



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

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

LEXINGTON GRANT MAKERS – PART 2

Lexington is fortunate to have a number of organizations helping our community. Last month we featured representatives from the Fund for Lexington and the Dana Home Foundation. We invite you to come meet representatives from CEL (Community Endowment of Lexington) and LEF (Lexington Education Foundation) to learn more about their organizations and how they support our community.

Please join the League of Women Voter's Lexington on Friday, March 2, 2018, at 9:30AM when we will present a panel discussion on these organizations and the resources they provide. Participants include Nancy White, co-chair of CEL, and Karen Orf, co-president of LEF.

The meeting will take place in the *Cary Memorial Library Large Meeting Room, lower level*. This is the sixth 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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VOTING REMINDER!!

**ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
MONDAY, MARCH 5th, 2018**

The Town's Annual Election is Monday, March 5th, 2018. Polls are open 7:00 A.M. to 8:00P.M. If you need a ride to the polls, please contact Liz Andrews at:

If you are unable to vote on March 5th, you are eligible to vote via Absentee Ballot if:

1. You are absent from the Town on the day of election or
2. You are physically unable to get to the polls, including for religious reasons.

To start the absentee voting process, you can complete an [Absentee Ballot Application](#), available at the Town Clerk's Office or on the Office of the [Secretary of State's web site](#).

Upon receipt of your application, we will mail you an absentee ballot or you may vote at the [Town Clerk's Office](#).

For more information, please visit the website of the [Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth - ELECTIONS DIVISION](#).

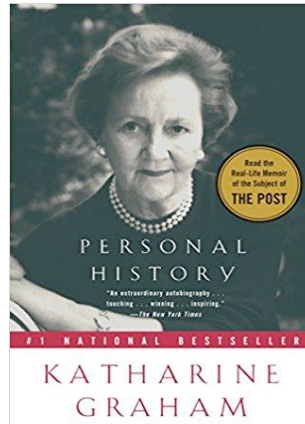
**LWV-LEXINGTON RIDES TO THE POLLS
On March 5, 2018**

The Lexington League is once again offering rides to the polls on Election Day, Monday, March 5, 2018. If you plan to vote and need a ride or can volunteer to help, please contact Liz Andrews at 781-862-6498 or e-mail her at ewandrews5@gmail.com.

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

The next LWV Lexington Board meeting will be held at the Lexington Community Center, 39 Marrett Road, Room 232, from 7:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. on March 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 LAST CALL!

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 Webinar
Cooler Smarter:
Practical Steps for Low-Carbon Living
Tuesday, February 27, 2018, 4:00-5:00 pm**

The webinar is free and open to the public. Please spread the word!

Registration is required, [click here](#).

Attend our latest forum without leaving your home!

- How can each of us live Cooler and Smarter?
- Can our own lifestyle choices really make an impact on climate change?

While the routine decisions that shape our days such as what to have for dinner, where to shop, how to get to work may seem small, collectively they have a big effect on global warming.

The webinar will present science-based guidance on the most effective ways to cut your own global warming emissions by twenty percent or more, and explain why your individual contribution is a vital part of addressing one of society's greatest threats.

Guest Speaker

John Rogers, a senior energy analyst at the Union of Concerned Scientists, is co-author of *Cooler Smarter: Practical Steps for Low-Carbon Living*. A question and answer period will follow the presentation.

Register in Advance for the Webinar

- [You must register in advance for the webinar](#)
- After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.
- [Download flyer](#)
- Questions? Contact [Karen Price](#)
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Host: LWVMA Environmental Action and Advocacy Steering Committee
Support for webinars: New England Grassroots Environment Fund

LWVMA Advocacy

Big news: LWVMA and 12 other organizations filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Judicial Court in *Chelsea Collaborative v. Galvin*, a case challenging Massachusetts' 20-day voter registration cutoff law. The brief noted that the cutoff law disproportionately impacts "racial and ethnic minorities, young [people], formerly incarcerated or economically disadvantaged [people]" and anyone who recently moved. Oral arguments in this appeal will be heard on Tuesday, March 6th at 9:00 AM in Courtroom One at the John Adams Courthouse in Boston.

LWVMA TAKING ACTION IN MASSACHUSETTS 2018 Legislative and Advocacy Agenda Leading the Way to a Better Commonwealth

- ✓ **Elections and Voting:** Support automatic voter registration, expanded early voting, Election Day registration, and steps to increase voter turnout.
 - ✓ **Money and Politics:** Favor full and timely disclosure of campaign contributions, rules on corporate campaign spending, and reducing the impact of money on our political system.
 - ✓ **Public Financing for Campaigns:** Endorse restoring the "clean election" system the voters chose in 1998.
 - ✓ **Climate Change:** Back efforts to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and pollution, and through an accelerated transition to clean, renewable energy.
 - ✓ **Environment:** Endorse rules for disposal of electronic products and for the use of certain toxic chemicals; measures to increase recycling.
 - ✓ **Economic Inequality:** Support efforts to bring economic prosperity to all groups, such as pay equity and earned income tax credit.
 - ✓ **Gun Safety:** Advocate for efforts to reduce gun violence.
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- ✓ **Transportation:** Favor adequate funding for infrastructure and alternatives to car travel.
 - ✓ **Criminal Justice:** Support reform of the criminal justice system, including eliminating mandatory minimum sentences and increasing felony larceny thresholds.
 - ✓ **Transparency:** Back compliance with new Open Meeting law and recommend that the legislature be subject to that law.
 - ✓ **Women's Issues:** Support a woman's right to choose. Advocate for gender equality in wages, insurance, and other areas.
 - ✓ **Immigration:** Support Safe Communities Act. Support higher education opportunities for undocumented youth and programs for immigrants and naturalized citizens to become engaged in civic life.
 - ✓ **Health Care:** Endorse measures to improve access and care and to reduce costs.
 - ✓ **Basic Human Needs:** Support training and programs to help people get off of welfare.
 - ✓ **Civic Engagement:** Support restoring civility in public discourse and encouraging citizen participation in government at all levels.
 - ✓ **Civic Education:** Favor greater emphasis on civics in middle and high schools and involvement of teens in government.
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LWVUS

I wanted to share the bittersweet news that Wylecia Wiggs Harris has resigned as Chief Executive Officer of the League of Women Voters, as of the beginning of this month.

Wylecia has brought us a wealth of strategic guidance these past several years, and we are grateful for her tireless work to further our mission. We wish her luck in her new endeavor, leading a large health care organization in Chicago.

We are committed to finding the right CEO to lead us into our second century. The national board convened in Washington, DC, last month and met with several executive search firms and we are excited to announce we have selected a national firm that specializes in finding talented executives for associations and nonprofit organizations.

In the intermediate, we are pleased to announce the board has appointed LWWUS Chief Operating Officer, [Anisa Tootla](#), as our Interim CEO. Anisa provides more than 20 years of non-profit management experience on top of her nearly four years of executive leadership overseeing the operations of LWWUS and LWVEF.

Aided by our dedicated national staff, Anisa will continue to lead the League in our mission impact work (learn all about our core work on [LWV.org!](#)) while we proceed with the executive search process.

We look forward to future developments!

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

Dates to Save:

- 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.
- March 2nd LWV-Lexington First Friday, Lexington Grant
Makers - Part 2 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.
- March 5th TOWN ELECTION, Polls open 7:00 A.M. to 8:00
P.M.
- March 5th LWV-Lexington Board Meeting, Lexington
Community Center, 39 Marrett Road, Room 232,
7:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.



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