



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION

WHERE DOES THAT MONEY GO?

LEAGUE TO PREVIEW CPC PROPOSALS TO TOWN MEETING

In 2006 Lexington voters adopted the Community Preservation Act, which provided for a three percent surcharge on real estate taxes, to be matched with state monies, to endow a locally controlled fund to be used for open space protection, historic resources, community housing and public recreation projects. Each year the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) reviews proposals for CPA funding and determines which to recommend to Town Meeting for final approval.

At the League of Women Voters First Friday Forum on March 4, Chair Wendy Manz and other members of the CPC committee will discuss the proposals they are recommending for consideration at the 2011 Town Meeting. A few of the CPA proposals to be discussed at the Forum are:

- Battle Green Monument restoration
- Vynebrooke Village drainage work
- A LexHab request for funding to support community housing
- Center playing fields drainage work
- Town of Lexington archives preservation
- Planning funds for community housing on the Leary farm

This is the sixth in a series of 2010-2011 First Friday Forums hosted by the League of Women Voters of Lexington to promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues. Coffee will be available at 9:30 a.m. and presentations will begin at 9:45 in the Community Meeting Room on the lower level of Cary Memorial Library, 1874 Massachusetts Avenue. The library is easily accessible by Lexpress. For more information or to carpool, contact the League at 781-862-6435. All League forums are open to the public at no charge.

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Question & Answer Evening with Lexington's State Legislators

Lexington's representatives to the State Legislature, Senators Susan Fargo and Ken Donnelly and Representatives Jay Kaufman and Thomas Stanley, will be answering your questions at a Q&A forum on Wednesday, February 9 at Cary Hall, 1605 Massachusetts Avenue. The snow date is February 10. The forum is scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Lexington, the Lexington Town Meeting Members Association, The Lexington Minuteman and The Colonial Times, and moderated by Lexington Town Meeting Moderator Deborah Brown, this will be an opportunity for citizens to directly ask questions of their representatives.

There is no admission charge and the public is encouraged to attend. For further information, call the League of Women Voters at 781-862-6435.

Town Election – March 7th

The League of Women Voters of Lexington is currently compiling information to provide to Lexington voters about candidates for Town Meeting membership and other town-wide offices. In addition, the LWVL's Election Guide will be published in the *Lexington Minuteman* on March 3, 2011.

The League will also hold an annual Candidates' Night on Wednesday, March 2, 2011 at Clarke Middle Scholl on Stedman Road. Precinct meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m. to be followed by a town-wide office candidates' debate starting promptly at 8:00 p.m. (The snow date is Thursday, March 3 at Cary Hall.)

Public input is the backbone of the American political process. As a nonpartisan organization, we do not endorse candidates, but work to help all who run for office. Please contact us at 781-862-6435 if you have questions concerning the above schedule or campaigning in general.

The League wishes to thank Peg Enders for distributing and coordinating the above information to all the candidates running for town meeting or other town-wide office during this election cycle.

For more election info go to <http://www.lexingtonma.gov/townclerk/nominationpapers.cfm>

Election Day Reminder

For a free ride to the polls or to volunteer to drive for the Town Election on Monday, March 7, call the League of Women Voters of Lexington at 781-862-6498.

Membership Renewal Reminder

Renewal letters and forms were sent to League members in September and the response has been great. There is still time to send in your dues. If you've misplaced the form, you can download another from our website at www.lwvlexington.org or call 781-862-6435 and we'll be happy to send you another.

OBSERVER CORPS INVITATION

League Volunteer Opportunity

The League always needs people to observe local town board and committee meetings. If you'd like to learn more about how Lexington operates, volunteer to be a League observer. You can either attend meetings in person or watch from home and write up a brief summary of the proceedings for the Bulletin. It's okay if you can't cover every meeting. We welcome occasional reports, as well.

We currently need observers for the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and School Committee. If you have a particular area of interest, or can recommend someone, contact Pat Costello at patcostello@rcn.com.

These reports are crucial to keeping League members informed. Please consider volunteering your time.

The League of Women Voters--Acton Area Presents a Speaker Series on Contemporary Issues

February 15 at 7:30 p.m. Creating Change with Alan Khazei, activist and author of *Big Citizenship*

Alan Khazei, co-founder of City Year and founder of the organization Be The Change, Inc., will talk about his social entrepreneurial career at the Acton Town Hall.

March 15 at 7:30 p.m. Cogmotion: Supporting the Cognition-Emotion Link in Children's Learning with Dr. Christopher Thurber at the Acton Memorial Library. Dr. Christopher Thurber is a board-certified clinical psychologist, educator, author, and father. Chris created ExpertOnlineTraining.com, the Internet's most popular and respected educational resource for youth development professionals.

These events are open to the public with a suggested donation of \$10 for each talk. For more information see www.lwv-aa.org or email info@lwv-aa.org. Opinions expressed by the speakers are not necessarily those of the League of Women Voters.

LWVMA NEWS AND INFORMATION

Women's Health in the 21st Century: What We Need to Know A Forum Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts

March 5, 2011 - Snow Date: March 26, 2011

Metro West Medical Center - McPherson Hall in the Medical Arts Building
85 Lincoln Street, Framingham, MA

Keynote speaker, Judy Norsigian, Executive Director of *Our Bodies Ourselves*

9:30 Registration and Refreshments

10:00 Impact of Media on Women's Health

11:00 Disparities in Access and Treatment - Cheryl Hamlin, MD

11:30 Mental Health Issues for Women - Georgia Sassen, PhD

12:00 Health Fair

Free and open to the public. Free parking. For more information go to: lwvma@lwvma.org

LWVUS NEWS AND INFORMATION

League Seeks to Stop Efforts to Repeal the Affordable Care Act

Following the U.S. House of Representative's vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act, the League sent a [letter to the Senate](#) urging the body to oppose repeal of the Act. The League's Lobby Corps visited Senate offices this month to reinforce our message. Read our [blog post](#) and [Facebook update](#) on this hot issue. Also, thanks to all of you who responded to our action alert before the House vote! While a majority supported repeal, the margin was closer than expected.

League Fights to Protect Public Financing System

The League fought against the efforts this month to eliminate the public financing system for presidential elections. Although the House voted in favor of repeal, prospects in the Senate are a bit better. The League spoke out by [issuing our letter](#) to the House and [joined a coalition](#), blogging on [our views](#) and urging League members and citizens to [take action](#) in opposing the elimination of this system.

League Urges Senate to Reform Rules

With proposed rules changes being considered in the U.S. Senate, the League [urged members](#) to reform their rules to ensure openness, accountability, decision-making capability and effective performance. In addition to discussing these reforms on [our blog](#), the [League sent a letter to the Senate](#) and joined another with coalition partners urging its members to make transparency and accountability a priority and end needless obstruction that threatens the vibrancy of our democracy. The Senate [agreed](#) to stop “secret holds,” cut down on the number of executive branch appointments that need confirmation, and cut back on post-cloture dithering, while leaders pledged to reduce the use of the filibuster.

Leagues Promotes Fair and Open Redistricting

Leagues in many states are actively promoting transparency and public participation in the upcoming redistricting process. As state leaders undertake the complex and often intensely partisan task of redrawing congressional and state legislative district boundaries, Leagues are hosting public events, preparing testimony, educating the media, engaging key allies and leveraging new technology to ensure districts are drawn in the open and that the public has meaningful opportunities to weigh in. The League believes that open and participatory redistricting will lead to a more representative and accountable democracy and empower communities to advocate for the resources and opportunities they deserve. Learn more by reading this [blog post](#) by League Executive Director Nancy Tate.

Leagues Battling Onslaught of Voter Photo ID Bills

Voter photo identification bills have been introduced around the country in: Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Mississippi, Nebraska, Tennessee, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin. Our Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) project is working hard to fight legislation that would disenfranchise voters. To review the current make up of voter photo id laws in the states go to: <http://www.brennancenter.org/page/-/Democracy/Voter%20ID%202010%20States.pdf>

Honoring Women in Congress

The League’s event honoring the women of the U.S. House of Representatives 112th Congress in early January was a success with several members of Congress including Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, joining us for the evening. The highlights of the event can be seen [here](#). We were pleased to be joined by supporters of Rachel’s Network, our event co-sponsor.

LWVUS
www.lwv.org

We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the March 2011 Bulletin, please send it to *Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti* at *Nancor1106@gmail.com* by February 23.

Dates to Save:

February 9 Question & Answer Evening with Lexington's State Legislators

March 2 LWVL Candidates Night (snow date is March 3)

March 4 LWVL First Friday Forum

March 7 Town Election



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