



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

LWVL ANNUAL MEETING

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017
LEXINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER
39 MARRETT ROAD, LEXINGTON**

Civil Rights and Civil Liberties in the Trump Era



Since the 2016 Presidential election, the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) has emerged as a leader in our country and state protecting civil liberties, immigration rights, voting rights, and human rights in the courts. For this reason, the Lexington League of Women Voters is thrilled to present Carol Rose, Executive Director of the ACLU of Massachusetts, and a Lexington resident, as the guest speaker at the LWV Lexington's Annual Meeting, Tuesday, September 26, 2017. The event will take place at the Lexington Community Center Dining Room, 39 Marrett Road, Lexington. Business meeting will be from 7:00-7:30 PM followed by Carol's remarks. The meeting will adjourn at 8:45 PM. Coffee and light refreshments will be served.

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Carol Rose is executive director of the ACLU of Massachusetts. A lawyer and journalist, Carol has spent her career advocating for human rights and civil liberties both in the United States and abroad, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Japan, Sri Lanka, Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, Northern Ireland, and Vietnam. Prior to assuming her position at the helm of the ACLU of Massachusetts in January 2003, she worked as an attorney at the Boston law firm of Hill & Barlow, where she specialized in First Amendment and media law, intellectual property, civil rights, and international human rights law. She clerked for U.S. District Court Judge Patti Saris. She holds degrees from Stanford University, the London School of Economics, and Harvard Law School. The League of Women Voters is an organization dedicated to the principles of self-government established in the Constitution of the United States. The League works to promote political responsibility through the informed and active participation of citizens

in government. While the League will take positions on issues that it has studied, it does not support or endorse political candidates or parties.

For more information contact the League at lwvlexington@gmail.com
All League forums are free and open to the public.

**GREENING THE GRID: PREPARING FOR
OUR CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE
OCTOBER 19, 2017
CARY MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

Imagine a future without fossil fuels. Is our electric grid sufficiently robust and reliable to dependably provide all our energy needs-- transportation, heating and lighting? What is the electric grid and who runs it? What technological and business changes are required to assure a smooth transition to renewable energy?

The League of Women Voters of Lexington and the League of Women Voters of MA present [Greening the Grid: Preparing for Our Clean Energy Future](#) , Thursday October 19 at 7 pm in the Large Meeting Room, Cary Memorial Library, 1847 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington.

Speakers Ariel Horowitz, PhD., Synapse Energy Economics and Megan Herzog, Senior Attorney, Conservation Law Foundation are uniquely qualified to explain the transformation required to efficiently operate the electric grid.

The LWVMA Steering Committee for Environmental Action and Advocacy is coordinating the [LWVMA Climate and Energy Solutions Series](#), consisting of five regional forums around the state in collaboration with local Leagues and [other organizations](#). All events are free and open to the public.

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LWVLEXINGTON BOOK CLUB September 7, 2017

The LWVLexington Book Club will meet September 7, 2017 at 12 Barrymead Drive, Lexington, MA. The selected book for September is "Give Us the Ballot" by Ari Berman.

LWVLEXINGTON BOARD MEETING September 11, 2017

The LWVLexington Board meeting will be held on Monday, September 11, 2017 from 7:30 P.M. – 8:45 P.M., Lexington Community Center, Room 237, 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 Statement on Charlottesville and Boston Rallies

As our nation grapples with the terrifying and tragic events in Charlottesville, and as the City of Boston braces for a "Free Speech Rally" on the Common tomorrow, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA) must speak out. For almost 100 years, the League has been a nonpartisan defender of democracy. While we cherish the individual rights of free speech and assembly, we feel a special responsibility to make our voice heard when those rights are used to incite hate and violence, and when they serve as tools to divide our nation rather than unite us as a free people.

Representing 3,000 members in over 100 Massachusetts communities, LWVMA strongly and unequivocally condemns racism, bigotry and violence. With one voice, we reaffirm our commitment to these core, democratic values: promoting social and economic justice, securing equal rights for all, and combating discrimination and poverty.

We applaud Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker and Boston Mayor Marty Walsh for taking a coordinated and clear stand against hateful rhetoric, intimidation, and violence and for reminding us all, in Boston and the Commonwealth, of what we stand for: civil rights, equality, unity in our diversity, love, and justice for all. As Boston readies for tomorrow's rally, let us all keep these greater goals in mind and work together to achieve them.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Board and Staff.

LWVMA Announces Its New Leadership Team

Mary Ann Ashton of Acton and Linda Matys O'Connell of Springfield begin their two-year term as co-presidents of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA) July 1. Ashton and O'Connell were elected, along with other LWVMA board officers and directors, at the biennial LWVMA Convention in Framingham this spring.

The other Massachusetts League officers and their local Leagues are Marilyn Peterson, Acton Area, first vice president; Lee Bona, Worcester Area, second vice president; and Andrea Kozinetz, Newton, treasurer.

Elected as LWVMA directors are Kate Boland, Hingham; Nancy Brumback, Sudbury; Kris Eastman, Marion-Mattapoisett-Rochester; Scotti Finnegan, Cape Cod Area; Donna Hooper, Lexington; Karen Price, Needham; and Judy Zaunbrecher, Concord-Carlisle.

The Massachusetts League's priorities over the coming two years will be improving the state voting system, including lobbying for the implementation of automatic voter registration; advocating for campaign finance reform; promoting civic education and civil discourse; educating voters about climate change and the environment; and addressing issues of justice and equality, including criminal justice reform.

LWVMA includes 44 local Leagues across the state. The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and works to increase understanding of major public policy issues. Additional information is available at www.lwvma.org.

LWVMA Thanks Secretary Galvin for Refusing to Comply with Voter Record Request in Letter

Dear Secretary Galvin:

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts applauds you for your refusal to turn over voter records to the Election Integrity Commission, as reported in several media outlets this past week. We thank you for your continuing efforts to ensure that voters' right to privacy and to vote are protected in our Commonwealth.

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) has issued a strong statement condemning this week's request from Kris Kobach, vice chair of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, for state voter records. We agree with you that the law in the Commonwealth has established that the voter record is not a public record, and stand firmly with you that these records should not be released and that voter's privacy should be protected.

With our partners in the Election Modernization Coalition, we have worked with your office to improve and protect elections, and recognize that you are committed to ensuring that there are no opportunities for voter fraud or for voter suppression in our state. We thank you for your many efforts on behalf of the Commonwealth's voters, and look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely yours,
Mary Ann Ashton, Co-President

Linda Matys O'Connell, Co-President

**LWVMA & LWVBoston, the New England Aquarium and the
UMass Boston School for the Environment Present:**

**“Extreme events and climate change:
What we know and what we can do.”**

September 14 at 7 P.M.

New England Aquarium’s Simons IMAX® Theatre, Boston

Speaker: Ellen Douglas, PE, PhD, Associate Professor of Hydrology, School for the Environment, UMass Boston

Registration is required through the Aquarium’s website.

Click here for an event flyer.

- What have we observed from our changing climate?
- What changes are in our future?
- What plans are in the works to adapt to these changes?

**LWVMA Election Modernization
Coalition Applauds Ruling
On Voter Registration Ruling**

A decision handed down by a Suffolk Superior Court judge on July 24th opened a huge window that has been shut to many eligible voters. As a result of a lawsuit filed by the ACLU of Massachusetts, MassVOTE, and the Chelsea Collaborative, Judge Douglas Wilkins ruled that the 20-day voter registration deadline in Massachusetts disenfranchises thousands of potential voters and is unconstitutional.

As organizations that have worked tirelessly together for many years to remove barriers to voting, we are thrilled with this decision and we applaud the work of the plaintiffs and their attorneys. We are also gratified that the decision refers to the successes of early voting and online voter registration, reforms for which we advocated for years.

We still have more barriers to voting in Massachusetts than we should tolerate, and more solutions—such as automatic voter registration and election day registration—

than we are using. We look forward to continuing our work to make democracy thrive in Massachusetts.

Pam Wilmot, Common Cause, Massachusetts
Meryl Kessler, League of Women Voters, Massachusetts
Beth Huang, Mass Voter Table
Janet Domenitz, MASSPIRG
Cheryl Clyburn Crawford, MassVOTE
Jonathan Cohn, Progressive Massachusetts

LWVUS
“Transformational Journey”
A Two-Part Video Services

At our National Council meeting earlier this summer, League leaders held important conversations about where we are as an organization – and where we want to be when we reach our centennial in 2020.

Today, we are having an impact at the state, local, and national levels and we are continually testing new approaches to grow as one League with one voice. Together, we are working to ensure that our organization continues to grow and be impactful for decades to come.

Please enjoy the new 2-part video series “Transformational Journey” and thank you for being part of this exciting this exciting time for the League by visiting our website at lwv.org.



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

LWVUS
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

A Happy National Volunteer Week to all of you who worked 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 LWWUS 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, for more information, refer to the: [Impact on Issues "Taking Action in the Community"](#).



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 October, 2017 LWVLexington Bulletin, please send it to Nancy Corcoran Ronchetti at Nancor1106@gmail.com by September 26, 2017.

Dates to Save:

- September 7th LWVLexington Book Club, 12 Barrymeade Drive, Lexington, 7:00 p.m. Book for discussion "Give Us The Ballot" by Ari Berman
- September 11th LWVLexington Board Meeting, Lexington Community Center, 39 Marrett Road, Room 237, 7:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.
- September 26th LWVLexington Annual Meeting, Lexington Community Center, 39 Marrett Road, Dining Room, 7:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. Guest Speaker: Carol Rose, Executive Director of the ACLU of Massachusetts



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