

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CANDIDATES GUIDE

2008

Ellen S. Harde – Moderator

Background and qualifications:

Resident since 1967; founding member of Roudenbush Community Center Committee 1973-1993; Recycling Commission 1985-present; founding member League of Women Voters 1967; Moderator 1993-present; President of Massachusetts Moderators Association 2001-02.



1. Is there anything the Moderator can do to encourage more voters to come to Town Meeting regularly?

Prior to each town meeting, I write a letter to the Eagle that explains the town meeting process so newcomers will be familiar with how town meeting works. I have also appeared on the town's cable station explaining the issues that will be discussed and decided at town meeting, as well as talking to students at both Abbot and Westford Academy with hopes that at age 18, they too will get involved in government at the local level.

2. How could we make the Town Meeting more efficient?

The selectmen have appointed a committee to looking at this very question. I was invited to meet with them in December and they are looking at every aspect of the meeting from weighing the pros and cons of open town meeting and representative town meeting to offering babysitting and food. As Moderator, I see my role in making the meeting efficient is to be familiar with the issues and the cast of characters, to explain parliamentary procedure in laypeople's terms, and to keep voters' comments succinct and non-repetitive.