



February 2019

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CALENDAR

Date/time	Event	Location
Thursday, January 31, 2019 6:30 PM	Ballot Initiative Consensus Question discussion to determine our league's contribution to Ballot Initiative consensus building	Manomet Library Snow date: 2/7
Saturday, February 2, 2019 9:15	Monthly Board Meeting to discuss upcoming events - All members welcome	TD Bank Pinehills lower level
Thursday, March 7, 2019 7:00 PM	Monthly Board Meeting to discuss upcoming events - All members welcome	Mary LeSueur's home
Sunday, March 10, 2019	Annual Civics Bee area high school teams compete for the trophy	PCIS Little Theatre
Thursday, April 4, 2019 7:00 PM	Monthly Board Meeting to discuss upcoming events - All members welcome	Mary LeSueur's home
Saturday, May 4, 2019 9:15 AM	Monthly Board Meeting to discuss upcoming events - All members welcome	TD Bank Pinehills downstairs conference room
Thursday, June 13, 2019 5:30 PM	Annual Meeting more details to follow	TBD

BALLOT QUESTION STUDY

Date: Thursday, January 31

Time: 6:30 pm

Place: Manomet Library

Needed: Your participation

Bring: 1. If you still have it, the red booklet from the Commonwealth that you received before the election entitled Massachusetts Information for Voters 2018 Ballot Questions

2. any other material you may have gathered from the LWVMA website.

3. your own snacks and drinks as no refreshments will be provided.

This is **your** chance to speak up and have an influence on a big part of our biennial state ballot.

Should the weather look questionable, a group email will go out no later than noon on the 31st. The snow date is one week later, February 7th, same time, same place.

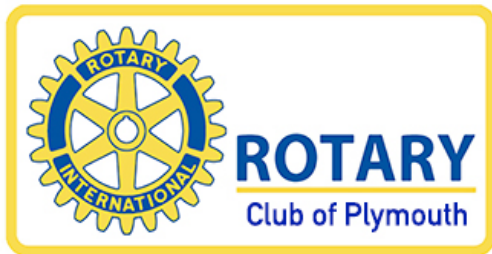
Here are the questions that we will be addressing:

LWVMA Ballot Question Study: Consensus Questions

Question	YES	NO	No Com
Section I: Understanding the Ballot Questions			
1. Should additional efforts be made to ensure petition summaries are written for the greatest understanding by voters?			
2A. Do the statements of fiscal consequences in the "Information for Voters" red booklets from 2016 and 2018 provide voters with the information they need to make an informed decision on the potential fiscal impact of passing the ballot question(s)?			
2B. Should voter information beyond the 100-word statement of fiscal consequences found in the "Information for Voters" red booklet be available, such as through public meetings, webinars, telephone call-ins, websites, etc.?			
3. Should the arguments in favor and against in the "Information for Voters" red booklet be prepared by an independent source such as a citizen group appointed for that purpose rather than, or in addition to, the proponents and opponents identified by the Secretary of the Commonwealth?			
4. Should there be a limit to the length (e.g., number of words or number of pages) of the full text of a proposed law for an initiative petition (and eventual ballot question)?			
5. Should the Secretary of the Commonwealth periodically review and update the means of disseminating and publicizing the "Information for Voters" red booklet?			
Section II: Signature Requirements			
6A. Should that limitation be modified to reflect population variation while still ensuring geographic dispersion of signatures?			
6B. Should that limitation be eliminated?			
7. Should every identifiable, unique signature on a petition be counted toward the required total, rather than rejecting, for example, all signatures on a page because of one error or stray mark?			
8. In a petition for law, a second round of signatures must be collected after the legislature has had time to act. Only signatures from registered voters who did not sign the first round can be counted. Should this second round be eliminated?			
Section III: Signature Gathering			

9. Should there be regulations governing signature collectors?			
10. Should the Secretary of the Commonwealth provide training opportunities for signature collectors?			
Section IV: Legislative Involvement and Responsibilities			
11. An initiative petition for a constitutional amendment requires two votes, one in each of two successively elected Legislatures. Should the second vote be eliminated?			
12. Should there be a period during which the legislature is not allowed to change a citizen-initiated law passed or repealed by ballot question?			
Section V: Campaign financing for ballot questions			
13. Should Massachusetts seek ways to limit the amount of money that can be spent on ballot question campaigns?			
14. Should accurate information on campaign donations to and expenditures for ballot question committees be available to the public prior to the election?			
Section VI: The Initiative and Referendum Process in Massachusetts			
15. Should the current initiative and referendum process by which citizens can do the following (A-C) be retained?			
15A. Initiate laws			
15B. Initiate constitutional amendments			
15C. Repeal laws through referendum			

Thank you,
 The Local State Ballot Study Committee
 Deb Etzel
 Lyle Lawrence
 Kathy Leslie
 Sharon Reed-Eramian



COMMITTEE REPORTS

NUCLEAR

Eyes on Pilgrim Update, January 20, 2019

The NRC held its annual public hearing on Tuesday, January 15th, at the Hotel 1620 in Plymouth. Representatives from Entergy and Holtec shared the stage with the NRC and all made short presentations. Trenchant statements from Senators Warren and Markey and the AG's office all expressed extreme concern about the proposed transfer from Entergy to Holtec. Above all, they questioned the sufficiency of the **Decommissioning Trust Fund** (DTF) and the basis for the prospective licensee's financial projections. The DTF stands currently at \$1.05 billion. Holtec calculates decommissioning costs of at least \$600 million more than that, not including radiological cleanup. It projects unrealistically low inflation when it comes to decommissioning costs, and unrealistically high stock returns over the next seven years. Given the fact that Holtec-Pilgrim, a new company formed for the purposes of decommissioning, is an LLC (limited liability company), our elected officials wonder what will happen if and when the fund runs out? Given there will be no income from the plant once it is shut down, how does Holtec expect to profit from the takeover, unless by cutting corners and pocketing what remains of the DTF? If Holtec goes bankrupt, who will guarantee funds for the rest of the work? Who will guarantee that the Town and the Commonwealth are not stuck holding the bag? There were no satisfactory answers to those questions.

These same issues were echoed by almost every member of the public who spoke. In addition, there was great concern about the rapidly accelerating projections of sea-level rise, which are mentioned NOWHERE nowhere in the PSDAR (post-shutdown decommissioning activities report) submitted by Entergy in mid-November (with a supplement by Holtec), nor in the NRC regulations governing decommissioning. Environmental analyses used in the PSDAR posit a sea-level rise that is seriously out of date; moreover, the EPA assesses the impact of the site on the environment but fail to assess the impact of climate change on the site.

A third area of serious concern revolved around the nature of the Holtec dry casks. They are identical to the ones used in San Onofre, where a frightening accident in early August revealed a host of human errors and a "near-miss" incident which could have caused a horrific release of radiation.

All the same concerns were expressed in greater length and with more intimacy at the NDCAP meeting the following night of Wednesday, June 16. None of these concerns was allayed by the responses of the NRC, Entergy and Holtec representatives who were present. They would not be pinned down. Their answers left everyone unsettled.

For a good summary of the NRC hearing, please read Christine Legere's excellent article posted January 16th-17th in the *Cape Cod Times*.

<https://www.capecodtimes.com/news/20190116/potential-pilgrim-owner-gets-earful-at-forum>

To understand what's going on with Holtec dry casks at San Onofre, please read the following:

<https://www.thecoastnews.com/reports-san-onofre-nuclear-site-fatally-flawed/>

For more information, or if you'd like to be involved, please contact Henrietta Cosentino: Mobile, (323) 868-3296. Email, henrietta.cosentino@gmail.com

Henrietta Cosentino

Plymouth Area LWV Committees

We encourage each of you to join at least one committee.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Follow Local efforts to provide Affordable Housing and encourage local government to do so.

Chair Kathy Dunn (gordod1@comcast.net or 508-747-0039)

Current Volunteers include Peg Bergiel, Sheila Bruce, Shannon Burrington

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Know Your Muslim Neighbor: Current focus on improving community perception of the Muslim community.

Chair Kathy Dunn (gordod1@comcast.net or 508-747-0039)

Current Volunteers: Judy Barber

COMUNICATIONS

Bulletin: Monthly(ish) publication to keep membership informed. Sent by email and posted on the website. Heidi Mayo, Editor (LWVBulletin@heidimayo.com or 508-747-5467)

Website: Maintain the PlymouthLWV.org website. Deb Etzel, Editor (daetzel@gmail.com or 508-224-1667)

FaceBook Page – Maintain the Plymouth Area League of Women Voters FaceBook page Deb Etzel, Editor (daetzel@gmail.com or 508-224-1667)

EDUCATION

Civics Bee: Organizes the annual high school competition based on civics questions. March 10, 2019 is the next Bee.

Co-Chairs Erin Palladino (esutherland@hotmail.com or 617-827-8255) & Lyle Lawrence (lyle.lawrence@comcast.net or 774-343-5548)

Current Volunteers: Evelyn Strawn, Deb Etzel, Jane Goodwin, Alice Lague.

HEALTH & WELL BEING

Vaping Forum: Focus is on the physical and mental wellbeing of the community. Next session will be on Vaping.

Chair Birgitta Kuehn (Birgitta.Kuehn@gmail.com or 978-886-4026)

Current Volunteers include: Deb Etzel, Kathy Dunn, Lyle Lawrence, Vedna Heywood, Jane Goodwin

MEMBERSHIP

Finding and welcoming new members.

Chair Deanna Nealey (deannap-1@verizon.net or 508-224-3797)

Current Volunteers: Diane Flaherty, Vanda Heywood, Birgitta Kuehn, Mary Tousignant, Mary LeSueur

NATIONAL OR STATE STUDIES

State Ballot Question Study: LWVMA has issued study materials for a consensus building event on the process around how MA puts community sponsored measures on the ballot.

Chair Lyle Lawrence (lyle.lawrence@comcast.net)

Current Volunteers : Sharon Reed-Eramian, Martha Sheldon, Cheryl Fisher, Deb Etzel

[Committees page 2](#)

NUCLEAR

Follows what is current regarding the Pilgrim Energy Plant and reports to the membership and suggests action to local government

Chair Henrietta Cosentino (Henrietta.cosentino@gmail.com or 508-224-3251)

Current Volunteers : Lyle Lawrence

OBSERVER CORPS

The League tries to follow local government in action. Currently we are watching the Charter Committee and County Government, other entities are out there for the watching. Those observing write brief reports to share with the local league and potentially influence action items.

Current Volunteers include: Cheryl Fisher, Mary Tousignant, Jane Goodwin, Evelyn Strawn

SUSTAINABILITY

Water: Studies topic area of interest related to Sustainability, currently Water. Other topics are encouraged. Offers local education in the topic area and/or community/governmental action. Water Study Committee - Evelyn Strawn, Don Williams, Monty Fischer

Chair Harvey LeSueur (hclesueur@yahoo.com or 508-746-4252)

Current Volunteers include: Cheryl Fischer, Henrietta Cosentino, Lois Post, Brian Harrington, Judy Barber

VOTER SERVICES

Provides voter registration when requested, plans *Get out the Vote* campaigns (GOTV) and runs candidate forums for local and state election

Chair Martha Vautrain (cvautrain@verizon.net or 508-746-8606)

Current Volunteers: Vedna Heywood, Birgitta Kuehn, Sharon Reed-Ermanian, Cheryl Fischer, Evelyn Strawn, Mary Tousignant, Ginny Johnson, Alice Lague.

Please contact the chair(s) listed above to loan your time and talents to these important projects.

Current Plymouth Area LWV Board of Directors

updated 9-6-18

Peg Bergeil	bergielmargaretta@gmail.com	508-747-4982
Deb Etzel, treasurer	daetzel@gmail.com	508-224-1667
Vedna Heywood	vklacombe@gmail.com	508-743-5568
Ginny Johnson	vjohnson1940@gmail.com	508-224-2559
Lyle Lawrence	lyle.lawrence@comcast.net	774-343-5548
Mary LeSueur	hclesueur@yahoo.com	508-746-4252
Deanna Nealey	deannap1@verizon.net	508-224-3797
Lois Post, secretary	lois@mayflowerweb.com	508-224-7294
Martha Vautrain	cvautrain@verizon.net	508-746-8606

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

U. S. Senator

Elizabeth Warren

317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510
202-224-4543
or
2400 JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury St.
Boston, MA 02203
617-565-3170

U.S. Congressman District 9

William Keating

315 Cannon HOB
Washington, D. C. 20515
202-225-3111
or
2 Court St. Plymouth, MA 02360
508-746-9000

State Rep Precincts 1, 11, 13

Kathy LaNatra
TBA

State Rep Precincts 2-8, 10, 12, 14, 15

Mathew Muratore

State House Room 39 Boston, MA 02133
617-722-2014
Mathew.Muratore@mahouse.gov

Plymouth Board of Selectmen

26 Court St., Plymouth, MA 02360
TownManager-Selectmen@townhall.plymouth.ma.us
(508) 747-1620 ext. 10106
Chair: Kenneth Tavares kennethtavares@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Anthony Provenzano, Jr.
provenzano@townhall.plymouth.ma.us
Betty Cavacco bettyc369@msn.com
John Mahoney mahoney@townhall.plvmouth.ma.us
Shelagh Joyce joyce@townhall.plvmouth.ma.us

Town Meeting Precinct Rep Chairs

1 Christine K. Pratt, 242 Court St.
prattck1@verizon.net
2 Richard M. Serkey, 60 Allerton St
rserkev@lwwsr.com
3 Gerald E. Sirrico, 38 Mayflower St
lhsges@verizon.net
4 Clare A. Montanari, 71 Harborlight
cmontanari@aol.com

U.S. Senator

Edward Markey

218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510
202-224-2742
or
975 JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury St. Boston, MA 02203
617-565-8519

State Senator

Vinny deMacedo

State House Room 313A
Boston, MA 02133
Phone: 617-722-1330
vinny.demacedo@masenate.gov
or
10 Cordage Park Circle
Rm 229 Plymouth, MA 02360
508-747-6500

State Rep Precinct 9

Randy Hunt

State House Room 136
Boston, MA 02133
617-722-2396
Randy.Hunt@mahouse.gov

Town Meeting Precinct Rep Chairs (cont)

5 W. Wrestling Brewster, 39 Forge Drive
wwb@bpcs.us
6 Megan Collins-Dempster, 18 Bartlett Rd
meganrcd@hotmail.com
7 Karen Buechs, 146 Bartlett Rd
luckystz@aol.com
8 Terese A. Brennan, 1035 Long Pond Rd
atty.tbrennan@gmail.com
9 Francis E. Lydon, 74 Raymond Rd
frankolyd@aol.com
10 Alan M. Costello, 41 Huntington
costellotownrep10@comcast.net
11 Ronald Reilly, 242 Plympton
rreilly67@verizon.net
12 Betsy R. Hall, 43 West Long Pond Rd
bh2746@yahoo.com
13 Anita J. Hadley, 235 Carver Road
nonni7111@verizon.net
14 Karen M. Keane, 87 Ellisville Green
kmkck04@aol.com
15 Michael J. Hanlon III, 2 Wayside Path
mjhanlon3@verizon.net