

# Newton Youth Commission

February Newsletter

## What is and who are the Newton Youth Commission?

The Newton Youth Commission is a volunteer body of Youth and Adults that work on issues related to youth in the Newton community. We meet monthly and our work is determined by current events and community needs. Our goal is to implement programs, influence policies, engage in our community, challenge issues and bring youth voice to local government.

We encourage youth from middle through high school to attend our open meetings, either in person or via Zoom. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, 6:30 p.m. at the Newton Free Library.



Follow us on Instagram: @Newtonyouthcommission

Email us at: [youthcommission@newtonma.gov](mailto:youthcommission@newtonma.gov)

[Subscribe to our newsletter](#)

### Updates & Announcements from YC:

- We would like to thank former School Committee members, **Ruth Goldman and Margaret Albright** for joining our February meeting. Ruth & Margaret provided the Commission and attendees with a wealth of information about the roles and responsibilities of a school committee and how we may be able to work together to incorporate youth voice in decision making.
- The **Mental Health Subcommittee** is bringing back bi-weekly mental health posts for youth on the Youth Commission Instagram account. The posts will provide resources, best practices, coping strategies and stress management techniques.
- Youth Services in partnership with MassBay Community College will be hosting its final workshop of our College Financing series titled, "**College Acceptance & Financial Award Review, How to make the best decision for you**" on **Thursday, February 17 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. via Zoom webinar**. The workshop will be facilitated by MassBay Community College in partnership with Youth Services and the Village Bank. It is highly recommended that the young person attends with their parent/caregiver. Pre-registration required, [CLICK HERE](#).

# The Youth Commission would like to hear from you!!

Let us know what the Youth Commission can do for you and help us figure out how to reach more Newton youth!

[Click here to complete a brief survey!](#)



## February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month!

Data from CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey indicate that:

- Nearly 1 in 11 female and approximately 1 in 14 male high school students report having experienced physical dating violence in the last year.
- About 1 in 8 female and 1 in 26 male high school students report having experienced sexual dating violence in the last year.
- 26% of women and 15% of men who were victims of contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime first experienced these or other forms of violence by that partner before age 18.

If you or someone you know is struggling with dating violence, help and resources are available!

### National Domestic Violence Hotline

Call 1-800-799-7233 and TTY 1-800-787-3224.

### Love is Respect National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline

Call 1-866-331-9474 or TTY 1-866-331-8453

### Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network's (RAINN) National Sexual Assault Hotline

Call 800-656-HOPE (4673)

[Love is Respect](#)

## Local & State Government

### News from Massachusetts High School

#### Democrats:

Become a delegate for the Massachusetts Democratic Party Convention on June 4th! Ward by ward caucuses are taking place in February and add-on delegates can still join after the caucuses happen.

Questions or want more details?



Contact Jessie Traxler, MAHSD Logistics Director via email at [jtraxlermahsd@gmail.com](mailto:jtraxlermahsd@gmail.com)

More information about MAHSD can be found on their website: <https://mahsdems.org/> or on their Instagram: @ma\_hsdems

**League of Women Voters Events/Issues:**

Wednesday, February 16, 2022, 7:00-8:00pm:

Defending Democracy Virtual Event

More information can be found at their website: <https://lwvnewton.org/>

**LWV Scholarship:** Applications for two \$1,000 LWVN scholarships to high school seniors are due March 1. Learn more at [lwvnewton.org](http://lwvnewton.org).

The application link is: [bit.ly/LWVNAPPLY22](https://bit.ly/LWVNAPPLY22)

**Other Political Newsletters:**

Interested in more news about local issues and politics? Here are additional newsletters that provide a closer look at local and state politics.

[Amy Sangiolo's Weekly Newton Roundup](#)

Details local politics, along with Commission meetings and City Council meetings

[Mayor Fuller's Newsletter](#)

Weekly updates of City COVID numbers, initiatives, upcoming events and more

[Weekly News Update from the State House News Service](#)

A weekly update of State House happenings, including legislation, State Reps. and Governor Baker coverage

[Daily Politico Massachusetts Playbook](#)

A DAILY update on Massachusetts politics, including important political races, appearances, legislation, and other political news

---

## **Tips to volunteering/getting involved in your community!**



- [Center for Civic Engagement & Service](#)
- Volunteer in your neighborhood by shoveling out your neighbors!
- Volunteer at the many food pantries in Newton or collect food items for donation!
  - [Newton Food Pantry](#)
  - [Centre Street Food Pantry](#)

- The Freedged
- Coordinate a book, shoe, toy or clothing drive for Cradles to Crayons, or More than Words. Both are local nonprofits that serve individuals, children and families.
- Get involved in City Government! There are spots for student representatives available on committees that help run the City. Contact the Newton City Clerk for more information.

---

## The More You Know!

### Newton School Committee & City Council Summary

The **City Council** is Newton's legislative branch of municipal government and is made up of 24 members: sixteen at-large Councilors and eight Ward Councilors. Councilors are elected every two years. The Council meets twice per month, on the first and third Mondays of each month. In addition, the Council has six Standing Committees that meet once per month: Finance, Land Use, Programs & Services, Public Facilities, Public Safety & Transportation and Zoning & Planning. Topics include permitting, appointments, budgets, zoning ordinance, and land use. For more information and specific details please visit: **Newton City Council**

The **Newton School Committee** consists of nine voting members: one person is elected (citywide) from each of Newton's eight wards and the Mayor serves as an ex-officio member. Local School Committees derive their authority from the Constitution of Massachusetts, statutes, and the regulations of the State Board of Education ([newton.k21.ma.us/page/108](http://newton.k21.ma.us/page/108)). During the month of January, the School Committee discussed the Lincoln-Eliot School Building Project, reviewed elementary & middle school updates, received recommendations from the Medical Advisory Group, and updated Newton Public Schools COVID testing strategy from pool testing to at-home weekly rapid antigen testing. For more information and specific details please visit: **Newton School Committee Newsletter**

---

Youth Commission  
Health and Human Services  
1000 Commonwealth Ave  
Newton, MA 02459  
[youthcommission@newtonma.gov](mailto:youthcommission@newtonma.gov)  
(617) 796-1420

