



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION FIRST FRIDAY DECEMBER 2, 2016

BUFFER ZONES – A TOOL TO ADDRESS LEXINGTON'S GROWING ENROLLMENT

With enrollment rising by 690 students since 2008, Lexington's current rate of student growth will require flexibility to adequately meet the urgent space capacity and operational demands of the school district. One approach to help address growing school enrollment has been the development of a NEW buffer zone policy by the Lexington School Committee. Although this is a new concept for Lexington, buffer zones are a tool successfully used in neighboring communities to help balance enrollment across schools while maintaining educational equity. This change would potentially affect the school assignment of students NEW to Lexington while taking into account existing building capacity. No students currently enrolled would be affected. Join us for a panel discussion including School Committee members Judy Crocker, Eileen Jay; Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mary Czajkowski, Director of Planning and Assessment, Maureen Kavanaugh and Special Assistant to the Superintendent, Sandra Trach to discuss the development of a NEW buffer zone policy by the Lexington School Committee.

This is the third 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. Event location, Cary Memorial Library, Large Meeting Room 1874 Massachusetts Avenue. Coffee will be available and the presentation will begin at 9:30am. All League forums are free and open to the public.

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.

Bulletin Editor: Nancy Corcoran Ronchetti – Nancor1106@gmail.com

Membership: Melinda Walker - melinda.walker@rcn.com

Communications: Lisah Rhodes - lisahrhodes@gmail.com

Jeanne Canale - j.canale@rcn.com

Eileen Zalisk - zalisk@aol.com

Spokesperson: Lisa Smith - lisa.lavinia.smith@gmail.com

Webmaster: Gretchen Reisig - greisig@verizon.net

LWVLEXINGTON - LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP! RENEWAL FORMS HAVE BEEN MAILED!

Membership renewal forms for 2016-2017 have been mailed. Thank you to our members who have already renewed their membership for the coming year.

If you haven't already renewed your 2016-2017 membership, please do so soon. To renew your membership, you may use the form you received in the mail or use the form on our website www.lwvlexington.org

If you have a friend or neighbor who may be interested in joining the League as a new member, please encourage them to do so at this time.

Thank you!

EARLY VOTING STATS IN LEXINGTON - 2016

This was the first year of Early Voting in Lexington (and the rest of Massachusetts). And early Voting was popular.

At least 500 citizens voted during each of the eleven Early Voting days, including over 1,000 people on each of the final two days of Early Voting (Thursday, November 2nd and Friday, November 3rd).

In all, over 8,000 Lexingtonians voted early while slightly over 10,000 voted on Election Day. That is, 45% of the votes in Lexington were cast during Early Voting.

Overall voter turnout in Lexington was 84%.

LWVLEXINGTON BOARD MEETING 12/5/16

The LWV Lexington Board meeting will be held on Monday, December 14, 2016 from 7:00 P.M. – 8:45 P.M. in Room 237, at the Lexington Community Center, Marrett Road, Lexington, MA. All members are invited.

VOTER INFORMATION RE: ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2017

The League of Women Voters encourages citizens to register to vote and to consider running for local office. In order to provide information for those interested in running for office, the following has been taken from the Town Clerk's website.

Note that nomination papers are usually available at the Town Clerk's office in December.

Although the date for Annual Town Meeting 2017, which will include the date for the municipal election, has not been set, the following are the deadlines for candidates for Town Meeting members:

- Date for Town Meeting and election, late December as voted by the Board of Selectmen and warrant closure deadline
- 56 days prior to election, deadline for incumbent Town Meeting Members to return intention to run for re-election
- 51 days prior to election, deadline to obtain nomination papers for non-incumbents
- 49 days prior to election, deadline to submit signed nomination papers
- 33 days prior to election, deadline for candidates to withdraw
- 20 days prior to election, voter registration deadline
- 7 days prior to election, warrant posting deadline
- Friday prior to Monday election, absentee ballot deadline
- Annual Town Election, first Monday in March (**March 6 in 2017**), unless otherwise declared by the Board of Selectmen
- Annual Town Meeting, late March 2017

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 INTEREST IN THE LEAGUE IS UP AFTER THE ELECTION

In the week since the election, the LWVMA office received numerous inquiries about joining the League, and our Facebook page received a record number of "likes." Many people here in Massachusetts and, indeed, around the country, appear interested in finding ways to engage with their communities and are turning to the League. As the office receives inquiries, Meryl and Brynne will connect people to local Leagues in their area, if applicable. This is also a great opportunity for local Leagues to do outreach in their communities, as people seem especially open to our message of non-partisan civic engagement. Later, the LWVMA Board will meet and discuss the implications of this very divisive election for the League and our work.

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!

After a polarizing election marked by divisive rhetoric, disaffection, and scandal, it is time for us, as a country and a democracy, to move forward. **At this critical juncture, so much of the work ahead depends on all of us, not just our elected officials.**

As a League, we recommit ourselves to the principles and priorities that define our organization. And, in the coming months, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts will be working hard to address critical issues here in the Commonwealth, regardless of what happens in Washington.

We affirm our principles...

- Ensuring that elections are free, fair, and accessible
- Monitoring government and holding elected officials accountable
- Protecting the environment and addressing climate change
- Rejecting intolerance and defending individual rights

We are taking action NOW...

- Pushing Beacon Hill to expand voting rights by enacting automatic voter registration and Election Day registration, changing the registration deadline, and extending early voting
- Advocating for campaign finance reform, including limits on ballot question contributions

We are taking action NOW...(cont.)

- Pressuring elected officials to take action to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and pollution, and through an accelerated transition to clean, renewable energy
- Lobbying for strong reforms of the criminal justice system, including eliminating mandatory minimum sentences and increasing felony larceny thresholds
- Blocking any efforts to weaken Massachusetts' health insurance system or threaten women's reproductive rights
- Supporting efforts to reduce gun violence

What can you do?

- Introduce a friend to the League -- the more voices we have, the louder our message!
- Continue to work on issues of public importance in your communities.
- Meet with your state legislators to express your concerns and interests for the new legislative session in such areas as voting rights, climate change, and criminal justice reform.
- Join our Legislative Action Committee and help advocate for our priorities on Beacon Hill.
- Pre-register 16- and 17-year-olds to vote.
- Register new citizens to vote at naturalization ceremonies.
- Actively speak out as a League and as individuals -- write letters to the editor, op-eds, social media posts -- to protest any incidents of intolerance or incivility in your community.

Thank you for your commitment to the League! Onward!

SAVE APRIL 28-29 FOR LWVMA'S CONVENTION 2017

Mark your calendar now! You won't want to miss LWVMA Convention 2017 at the Framingham Sheraton on April 28 and 29, 2017. It's when local League delegates gather to hear distinguished speakers, approve program for the next biennium, elect a new board of directors, approve the budget, and network with leaders from across the state.

Watch for more details as we firm up featured speakers and opportunities for local Leagues to participate. For now, mark off April 28 and 29 on your calendar for LWVMA Convention 2017!

STATE PROGRAM PLANNING TIME

The program planning process to develop the recommended program for LWVMA's 2017-2019 biennium is getting underway. Program planning materials will be sent to all local Leagues in early December, so please schedule a program planning meeting for your League before the deadline in early February to submit recommendations.

During the program planning process, Leagues can suggest action priorities, the focus of the state League's work for the next two years; action items, specific projects to tackle; and proposed studies, restudies or concurrences.

The state board will use the results of local League program planning reports to develop a recommended program for 2017-2019, to be voted on at the spring Convention.

LWVMA – DATES TO SAVE - 2017

January 9	Daniel Scharfman Grant Application Deadline
Through January 15 th	LWVMA Phonathon
January 31	Deadline to update your League Roster in LWVUS
February 1	2017 Student Video Contest Kick-Off
April 28 - 29	LWVMA Convention, Sheraton Hotel, Framingham

LWVUS

Right now, before he leaves office, President Obama has a unique opportunity to safeguard our climate, our children's health and our coasts by permanently protecting the outer continental shelf of the U.S. Arctic and Atlantic oceans from future oil and gas leasing.

[Tell President Obama to permanently protect the Arctic and Atlantic from offshore drilling.](#)

Preserving and protecting the Arctic and Atlantic is an important step in fulfilling America's commitment to stopping climate change. Keeping the oil industry from expanding offshore drilling will continue to move America towards a clean energy economy and away from the fossil fuel business.

[Time is running out for President Obama to grant permanent protections to the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans.](#)

Our nation has made commitments to stop climate change, preserve our waters and Establish a clean energy economy. At a time when those commitments are being attacked, President Obama can make one more step in the right direction by taking executive action.

The choice is clear: We must continue to put the health of our people before the needs of big polluters. **[Tell President Obama to put people before polluters by permanently protecting the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans from offshore drilling.](#)**

Sincerely,



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 January 2017 Bulletin, please send it to Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti at Nancor1106@gmail.com by December 25, 2016.

Dates to Save:

December 2 LWVLexington First Friday, BUFFER ZONES – A Tool To
Address Lexington’s Growing

December 14 LWVLexington Board Meeting, Lexington Community
Center, Marrett Road, 7:00 P.M.



League of Women Voters of Lexington
P. O. Box 233
Lexington, MA 02420