



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION FIRST FRIDAY MAY 5, 2017

Democracy Is Not a Spectator Sport!

This motto long ago adopted by the United States League of Women Voters speaks to more and more of us today, in a period of some political turmoil. The Massachusetts LWV has been pleased to note that interest in membership is on the rise since last year, as many citizens are asking how they can get involved in defending democratic principles and furthering political action they believe in.

The LWV at national, state and local levels offers a non-partisan platform for citizen action, including voter registration and education, and advocacy in areas as diverse as climate change, campaign finance, housing and health care. This may be your opportunity to get involved!

On May 5, 2017 at 9:30 AM, in Cary Memorial Library, the Lexington League of Women Voters' First Friday program will introduce the League to those not previously involved, and to remind our members of the League's mission, current activities, and opportunities for citizen participation. **COME AND LEARN ABOUT THE LEAGUE!**

Lexington Convener Margaret Coppe will give us a capsule history of the organization, from its origins in the suffrage movement of 1920 to the present, including some distinguished members of our own local League. Representatives of the LWVMA's program and action team will describe their advocacy on Beacon Hill to support bills that the state organization has studied and taken a formal position on. We will also hear about the League's educational programs on campaign finance and climate change.

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Come to learn what you can do with the League to promote a healthy, responsive government, as every citizen takes up his or her responsibility pay attention, become informed, and act.

First Friday will be held in the large meeting room at Cary Memorial Library. Refreshments are served at 9:15 AM, and the presentation begins at 9:30 AM. For more information, e-mail lwvlexington@gmail.com, call [Jeanne at 781-861-0287] or e-mail lisa.lavinia.smith@gmail.com.

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

All League of Women Voters forums are free and open to the public.

LWVLEXINGTON BOARD MEETING
May 1, 2017

The LWVLexington Board meeting will be held on Monday, May 1, 2017 from 7:30 P.M. – 8:45 P.M., Lexington Community Center, Room 237, Lexington, MA. All members are invited.

SAVE THE DATE!
LWVLEXINGTON ANNUAL MEETING
June 8, 2017

The Annual Meeting of the Lexington League of Women Voters will be held on Thursday, June 8, 2017 from 7:30 P.M. – 8:45 P.M., Lexington Community Center, Dining Room, 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 LWVMA Climate and Energy Solutions Series Kicks Off in Worcester, May 2

The LWVMA Steering Committee for Environmental Action and Advocacy is presenting a series of five regional forums in 2017, as part of its *Climate and Energy Solutions Series*. In collaboration with the League of Women Voters of the Worcester Area, the first forum, "On the Path to 100% Renewable Energy," will be on Tuesday, May 2, at 5:30 pm, at the First Baptist Church, [111 Park Avenue, Worcester, MA](#).

Three experts in the field will present the case for 100% renewable energy, what is required to reach 100% renewal energy, and the role of grassroots activism. The speakers are David Ismay, Senior Staff Attorney, [Conservation Law Foundation, MA](#); Eugenia Gibbons, Clean Energy Program Director at [Mass Energy Consumers Alliance](#); and Marla Marcum, Co-Founder and Director of the [Climate Disobedience Center](#).

Find out [more about our speakers](#). [Click here](#) to download an event flyer.

LWVMA The Case for Carbon Pricing Webinar Now Available!

Registration for the webinar featuring renowned historian of climate science, Dr. Naomi Oreskes, filled quickly. Dr. Oreskes makes the case for why "Carbon pricing is the simplest and fairest way to reduce emissions."

Although there is very little chance of a federal price on carbon right now, several [states and regions](#) already have or are moving toward a price on carbon. Results show that the economy can even be stimulated by carbon pricing, giving competitive advantage by advancing more quickly in the renewable and energy efficiencies sectors.

Giving a background in the economics, Dr. Oreskes explained that the external costs caused by climate change (hurricanes, drought, agricultural disruption, sea level rise) are not reflected in the price of fossil fuels. But someone does pay that price. Economists recognize that external costs are a form of market failure. The most straightforward way to rectify the market failure is to put a price on carbon emissions.

Conservatives don't like to admit market failure, but perhaps more importantly don't want to see government intervention to rectify the failure. However, Judge Richard A. Posner, a well-known conservative thinker said, "Behavior that generates large external costs provides an apt occasion for government regulation."

We are seeing a bit of political opening. [Republicans](#) are recognizing that there is a need to remedy the market failure, and that the easiest way is carbon pricing.

In a final statement, Dr. Oreskes said that in addition to reducing emissions, "Carbon pricing maximizes industry flexibility and consumer choice."

See [Dr. Oreskes' slides](#) and handouts provided in the session: [Carbon Pricing Methods](#), [Carbon Pricing in North America](#), and [Carbon Pricing Resources](#). You will find the webinar [here](#). Dr. Oreskes presentation begins at 5:47 minutes.

LWVUS

Happy National Volunteer Week to all of you who work tirelessly on behalf of the League to engage Americans in our democracy. You are powerful, passionate, and more needed than ever. As you work to leverage our unique strength, remember: there is power when we speak with one voice at all levels. Leagues are encouraged to use LWVUS positions and priorities to act on the pressing issues facing our communities, and are not required to ask for permission to use existing national positions to bring about change at the state or local level (or in turn, to use state positions to take local action). See below for the latest priority national actions, review a 2016 [webinar presentation](#) on using national positions for

local action, and refer to the [Impact on Issues](#) [“Taking Action in the Community”](#) section for more.



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

LWVUS

League sends updated Healthcare Memo to U.S. House ★

The League sent an [updated memo](#) to the U.S. House of Representatives regarding legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The memo reiterates the League's support for quality affordable health care for all Americans, protections for those with preexisting conditions and prevention of discriminatory costs for women. Members of the LWVUS Lobby Corps will also be delivering the memo to select offices on the Hill. Please continue to use [our resources page](#) on the League Management Site for talking points and a template LTE



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 September, 2017 LWV Lexington Bulletin, please send it to Nancy Corcoran Ronchetti at Nancor1106@gmail.com by August 26, 2017.

Dates to Save:

- May 1st LWVLexington Board Meeting, Lexington
Community Center, Room 237, 7:30 p.m. –
8:45 p.m.
- May 5th LWVLexington First Friday, “Democracy Is
Not A Spectator Sport!”, Cary Memorial Library,
Large Meeting Room, 1874 Massachusetts
Avenue, Lexington, 9:15 a.m.
- June 8th LWVLexington Annual Meeting, Lexington
Community Center, Dining Room, 7:00 p.m. –
8:45 p.m.



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