LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEEDHAM

Needham High School Civics Showcase: *Students Advocate for Change*

May 31, 2025, 2-3:30 pm

Welcome – Elin Soderholm, LWV Needham President
Guest Speaker – Deb Schmill, President, Becca Schmill Foundation
Visit Student Advocacy Tables

Table	Topic	Issue
101A	Climate Change / Environment	PFAS in water
101B	Substance Use	Addiction services for addicts in need
102A	Education and Schools	Affirming and Maintaining Equal Access to Public Education for all Children
102B	Climate Change / Environment	Skip the Stuff Needham bylaw to reduce plastic waste
103A	Guns	Bill H.2360 193rd (2023 - 2024) Raise the age to own a gun in MA
103B	Immigration	Legal defense funding for immigrants
104	Education and Schools	Against the bill H.715 for phone-free schools
202	Substance Use	Reduce/remove access to nicotine pouches: Tobacco 21
203	Gender-Related Issues	App to alert authorities re. women's safety
204	Climate Change / Environment	Reduce single-use plastics in MA
205	Housing	H.1480 to Finance Housing First programs and Housing for All in Massachusetts
206	Children and Families	H.214 Act to lift kids out of deep poverty
301	Healthcare	Ways to alleviate medical debt
302	Diversity/Equity/ Inclusion	Remove racist imagery and replace the motto with just "we seek peace" on MA flag
303	Healthcare	Price of prescription drugs
304	Needham Issue	More accessible and affordable recreational spaces in Needham
305	Transportation	Electrifying the Needham commuter rail line
401	Substance Use	Rehabilitation centers rather than jails for inmates charged with substance abuse related crimes
402	Healthcare	Implement a birthdate phase out policy for nicotine
403	Worker Rights	Hold vendors of automated hiring systems using AI responsible for unbiased and responsible products
404	Education and Schools	Against proposal for strict banning of personal cellular devices in all Needham Public Schools
405	Mental Health	Provide equal access to mental health days as physical health days in schools
406	Healthcare	Single-payer healthcare in Massachusetts
500	Mental Health	Mental health in schools
501A	Transportation	Better enforcement/more laws for cleaner and more reliable MBTA
501B	Climate Change / Environment	Legislation to mandates towns and cities have certain areas for wildlife conservation

Table	Topic	Issue
502A	Transportation / Safety	Better pedestrian safety through improved sidewalk and traffic rules in Needham & MA
502B	Children and Families	Lift Kids Out of Deep Poverty
503A	NHS Parking	More structured and seamless parking process at Needham HS
503B	Healthcare	H.1334 to regulate Pharmacy Benefit Managers to reduce prescription drug costs for consumers
504A	Healthcare	S.860 for Universal Healthcare for all, paid by the state government
504B	NHS Parking	Use the Rosemary Pool Lot for High School Parking
601	Mental Health	Allow excused absences in schools by mental health professionals
602	Elections and Voting	Lower age of voting to 16 years old in Needham
603	Mental Health	Mental health and social media
604	Substance Use	Substance Abuse Prevention and Awareness
701	Mental Health	Improving mental health of students in schools
702	Climate Change / Environment	MA H.2450/S.1504 Reducing polyfluoroalkyls (PFAS)
703	Police / Prison / Judiciary	S.1651 Shift correctional priorities to rehabilitation and re-entry