



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

LWV-LEXINGTON NEWS AND INFORMATION FIRST FRIDAY February 2, 2018

LEXINGTON GRANT MAKERS

Have you heard about the Dana Home Foundation, The Trustees of Public Trusts and the Fund for Lexington? They are among a number of Lexington organizations which are dedicated to supplementing public funds with private grants for all residents, young and old.

As part of our informative First Friday Forums, the League of Women Voters Lexington is highlighting a few of these grant makers in February and March. Please join us on Friday, February 2, 2018, at 9:30AM when Susan McClements, a board member of both the Dana Foundation, and the Trustees of Public Trusts, and Norman Cohen, a member of the Fund for Lexington Board will speak in depth about their organizations and projects they have supported.

The meeting will take place in the *Cary Memorial Library Large Meeting Room, lower level*. This is the fifth 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. Coffee will be available at 9:15 AM, and the presentation begins at 9:30 a.m. For more information, contact the League at 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
CANDIDATES' NIGHT EVENT
Thursday, February 15, 2018
Location: Clarke Middle School
Time: 7:00 P.M. – 9:20 P.M.**

This is an opportunity for you to meet the candidates and ask questions to find out where the candidates stand on the issues that are important to you.

Candidates' Night is an annual event organized by the League of Women Voters of Lexington to provide Town Meeting and town-wide office candidates an opportunity to present their positions on issues and to listen to constituents' concerns. From 7:00pm to 7:30pm, there will be coffee and conversation on the first floor outside of the school auditorium.

From 7:30pm to 8:00pm, there will be precinct meetings in individual classrooms on the first floor for Town Meeting candidates and interested voters. At 8:00 pm, participants will gather in the Clarke school auditorium to hear the views of candidates seeking town-wide elective office (Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Planning Board, and Town Moderator).

The evening promises to be informative and to provide a lively forum for discussion of issues that may be voted on at Town Meeting and other topics of interest. To get to Clarke Middle School: Take Brookside Avenue off Waltham Street, park in the school parking lot, and enter the school at the main entrance or the lower entrance. Additional parking is available on some parts of Allen Street.

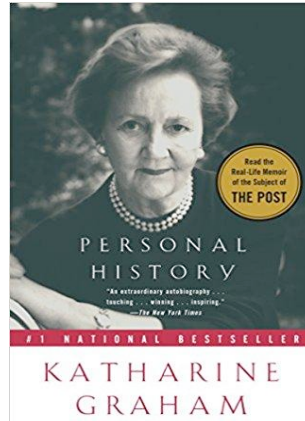
There is no admission charge and the public is encouraged to attend. Please note that there is no snow date.

For further information, please contact the League of Women Voters at: lwv.lexington@gmail.com.

**LWV-LEXINGTON BOARD MEETING
February 5, 2018**

The next LWV Lexington Board meeting will be held at the Lexington Community Center, 39 Marrett Road, Room 217, from 7:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. on February 5, 2018. All are welcome to attend.

LWV-LEXINGTON BOOK CLUB
Thursday, March 1st, 2018
7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.
12 Barrymeade Drive



You are invited to the fourth meeting of the League of Women Voters of Lexington Book Club on Thursday, March 1, 2018, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, at 12 Barrymeade Drive, Lexington, MA.

We will be discussing "Personal History" by Katherine Graham.

As seen in the new movie *The Post*, here is the captivating, inside story of the woman who helmed the *Washington Post* during one of the most turbulent periods in the history of American media.

In this bestselling and widely acclaimed memoir, Katharine Graham, the woman who piloted the *Washington Post* through the scandals of the Pentagon Papers and Watergate, tells her story—one that is extraordinary both for the events it encompasses and for the courage, candor, and dignity of its telling.

Here is the awkward child who grew up amid material wealth and emotional isolation; the young bride who watched her brilliant, charismatic husband—a confidant to John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson—plunge into the mental illness that would culminate in his suicide. And here is the widow who shook off her grief and insecurity to take on a president and a pressman's union as she entered the profane boys' club of the newspaper business.

As timely now as ever, *Personal History* is an exemplary record of our history and of the woman who played such a shaping role within them, discovering her own strength and sense of self as she confronted—and mastered—the personal and professional crises of her fascinating life.

WINNER OF THE 1998 PULITZER PRIZE FOR BIOGRAPHY

If you are interested in attending our book club, please RSVP to Margaret at mecoppe@gmail.com.

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

Lights! Camera! LWVMA Student Video Contest! The Sacharfman Fund's Annual High School Student Video Contest

The Scharfman Fund's annual student video contest is designed to foster civic awareness among young people and provide them with an opportunity to share their opinions and viewpoints on matters of public importance. And it is only one part of the LWVMA Citizen Education Fund programs.

The contest, ***Get In the Game and Vote***, is open to all high school students in Massachusetts. Top winners will be awarded \$500, \$250, and \$100 prizes, and their videos will be publicized statewide.

Entries must be submitted online from February 1 through March 31 at www.lwvma.org. Judging will take place in April, and winners will be announced in May. Official rules and further details are available at www.lwvma.org.

We need League members to publicize the video contest at high schools in their area. [A toolkit and flyer to download are available on our website here.](#) Emails about the contest will be sent to Massachusetts high schools, but may not reach the people you know. Please email personal contacts (high school administrators, educators, students) directly using [the suggested email.](#)

And if you are interested in helping to judge the videos, contact LWVMA Executive Director [Meryl Kessler.](#)



**Save the Date:
LWVMA Spring Conference,
April 28, 2018**

Concerned about the state of our democracy? Want to learn from experts about steps we can all take to strengthen our democratic institutions and processes? LWVMA is planning a conference dealing with the issues challenging our democracy on Saturday, April 28; we will have details on time and location shortly. This event is a new approach to the state League's spring programming that will substitute a conference on contemporary issues, open to both League members and the public, for the Council program usually held in the year between state conventions. Please plan to join us!

LWVMA CALENDAR

- Friday, Jan. 26 LWVMA/LESF Board Meeting, Framingham Main Public Library, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 31 Automatic Voter Registration Lobby Day, Massachusetts State House, Room 428, from 9:30 a.m. until noon
- Wednesday, Jan. 31 Safe Communities Day of Action
- Thursday, Feb. 1 LWVMA Student Video Contest Kick-Off, "Get in the Game and Vote!"
- Thursday, Feb. 15 Moderator Training, Acton TV, 16 Craig Rd., Acton, 7:00 p.m.
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LWVUS

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy

It has been a busy first month of 2018, and we've certainly seen some great victories in the voting rights sphere! We're excited to share with you a few highlights of our January:

'Election Integrity' Commission Dissolved

Our voting rights experienced a great victory at the beginning of this month, when President Trump (at long, long last) [shut down his discredited 'Election Integrity' Commission](#). The League was involved in legal challenges in Texas, Utah and Indiana that sought to prevent the private data of voters in those states from being shared with the Commission. And, in the time the Commission was active, we collected more than 20,000 comments and petition signatures from those opposed to the Commission's work. It is now time for our leaders to focus on the very real work of securing our elections against foreign interference, while making sure all eligible voters are free to exercise their right to vote.

SCOTUS Hears Voter Purge Case

The Supreme Court heard arguments in *Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI)*, Ohio's voter purge case. The League [filed an amicus brief](#) in support of the plaintiffs last

year, stating it's unreasonable, and therefore unlawful, to infer that a voter moved or is otherwise ineligible to vote from one missed federal election. We joined other voting rights advocates on the steps of the Supreme Court to [say the right to vote is not use-it-or-lose-it](#). Learn more about [the details of this case](#) from Interim Senior Director of Advocacy, Jessica Jones Capparell, on The Union Edge.

Anti-Gerrymandering Wins Across the Nation

The League of North Carolina celebrated an exciting victory when courts [struck down the state's congressional districts as partisan gerrymanders](#) and, just two weeks later, the [Pennsylvania Supreme Court overturned the state's gerrymandered congressional districts](#) and ordered new maps to be drawn by February 9th. We are thrilled at the decision of the PA Supreme Court!

There are many more battles for fair maps happening nation-wide right now. The League of Michigan has joined in the fight against gerrymandering, where they have filed a lawsuit [challenging partisan legislative and congressional district maps](#), and Leagues in Ohio may soon be seeing [two anti-gerrymandering measures on the ballot](#).

Florida Takes Rights Restoration to the Ballot

After months of dedicated work, [Floridians have submitted more than 1.1M petitions in support of the Voting Restoration Amendment](#). Election officials in the state certified that this initiative has now collected enough signatures to get a constitutional amendment on the November ballot. Florida is currently one of four states that permanently revokes the right to vote from those with a felony conviction—affecting more than 1.5M people in Florida alone. The League of Florida has been [working along with many partners](#) to make sure these citizens who have paid their debt to society are restored with their right to vote. [Learn more about the Second Chances Florida Campaign here](#).

It's been a great start to 2018 and we're excited to see what all we can accomplish together through the rest of this year. Thanks to your support, we continue to be vigilant in our mission to empower voters!



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 March 2018 LWV-LEXINGTON Bulletin, please send it to Nancy Corcoran Ronchetti at Nancor1106@gmail.com by February 24, 2018.

Dates to Save:

- February 2nd LWV-LEXINGTON First Friday, Come Meet **CEL** (Community Endowment of Lexington) & **LEF** (Lexington Education Foundation), to learn more about their organizations and how they support those in need in our community, Cary Memorial Library, Large Meeting Room, Lower Level, 9:30 a.m. Refreshments at 9:15 a.m.
- February 5th LWV-LEXINGTON Board Meeting, Lexington Community Center, 39 Marrett Road, Room 217, 7:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.
- February 15th CANDIDATES' NIGHTS, Clarke Middle School, 7:00 P.M. to 9:20 P.M.
- March 1st LWV-LEXINGTON BOOK CLUB
Thursday, March 1st, 2018, 7:00 P.M. – 9:00 PM
12 Barrymeade Drive, discussing ***Evicted***, authored by Harvard sociologist and MacArthur "Genius" Matthew Desmond.



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