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Engaged Citizen Corner

Your Vote Is Your Voice – Town Election May 8

League of Women Voters of Brookline

Much is at stake for Brookline's future as you vote on May 8th. Be sure you're registered to vote, your registration is current, and know your polling location.

To make your voice heard, you need to know about the candidates and their stance on issues in town, as well as the impacts of the override and debt exclusion ballot questions.

On Monday, April 23, there will be a Municipal Election Forum at Town Hall, in the 6th floor Select Board Hearing Room, at 6:30 pm (refreshments at 6:00), sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Brookline, the Brookline Neighborhood Alliance, Town Meeting Members Association & the Brookline Council on Aging.

The forum will start with an explanation of the override and debt exclusion ballot questions, their impact on property taxes and the available tax relief, including reverse mortgages. Neil Wishinsky, Chair, Select Board, Susan Ditkoff, School Committee member of the Brookline High School Expansion Committee, and Harold Petersen, Vice Chair of the Board of Assessors and member of the Override Study Committee, will speak.

Following will be introductions and questions for the candidates running for contested town-wide offices: Select Board, and School Committee. Candidates for Library Trustee, Town Clerk and Brookline Housing Authority will discuss their reasons for running.

Brookline Interactive Group (BIG) will tape the session and make it available through its website.

On Thursday, April 26, Brookline CAN is sponsoring an Election Forum at the Senior Center from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Candidates and Override speakers will be asked to give special attention to senior concerns.

Voters Guide – The League of Women Voters of Brookline publishes a Voters Guide that will be included in the April 26th issue of the *Brookline Tab*, and will be available on www.wickedlocal/brookline and on www.lwvbrookline.org. Town-wide candidates and Town Meeting Members provide biographical information and address one or more issues in their statements. The Guide will include the ballot questions and links to more information.

Voter registration – April 18th is the last day to register to vote in order to participate in the May 8th election. You must be a MA resident, a US citizen, and 18 or older. (Pre-registration is available for those 16 or 17.)

- *In person registration*: Town Clerk's office-Town Hall, with a special Saturday Voter Registration April 14th.
- *Mail-in voter registration*: Forms at the Brookline Public Main Library, branch libraries, or any post office. You can also download one from the Secretary of State's webpage.
- *Online registration*: If you have a Massachusetts driver's license you may register online at www.registertovotema.com

All of this information is at brooklinema.gov/139/voter-registration.

Poll locations – A map of Brookline's precincts and voting locations is on the Town of Brookline website under Town Clerk. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Prepared and submitted by a member of the League of Women Voters of Brookline (LWVB). The League is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and that works to influence public policy through education and advocacy.