



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

LWV-LEXINGTON NEWS AND INFORMATION FIRST FRIDAY DECEMBER 1, 2017

3 Projects Proposed by the town to be Funded by the Debt Exclusion Vote on December 4, 2017

On Friday, December 1, 2017, the League of Women Voters of Lexington will host Selectman Joe Pato and School Committee Member Kathleen Lenihan presenting descriptions of needed projects, and the Chair of the NO campaign, Patrick Mehr, presenting reasons to reject this tax increase and to find alternative ways to fund the projects before the Debt Exclusion Vote on December 4th, 2017. There will be time for questions, comments from the public.

This is the third in the series of 2017-2018 First Friday Forums hosted by the League of Women Voters of Lexington to promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues. All League forums are free and open to the public. The meeting will take place at Cary Memorial Library, Large Meeting Room, lower lever. Refreshments are served at 9:15 AM, and the presentation begins at 9:30 AM. For more information, e-mail lwvlexington@gmail.com.

All League of Women Voters forums are free and open to the public. We also ask that you please invite a neighbor or friend to attend.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization dedicated to the principles of self-government established in the Constitution of the United States. The League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

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LWV–Lexington League Supports Debt Exclusion

At the November 6, 2017, the League of Women Voters of Lexington Board voted unanimously to support all three questions on the upcoming December 4, 2017 debt exclusion.

The LWV Lexington has had a position supporting the use of overrides or debt exclusions. The wording of the position is included below.

DEFINITION OF LOCAL PROGRAM

Local program consists of:

- Such current local governmental issues as the membership shall choose for concerted study and action; and
- Those positions on local governmental issues to which the League of Women Voters of Lexington has given sustained attention and on which it may continue to act.

POSITIONS

1. FISCAL POLICY

- Support the use of overrides of Proposition 2 1/2 or debt exclusion as appropriate responses to increasing costs of town government and public education (1988).
- Promote measures to improve Lexington's long-range financial planning (1978).
- Support disclosure of financial position of Enterprise Funds (1997).

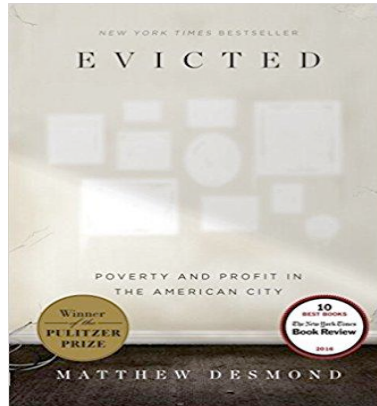
The League is Looking for Volunteers

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.

LWV-LEXINGTON BOOK CLUB
Thursday, January 4th, 2018
7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.
12 Barrymeade Drive



LWV-LEXINGTON
Book Club
Thursday, January 4, 2018, 7-9 PM
12 Barrymeade Drive

You are invited to the third meeting of the League of Women Voters of Lexington Book

In *Evicted*, Harvard sociologist and MacArthur “Genius” Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Hailed as “wrenching and revelatory” (*The Nation*), “vivid and unsettling” (*New York Review of Books*), *Evicted* transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of 21st-century America’s most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible.

WINNER OF THE 2017 PULITZER PRIZE FOR GENERAL NONFICTION

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/28/books/review/matthew-desmonds-evicted-poverty-and-profit-in-the-american-city.html>

Please RSVP to Margaret at mecoppe@gmail.com. Reserving the book from the library is recommended.

LWV-NEEDHAM
Stopping the Rising Tide of Hate
December 2, 2017 in Needham

LWV-Needham is co-sponsoring a forum with keynote from Lecia Brooks of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Needham on Saturday, Dec 2 at 4 pm.

It is open to everyone at no cost. Please help spread the word.

See our webpage for information and registration link. <https://lww-needham.org/stop-rising-tide-hate/>

Karen Price, President LWV-Needham

LWV-LEXINGTON BOARD MEETING
December 4, 2017

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

LWVMA
LWVMA Legislative Envoy Program

Over the years, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA) has been a force on Beacon Hill, leading the way on key efforts to improve elections and voting, defend the environment, protect reproductive rights, improve governmental transparency, and ensure equal access to housing, education, and other basic human needs.

As we approach our 100th anniversary, we must ensure that our voice continues to be heard and that our members—our CITIZEN LOBBYISTS—have the *information, skills, and resources* they need to advance LWVMA’s legislative agenda and fight for our priorities.

To help train, empower, mobilize, and increase our Citizen Lobbyists, we are pleased to introduce LWVMA’s new Legislative Envoy Program.

What is the Legislative Envoy Program?

The Legislative Envoy Program **formalizes the links between the state League's Legislative Action Committee (LAC) and local Leagues** across the Commonwealth. With better connections between our state League legislative specialists and local Leagues, we can be more effective in moving legislation and acting on legislative priorities when swift, coordinated action matters most.

By formalizing these connections, we will also promote local Leagues, engage members interested in state issues, develop connections with legislators and local media, and increase the impact of the League in Massachusetts.

How Does the Legislative Envoy Program Work?

The goal is to grow a corps of Legislative Envoys in our local Leagues so that each of our legislators has an envoy from LWVMA.

Initially, LWVMA will pilot a small group of envoys from different local Leagues who will be responsible for building relationships with the State Representative and Senator in their districts and engaging their local Leagues. We plan to grow this group over the next several years.

LAC Specialist Colleen Kirby will coordinate the Legislative Envoy program for the Program and Action Committee, co-chaired by Nancy Brumback and Karen Price. The Legislative Envoy Program will kick off in January 2018.

Why Become a Legislative Envoy?

You will learn how to become a better Citizen Lobbyist and will become familiar with the legislative priorities of the state League.

You will become a key proponent of state League efforts to make Massachusetts more responsive to its residents and provide a key link between your local League and state government.

What Will the Legislative Envoys Do?

As a Legislative Envoy, you will:

Get to know your legislators by attending local office hours (1-2 times per year), following your legislators on social media, setting up meetings for yourself or with a group of constituents, and encouraging your local League to get together with legislators.

Learn about state League priorities by receiving summaries of bills LWVMA is following, participating in webinars and teleconferences, acting on Action Alerts, and attending Day on the Hill.

Learn your state legislators' priorities through regular communication with them and their staffs.

Serve as a conduit, connecting the state League, your local League, and your legislators.

Advance state League legislative priorities by working with your legislators.

What Is the Time Commitment for Legislative Envoys?

Legislative Envoys should be prepared to spend 5-10 hours per month in this role but the commitment is flexible if your time is limited.

What Support and Benefits Will Legislative Envoys Receive?

As a Legislative Envoy, you will develop skills, acquire information, and receive resources that will enable you to be a better advocate and CITIZEN LOBBYIST. The state League will offer you:

- **Training** on lobbying, state government, and communicating with media
- **In-depth specialist briefings** on bills
- Informative **teleconferences, webinars and workshops** for Envoys
- **Ongoing support** from the LWVMA office
- **Opportunities to socialize** with other Envoys

[Click here](#) for the Legislative Envoy Program flyer.

For more information, please contact the program's administrator, Colleen Kirby

LWVUS

'Tis the season for giving thanks and this year we all have a great deal to be thankful for.

We're thankful for our thousands of members and supporters across the country who work tirelessly to advocate for free, fair and accessible elections. Our work of

registering voters, holding candidate debates and forums, fighting attacks on voting rights, advocating for money in politics reform and defending our health care is critical to creating a more perfect democracy.

We couldn't do it without you! On behalf of the millions of Americans you helped this year, thank you!

As 2017 comes to a close and we begin preparing for 2018, we are already hard at work gearing up for programs to protect and empower millions of voters in next year's important elections. We are committed to stepping up our work to register more new voters, hold more candidate forums, provide more ballot information and help all eligible voters participate in our electoral process.

Thank you for your continued commitment and support to our important work.

We look forward to working with you through midterms to empower voters and defend democracy.

May you gather with family and friends for a wonderful weekend of sharing food and friendship. Thanks again for everything you do.

Election Day is just 12 days away and I want to thank all of you for the hard work you have done this year ensuring that voters in our communities have the right information to make important decisions at the ballot box. On National Voter Registration Day last month, Leagues registered more than 11,000 voters. While there aren't many high-profile elections this year, there are 11,000 newly registered voters who have a chance to make decisions that impact their daily lives. That makes me so proud of this organization.



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 2018 LWV-LEXINGTON Bulletin, please send it to Nancy Corcoran Ronchetti at Nancor1106@gmail.com by December 20, 2017.

Dates to Save:

- December 1st LWV-LEXINGTON First Friday, 3 Projects by the town to be Funded by the Debt Exclusion Vote on December 4, 2017, Cary Memorial Library, Large Meeting Room, Lower Level, 9:30 a.m.
- December 4th LWV-LEXINGTON Board Meeting, Lexington Community Center, 39 Marrett Road, Room 217, 7:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.
- January 4th LWV-LEXINGTON Book Club, Thursday, January 4, 2018, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., 12 Barrymeade Drive, discussing ***Evicted***, authored by Harvard sociologist and MacArthur “Genius” Matthew Desmond.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



League of Women Voters of Lexington
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