

## **LWV Candidate Information:**

### **Question for Planning Board candidate:**

In keeping with Lexington's goal of promoting racial and economic diversity, what do you think the Planning Board could do to promote passage of zoning initiatives which would result in more housing choice in Lexington?

#### **Robert D. Peters**

Precinct: 7

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#### **\* Community Activities**

Lexington Town Meeting Member – 2005-2010, 2019 – present

Governor's Appointment to the Board of Commissioners, Lexington Housing Authority, 2007-2019.

Lexington Planning Board, 2019 - present

*Zoning provides some rather blunt tools that can and should be used to promote greater economic diversity, however, as a community we need to continue to seek tools to promote greater racial diversity. When I ran for Planning Board three years ago, at one of the candidate forums, someone commented that Not everyone feels welcome in our welcoming community, and I frequently reflect on that comment. Clearly, we need to encourage greater racial as well as economic diversity.*

*Over the next several months, the Planning Board will be engaging with stakeholders in our community as we work to develop the Town's response and action plan for implementation of the Commonwealth's Housing Choice La , (MGL c. 40A, Section 3A) which was passed last year. As a community served by the MBTA we will have to implement zones in town where multifamily housing must be permitted by right in order to comply with the statute and not lose certain state grant funding opportunities. The draft version of the Department of Housing and Community Development's regulations do not include any affordability component and appears to deal*

*with affordability through operation of market forces. I am hopeful that the final regulations include an affordability component, and will work towards including affordability in Lexington's implementation of the Statute whether or not required by the regulation.*

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