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# League of Women Voters of Newton

# Newsletter

Volume 15, Issue 2

February 2009

## Critical Choices for Newton: 2009 and Beyond

By Anne Borg

Newton, like most municipalities around Massachusetts, is facing projected annual budget shortfalls in every one of the coming years—even before taking local aid cuts into account. So far, the city has responded to these shortfalls with a combination of across-the-board cuts, deferring maintenance of buildings, roads and equipment, and neglecting to fund its retiree trust funds.

But is this system the wisest or best way to manage the city in the future? Is the city at the point where it makes sense to eliminate some services altogether? Are there ways of consolidating, outsourcing or otherwise working smarter to reduce costs? Can the city increase revenue without resorting to a property tax override?

Over the last eight months, fourteen highly qualified volunteers from the city's Citizen Advisory Group have been examining school and city departments and comparing Newton's services to those of similar municipalities. They are issuing five reports this winter and spring.

The Newton League is taking a leading role in exploring the implications of the Citizen Advisory Group's findings and invites all Newton citizens to learn more and play an active role in the decision making process. Accordingly, the Newton League's Municipal Finance Committee is organizing a series of discussions featuring each report and its authors. Five events are planned at

which the various report findings will be discussed. Each event will include a question-and-answer period, and an opportunity to debate further action. Please attend!

The first discussion in the series, titled *Critical Choices for Newton, 2009 and Beyond* will center on the Revenue Report, which explores the annual gap between the city's roughly 2.9 percent growth in revenue and 5.9 percent growth in expenditures. Currently, 80% of the funding for city services comes from the property tax. Are there other viable and equitable sources of city revenue? The entire report is available at the city website, as is the CAG's November 20 presentation of it ([www.ci.newton.ma.us/CitizenAdvisoryGroup/](http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/CitizenAdvisoryGroup/)).

Come discuss the report **Thursday, Feb. 26, 7-9 pm at the Longyear Museum, 1125 Boylston St (Route 9, eastbound WESTBOUND), Chestnut Hill.** (See page 3 for the full schedule.)

The League is pleased to have the following co-sponsors for these events: The Newton Free Library, the Green Decade Coalition, the Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce, the Newton Interfaith Clergy Association, the Waban Improvement Society, the *Newton TAB*, NewTV, the Chestnut Hill Association, and the Newton PTO Council.

For details, directions and last minute changes in scheduling, visit the Newton League website at [www.lwvn.org](http://www.lwvn.org) or call 617-964-0014.

### State Program Planning: Submit your ideas ASAP!

Although a review of the Massachusetts League's program planning for 2009 was on the agenda for both recent topic meetings, there was insufficient time to address the issue. Therefore, the LWVN Board is asking members to review the state program online at [www.lwvma.org](http://www.lwvma.org) and send their responses to Terry Yoffie ([info@lwvnewton.org](mailto:info@lwvnewton.org)) by 5:00 pm February 11<sup>th</sup>.

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To receive an **audio version** of this Newsletter, call Terry Yoffie at 617-965-1796.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization open to all. For more information about the League of Women Voters, call 617-964-0014 or visit [www.lwvnewton.org](http://www.lwvnewton.org).

**Summary: 2009-10 Local Program Planning**

*adapted from meeting notes by Gail Glick*

On Thursday, January 22 and again on Wednesday, February 4, 2009 (rescheduled from January 28 due to snow), LWVN members met to discuss our program priorities for the coming year. The following notes summarize both meetings. The actual committee reports and more information on program planning are posted on our website, [www.lwvnewton.org](http://www.lwvnewton.org).

The State League's 2009-11 Program was also on the agenda but there was insufficient time to discuss this item. See page one of this newsletter for more on state programming.

**Municipal Finance**

In its first year, the Committee focused on the override ballot question. This year, the focus has been on sponsoring five forums on the Newton Citizen Advisory Group's findings. Next year, the Committee expects to return to reviewing (1) revisions to employee health benefits and (2) the City's capital and budgeting structures.

**Charter Review**

The newly formed Charter Review Committee proposes to study the Newton city charter to assess how well it currently serves the community and whether to recommend the formation of a Charter Commission to consider revisions. If a commission is recommended, the LWVN would begin the petition drive necessary to put a commission on the ballot in 2011.

**Housing**

The committee proposes to continue supporting the Housing Action Plan Initiative (HAPI), and to study accessory apartments.

**Environmental**

The committee proposes to explore "pay-as-you-throw" solid waste disposal programs; encourage improved recycling within city departments; and monitor state legislation that might allow Newton to incorporate "green" items into zoning regulations.

**Snow Removal**

The committee proposes to continue to advocate for an ordinance requiring sidewalk clearing and other improvements in snow removal to improve winter transportation options.

**Education / Newton Public Schools**

The committee proposes to advocate for the implementation of the CAG's findings on the school system and to link the various school-related initiatives currently underway to facilitate a cooperative effort. It also plans to track the impact of state legislation on the Newton Schools and to help the NPS develop a literacy-related volunteer tutoring corps. Members suggested the Committee also review and assess the educational impact of the NPS Long Range Facilities Plan and advocate for snow removal and improved recycling in the schools.

**Election Commission**

The committee proposes to continue its review of the election procedures; to develop a poll-worker application form and an evaluation form; and improvements in recruiting poll workers.

**Community Preservation Committee (CPC)**

The proposed plan is to continue reviewing Community Preservation Committee (CPC) applications, rendering opinions and recommendations. The LWVN Committee is the only neutral, independent group undertaking such reviews, and the city's CPC has come to rely on its input.

**Observer Corps**

In order to ensure coverage of issues, the LWVN must continue to build a corps of observers to attend various civic-related meetings. The plan is to continue to recruit new and old members, and to offer training. The Observer Handbook is now available on the website.

**Local Action**

It was suggested that the title "Local Action Committee" be changed to "Program and Action Committee" and its Chair would meet with the other committee chairs to coordinate the various ongoing programs and activities. The Committee would continue as a vetting and refining forum for issues.

*The Newton Public Schools present*

## **Values & Priorities for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education**

*A Community Conversation  
about our Strategic Plan*

Come learn about the exciting new vision for the Newton Public Schools and seize the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed strategic initiatives. In this meeting, citizens will:

- Be briefed on the key concepts that are driving the movement for 21st century education
- Hear about Newton's current programs that promote 21st century skills
- Learn about the proposed initiatives for educational innovation in Newton
- React to the strategic plan (strengths, gaps, and priorities)

### ***When and Where:***

Tuesday, **February 10th**, 7-9 pm  
Oak Hill Middle School

OR

Thursday, **February 12th**, 9-11 am,  
Newton Free Library Druker Auditorium

The same program is being held twice to accommodate different schedules.

*LWVN's Municipal Finance Committee presents  
a series of five forums*

## **Critical Choices for Newton, 2009 and Beyond**

*Discussing the Citizen Advisory Group  
Findings and Recommendations*

- **Revenue Report**, Thursday, February 26, 7-9 pm, Longyear Museum (1125 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill)
- **School Cost Structure**, Tuesday, March 24, 7-9 pm, Longyear Museum (1125 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill)
- **Municipal Cost Structure**, Monday, April 6, 7-9 pm, Longyear Museum (1125 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill)
- **Capital Infrastructure**, Monday, May 4, 7-9 pm, Newton Free Library (330 Homer St., Newton Centre)
- **Performance Management/Renewing Newton**, Wednesday, June 3, 7-9 pm, (330 Homer St., Newton Centre)

**The League is pleased to have the following co-sponsors for these events:** The Newton Free Library, the Green Decade Coalition, the Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce, the Newton Interfaith Clergy Association, the Waban Improvement Society, the *Newton TAB*, the Chestnut Hill Association, and the Newton PTO Council.

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## **“Cash in the Trash II” coming April 7<sup>th</sup>**

Coming off a highly-successful forum Nov. 20 on solid waste and recycling, The Environmental Committee is planning a follow-up “Cash in the Trash II” for April 7th. The forum will look at preliminary data from the automated pick-up/single stream recycling pilot and will also solicit participants’ thoughts on pay-as-you-throw (PAYT). Speakers will include Newton Public Works commissioner Tom Daley as well as Citizen Advisory Group members Scott Oran and Kevin Dutt, who will discuss PAYT as a revenue option, as described in the CAG Revenue Report.

## Remembering Bob Capeless

*The Newton League lost an ardent supporter on December 27<sup>th</sup> 2008, when Bob Capeless died at age 91. Below are Pat Acton's fond remembrance and Nancy Crowley's remarks at the 2003 Library event recognizing the work of Anita and Bob Capeless.*

"League members knew when Anita and Bob Capeless left Newton to return to Pittsfield, Mass., we were losing our most energetic and dedicated members. We knew, however, that for Bob and Anita, returning to family and life-long friends was good. So we bade them a loving farewell. With the news of Bob's recent death, Pittsfield and Newton share the loss of a remarkable man and tireless contributor to the community.

"They had resettled happily with their family nearby and were quickly swept back into election fever, distributing literature for their favorite candidate in the District Attorney race, their son David. David won, of course, and one of Bob's activities was to travel around Berkshire County snapping pictures of the court house in each one of the county's 32 towns. They are all displayed in his son's office.

"My best memory of Bob is of a hot 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend when Bob and I were canvassing for signatures to get the question regarding the size of the Board of Aldermen on the ballot. Bob had done countless hours of research on the size of boards in similarly sized cities/towns and had found we have the largest Board of Aldermen for a city our size east of the Mississippi. That morning, Bob was relentless. I was hot. He didn't believe in drinking a lot of water. I was dry. Finally, I had to beg a lunch break from the other side of the street as he strode along speaking to all who would listen. A dedicated man, yes. A hard worker, yes. A compassionate man, yes. He let me take a lunch break!

I extend my condolences to the Capeless family, especially Anita, on losing such a wonderful husband, father, and friend. May we all take note of his passion for community and do our part."

— Pat Acton

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To correct a well-worn phrase, "behind every good WOMAN... is a devoted and loving man." And fortunately for Bob, Anita was behind the wheel of a car in D.C. during WWII when Bob Capeless was looking for directions to the Officers Club. Bob had the good luck to flag Anita's car down that day and the excellent taste and judgment to extend their ride together for the next 56 years. Together, they have succeeded in doing what most couples only hope for ...they have pursued and lived enriched lives both as individuals and as partners. Along the way, they have contributed enormously to each community where they have lived.

Born and raised in Pittsfield, Bob earned a law degree from Boston College School of Law, and was admitted to the bar three days after Pearl Harbor. He joined the Navy and served two tours of duty in the South Pacific. In 1943 he was put in command of the first time use of a new vehicle called an LCT, a Landing Craft Tank. He was involved in action in the Solomon Islands and made an end-run in Guadalcanal. From February to June of 1945 Bob was in command of 18 LCTs in the battle of Iwo Jima. He trained crews who would eventually storm the beaches of Normandy on D-Day.

After the war Bob and Anita returned to Pittsfield where Bob served as Mayor from 1948-1955. It was the baby-boom era. The infrastructures in cities and towns had been placed on hold for the duration of the war. Mayor Capeless oversaw the construction of 5 schools in 4 years. He built the first veterans housing program, a model for the state. He repaired streets, changing parking and traffic patterns, creating what were subsequently referred to as "The Capeless Islands". Nearly fifty years later, Pittsfield dedicated the Robert T. Capeless Elementary School last summer. Ever the politician, Bob stood at the entrance to the school and shook every child's hand. It speaks volumes that Pittsfield admired his contributions and cared enough to bestow such an honor.

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1958 Bob was appointed State Tax Commissioner, a position he held until 1961. The Capeless family journeyed east and for all our good fortunes bought a home in Newton. From the early 60s until his retirement in 1995 Bob practiced tax law in his own firm - Joyce, Capeless, Kilroy, McNulty, and Roddy.

Bob has been described as insightful, intelligent, an expert on fiscal policy, and most knowledgeable about municipal financing and the local/state fiscal relationship. Given the state's current fiscal problems, are you sure you want to leave us NOW, Bob? He was a member of the state's Revenue Advisory Board and its Civil Service Commission, as well as a volunteer on many state and municipal commissions and boards.

What about Bob, the man? He is a husband, a father and grandfather; a reader, a researcher, and historian; a volunteer, a neighbor, and friend, and, a tennis freak too! He is honest and caring and gives of himself in a humble and selfless manner.

Bob had barely made the final exit from his law firm when he appeared at the front steps of the Newton Free Library offering to volunteer in the Special Collections Room. By Bob's persistence in using The Newton Collection in his historical research endeavors he found better ways for people to utilize the collection and was invaluable in the co-authorship of the *Long and Short Guide to the Special Collections of the Newton Free Library* and the *Short History of the City of Newton's Legislative Branch*. He is also the sole author of *Mayorality Elections in Newton, The Mayors of Newton, and Newton Elections (1873-1996): Compendium and Commentary*. His help was not limited to the public domain of the guides, however. Many times, he assisted individuals to research material for obituaries and aided others in research on microfilm. He has attended every Newton History Series at the library but one when he was hospitalized and insisted that Anita go in his place.

Bob has been a member of the League of Women Voters since we first accepted men into our ranks and, with all due respect to the Board of Aldermen, worked tirelessly to reduce its size. A member of the Newton Conservators, he served as its President in its second year of existence. He faced a brewing controversy

*Continued on page 5*

## March Topic Meeting: Housing

Wednesday, March 11

11:30 am -1:30 pm

NewTV Conference Room

23 Easy Street, Newton Highlands

(just off Needham St. next to National Lumber)

*Brown bag lunches are welcome*

At the March topic meeting, members of the Housing committee will discuss the committee's current work to increasing affordable housing in Newton. Much of the committee's recent work has been through the LWVN's membership in the Newton Housing Action Plan Initiative (HAPI), a collaborative organization promoting affordable housing.

Other HAPI member groups include the Newton Planning and Development Department, CAN-DO, U-CHAN, the Newton Housing Partnership, Avalon Bay Communities, the Newton Planning & Development Board, the Newton Fair Housing Task Force, and the Newton Community Development Foundation.

*Capeless, continued from page 4*

between the preservation of an open space site and an NCDF proposal for affordable housing. Some things never change!

Three years ago, Bob volunteered for the Meals on Wheels program and since then he has delivered 25 meals each week to people in need in our community. That kind of service comes naturally to him. He has never waited to be asked to do something; rather, he takes the initiative and will call a friend to offer a ride, bring a meal, or offer any assistance needed. As a friend and tennis partner recently remarked, "Bob serves as well in public as he does on the court."

The true mark of a thriving community is the involvement of its citizens in civic life. Anita and Bob are testament to that ideal. Today it is most fitting that The Massachusetts Collection of The Newton Free Library will be named in Anita and Bob's honor. You both have truly made a difference to the civic organizations, the government, and the people residing in communities from one end of the state to the other. We thank you for your contributions, your service, and your friendship and wish you good health and continued happiness. May you remain active in Pittsfield and as beloved as you are by all of us here this evening.

– Nancy Crowley

## Environment Committee urges city departments to recycle

*The following letter from the Environment Committee was sent to the mayor on January 19.*

The League of Women Voters of Newton recently organized a forum, Cash in the Trash, regarding the importance of recycling. As you know, our city spends millions of dollars annually to dispose of trash. By recycling more, we can greatly reduce this expense. As recycled materials generally require less energy to process than they do to be replaced, recycling is part of the constellation of changed behaviors necessary to avoid disastrous climate change.

Our forum was primarily for citizens, but the League is aware that many city departments generate large quantities of waste which could be recycled. Efforts to increase recycling by some city employees have been sporadic, though laudable. Now it is time for you to make clear that the city needs every single employee to recycle as much as possible. Please set a goal of at least 50%. Our city needs to lead by example. We ask that you use all necessary means: post results, change contracts, set up competitions, talk about it, make it more convenient, and set an expectation that all public employees will contribute to this effort. Recycling can save money for more worthwhile expenditures. It helps keep our planet healthy. And, especially in the case of the school department, this effort will set an example to the next generation of caring for our environment.

Your leadership and that of your department heads is urgently needed to make 'reduce, reuse, recycle' a high priority for our city.

Sincerely,

Terry Yoffie

President, League of Women Voters, Newton

## LWVMA: Day on the Hill

### *Aiming for Transparency: Restoring the Public's Trust*

March 4, 2009, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

- Janet Domenitz, Executive Director, : Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group (MASSPIRG)
- William R. Keating, Norfolk District Attorney
- Judith C. Meredith, Founder and Executive Director, The Public Policy Institute and author, "Lobbying on a Shoestring"
- Pam Wilmot, Executive Director, Common Cause

A panel discussion on transparency within our Commonwealth, with experts in the fields of regulation, legislation, budget, and public access to information, will define the process and problems with transparency and how the League and its members can most effectively address those problems. Specialists will discuss legislative priorities in the 2009-2010 session. After the discussion members will have the opportunity to lobby their Legislators on League priorities.

## From the President

February 2009

Dear League Members,

Many members attended two very important meetings this month and last to help plan our 2009-2010 Program. I am so very proud to see that the League is working hard in eight program areas, including: Charter Reform, Community Preservation Proposal Review, Education, Environment, Elections, Housing, Municipal Finance, and Observer Corps. I am also very pleased to have so many hard working, creative members involved in these different areas. If you were unable to attend our program planning sessions, feel free to submit your ideas to us at [info@lvvnewton.org](mailto:info@lvvnewton.org). And if you would like to join in the work of any of these eight program areas, please let the appropriate committee chair know.

Because of time constraints at the program planning sessions, we are asking each member to go online and review the State League's 2009-2011 Program Planning Guide for Convention 2009. For more information on the state planning process and to prepare your recommendations, please visit [www.lvvma.org](http://www.lvvma.org) or see the article on page one of this newsletter.

### **Important Programs to Attend**

In May of 2008, Mayor David Cohen, Board of Alderman President Lisle Baker, and School Committee Chair Dori Zaleznik formed a Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) to assist in planning for strategies to improve the City's operational efficiency and effectiveness in future fiscal years including the functions of Newton's governing bodies. Newton, like many municipalities in the Commonwealth is caught between spiraling expenses, especially health benefits, and a slower rate of revenue increases. The CAG's mission was to:

- help define the difficult choices ahead
- find efficiencies where possible
- identify untapped revenue sources

The CAG is composed of fourteen distinguished Newton residents, chaired by Malcolm Salter, a former Senior Associate Dean and professor at Harvard Business School. After many months of study, the CAG group is releasing its finding and recommendations in a series of five reports.

I am happy to report that the CAG is working with the League of Women Voters of Newton to organize and help disseminate the information contained in the CAG reports in a joint effort

to educate our citizens. We hope by providing these forums, we can offer an opportunity for residents to join us and the CAG to discuss what the reports mean and what action steps are needed for the future. To accomplish this, the CAG and the League plan to hold five forums to introduce the CAG reports in the following order:

- Revenues (February 26)
- School Cost Structure (March 24)
- Municipal Cost Structure (April 6)
- Capital Structure (May 4)
- Renewing Newton (June 3)

We have invited many community organizations to join us as cosponsors in hopes of reaching as many residents as possible to consider the serious challenges Newton faces for its future. So far, the Newton Free Library, the Green Decade Coalition, the Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce, the Newton Interfaith Clergy Association, the Waban Improvement Society, the Newton TAB, NewTV, the Chestnut Hill Association, and the Newton PTO Council have agreed to join us, and we are looking forward to adding more to that list. If you would like to join us as a cosponsor, please let me know at [president@lvvnewton.org](mailto:president@lvvnewton.org).

### **Collaboration, Collaboration, Collaboration**

The Newton League is working with many Newton organizations this year to support our public events. For this, I want to personally thank all who have agreed to work with us. With all of you, we have been able to bring together different groups across Newton around the pressing issues facing our city and state.

### **"Meet the League" Event**

Thanks to Anne Borg's for hosting a *Meet the League* dessert and coffee for new members on January 29<sup>th</sup>. We had a terrific turnout (especially for a snowy January evening!): thanks all those who came with your ideas and questions for sharing them with us! We look forward to more *Meet the League* events later this year.

Sincerely,

Terry Yoffie  
President, Newton League of Women Voters

## Welcome new members!

Ellen Grody, 20 Claremont St, Newton  
Katherine Howard, 84 Fenwick Rd, Waban  
Liz Cody, 584 Chestnut St, Waban

# National League Updates

Excerpts from League President Mary Wilson's "President's Corner" (Leaders' Update, Feb. 5 2009)

## 2009 Council

LWVUS Board voted to hold a "virtual" Council in June 2009 rather than an "in-person" meeting. The Board recognizes the drawbacks to this type of meeting. But, I hope we can all put aside the drawbacks and see the exciting possibilities this holds .... It is a terrific chance to explore and experience new communications technologies that we can make use of in future projects to ... It will also provide the opportunity for State Leagues to expand their members' participation in the Council meeting that otherwise would be available to only 100 or so members. The date will be Saturday, June 13, beginning at 1 pm (EDT) and last approximately four hours.

## National Voter to be suspended

The second hard decision we made was to suspend publication of *The National Voter* magazine (paper and digital) until the League's finances are healthier. Publication costs for *The Voter* are prohibitive in a time of budget cutbacks. The Board, the LWVUS staff and I are all committed to making lemonade out of this lemon by finding new ways to deliver information to you, our members and supporters. We will keep you informed as we move forward. **You can help us do that by making sure that as many members as possible receive these weekly Updates.** [Sign up to receive the weekly email "Leaders' Update" at [www.lwvus.org](http://www.lwvus.org)]

## LWVUS 2009 Legislative Priorities

The LWVUS Board announces **Global Climate Change** and **Health Care** to be the top legislative priorities for the upcoming year. Top priority issues are ones on which major congressional action is expected and on which the LWVUS will seek to be an active player. Tier two priorities are **Election Reform** and **DC Voting Rights**. Tier two issues will be acted upon if significant success is possible, though top priorities will take precedence. Tier three issues could be subject for LWVUS action only if good opportunities present themselves, and there is no pressing action on top priority and tier two issues. Tier three issues we are watching are: **Campaign Finance Reform; CEDAW (the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women); Civil Liberties; Ethics; and Redistricting.** ...LWV members were encouraged to submit their suggestions for LWVUS 2009 legislative priorities. ... League members overwhelmingly called for Health Care and Global Climate Change to be top priorities.

## Join the League of Women Voters of Newton!

Membership in the LWVN offers the chance to gain knowledge and experience about vital issues in Newton at well as in Massachusetts and in the nation at large; to make a valuable contribution to your community; and to discover new interests, develop new skills, make new contacts and develop lasting friendships.

Membership is open to all citizens (men and women) of voting age. Associate membership is open to young people and noncitizens. Your annual dues give you membership in local, state and national leagues. You will receive regular publications from all three organizations, as well as a chance to be active, informed and heard.

<b>Name(s)</b>		<b>Home Phone</b>	
<b>Address</b>		<b>Other Phone</b>	
<b>City/State/Zip</b>		<b>Email Address</b>	

Please CIRCLE preferred method of contact: Phone / Email

- Individual - \$55.00
- Household (2 members) - \$75.00
- Sustaining Membership - \$75.00
- Supporting Membership - \$100.00
- Lifetime Membership - \$1,000
- Student Membership - \$25

Please return your completed form with your check, payable to LWVN (or pay online by credit card at [lwvnewton.org/join.php](http://lwvnewton.org/join.php)). Membership dues and contributions to the LWV Newton are not deductible for tax purposes. Tax-deductible contributions to LWV US Educational Fund may be made by check and sent to the LWVN Treasurer. Assistance is available if membership dues present a financial hardship. If you prefer, you can call us at 617-964-0014 or email [info@lwvnewton.org](mailto:info@lwvnewton.org) to request a membership packet. **Please send checks to:** Andrea Kozinetz, LWVN Treasurer, 8 Stony Brae Road, Newton Highlands, MA 02461.

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# LWVN CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY

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- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon., 9 am – 11 am, **LWVN CPC Readers Meeting**, Baker's Best.
- 4<sup>th</sup> 11:30 am -1:30 pm, **Topic Meeting: Local Program Planning** (rescheduled from January 28 due to snow), NewTV.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Thurs., 4:30 pm. **Bylaws Committee Meeting**, Ellen Gibson's house.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Thurs., 7 pm, **Newton Housing Action Plan Initiative (HAPI) Workshop: Expanding Newton's Options for Affordable Housing**, Weeks House.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Fri., 9:00 am – 10:30 am, **Local Action Comm.**, AnnaMaria Abernathy's house
- 11<sup>th</sup> Wed., 8:30 am, **Planning Meeting for forums on CAG**, Baker's Best, 27 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands
- 12<sup>th</sup> Thurs., 7:00 pm, **LWVN Board Meeting**, Pat Acton's house.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Thu., 7:00-9:00 pm, **Critical Choices for Newton: CAG Revenue Report**, first in a series of five forums. Longyear Museum, 1125 Boylston St. (Rt. 9), Chestnut Hill.
- 27<sup>th</sup> Fri., 9:15 – 10:45 a.m., **Environmental Comm. meeting** at Lucia Dolan's. 20 Devon Rd.

## MARCH

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- 4<sup>th</sup> Wed., 9am – 12:30 pm **LWVMA Day on the Hill: Aiming for Transparency: Restoring the Public's Trust**, State House, Nurses Hall & Gardner Aud.
- 5<sup>h</sup> Thurs., 7:00 pm, **LWVN Board Meeting**, location to be announced.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Wed., 11:30am-1:30pm, **Topic Meeting: Housing**. NewTV, 23 Easy St. Newton Highlands
- 16<sup>th</sup> Mon., 7 pm – 9pm, **"A Sense of Wonder"**: Film and Discussion about Rachel Carson, Newton Free Library. Co-sponsored by LWVN and Green Decade Coalition.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Tue., 7:00-9:00 pm, **Critical Choices for Newton: CAG School Cost Structure Report**, second in a series of five forums. Longyear Museum, 1125 Boylston St. (Rt. 9), Chestnut Hill.

→ Don't forget to check our online calendar for any late-breaking changes!  
[www.lwvnewton.org/calendar.php](http://www.lwvnewton.org/calendar.php).

## League of Women Voters of Newton

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