

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WESTON REMINDS YOU OF YOUR ROLE IN THE TOWN BUDGET PROCESS

The League of Women Voters of Weston encourages all citizens to become involved and to have a voice in determining how town funds and their tax money will be spent in the coming fiscal year.

There are four upcoming opportunities for citizen participation in the town budget process 2015.

The four opportunities are:

**1. The Board of Finance Public Hearing  
8 p.m. Tuesday, March 31 Weston Middle School Cafeteria**

This meeting is an opportunity before the Board of Finance finalizes the proposed budgets for citizens to ask questions and share concerns about budget items and issues. The public cannot vote at this time on the three budget components: the Board of Selectmen's annual town operating budget, the Board of Education's schools operating budget, and the town and schools capital improvements budget. Taken together, these elements comprise the *total annual town budget* and directly impact our individual property taxes. The recommended budgets are posted at [www.westonct.gov](http://www.westonct.gov).

**2. The Annual Town Budget Meeting (ATBM) and Referendum  
8 p.m. Wednesday, April 22 Weston High School Auditorium**

At the ATBM, action can only be taken on budget items proposed by the Board of Finance *only if 130 or more qualified voters are present at the time the meeting is called to order, which represents the quorum required by the revised Town Charter (2014)*. If the quorum is met, any budget item can, by a majority vote, be approved as proposed or may be amended to a reduced amount; amounts cannot be increased. If the quorum is **not met**, the Meeting shall adjourn to a referendum (machine ballot), allowing qualified voters (registered voters, or U.S. citizens owning property of \$1,000 or more on the town's Grand List) to approve or reject the three major town budget items. Members of the Boards of Selectmen, Education and Finance and other town officials will be present to answer questions from the public.

**3. Absentee Ballots may be cast in person** in the Town Clerk's office during regular town hall business hours, 9 am until 4:30 pm. from Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup> through Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Unlike regular elections, they may not be mailed due to the short time interval between the ATBM and the adjourned referendum, in accordance with Connecticut State Statutes.

**4. The Adjourned ATBM Referendum 2015** will take place Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon until 8 pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Results from all voting opportunities will be tabulated after voting is completed that evening.

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### Join the League of Women Voters Today

Through its educational efforts, the nonpartisan League of Women Voters encourages participation in all aspects of the democratic process, and helps foster an informed citizenry. Support these efforts by joining the LWV of Weston *today*. Membership information is available at [www.lwvweston.org](http://www.lwvweston.org) or join by sending a check payable to "LWV of Weston" (individual \$50; family \$75), and mail it to LWV of Weston, P.O. Box 1081, Weston, CT 06883. Contributions are always welcome. To make a tax-deductible gift, please make a separate check payable to "LWV of Weston Education Fund".