



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION FIRST FRIDAY APRIL 7, 2017

Helping Refugees in Today's World

Have you ever wondered, “is there something I could do to help people in the refugee crisis, but I don’t have much time and what can one person do?”

Please join us at our April 7, First Friday Forum where Tom Tsaros will present information about a relatively newly formed group, called LexRAP, which is welcoming and directly helping both refugees and asylum seekers in Lexington and nearby areas. For more information, <http://www.lexrap.org>.

This is the seventh in the series of 2016-2017 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 9:15AM, and the presentation will begin at 9:30. All League forums are free and open to the public.

The program will be held in the Large Meeting Room at Cary Memorial Library, 1874 Massachusetts Avenue. This is the seventh in the series of 2016-2017 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 9:15 a.m., and the presentation will begin at 9:30 a.m.

We also ask that you please invite a neighbor or friend to attend.

For more information, contact the League at lwvlexington@gmail.com or Lisa Smith at lisa.lavinia.smith@gmail.com. All League forums are free and open to the public.

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**RIDES TO THE POLLS
MARCH 2017 TOWN ELECTION**

On March 6, 2017, LWVLexington once again provided rides to the polls. Our thanks to Sandra Frohman who provided the ride and Liz Andrews for coordinating this effort. Great job!

**LWVLEXINGTON BOARD MEETING
April 4, 2017**

The LWVLexington Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 from 7:30 P.M. – 8:45 P.M., Lexington Community Center, Room 217, Lexington, MA. All members are invited.

The League is Looking for Volunteers

The League is looking for volunteers to fill position openings it has. If interested, contact the League at 781-307-3116 for more information.

Watch the League's Forums on Demand

If there is a League of Women Voters of Lexington's First Friday Forum that you've missed or would like to see again, log onto <http://www.lexmedia.org/ondemand.html> and scroll down to "League of Women Voters" under Categories.

**LWVMA
LVLMA 2017 CONVENTION
April 28th and 29th**

**Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center
1657 Worcester Road, Framingham, MA**

LWVMA Supports Safe Communities Act April 5, 2017 - Lobby Day

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts supports the Safe Communities Act, a bill to protect the civil liberties of all Massachusetts residents, ensure due process rights to people detained for civil immigration violations and ensure police and other local/state law enforcement agencies do not participate in immigration enforcement.

Please join us on Wednesday, April 5th at the State House for Immigrants' Day, a lobby day in support of this bill, sponsored by the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) organization. Find information about the bill [here](#).

We will be advocating on behalf of the 1 million foreign-born residents of the Commonwealth and talking to our legislators about why they should support the Safe Communities Act and other pro-immigration legislation.

The event begins at 9 a.m. at the State House and lobbying will go until 2 p.m. There will be keynote speakers in the Hall of Flags from 10 to 11 a.m., after which we encourage you to meet with your legislators. There will be a rally outside the State House 1 to 2 p.m.

To register with MIRA click [here](#) and for information on Lobby Day click [here](#). Please also email Immigration Specialist [Karen Price](#) to let LWVMA know you are coming. MIRA advises everyone to make an appointment in advance with your legislators. You can find your legislators' contact information [here](#).

The Safe Communities Act is sponsored in the Senate by Sen. James Eldridge ([S1305](#)) and in the House by Rep. Juana Matias ([H3269](#)) and has over 90 co-sponsors.

Recent executive orders make all noncitizens fair game for immigration enforcement and threaten to withhold federal funding from jurisdictions whose police refuse to detain any individual identified as suspicious by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Complying with these federal detention requests damages the relationship between police and noncitizen community members and their allies, and takes up police time

that should be used to enforce state criminal law. It also taxes local financial resources, since cities and states are expected to foot the bill for detention. The Massachusetts Legislature has the means to protect its immigrant population from these federal-state immigration enforcement partnerships by passing the Safe Communities Act.

LWVUS has come out strongly in support of such efforts at the state and local levels. In a **2017 statement** it said: “The League supports cities, towns, counties and states that make a decision not to cooperate with federal deportation and enforcement actions that include non-criminal undocumented immigrants.”

LWVMA League-Supported/Opposed Legislation 2017-2018

The legislative advocacy efforts of the LWVMA are led by the Legislative Action Committee (LAC), composed of the League’s legislative specialists. Each legislative specialist follows one or more focus areas. For those areas, the specialist researches bills filed with the Massachusetts legislature, recommends League action on them to the LAC, writes testimony on the League’s position to submit to the relevant committee of the legislature, and follows the progress of the bill. The bills LWVMA acts on must be consistent with **LWVMA or LWVUS positions**. The specialist may also join with approved coalition partners or advocacy groups to work together to support or oppose bills. The Legislative Action Committee decides on support or opposition for a bill, with the LWVMA board of directors retaining final authority on those decisions.

Legislative specialists encourage League members who are interested in closely following an area of legislation or a specific bill to contact them and be added to that specialist’s “team” for notifications of committee hearings and other activities related to specific legislation.

To contact any of the legislative specialists, including our own Pat Costello, Elder Affairs Specialist, email specialists@lwwma.org.

LWVUS

For months, President Trump has made unsubstantiated claims that millions of illegal votes were cast in November.

Without proof – he continues to perpetuate that voters crossed state lines to illegally vote in the 2016 election.

[It's time for President Trump to produce evidence of his claims.](#)

Today Federal Election Commissioner Ellen L. Weintraub has sent a letter to President Trump insisting the president produce evidence to back up his outlandish claims that millions voted illegally in the 2016 election.

That's why the League is joining with allied organizations and calling for the President to produce evidence to support his unlawful voting claims – or put these claims to rest.

We know that wide-spread voter fraud is a myth perpetuated to push election laws that restrict voting. We cannot allow false claims to drive policies that will limit participation in our election process.

[If you agree, add your name as a co-signer of Commissioner Weintraub's letter now.](#)

Tell President Trump it's time to stop spreading misinformation and undermining voter's faith in our elections.

Sincerely,



Chris Carson
President, League of Women Voters of the United States

LWVUS

As your Leagues plan conventions and annual meetings, remember: not only are these meetings a necessary vehicle for conducting internal League business; they are also an important opportunity to build energy around key external, impact-focused efforts for the year ahead. Invite guest speakers who will speak to the core issues the League is taking action on in your state - starting with voting rights and election reform. Lay out plans for [engaging new volunteers](#) in your voter outreach work for the 2017 and 2018 elections. Ask attendees to get involved in specific and timely

opportunities to make an impact on our League's core Making Democracy Work™ priorities.

Thanks for making the most of your time together, and for everything that you do!
Chris



Chris Carson
President, League of Women Voters of the United States

We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the April 2017 Bulletin, please send it to Nancy Corcoran Ronchetti at Nancor1106@gmail.com by April 26, 2017.

Dates to Save:

- April 4th LWVLexington Board Meeting, Lexington Community Center, Room 212, 7:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.
- April 7th LWVLexington First Friday, “Helping Refugees In Today’s World, Cary Memorial Library, Large Meeting Room, 1874 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington, 9:15 a.m.
- April 28th and 29th LWVMA Convention 2017, Sheraton Hotel, Framingham



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