The Public Facilities Committee reviews matters related to the Department of Public Works, including the Water and Sewer Division; Public Buildings Department; and Engineering Department including: street acceptance, layout, construction, repair, and maintenance; relocation and discontinuance of public ways; water and sewer services; storm drains; street lighting; public utility easements and poles; and construction, repair, and maintenance of public buildings.

### **Public Safety and Transportation Committee**

[www.newtonma.gov/government/city-clerk/city-council/council-standing-committees/public-safety-transportation-committee](http://www.newtonma.gov/government/city-clerk/city-council/council-standing-committees/public-safety-transportation-committee)

*Meets on the Wednesdays following the first and third Monday of each month.*

The Public Safety and Transportation Committee reviews matters relating to the Fire Department, Police Department, and Civil Defense Department, as well as matters relating to the Traffic Engineer and Traffic Council; taxi routes, stops and licensing; bus routes, stops and licensing; public transportation; and utility petitions relating to specific traffic signals.

### **Zoning and Planning Committee**

[www.newtonma.gov/government/city-clerk/city-council/council-standing-committees/zoning-planning-committee](http://www.newtonma.gov/government/city-clerk/city-council/council-standing-committees/zoning-planning-committee)

*Meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.*

The Zoning and Planning Committee reviews matters relating to the Inspectional Services Department, Planning Department, Conservation Commission, and Historic Commission.

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Website: [www.newton.k12.ma.us/schoolcommittee](http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/schoolcommittee)

Contact: Newton School Committee, 100 Walnut Street, Newton MA 02460

[schoolcommittee@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:schoolcommittee@newton.k12.ma.us)

617-559-6110

*Chair:* Ruth Goldman

*Vice-Chair:* Bridget Ray-Canada

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## CITY OF NEWTON PUBLIC MEETINGS

### City Council

Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month except for July and August when they are on the 2nd Monday of the month. Meetings are held at 7:45 pm at City Hall.

### City Council Committee Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and begin at 7:45 pm at City Hall. See the online schedule at [newtonma.gov/gov/aldermen/meetings](http://newtonma.gov/gov/aldermen/meetings) or call City Hall, 617-796-1200 for cancellations or changes.

### School Committee

See the calendar online at [newton.k12.ma.us](http://newton.k12.ma.us) for meeting dates and times. Meetings are held at the Education Center, 100 Walnut Street in the Frazier Room #210, unless otherwise specified.

*Both School Committee and City Council meetings are broadcast live by NewTV and rebroadcast during the week following. See [www.newtv.org](http://www.newtv.org) for current schedules.*

***PLEASE NOTE:*** *Currently, all City government meetings are being held virtually. Visit the City Council or School Committee websites for all meeting information. Zoom links can be found in calendar posts, in the meeting agendas, and in the City Council's Friday Packet.*

## LEAGUE PROGRAM

League program is adopted at all three levels of government: local, state, and national. Program is determined by the members and consists of those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action, as well as action to protect the right to vote of all citizens. Please see [Impact on Issues 2020-22](https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues) (<https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues>) for a complete guide to LWVUS public policy positions.

### LWVUS Summary of Policy Positions

(from pages 11-16 of Impact on Issues 2020-22)

#### **Representative Government**

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

##### **Voting Rights**

###### **Citizen's Right to Vote**

Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

###### **DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation**

Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

##### **Election Process**

###### **Apportionment**

Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

###### **Redistricting**

Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.

###### **Money in Politics (formerly campaign finance)**

Support campaign finance/MIP regulations that enhances political equality for all citizens, ensures transparency, protects representative democracy from distortion by undisclosed contributions and big money, and combats corruption and undue influence in government. Support campaign spending that is restricted but not banned. Supports public financing, full disclosure, abolishing SuperPACs, and creating an effective enforcement agency.

###### **Selection of the President**

Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential

elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

### **Voter Representation/Electoral Systems**

Support electoral systems at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable, and enhance representation for all voters.

## **Citizen Rights**

### **Citizen's Right to Know/ Public Participation**

Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate informed understanding and public participation in government decision-making.

## **Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals & Constitutional Conventions**

### **Amendment Proposals**

Consider whether a proposal addresses matters of abiding importance, makes our political system more democratic, protects individual rights, could be achieved by a constitutional amendment or legislative proposal, and is consistent with other League positions.

### **Constitutional Conventions**

Hold Constitutional Conventions only when certain conditions are in place, such as: limited to a specific topic, full transparency, delegates selected by population, and voting by delegates not by states.

### **Individual Liberties**

Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

### **Public Policy on Reproductive Choice**

Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

## **Congress and the Presidency**

### **Congress**

Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability and effective performance.

### **Presidency**

Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

## **Privatization**

Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector.

## **International Relations**

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

### **United Nations**

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

### **Trade**

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade; and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental, and social goals.

### **Developing Countries**

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

### **Arms Control**

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

### **Military Policy and Defense Spending**

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

## **Natural Resources**

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

### **Resource Management & Protection**

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Promote resource conservation, stewardship, and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government. Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

#### **Air Quality**

Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

#### **Energy**

Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation, and encourage the use of renewable resources.

#### **Land Use**

Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

### **Transfer of Federal Public Lands**

Promote policies that Federal public lands should remain under the jurisdiction of the federal government.

### **Water**

Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water, and set up a process to evaluate inter-basin water transfers.

### **Waste Management**

Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

### **Nuclear**

Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

## **Climate Change**

Support climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations.

## **Public Participation**

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

## **Agriculture Policy**

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices, and increased reliance on the free market.

### **Federal Agriculture Policies**

Provide financial support to subsidize agriculture in specific instances, enforce federal antitrust laws to ensure competitive agricultural markets, and apply clean air and water regulations to all animal and aquaculture production. The federal government should fund basic agricultural research to provide adequate safety of our food supply.

## **Social Policy**

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

## **Equality of Opportunity**

### **Equal Rights**

Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA. Support equal rights for all under state and federal law regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability.

### **Education, Employment, Housing**

Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

## **Federal Role in Public Education**

Support federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12.

## **Fiscal Policy**

### **Tax Policy**

Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

### **Federal Deficit**

Promote responsible deficit policies.

### **Funding of Entitlements**

Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

## **Health Care**

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides affordable access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents, including behavioral health that is integrated with and achieves parity with the physical health care system.

## **Immigration**

Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

## **Meeting Basic Human Needs**

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

### **Income Assistance**

Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

### **Support Services**

Provide essential support services.

### **Housing Supply**

Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

### **Child Care**

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

### **Early Intervention for Children at Risk**

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

### **Violence Prevention**

Support violence prevention programs in communities.

### **Gun Control**

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

### **Urban Policy**

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

### **Death Penalty**

The LWVUS supports the abolition of the death penalty.

### **Sentencing Policy**

Support the exploration and utilization of alternatives to imprisonment, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

### **Human Trafficking**

Oppose all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

*Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.*

## **LWV Massachusetts Positions in Brief**

The LWVMA positions are in the document [Where We Stand](http://www.lwvma.org/advocacy/league-positions/) which can be found here: [www.lwvma.org/advocacy/league-positions/](http://www.lwvma.org/advocacy/league-positions/). We've provided a condensed version below.

### **Government**

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive; that has a fair and adequate fiscal basis; that protects individual liberties established by the constitution; and that assures opportunities for citizen participation in government decision-making

### **County government and regional planning**

An effective state government. An intermediate level of government to solve regional problems (either through a revised county structure or an emerging regionalism). Regional planning on a statewide basis. High visibility for county and/or regional government. Home rule for counties.

### **Courts**

A judicial system that provides equal justice for all through effective, modern administration, qualified judicial personnel, a strengthened probation service, and procedures and practices that ensure due process of law.

### **Elections & Voting Rights**

Goal Protect the right to vote of every citizen

### **Initiatives & Referendum (Ballot Question) Process**

Supports having a mechanism for three types of initiative petitions that may lead to statewide ballot questions: initiative for a law, initiative for a constitutional amendment, and referendum on an existing law.

### **Executive branch**

An effective state government. A strong executive branch with lines of authority and responsibility clearly defined.

### **Fiscal policy**

Support of a state and local tax structure that will have an equitable impact on taxpayers and adequately support state services with consideration of the effect on the state' and local economies; distribution of state aid in a manner that will equalize municipal resources; a comprehensive state budget system that will provide a basis for the evaluation of the cost and effectiveness of current state programs and long-range capital expenditures; up-to-date, uniform and accurate property valuations; and efficient management of the revenue collection systems.

### **Home rule**

An effective state government; home rule for Massachusetts cities and towns in local matters.

### **Legislature**

An effective state government.; a strong and highly visible legislative branch that is districted on the basis of population into contiguous, compact, single-member districts by an appointed, bipartisan commission, and that maintains its traditional role as a democratic forum.

### **Public personnel**

A public personnel system based upon merit principles and enlightened practices.

## **Natural Resources**

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest by recognizing the interrelationships of air quality, energy, land use, waste management and water resources.

## **Social Policy**

Promote social and economic justice, secure equal rights for all and combat discrimination and poverty.

### **Child abuse prevention and treatment**

The prevention of child abuse and neglect; the protection and care of children experiencing abuse and neglect.

### **Corrections**

A sound corrections system which provides opportunities for the rehabilitation of the adult and juvenile offender.

### **Day care**

A coordinated state policy for quality day care for the children of Massachusetts with adequate funding for implementation by the responsible state agencies.

### **Domestic violence**

The prevention of domestic violence. A strong statewide response to domestic violence that is integrated, interdisciplinary, and adequately funded, involving all segments of the criminal justice system, the medical community, the schools, social services, and the private sector, with a primary focus on the safety of victims.

## **Education**

Equal access to education.

## **Equality of opportunity**

The League supports equal access to education, employment and housing; and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

## **Handgun control**

Elimination of the private possession of handguns and assault weapons.

## **Health care**

An affordable health care system that provides equal access to quality health care for all.

## **Immigration**

The League supports:

- Promoting local community efforts to provide orientation and counseling services for immigrants regardless of documentation status.
- Promoting and funding educational programs and materials that seek to inform all workers of their rights in the workplace.
- Providing "driving certificates" or some other form of proof of driving validation to undocumented drivers.

The League opposes:

- The deputization of state and local police to enforce immigration laws.
- Legislation or ordinances at the state and local level that would penalize landlords for renting to undocumented immigrants.
- Legislation or ordinances that would prohibit the issuance of business permits to undocumented immigrants.

## **Legalized casino gambling**

Opposition to the establishment of legalized casino gambling in Massachusetts.

## **Meeting basic human needs**

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

## **Affordable Housing**

Access to decent housing and a suitable living environment affordable for all.

Support of programs, policies and regulations to address the housing needs of low- and moderate-income families and individuals.

**Reproductive choices**

Freedom of individuals to make informed reproductive decisions based on their own convictions and beliefs.

**Transportation**

Support a transportation system to move people and goods which includes a variety of transportation modes, with emphasis on increased public transportation services and other viable alternatives to reduce vehicle miles traveled; is efficient, convenient, and cost effective; is safe and secure; serves all segments of the population and diverse geographic needs; minimizes harmful effects on the environment; is integrated with land use; and is supported by extensive public education.

## LWV Newton Positions

*The following Positions have been adopted after study and consensus and provide the basis for the actions and advocacy that LWVN undertakes. At each annual meeting, LWVN reviews and reaffirms or modifies the Positions and adopts a Program of action (priorities) for the coming year based on these Positions.*

*The following Positions were approved by the LWVN membership at the June 2020 Annual Meeting.*

## City Government

### Charter

- Support of an adequately paid mayor who shall, by Charter provision, devote full time to his or her office.
- Support of a four-year term for Mayor.
- Support a strong mayoral form of government (*adopted 2010*).
- Support the practice of allowing the Mayor's appointment of department heads and members of multiple member bodies to become effective unless rejected by the City Council.
- Support the present practice of allowing the Mayor to dismiss department heads without the approval of the City Council.
- Support the formal creation of the position of Citizen Assistance Officer.
- Support of a special election to fill a vacancy in the office of Mayor unless the vacancy occurs within the last nine months of their term.
- Support of a nine-member School Committee, with eight members elected at large, one to reside in each ward, with the Mayor serving *ex-officio*.
- Support abolishing School Committee term limits (*adopted 2010*).
- Support of four-year staggered terms for School Committee and City Council (*amended 2010*).
- Support of special elections to fill vacancies in the City Council and School Committee unless the vacancy occurs in the last nine months of the term, in which case it should be left vacant.
- Support the implementation and regular updating of the Newton Comprehensive Plan (*amended 2010*).
- Support the adoption of a Capital Improvement Program by resolution of the City Council.
- Support the provision in Newton's governmental structure for free petition and initiative and referendum procedures.

- Support the reduction of the size of the City Council with a mix of at-large and district representation or with at-large representatives with residency requirement (amended 2010).
- Support elimination of 2% charter maintenance provision for schools (*adopted 2010*).

### **Administration**

Support an administrative code that clearly delineates the function and responsibility of city departments and outlines the qualifications for department heads (adopted 2010).

### **Executive**

- Support the position of a CAO [chief administrative officer], appointed by and reporting directly to the Mayor. This position shall be appointed on the basis of education, training and experience in the accepted competencies and practices of local government management. A contract is desirable to insure some job security and independence (*adopted 2010*).
- Support the requirement that the Executive Branch submit timely, periodic long-range financial plans, and long-range strategic capital plans (*adopted 2010*).
- Support the development and implementation of a personnel evaluation plan under the Executive Branch (by ordinance, not the charter) (*adopted 2010*).

## **Environmental Quality**

### **Recycling**

Support for recycling of solid waste in Newton by municipal collection and, as a first step or last resort, by voluntary effort. The following criteria should be applied:

1. An established re-use for the recycled material
2. An educational program to promote citizen cooperation
3. And, in case of voluntary recycling, adequate supervision of collection depots

### **Sidewalk Snow Removal**

- Support of an ordinance requiring all owners and/or occupants to clear snow from the sidewalks abutting their properties.
- Support of an ordinance requiring owners or occupants in business districts to clear snow from the sidewalks abutting their properties.
- Support City plowing of sidewalks on school routes and main streets.

## **Fiscal Policy**

- Support of equitable assessment procedures and practices.
- Support of minimum standards for the qualification of Newton assessors, with emphasis on experience and professional training.
- Support of flexible methods of taxation between different classes of real estate property in Newton.
- Support of periodic revaluation of real estate property in Newton at the discretion of the Board of Assessors, but at least once every 5 to 10 years.
- Support of coordination of financial affairs within the government of the City of Newton.
- Support of budgetary practices that would allow for an analysis of cost effectiveness of governmental programs and their possible alternatives.
- Support strengthening the City Council audit process to achieve greater internal control (*adopted 2010*).
- Support ordinance to require adoption of best financial practices (*adopted 2010*).
- Support the adoption of a comprehensive capital planning process including clear links to long-term goals (*adopted 2010*).

## **Human Services**

### **Equality of Opportunity**

Support of policies, programs, and practices to provide equality of opportunity for all people in Newton with emphasis on agencies that foster sound community relations.

### **Housing**

- Support of measures to provide adequate housing for people of low income. Support a local housing agency which reflects a diversity of backgrounds and the concerns of the tenants.
- Support of the following measures to increase the supply of housing for families of low and moderate income:
  1. Housing for low and moderate income families should be scattered throughout the city
  2. New housing developments should be planned to accommodate a mixed socioeconomic group
  3. Newton should continue to expand its leased housing program
  4. Private non-profit, cooperative, or limited dividend corporations should construct new housing for low and moderate income families

5. The City of Newton should make available city-owned sites suitable for the construction of low/moderate income housing; recommendations of the Planning Department should be considered in determining what sites are suitable for housing
6. The City Council should continue to implement its policy requiring that developers of new multiple-unit housing lease a certain percentage thereof for low-income tenants
7. Non-profit organizations, banking, and real estate organizations should work together to promote opportunities for low and moderate income families to buy their own homes

### **Community Residences**

- Support of a wide range of locally-based facilities, including community residences for people with special needs.
- Support of the following measures to facilitate their integration into the community:
  1. All community residences in Newton must conform to appropriate licensing requirements and codes
  2. The process for considering requests for site plan approval should include a public hearing, periodic review, and a procedure for ongoing neighborhood input
  3. Dispersal of community residences is preferable to concentration in a particular neighborhood
  4. There should be preference for Newton residents in regard to admission to community residences in Newton to the extent that funding sources and program characteristics are not jeopardized

### **Alternative Housing for Adolescents**

- Support for alternative housing programs for troubled adolescents in Newton.
- Support for education to promote acceptance in the community of programs to aid troubled adolescents.
- Support for community participation in the establishment and maintenance of community residences for adolescents.
- Support for funding by the City of Newton to assist in alternative housing programs for adolescents.

### **Public Education**

Support of the policy of limited autonomy of school principals while recognizing the need for improved coordination among principals and central staff in regard to curriculum.

### **Physical Plant: School Buildings**

- Support of long-range educational planning for space needs by the School Committee and the use of the Inspectional Services and Building Department as prime planning resources in regard to school building needs (*adopted 2013*).
- Support prompt and effective implementation of school building programs through coordination among the Mayor, the School Committee and the City Council, including presentation to the MA School Building Authority when appropriate (*amended 2013*).
- Support of a long-range planning process emphasizing high quality educational standards and a balancing of educational resources to ensure appropriate and adequate capacity throughout the city using the following criteria (*amended 2013*).
  1. System-wide flexibility to accommodate needed educational, community and family support services
  2. Age, condition and location of buildings
  3. Effect on whole school community of receiving schools
  4. Financial implications, including need for capital improvements
  5. Size of school population as it relates to educational options and flexibility
  6. Equitable services offered citywide
  7. System-wide stability to avoid frequent disruption of siblings
- Support of a class size policy as a necessary component of quality education at the elementary and secondary levels.
- Support for an increase in school funding to reflect increasing enrollment and resulting educational needs (*amended 2013*). See also under “LAND USE.”

### **Child Care**

- Support for child care services which are accessible, affordable and meet the various needs of children.
- Support for funding to ensure access to quality child care services for all families, including:
  1. A mix of funding from government, tuition and private sector sources
  2. City-wide funding for school-age child care
  3. In-kind contributions by city and school department
  4. A child care coordinator funded by the city
- Support the use of school buildings for after-school childcare, understanding that the primary use of such buildings is for educational programs. To

maintain and promote quality school-age child care (SACC) in Newton the League supports:

1. Adequate dedicated space and access to facilities in all elementary schools for SACC, with the belief that on-site, school-based, after-school child care better meets the needs of children
  2. Independently run SACC programs, with planning and operation coordinated with the individual schools
  3. Space and access to facilities within the school for SACC should have consideration in long-range planning by the School Department
  4. Increase in enrollment capacity to allow space for all children
  5. Professionalization of staff
- Support long-range planning by the School Department, School Committee and Planning Department to include resources needed by SACC.

### **Public Health**

Support of measures to improve public health in Newton for all age groups which include:

1. Measures to improve mental health programs
2. Fluoridation of the Newton water supply at the approved level;
3. Measures to improve public health education in Newton
4. Measures to implement programs and facilities approved by the qualified public health official
5. Optional in-school inoculation plan
6. A system-wide anti-smoking program to begin before the junior high level
7. Measures to strengthen the enforcement of the Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation

### **Library**

- Support for improved library services designed to meet the diverse needs of the community with priority to be given to the acquisition of books and delivery of book related services.
- Support for the branch library system with consideration for closing some branches or relocation into other public buildings if significant savings can be achieved.
- Support cooperation between the School Department and the Public Library.

### **Recreation and Open Space**

- Support of improved recreational facilities in Newton.

- Support of the opening of schools for recreational purposes.
- Support of the following goals for recreation and open space in Newton:
  1. Retention of appropriate portions of the recreation parks as natural areas, with adequate maintenance and improved access
  2. Gradual provision of new recreational facilities to serve the entire city as need is established
  3. Improvement of the neighborhood playground - playfield system
  4. Development of linear open spaces with provision for maintenance
- Support consideration of the plans and needs of the Recreation Commission and the Conservation Commission before city-owned land is made available to non-municipal interests.
- Support improved cooperation and coordination among the appropriate city departments and agencies in planning, effecting and maintaining recreational facilities and improvement.
- Support for a Master Plan that includes all public open spaces, parks and recreational facilities, playgrounds and playfields in the City of Newton, including those under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Commission, School Department, Conservation Commission and state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) (*adopted 2006*).

## **Land Use**

In all our land use positions, the LWVN's aim is to support the goals set forth in Newton's Comprehensive Plan (*adopted 2011*).

## **Housing**

Support maintaining and creating the full spectrum of housing types to reflect and enhance the diversity of Newton's population and neighborhoods (*adopted 2011*).

## **Economic Development**

Support Economic Development policies that retain and create businesses that contribute to the vitality of the community (*adopted 2011*).

## **Development - Mixed Use**

Support new development and redevelopment projects that are mixed use, compact, transit-oriented, and/or that minimize adverse environmental impacts (*adopted 2011*).

## **Zoning**

- Support of zoning practices consistent with regional long-range professional planning (*amended 2011*).

- Support of flood-plain and watershed protection districts in the zoning ordinance of Newton.
- Opposition to building upon certain lands for ecological reasons.
- Support of the following zoning techniques: a density bonus, cluster development and planned unit development – conditional upon safeguards for the open space that would result.
- Support of the adoption of density and open space standards for the community.
- Support of more intensive use of business districts subject to the absence of traffic increases detrimental to the surrounding area (*amended 2011*).
- Support zoning ordinances that are clear and understandable. We encourage the City to consider new zoning practices in its ordinances (*adopted 2011*).
- Support modification of zoning ordinances:
  1. Support more flexible use of existing housing through zoning ordinances that allow the maximum number of accessory apartments while maintaining adequate density standards and concern for traffic. For equity, large lot districts should have a larger proportion of accessory apartments. The following restrictions should apply:
    - a. All buildings/units containing accessory apartments must be owner-occupied
    - b. Adequate off-street parking must be provided
  2. Support modification of zoning ordinances to legalize existing accessory apartments, with restrictions
    - a. All buildings/units containing accessory apartments must be owner-occupied
    - b. Adequate off-street parking must be provided
  3. Support strict enforcement of the Zoning Code

### **Planning in the Community**

- Support the implementation and regular updating of the Newton Comprehensive Plan (*amended 2010*).
- Support the following goals for the future development of Newton:
  1. An excellent school system
  2. A well-distributed system of open spaces within the city

### **Redevelopment, Rehabilitation and Conservation**

- Support for community participation in the planning process to ensure that redevelopment benefits the original residents of the area as well as the community at large.
- Opposition to financial loss being suffered by any person or business as a result of redevelopment. Displacement of a resident or a local business should take place only when prior planning and reasonable efforts to provide relocation in the area have failed.
- Support of historic districts in Newton.

### **Closed School Facilities**

Support of a procedure which sets priorities for the use or disposition of closed school facilities. Such a procedure should insure citizen participation in planning and give consideration to alternate community needs and uses. (See also under Support City plowing of sidewalks on school routes and main streets.

### **Transportation**

The LWV Newton adopts the state transportation position for local roads, with emphasis on **safety** and **consistency** across City transportation decisions.

1. **Safety First:** Safe travel should be the first priority in transportation policies. City investments and enforcement strategies should be based on the principle of safety first so that everyone feels safe and so that all road users practice safe travel behavior.
2. **Consistency:** Newton transportation practices, policies, investments, and decisions, will be consistent with and support the City of Newton's public plans, goals and the 2010 Comprehensive Plan, with particular attention to Environmental Impacts (*added 2014*).

## **2020-21 LWVN PROGRAM/ACTION PRIORITIES**

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Newton recommends adoption of the following program for 2020-2021:

1. All program positions approved by the membership at the June 2020 Annual Meeting and listed on [lwvnewton.org/action/lwvn-program-and-positions](http://lwvnewton.org/action/lwvn-program-and-positions).
2. Continuation of outreach, observation, education, and advocacy regarding changes to the Newton City Charter.

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Newton recommends the following local action priorities for 2020-2021:

1. **CPA:** Review CPA (Community Preservation Act) applications. It is our intent to place a greater focus on CPA proposals and establish a more flexible and consistent methodology in how we accomplish this goal. In addition, the League will review how CPA funds are being utilized by the city in relation to the purpose and intent of the Community Preservation Act.
2. **Observer Corps:** Expand our Observer Corps.
3. **Municipal Finance** (*chairperson needed*)
  - a. Review the municipal budget to show how the City is obtaining, spending, and investing funds
  - b. Educate the community about how the Mayor's office and the Finance Committee of the City Council set priorities and how the decision model impacts budget decisions.
  - c. Engage members and inform Board on issues related to LWVN municipal finance positions.
4. **Education**
  - a. Build on the successful efforts of our 2020 Civics Challenge by organizing and promoting community-wide civics challenges annually. The goals of the civics challenges are to foster a greater understanding of government, increase voter participation and engagement, and build community on a non-partisan basis.
  - b. Explore the possibility of a civics challenge oriented around the secondary schools which would have the added benefit of educating our younger citizens about their civic responsibilities, preparing them for their roles as future voters, and encouraging greater civic engagement.
  - c. Engage members and inform the Board on local, state, and national education positions related to goals of the League.
5. **Environmental Issues and Transportation**
  - a. Support reducing vehicle miles traveled with transit-oriented development, improvements in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and in public transit.
  - b. Support reducing pollution from transportation.
  - c. Support transition to sustainable energy, i.e. minimize reliance on the gas grid, detect and repair gas leaks, insulate more buildings, and mandate electrification of new buildings.

- d. Educate and update our community on issues related to trash and recycling.
- e. Lobby for environmental legislation with other local Leagues and grassroots organizations.
- f. Hold educational forums on environmental and transportation issues.

## **6. Elections**

- a. Attend meetings of the Newton Election Commissioners.
- b. Help to publicize new early voting options.
- c. Hold a poll workers' party to thank the workers after the municipal election.
- d. Work to ensure transparency regarding the work of the commission.

## **7. Voter Service**

- a. Organize and manage forums for contested state offices in the 2020 election. We will partner with NewTV to continue updating our approach and incorporate technology into the format.
- b. Continue efforts to register new voters through attendance at various events around Newton, including the Farmer's Markets, village days, high school, and college events.
- c. Create opportunities to help people to engage in issues and advocacy at local, state, and national levels, e.g. voting by mail, shortening the registration deadline to 10 days before the election, pushing forward more early voting options for all elections, removing all barriers for absentee voting, etc.

## **8. Land Use and Housing Committee**

- a. Champion local zoning reform in harmony with established local, state, and national League positions.
- b. Work with city officials to ensure transparency and effectiveness relative to the establishment and implementation of Newton's Inclusionary Zoning lotteries to ensure that the disadvantaged communities have equal access to affordable housing.
- c. Stay informed of local land use and housing proposals, be prepared to make comments, ask questions, support, or oppose according to LWV positions.
- d. Examine and work with the state League to support state level housing and zoning legislation.
- e. Assess effectiveness and relevance of LWVN housing and land use positions.

# BYLAWS OF THE LWV OF NEWTON, MA

## Article I - Name

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Newton (hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as “LWVN”). This local league is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States (“LWVUS”) and of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (“LWVMA”). (Collectively, the LWVUS, the LWVMA, and the LWVN are hereinafter referred to as the “League of Women Voters” or the “League”).

## Article II – Purpose and Policy

Section 1. Purposes. The purposes of the LWVN are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. Policy. The LWVN shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

## Article III – Membership

Section 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policies of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership. The membership of the LWVN shall be composed of voting members and associate members.

(a) Voting Members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the LWVN shall be voting members of LWVN, LWVMA and LWVUS; (1) those who live within Newton may join LWVN or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of Newton may join LWVN or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for fifty (50) years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

(b) Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

## Article IV – Officers

Section 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The officers of the LWVN shall be (1) a president or co-presidents (singularly or collectively hereinafter referred to as “President”), at the discretion of the Nominating Committee (as defined in Article VIII) and the membership; (2) one or more vice-presidents (singularly or collectively hereinafter referred to as “Vice-President”), at the discretion of the Nominating Committee and the membership; (3) a clerk

("Clerk"); and (4) a treasurer ("Treasurer"). In the event the Nominating Committee is unable to identify a person willing to fill the role of President and no nominations for such role are received from the floor at an annual meeting, all as in accordance with Article VIII herein, then the role of President shall be performed by a steering committee until such time as a President can be elected.

Section 2. Term of Office. The officers of the LWVN shall each be elected for terms of one year by the general membership at an annual meeting and shall take office immediately.

Section 3. The President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the board of directors. The President shall sign all contracts and other instruments when so directed by the board of directors. The President may, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes. The President shall be, ex-officio, a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. The President shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the president and may perform such other duties as may be designated by the board of directors.

Section 4. The Vice-President. The Vice-President shall perform such duties as the President and the board of directors may designate. In the event of the absence, disability or death of the President, the Vice-President, who shall be designated at the first meeting of the board of directors, shall possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office, until the next annual meeting. In the event that the Vice-President is unable to serve in this capacity, the board of directors shall elect an officer, director, or member to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting.

Section 5. The Clerk. The Clerk shall record and keep minutes of all business meetings of the LWVN and of all meetings of the board of directors. The Clerk may sign, with the President, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the board of directors and shall perform all other duties as may be incident to the office. In the absence of the Clerk from any meeting of the membership or the board of directors, a temporary Clerk designated by the person presiding at the meeting shall record the minutes of the meeting.

Section 6. The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of these monies, shall deposit them in a bank or banks designated by the board of directors, and shall disburse the same only upon order of the board of directors. The Treasurer shall present periodic statements to the board of directors at its regular meetings and an annual report at the annual meeting.

## **Article V – Board of Directors**

Section 1. Number, Manner of Selections and Term of Office. The board of directors shall consist of (1) the officers of the LWVN, (2) no fewer than four and up to ten elected directors, each of whom shall be elected by the general membership at an annual meeting and shall serve for a term of one year, or until their successors have been elected and qualified, and (3) up to ten appointed directors, each of whom shall be appointed from time to time by the elected directors, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the LWVN and shall serve for a term beginning with their appointment and ending at the conclusion of the next occurring annual meeting.

Section 2. Qualifications. No person shall be elected or appointed, or shall continue to serve as, an officer or director of this organization unless that person is a voting member of the LWVN.

Section 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring on the board of directors other than that of the President may be filled until the next annual meeting by a majority vote of the remaining members of the board of directors. A vacancy in the office of the presidency shall be filled in accordance with Article IV, Section 3 hereof.

Section 4. Absences, Resignation. Three consecutive absences from a board meeting of any member without a valid reason as determined by the President shall be deemed a resignation. An officer or director may resign at any time by giving written notice to the board of directors, For purposes of this Article V, Section 4, notice given by email shall constitute written notice.

Section 5. Powers and Duties. The board of directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the LWVN with full power and authority to manage and conduct the same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. The board of directors shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the national convention, the state convention, and the annual meeting, creating and designating such committees as it may deem necessary.

### Section 6. Conduct of Business.

(a) **Regular meetings.** There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the board of directors annually.

(b) **Special meetings.** The President may call special meetings of the board of directors at any time, and the President shall call a special meeting of the board of directors upon the written request of one-third of the members of the board of directors. These meetings shall require at least twenty-four (24) hours notification to each member of the board. No action taken at any special board meeting

shall be invalidated because of the failure of any member or members of the board to acknowledge receipt of notice of a special meeting, as long as that notice has been properly transmitted.

(c) **Presence Through Electronic Communication** . Directors and members may participate in a meeting of the board of directors by means of a conference telephone, any form of electronic communications equipment, and/or internet communication mechanisms, provided that all persons participating in the meeting can communicate with each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

(d) **Electronic Business**. When the President deems it necessary to take action between meetings of the board of directors, the proposed action may be approved by electronic communication by a majority of the board of directors. At the next board meeting, the President shall read the proposed action and the results of the vote into the minutes; no further action will be required by the board of directors.

Section 7. Quorum. A majority of the members of the board of directors then in office shall constitute a quorum.

## **Article VI – Executive Committee of the Board of Directors**

Section 1. Composition. The executive committee shall consist of the officers with the President serving as chairperson. The President may invite to a meeting of the executive committee any person whose presence may be necessary or helpful in carrying out the specific business for which the meeting is called.

Section 2. Powers and Duties. The executive committee shall exercise such power and authority as may be delegated to it by the board of directors from time to time and shall report to the board of directors on all actions taken by it between regular meetings of the board.

Section 3. Meetings. The executive committee shall meet at the discretion of the President.

## **Article VII – Financial Administration**

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the LWVN shall commence on the first day of July each year and shall end on June 30 of the following year.

Section 2. Dues. Dues shall be payable when joining the LWVN and, thereafter, annually as determined by the board of directors. Any member who fails to pay

dues within sixty (60) days, due notice having been given, shall be dropped from the membership rolls.

Section 3. Budget. The board of directors shall submit a budget for the ensuing fiscal year to the annual meeting for adoption. The budget shall provide for support of the LWVUS, the LWVMA, as well as for the LWVN.

Section 4. Budget Committee. A budget committee shall be appointed by the board of directors at least two months prior to the annual meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing fiscal year. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members two weeks before the annual meeting. The Treasurer shall be, *ex-officio*, a member of the budget committee, but shall not be eligible to serve as chair.

Section 5. Financial Review. The books of the organization shall be reviewed prior to each annual meeting by a qualified person or persons who shall be appointed by the board of directors.

Section 6: Dissolution. In the event of a dissolution, for any cause, of the LWVN, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities, all monies and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the absolute control of the LWVN, shall be paid to the LWVMA. All other property of whatever nature, whether real, personal or mixed, which may at the time be owned by or under the control of the LWVN, shall be disposed of by any officer or employee of the organization having possession of same to such person, organization or corporation for such public, charitable or educational uses and purposes as may be designated by the then board of directors of the LWVN.

## **Article VIII – Meetings of the Membership**

Section 1. Meetings of the Membership. There shall be at least three meetings of the membership each year, one of which may be the annual meeting. The time and place of such meetings shall be determined by the board of directors.

Section 2. Special Meetings of the Membership. A special meeting of the membership shall be called by the Clerk upon the written request of the lesser of either; twenty (20) voting members, or fifteen percent (15%) of the voting members.

Section 3. Annual Meeting. An annual meeting shall be held between May 15 and June 30, the exact date to be determined by the board of directors. The annual meeting shall:

- adopt a local program for the ensuing fiscal year;
- elect officers and directors to the board of directors;
- elect the chair and two members of the succeeding Nominating Committee;

- adopt a budget; and
- transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Section 4. Quorum. For the purposes of voting, ten percent (10%) of the members shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the membership.

Section 5. Notice. Written notice of any meeting of the membership shall be given ten (10) days in advance. Written notice shall be satisfied by means of regular mail or by electronic communication.

Section 6. Presence Through Electronic Communication. Members may participate in a meeting of the membership by means of a conference telephone, any form of electronic communications equipment, and/or internet communication mechanisms, provided that all persons participating in the meeting can communicate with each other at the same time. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the foregoing, the annual meeting shall be held in-person unless the board of directors determines, in its discretion, that an in-person meeting is not feasible. Participation by means of the electronic communication described above shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

Section 7. Absentee or Proxy Voting. Absentee or proxy voting, whether for a meeting held in-person or through electronic means, shall not be permitted.

## **Article IX – Nominations and Elections**

Section 1. Nominating Committee. The nominating committee (“Nominating Committee”) shall consist of five members. The chair and two members, who shall not be members of the board of directors, shall be elected at the annual meeting. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current nominating committee. Following the annual meeting, the board of directors shall appoint two of its members to the Nominating Committee. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the board of directors.

Section 2. Report of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall solicit nominations for directors and officers from the general membership, as well as develop its own list of potential nominees. The report of the Nominating Committee, containing its nominations for officers and directors as well as the chair and two members of the next nominating committee, shall be sent to the members two weeks prior to the annual meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the members at the annual meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor immediately thereafter, provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Section 3. Election. Election to positions filled by vote of the membership at the annual meeting shall be by secret ballot, except that if there is only one

nominee for an office, it shall be by voice vote. A majority vote shall constitute election.

## **Article X – Principles and Program**

Section 1. Principles. The principles are concepts of government adopted by the national convention and supported by the League of Women Voters as a whole (hereinafter the “Principles”). They are the authorization for the adoption of national, state, and local programming.

Section 2. Program. The local program of the LWWN shall consist of action to implement the Principles and those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action (“Local Program”).

Section 3. Procedure. The Local Program shall be adopted according to the following procedures:

- the board of directors shall consider recommendations submitted by the voting members and shall formulate a proposed local program;
- the proposed local program shall be sent to all members two weeks before the annual meeting;
- a majority vote of the members attending the annual meeting shall be required for adoption of items in the proposed local program as presented at the annual meeting by the board of directors;
- recommendations for local programming submitted by voting members but not recommended by the board of directors may be considered by the members at the annual meeting, provided that the members at the annual meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote. A two-thirds vote is required for adoption.

Section 4. Program Changes. Changes in the Local Program in the case of altered conditions may be made provided that: (1) information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general meeting of the members at which any change is to be discussed; and (2) final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding general meeting of the membership where, in the case of a board-recommended change, a majority vote is obtained, or, in the case of a non-board recommended change, a two-thirds vote is obtained.

Section 5. Member Action. Members may act in the name of the LWWN only when authorized to do so by the board of directors. They may act only in conformity with, and not contrary to, a position taken by the LWWN, the LWWMA, and the LWWUS.

## **Article XI – National Convention, State Convention and Council**

Section 1. National Convention. The board of directors shall select delegates to national convention in the number allotted the LWVN under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVUS.

Section 2. State Convention. The board of directors shall select delegates to state convention in the number allotted the LWVN under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVMA.

Section 3. State Council. The board of directors shall select delegates to state council in the number allotted to the LWVN under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVMA.

## **Article XII– Parliamentary Authority**

Section 1. Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order; Newly Revised* shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

## **Article XIII - Notice**

Section 1. Written Notice. Whenever written notice is required to be provided by these bylaws, such notice shall be deemed to have been satisfied by the giving of such notice by regular mail or any form of electronic communication.

## **Article XIV – Amendments**

Section 1. Amendments. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members attending the annual meeting, provided the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

*Adopted by the League of Women Voters of Newton in May, 1936*

*Bylaws Restated, Amended, and Approved: May 7, 2009*

*Bylaws Amended and Approved (Article IV, Section 1): May 27, 2010*

*Bylaws Amended and Approved (Articles I, II, III): May 30, 2012*

*Bylaws Amended and Approved (Article VII): May 22, 2014*

*Bylaws Restated, Amended and Approved: June 14, 2020*

## LWVN 2021 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

A Membership Roster is available and can be emailed to members as a password-protected document. The Information listed in the roster is for use in League-related communication between members. **This information may not be used or distributed for any other purpose.** To request the most recent Membership Roster, please email [info@lwvnewton.org](mailto:info@lwvnewton.org).

## SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE

“Speaking with one voice” is one of the most important tenets of the League. The national League is responsible for determining strategies and action policies that ensure that the League’s message on national issues is consistent throughout the country. Similarly, state Leagues are responsible for a consistent state message, and local Leagues must cooperate with one another to ensure that regional issues are addressed in a manner consistent with neighboring Leagues. Typically, the president of the national, state, or local League is the only person who speaks for the League in an official capacity, unless another person has been designated as the official spokesperson on a specific issue. This may be a League expert, a senior staff person, or a former board member. The key is that this designation is explicitly made by the appropriate Board. This helps to ensure that the League speaks with one voice, which is essential for our effectiveness as an advocacy and lobbying organization.

*Source: LWWUS Impact on Issues, 2020-22, page 5*