

## Concord Town Meeting 2017

The Board of the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle makes the following recommendations on the Articles listed below. These recommendations are based on the general positions achieved by the League through its process of study and consensus and on the applicability of those positions to the Articles presented here.

<b>Article</b>	<b>Recommended Action</b>
<b>Article 7</b> – Town Budget	Recommend a <b>Yes</b> vote. We appreciate Town government meeting Finance Committee guidelines.
<b>Article 13</b> – CPS Budget	Recommend a <b>Yes</b> vote with reservations. Meets Finance Committee guidelines. The CSC should explain the long-term financial impact of purchasing buses using 5-year leases. Will this be the approach used for future bus purchases?
<b>Article 15</b> – CPS Renovations	Recommendation will be made at Town Meeting.
<b>Article 16</b> – CCRSD Budget	Recommend a <b>Yes</b> vote with reservations. Meets Finance Committee guidelines. The CCRSC should explain the long-term financial impact of purchasing school buses using 5-year leases. Will this be the approach used for future bus purchases?
<b>Article 17</b> – CCRSD Landfill Flexible Cap Remediation	Recommend a <b>Yes</b> vote. The CCRSC has developed a plan that wisely uses resources and provides flexibility for future uses of this land.
<b>Article 18</b> – Minuteman Regional Tech. High School District Budget	Recommend a <b>Yes</b> vote. The school plays an essential role in the education of our children, both academically and for promoting a way to consider career paths.
<b>Article 20</b> – <b>By Petition</b> Resolution-Reducing the Influence of Money in Politics	Recommend a <b>Yes</b> vote based on LWVUS positions. Campaign finance regulation should enhance political equality for all citizens, ensure transparency, protect representative democracy from distortion by big money, and combat corruption and undue influence in government. The League supports public financing, full disclosure, abolishing SuperPACs, and creating an effective enforcement agency.
<b>Article 23</b> – Acquisition – 55 Church Street	Recommend a <b>Yes</b> vote. This acquisition will consolidate Concord's human service departments.
<b>Article 24</b> – Funding for Telecommunications Services <b>Article 26</b> —Smart Grid Improvements	LWVCC is not taking a position on this article. Articles 24 and 26 plus STM Article 3 authorize \$5.5 million in technology related improvements and implementation. The League suggests the Finance Committee review the total future costs, benefits, and risks of these technology improvements.
<b>Article 27</b> – Comprehensive Municipal Facility Needs Study	Recommend a <b>Yes</b> vote.
<b>Article 29</b> – Community Preservation Committee Appropriation Recommendations	Recommend a <b>Yes</b> vote with reservation. The League believes funding of Town projects should be given priority, and the funding of private organizations given lower priority.
<b>Article 30</b> – Appropriation Recommendation for Junction Village Affordable Assisted Living	Recommendation will be made at Town Meeting.

**The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan grassroots political organization of women and men founded in 1920. The League encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.**

League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle, P.O. Box 34, Concord, MA 01742, [www.lwvcc.org](http://www.lwvcc.org)  
(4/18/2017)

Cynthia Rainey, President, 80 Hunters Ridge Road, Concord

Development	
<b>Article 42 and Article 43 – By Petition-Black Birch II--Alternative PRD Preliminary Site Development and Release of Residential Restriction</b>	Recommend a <b>Yes</b> vote. The petitioner engaged with the public in an open and collaborative way to develop this sound and clear proposal that provides benefits to the Town, protects open space, and provides affordable housing integrated in the community.
<b>Article 48 – Senior Means-Tested Property Tax Exemption</b>	Recommend a <b>Yes</b> vote.
<b>Article 49 – By Petition-Request for Home Rule Legislation Allowing Concord to Adopt Fees to Finance Affordable Housing</b>	LWVCC is not taking a position on this Article. The idea is worthy of further study. We encourage the Select Board to establish a task force to do so.
<b>Article 51 – Concord Energy Goals</b>	Recommend a <b>Yes</b> vote. The League supports the environmentally sound use of energy resources, with consideration of the entire cycle of energy production. We recommend the \$200,000 authorized be spent prudently by first hiring the Director of Energy before hiring the consultant. LWVCC appreciates the work of the EFTF in bringing the results of their work to the town by this article.
<b>Article 57 – Water System Expenditures</b>	Recommend a <b>Yes</b> vote. Though an Enterprise Fund, the income to the fund comes from the citizens directly rather than through a town budget process. The upgrading of the water facility at Nagog Pond is expensive, and recent complications with the town of Acton are complex.
<b>Article 58—Beede Swim &amp; Fitness Center Enterprise Fund Expenditures</b>	Recommend a <b>Yes</b> vote. The League appreciates an opportunity to have a review of current management and plans for the Beede Swim and Fitness Center.
<b>Special Town Meeting</b>	
<b>Article 1 – Welcoming Community</b>	Recommend a <b>Yes</b> vote. LWVUS supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal, and right to humane treatment. Furthermore, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity.
<b>Article 2 – Disabilities Commission</b>	Recommend a <b>Yes</b> vote. The League supports the Americans with Disabilities Act. The change to a Commission will continue the Committee's work but will allow more opportunities to apply for grants and receive more support from existing agencies.
<b>Article 3 – Funding for Technology Improvements</b>	LWVCC is not taking a position on this article. See comments on Articles 24 and 26.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan grassroots political organization of women and men founded in 1920. The League encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle, P.O. Box 34, Concord, MA 01742, [www.lwvcc.org](http://www.lwvcc.org)  
(4/18/2017)

Cynthia Rainey, President, 80 Hunters Ridge Road, Concord