



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF CONCORD-CARLISLE**

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Making Democracy Work

May 16, 2011

Ms. Cheryl Lecesse, Editor
The Concord Journal
150 Baker Avenue Ext.
Concord, MA 01742

To the Editor:

For over 80 years, the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle (LWVCC) has informed and engaged residents of our towns in the political process and on public policy issues of the day. LWVCC is a nonpartisan organization, and it follows a policy of not supporting or opposing political parties or candidates. We register voters, host candidate forums, and publish voter guides. We present forums on topics ranging from town and school finances to waste, food, energy and water (the Life in the Balance series). The League (local, state and national) also studies issues and takes positions that form the basis for issue advocacy in the public interest. LWVCC chooses the issues on which it advocates, and we've recently spoken out for an updated Bottle Bill and for transparency in election spending (DISCLOSE Act).

We are writing today to respond to the Concord Republican Town Committee's (CRTC) May 12 guest commentary in the Concord Journal.

The CRTC's commentary questioned the national League of Women Voters' (LWVUS) recent ad campaign. The LWVUS ads voiced a valid concern about the public health consequences of failing to vigorously protect the quality of the air we breathe in Massachusetts. The League has long advocated for public health and environmental protections. LWVCC supports bringing clean air to the fore in public debate.

CRTC also called on LWVCC to seek prompt public disclosure of the funding source for the ads, a step LWVCC had already taken. LWVUS plans to disclose the information in the ordinary course, as part of its next annual report. For more information about LWVUS's clean air advocacy, visit www.lwv.org.

LWVCC looks forward to continuing to serve Concord and Carlisle through voter service, education and advocacy. You can learn about our activities at www.lwvcc.org.

Sincerely,

Becky Shannon and Paula Vandever
Co-Presidents
League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle