

LWV Lexington December First Friday Forum:
Middlesex County District Attorney Marian Ryan
on "Community Safety in Lexington"

On May 30, 2019, our Lexington community was shocked by news of a tragic homicide that left a woman dead, a husband suspected of murder, a family devastated, and neighbors questioning the safety of our community. In the days that followed, the case was investigated by a team led by Middlesex County District Attorney Marian Ryan, revealing a tragic web of issues linking immigration fears and domestic violence with a fatal result.

On Friday, December 6, 2019, DA Ryan will speak at the League of Women Voters Lexington "First Friday" about the work of her office, with a focus on community safety. She will address the many challenges shared by our communities, from bullying, hate speech, opioid addiction, suicides, and immigration issues-- as well as the "epidemic of loneliness" that connects many of these problems. DA Ryan will also discuss her pioneering work in criminal justice reform and innovative restorative justice programs.

DA Ryan is a career prosecutor with long courtroom experience. She grew up in Somerville and is a *summa cum laude* graduate of Emmanuel College and a *cum laude* graduate of Boston College Law School. She was elected to office as Middlesex County District Attorney in 2014 and re-elected in November 2018. She believes that as important as prosecution is, prevention is equally important and leads to better outcomes.

This program is the third in the 2019-2020 "First Friday" forum series hosted by the League of Women Voters to promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues. The forums take place in Cary Memorial Library's large meeting room at 1874 Massachusetts Avenue in Lexington. Coffee will be available at 9:15 AM and the presentation begins at 9:30 AM. All League forums are free and open to the public.

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. For more information, contact the Lexington League Convener at mecoppe@gmail.com.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS

New Executive Director

In November, the LWVMA welcomed a new Executive Director, Patricia Comfort. Pattye has spent her career working in the public interest, most recently serving as Executive Director of the Women's Bar Association and Women's Bar Foundation of Massachusetts. She joins LWVMA with extensive experience managing a nonprofit organizations, as well as in education and advocacy. Prior to her time with the Women's Bar, she has worked with the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation and with The Fund for the Public Interest. Pattye holds a B.A. in political science from Boston College and a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law.



Members of the LWVMA Board look forward to introducing Pattye to our members, our local Leagues, and to our many partners in the community over the next few months. You can reach Pattye at pcomfort@lwwma.org.

Nominating Committee Seeks New Board Members

The LWVMA Nominating Committee has begun putting together a slate of LWVMA officers and directors, to be presented to League members at the 2020 Council Meeting in the spring. This year there are openings for Treasurer and Secretary as well as other board members.

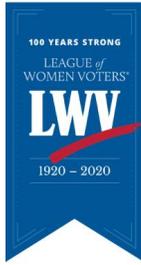
Please think about which of your fellow League members would be well-suited to serve at the state level, and be prepared to nominate yourself or another talented and committed local Leaguer to serve on the LWVMA Board of Directors and/or the LWVMA Nominating Committee. We need to make use of all the talent out there!

The Nominating Committee will contact League leaders across the state to request names as they work to develop a 2020-2021 slate. Please feel free to reach out to any of the committee members at nominating@lwwma.org: Wendy Manz, Chair, Lee Bona, Sharon McCarthy, Jean Cherdack, and Kathy Leonardson.

2020 U.S. Census

The 2020 Census starts on April 1, 2020--less than five months away. Census data will determine political representation and the distribution of \$675 billion of funding for education, health care, public transportation, roads, buildings, and other critical resources.

LWVMA will host a **Webinar Thursday, Dec. 5, 2-3 p.m.** on helping with the 2020 U.S. census. Carly Bari, Partnership Specialist for the Census Bureau, will explain how the census will be conducted and the resources available on the Census Bureau website. Register at [Zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VfhoEjqdS1W3ypIlnKUQW](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/WN_VfhoEjqdS1W3ypIlnKUQW).



100th Anniversary LWVMA, LWVUS 19th Amendment



PROGRAMS CELEBRATING LOCAL WOMEN

These programs will be presented monthly by Freedom's Way National Heritage Association.

December 7 – Clara Endicott Sears – Harvard, MA (*Partner: Fruitlands Museum | The Trustees*)

Clara Endicott Sears devoted her life to literature, historic preservation and philanthropy. Among her many accomplishments was the establishment of the Fruitlands Museum in 1914 at her summer estate in Harvard, Massachusetts. Sears was awarded a gold medal by the National Society of New England Women in 1942.

Join us for a guided history hike on the museum grounds learning about Clara Endicott Sears and her dedication to preserving our landscape and stories. Our hike will end in the Art Gallery with an Object Spotlight Talk by Collections Manager, Anna Thompson on the exhibition *A New England State of Mind: the Pioneering Collector, Clara Sears*. Extend your visit by enjoying the festive atmosphere of [Fruitlands' Holiday Open House and Craft Fair](#) taking place from 12 to 5 PM. This FREE day includes admission to the grounds and Art Gallery, special holiday deals in the museum store, craft fair with local artisans, live music, gallery talks, and refreshments. Please meet us outside of the Wayside Gallery (the green building) at Fruitlands Museum, 102 Prospect Hill Road, Harvard, MA at 12:50 PM.

* **FUTURE PROGRAMS ARE LISTED BELOW:**. For information on times and locations and to register to attend, go [FreedomWay.org/Programs/Connecting-Communities-Walks-Talks](https://freedomsway.org/Programs/Connecting-Communities-Walks-Talks).

January 11 – Patricia C. Fitzmaurice – Arlington, MA (*Partner: Lancaster Trails Committee*)

February 29 – Harriet E. Wilson – Milford, NH (*Partner: The Harriet Wilson Project*)

March 28 – Eleanor Norcross – Fitchburg, MA (*Partner: Fitchburg Greenway Committee*)

April 25 – Prudence Cummings Wright – Pepperell, MA (*Partners: Daughters of the American Revolution – Prudence Wright Chapter, Pepperell Historical Society*)

May 16 – Mary Rowlandson & Weetamoo – Lancaster, MA (*Partner: Lancaster Trails Committee*)

June 23 – Marion Stoddart – Groton, MA (*Partner: Nashua River Watershed Association*)

July 18 – Elizabeth Orton Jones – Mason, NH (*Partners: Mason Historical Society, Mason Public Library*)

August 22 – Hazel MacKaye – Shirley, MA (*Partners: Shirley Historical Society, Shirley Meeting House*)

September 26 – Louisa May Alcott, Harriett Lothrop, Margaret Lothrop - Concord, MA (*Partners: Minute Man National Historical Park (National Park Service), Friends of Sleepy Hollow Cemetery*)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

National League Action on Gerrymandering

LWVUS is launching a 49--state + DC campaign to end partisan gerrymandering: **The People--Powered Fair Maps Campaign**. Earlier this month the national League hosted an internet town hall forum which is accessible through the national website. The work will look different in each state. The national board has authorized half a million dollars to launch this campaign, and every state League will receive some of that funding through grants. If you are interested in participating in this initiative, contact Wendy Manz (781 863--1733). We will set up a working group to watch the town hall program and to explore how we can help. Remember, to our embarrassment, “gerrymandering” is named after a Massachusetts legislator, Elbridge Gerry, who made the practice famous in the 1700s!)

LWV Impeachment Process Resource

LWVUS has published an [article explaining the process of impeachment](#). This nonpartisan reference document is meant to inform voters. . For Leagues looking to inform the public about the process of impeachment, LWVUS recommends [sharing this article](#). LWVUS will not be making a public statement on impeachment at this time, but will reevaluate that decision as the process unfolds

First Call for LWVUS Convention

The League of Women Voters' 54th national convention will be held at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill & Liaison in Washington June 25-28, 2020. LWVUS invites League members to save these dates and plan to join fellow League leaders from across the country for our biennial national gathering.

UPCOMING IN THE LEXINGTON LEAGUE

Planning for the LWV 100th Birthday

As noted above, 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the national League of Women Voters on February 14 and the Massachusetts League of Women Voters on May 27. The 19th amendment, giving women the vote, was adopted on August 26, 1920.

Clearly, next year is an opportunity to present our proud history to the public and to celebrate 100 years of contributions to the civic life of our communities. Lexington is planning its own observances in addition to those at the state and national levels. The Lexington LWV Board is forming a task force to plan and carry out our anniversary activities. Please get involved! We particularly want to hear from long-time members who constitute our local memory bank.

Please contact Wendy Manz – (781) 863--1733 to share your ideas and find out how you can help.

LWV Lexington January 2020 First Friday Forum: Lexington's Center Streetscape Project

On **Friday, January 3, 2020**, the Lexington LWV First Friday Forum will feature David Pinsonneault, Public Works Director, and John Livsey, Town Engineer. They will present an overview of the Center Streetscape project, including the three main elements of the project: improved safety, improved accessibility and renewal of the mid-century modern landscape. Project scope, funding, timeline, types of materials and project coordination will also be discussed.

The January First Friday Forum, fourth in a series, will take place in the Cary Memorial Library's Large Meeting Room at 1874 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington. Coffee will be available at 9:15 AM and the presentation will start at 9:30AM. As always, League forums are free and open to the public.

We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the January 2020 LWV LEXINGTON Bulletin, please send it to Wendy Manz at wendy_manz@yahoo.com prior to December 20.

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2019--2020

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Wendy Manz, Pat Costello, Margaret Coppe and Ingrid Klimoff attended the LWVMA Day on the Hill on October 17, and visited the offices of Senators Mike Barrett and Cindy Friedman and Representative Michelle Ciccolo to encourage their support of League positions.