



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
**Empowering Voters ~ Defending Democracy**  
**2018 STATE & LOCAL NON-BINDING BALLOT QUESTIONS**

**QUESTION 1: Patient-to-Nurse Limits** – *LWVMA takes no stand on this question*

This proposed law would limit how many patients could be assigned to each registered nurse in MA hospitals and certain other health care facilities. The maximum number of patients per registered nurse would vary by type of unit and level of care. The YES side argues that this measure provides for quality health care; the NO side that it would impact the system financially, making health care unaffordable. The League’s position, “An affordable health care system that provides equal access to quality health care for all,” could be interpreted in support of both sides of this question and takes no stand on this question.

**A Yes Vote** would limit the number of patients that could be assigned to one registered nurse in hospitals and certain other health care facilities

**A No Vote** would make no change in current laws relative to patient-nurse limits

**QUESTION 2: Commission on Limiting Election Spending & Corporate Rights**

*LWVMA supports this question and urges a YES vote*

This proposed law would create a citizens commission to consider and recommend potential amendments to the United States Constitution to establish that corporations do not have the same Constitutional rights as human beings and that campaign contributions and expenditures may be regulated.

**A YES Vote** would create a 15 member citizens commission to study potential amendments to the Constitution. The League position is that study of the impact of a Constitutional amendment would be consistent with supporting an amendment only after careful consideration; support does not commit the League to supporting any recommended amendment.

**A No Vote** would not create this commission

**QUESTION 3: Transgender Anti-Discrimination**

*LWVMA supports this question and urges a YES vote*

This question is a referendum on existing law and asks if voters approve of the current law, passed in 2016 by both houses of the MA Legislature prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity in places of public accommodation. This current law protects the rights of transgender individuals.

**A Yes Vote** would keep the current law in place.

**A No vote** would repeal this provision of the public accommodation law

#### **QUESTION 4: Single Payer \***

*LWV of Amherst supports this question*

This local non-binding ballot question asks whether our State District Representative should be instructed to vote for legislation to create a single-payer system of universal health care, Medicare for All, that would provide all MA residents with comprehensive health care coverage including the freedom to choose doctors and other health care professionals, facilities, and services, and that would eliminate the role of insurance companies in health care by creating a publicly administered insurance trust fund.

**A Yes Vote** instructs our State District Representative to vote for single-payer

**A No Vote** instructs our State District Representative not to support the measure

#### **QUESTION 5: Ranked Choice Voting\***

*LWV of Amherst support this question*

This local non-binding ballot question asks whether our State District Representative should introduce and vote in favor of legislation adopting a system for all State and local primaries and elections in which voters rank candidates in order of preference.

**A Yes Vote** would ask our State Representative to introduce and vote in support of voters ranking candidates in order of preference

**A No Vote** instructs our State Representative not to support this measure

\*The State League of Women Voters (LWVMA) has not taken positions on these ballot questions because they are not on the State-wide ballot. However, the Amherst League of Women Voters supports questions 4 and 5 because both support and are in line with stated League positions. LWVMA's 2005 position on "Instant Run-Off Voting" was very recently revised by its Board, stating in part: "The term "instant runoff voting" used in the 2005 study has largely been replaced by the term "ranked choice voting." Both terms describe a system that requires a winning candidate to receive a majority of votes rather than just a plurality and achieves that result by allowing voters to rank the candidates in the order the voter prefers."

Full Texts and Additional links:

[lwwma.org/lwwma-stands-on-ballot-questions](http://lwwma.org/lwwma-stands-on-ballot-questions)

[Lwvofma.civicengine.com/v/measures/877](http://Lwvofma.civicengine.com/v/measures/877)