



General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts
Donna M. Shibley, President



Legislation/Public Policy 2020-2022

Position Open for Chairman

Questions – contact Jen Nowak, Dean of Chairmen, 413.596.5504|jwnowak@charter.net

How Massachusetts' club members support GFWC Legislation/Public Policy?

GFWC's goals for **Advocacy** include educating members about the political process, policy issues, and pending legislation related to our GFWC **Resolutions**, encouraging civic engagement among our members, and *mobilizing* members to advocate for GFWC policy priorities. Join the **GFWC Legislative Action Center** accessed from www.GFWC.org.

Advocacy: GFWC members/clubs you can advocate for or against something, but can't endorse or oppose candidates for elected office. If something isn't addressed by a Resolution, members/clubs can't use GFWC's support to advocate for/against it but you can advocate as concerned individuals.

How can one register to vote? How can you find your elected officials?

Massachusetts makes it easy with online voter registration as well as local registration. To apply online visit www.sec.state.ma.us - click on 'Online Voter Registration' to access the application system. This page is also useful if you don't know your elected officials - easily find them at the "Where Do I Vote?" link under Elections & Voting. Also:

- Make sure all your clubmembers are registered to vote.
- Work to increase voter registration.
- Attend candidate forums.
- Work the polls.

What can clubmembers do? How can they be informed?

- Educate club members on GFWC MA Resolutions. Read and discuss them.
- Encourage your club members to subscribe to the GFWC Legislative Action Center.
- Send a club delegate to discuss club public policy issues with your town elected officials.

As GFWC members, it's important that you/your Club DON'T:

- Endorse/oppose a candidate/political party. Increase criticism of an incumbent close to election.
- Oppose GFWC Resolutions (unless GFWC MA has voted to take a differing opinion on adopted resolutions; it must be clearly stated its action represents GFWC minority vote)
- Use club funds, facilities, in-kind donations, publications, or activities on behalf of a candidate or political party.
- Ask candidates to sign a pledge on any issue.

Important to DO:

- Advocate for bills, issues, ballot measures. Create programs to educate members.
- Hold nonpartisan public education sessions about political issues.
- Sponsor a candidate forum and invite all candidates; provide copies of GFWC Resolutions.
- Hold a local voter registration drive.

For many more ideas check out the *2020-2022 GFWC Club Manual* on the [GFWC Massachusetts](http://www.GFWC.org) web site by going to the **ABOUT** tab click on **What Do We Do?**