

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LEXINGTON
BULLETIN February, 2020

*Happy 100th Birthday
to the League of Women Voters US!*

February 14, 1920



They Did it for Us.

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UPCOMING IN THE LEXINGTON LEAGUE

LWV Lexington First Friday Forum February 7, 2020: LHS Superintendant Julie Hackett on the Schools' Strategic Plan

At our February First Friday Forum, the League of Women Voters Lexington will present Dr. Julie Hackett, Superintendent of Lexington Public Schools as speaker at our First Friday Forum. Dr. Hackett and her team have recently updated a multi-year comprehensive strategic plan for the district. We look forward to learning more about the long-term plans for our school community and their integration in the Town budget. Bring your questions!

Please join us at this fifth 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 Margaret Coppe, League Convener, mecoppe@gmail.com.

Annual Candidates Night February 13, 2020 **UPDATE**

As all good League members will have noticed, there are no Town-wide races this year, with just enough candidates running to fill the seats on each elected board. Therefore, we have decided to change the format of our Annual Candidates Night. The League has invited all the members of each elected board (Select Board, Planning Board, School Board and Housing Authority) to join us for a round table discussion of essential issues facing Lexington.

Topics may include climate change and sustainability; transportation; housing; prioritization of capital spending projects; and inclusion, diversity and civility. There will be time for questions from the floor. .

Candidates Night will be held at Clarke Middle School on **Thursday, February 13, 2020**. Each of the nine Town precincts will convene for **precinct meetings at 7:30 pm**, to meet candidates for Town Meeting from their precinct and to discuss issues relevant to their neighborhoods. The **Town Roundtable will begin at 8:15 pm**. Please plan to arrive by 7:00 pm to enjoy **toasts and birthday cake** for Lexington's 75th annual Candidates Night and the League's 100th Birthday.

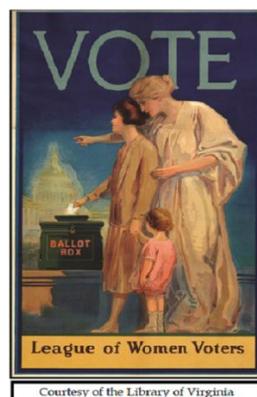
Call for Assistance: If you are available to serve as a moderator in a precinct meeting, a question collector from the floor, or a set up and clean up person for Candidates Night, please email mecoppe@gmail.com asap. Thanks!

[Lexington LWW Observing the LWWUS 100th Birthday](#)

This year 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.

The Lexington League is currently planning to enter a float in the April Patriots Day Parade and would welcome volunteers to help us put this together. Contact Wendy Manz wendy_manz@yahoo.com.

In July and August, the League's presentation regarding League History and Women's Suffrage will be featured on the Cary Memorial Library "Idea Wall" together with information on the voting process and voter registration. We also anticipate co-sponsoring a film series with the Library that will give a taste of the long fight for suffrage and the part Massachusetts women played in the campaign.



[Work on the U.S. Census](#)

The 2020 Census will start on March 12 and be completed by the end of August. This decennial population count is mandated by the US Constitution. The results of the count are critically important to individuals, local communities, and the state of Massachusetts. The population count will determine:

- * The number of representatives Massachusetts will have in Congress and in the Electoral College.
- * Redistricting maps that will be drawn in 2021 for the US House of Representatives. The redistricting maps for federal Representatives, the state legislature, and some local school districts and city councils. These districts will define our election maps for the next ten years.
- * Allocation of \$600 billion in federal funds annually for programs such as Medicare/Medicaid, housing programs, transportation programs,

education programs, and SNAP. Massachusetts received \$22 billion in 2016 based on 2010 Census results.

A complete count in the 2020 Census is important so that Massachusetts and its residents are fairly represented in our federal, state, and local governments and to ensure receipt of our fair share of federal funds allocated to states, cities, towns, and schools. Local League members are working to educate and encourage others to participate.

Timeline for Key Census Activities

February-March 12: Inform public about census/Encourage participation/Form or join complete count committees.

March 12: Self response period starts—online, by phone, or by mail in form. All households will receive a letter inviting all households to respond online.

April 1: Census Day—promote participation in the Census in your community.

April: Group quarters will be counted (i.e., College student living quarters, group housing, assisted living centers, prisons, homeless shelters)

May 13 - late August: Nonresponse follow-up (house to house) will continue.

For those interested in working on educating our community on the importance of the 10-year Census and encouraging universal participation, information and resources can be found on the LWVMA website at: lwwma.org/?s=census. Note that a link to the LWVMA webinar on the census effort is available at that site.

Members of the Lexington League are also invited to participate in regional efforts to support the Census:

The MetroWest Health Foundation, the Sudbury Foundation and the Foundation for MetroWest are convening a meeting on [Wednesday, February 5, 2020](#) to discuss outreach activities to help ensure a complete and accurate count in MetroWest. The meeting will be held at the [MetroWest Health Foundation, 161 Worcester Road, Suite 202, Framingham, MA 01701](#), from 8:30 am to 10:30 am. To register, contact Rebecca Gallo, Senior Program Officer, MetroWest Health Foundation 508 879-7625 x207.

[March First Friday Forum](#)

At the next First Friday Forum on March 6, we will hear from Dr. Edward Bouquillon, Superintendent of Minuteman High School, who can bring us up to date on the facilities offered by the newly completed high school, as well on Minuteman's unique courses and programs.

Note that previous LWV Lexington First Friday Forums can be accessed on demand at Lex Media.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS



Celebrate the League of Women Voters' Centennial!

Dear League Member:

You are cordially invited to Women Power The Vote: Nationwide Day of Action Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters. Please join us on Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 10:00 AM at the State House in Room 428. Lt. Governor Polito, Speaker DeLeo, and Senate President Spilka have been invited to speak. We'll also be recognizing legislators who are LWV members.

As a member of the League of Women Voters, you know that we seek to empower voters with the knowledge, confidence, and right to use their vote to shape our Commonwealth and our nation. To continue this tradition of action, we are urging the legislature to pass Election Day Registration this session. It's a perfect way to celebrate the Centennial of the League's founding and women winning the right to vote. Plan to join us following the speaking program to deliver cards with this request to legislators.

Cake and coffee will be served. Click [here](#) to RSVP.

We look forward to seeing you there! And we thank you for being part of the League.

Sincerely,

*Mary Ann Ashton and Judy Zaunbrecher
Co-Presidents
League of Women Voters of Massachusetts*

The LWVMA Day of Action on February 6 is Massachusetts' participation in the LWVUS nationwide Day of Action observed on the actual anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters on February 11. On that day in 2020, the national League will aggregate all the activities of Leagues across the country to highlight the grass roots efforts of local Leagues in 50 states.

Mini History Lesson: Founding of the LWVUS

In 1909, Emma Smith DeVoe proposed to the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) that an organization be created to educate women on the election process in anticipation of the ratification of the 19th Amendment (the in process), and to lobby for legislation favorable to women's issues. In 1911, she founded the National Council of Women Voters and recruited western suffragists and organizations to join.

In 1919, Carrie Chapman Catt began negotiating with DeVoe to merge her organization into a new League that would be the successor to NAWSA. Catt was concerned that DeVoe's organization was too closely aligned with the more radical efforts of Alice Paul, which might discourage conservative women from joining. A motion for the merger was made at the 1919 NAWSA convention, and the formal merger was completed at the convention on February 14, 1920, just six months before women's suffrage became law in the United States in August. The more politically astute Carrie Chapman Catt has since been recognized as the founder of the League of Women Voters.

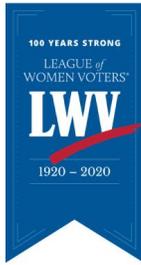
The LWVUS has continued to be active in the 100 years since, with state Leagues established in all 50 states, and some local Leagues in communities large and small.

[Reminder: Nominations to the LWVMA Board](#)

If you have a person in mind who would be a candidate for the LWVMA Board, please contact the members of the LWVMA Nominating Committee at [nominating @lwwma.org](mailto:nominating@lwwma.org)

[Student Video Contest Coming This Month](#)

This year the subject of the LWVMA Student Video Contest is "Should 16-year-olds have the right to vote? All Massachusetts High School Students are invited to create and submit 30-second videos between February 1 and March 31, 2020. Winners will be announced on May 1. Winners will receive a cash prize and will be honored at a ceremony in June. More details will be distributed to high schools and community cable television stations, and will be available on the LWVMA website www.LWVMA.org on February 1.



100th Anniversary LWVMA, LWVUS 19th Amendment



PROGRAMS CELEBRATING LOCAL WOMEN

Presented monthly by Freedom's Way National Heritage Association.

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

Harriet Wilson wrote Our Nig: Sketches from the Life of a Free Black, an autobiographical novel describing the story of Frado, a six-year-old black girl who was indentured by her parents to a white family in Massachusetts. It is the first novel published by an African American woman in the United States. This event will be held in Milford, NH and requires registration at the

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

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*)

Westwood Walpole Dedham League of Women Voters

February 25, Conrad's, Walpole

6 PM Dinner, 7:30 Speaker

Barbara Berenson, author [Massachusetts in the Woman Suffrage Movement: Revolutionary Reformers](#)

Send \$24 check to Virginia Fettig, 234 Baker St., Walpole, 02081

Please invite past members that you may know and any interested friends!

MA Ballot Question: Ranked Choice Voting

Supporters of ranked choice voting have gathered 31,000 signatures more than required to put this question on the November 2020 ballot in Massachusetts. , the first stage of a process to bring this method of voting to our state.

With ranked choice voting, each voter casts one ballot, but when there are three or more candidates for the same office, the voter is given the option to rank the candidates on her ballot in order of preference. If one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast in the first instance, that candidate wins. However, if no candidate wins a majority, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and voters who voted for that candidate will have their second choice counted as their vote. This process repeats (depending on the number of candidates) until one receives the majority of votes.

The ballot question would give Massachusetts voters the option to rank as many or as few candidates as they wish. Under the terms of the Ballot Initiative, this method would apply to state and federal elections (except for the presidential election) and would come into effect in 2022. Massachusetts would be the second state after Maine to adopt this system.

The League of Women Voters supports ranked choice voting, and LWVMA will be offering information and discussion on this issue in the coming year.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

LWVUS National 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 will open registration and the portals to book hotel rooms early in 2020. Lexington League members are invited to save these June dates and plan to join fellow League leaders from across the country for our biennial national gathering.

LWVUS on Presidential Candidate Actions: [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org)

LWVUS publishes an amazing [Voters' Guide](#) on all national presidential candidates. The LWV Education Fund (LWVEF) manages all outreach to the Presidential candidates and publishes questions and candidate responses for all states on [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org). This site also contains a wealth of information on each state's voting laws and procedures to guide a voter step by step.

Presidential information for both Iowa and New Hampshire is currently posted on [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org), and the LWVEF will publish additional states on a rolling basis as each state's primary/caucus is held. For the first time ever,

LWVEF has asked the candidates to answer our questions in both English and Spanish. Both languages are published on VOTE411.org, and voters will be able to view the information in the language of their choice.

Only candidates who meet the criteria for inclusion will be asked League questions. All other candidates will be listed on each state's guide; however, they will not be contacted by LWVEF. At this time, LWVEF is only reaching out to Democratic candidates, since there is only one Republican candidate who meets our criteria for inclusion. If any other Republican candidates meet the criteria, we will immediately begin outreach to these candidates and provide that information on VOTE411.org and elsewhere.

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2019--2020**

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We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the March 2020 LWV LEXINGTON Bulletin, please send it to Wendy Manz at wendy_manz@yahoo.com prior to February 21.

