



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION

LWVL APRIL FIRST FRIDAY FORUM

Parking! The problems, possibilities and potential costs! April 4, 2014

Parking, along with traffic modeling, is an important part of the Center Streetscape Planning being done by Lexington and its consultants over the past several months. After much study and discussion, specific proposals for parking management are being considered and will be presented at the League of Women Voters of Lexington's First Friday Forum on April 4.

Panelists will include members of the Project team: Melisa Tintocolis, Economic Development Director; Planning Department's David Kucharsky; and Jerry Michelson, local merchant and Chair of Lexington's Center Committee.

This is the seventh in the series of 2013-2014 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 a.m. Presentations begin at 9:30 in the Community Meeting Room on the lower level of Cary Memorial Library, 1874 Massachusetts Avenue. For more information or to carpool, contact the League of Women Voters of Lexington at lwv.lexington@gmail.com. All League forums are open to the public at no charge.

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**Building a Healthy Future:
Setting Our Goals for the Next Generation**
Saturday, May 3rd from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Cary Memorial Hall, 1605 Mass. Ave., Lexington, MA

Many Massachusetts communities like Lexington are embarking on their biggest building campaigns in a generation. This is an excellent time to have a conversation about how the next generation of municipal buildings can help us achieve our goals for the next generation of our students, teachers, and public employees.

Studies show that buildings with clean and healthy air, lots of natural sunlight, great thermal comfort and moisture control, result in fewer sick days, improved staff productivity, heightened student participation, and even higher test scores!

Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) has recently launched the “Pathways to Zero Net Energy” program to encourage the construction of zero-net energy buildings throughout the Commonwealth.

We’ve got an amazing panel:

- Paul Eldrenkamp, Owner, Byggmeister – Sustainable Builder & Chair, 2013 Building Energy Conference
- Ellen Watts & Dan Arons, Co-founders Architerra – Sustainable design and zero net energy building architects
- Ellen Tohn, Tohn Environmental Strategies – Nationally recognized expert on indoor air quality & healthy buildings
- Tina Halfpenny – Director of Energy Efficiency at the Mass Dept. Energy & Environmental Affairs (DOER)

The panel will address these questions:

- What goals should we be considering for the next generation of our buildings?
- How can high performance buildings benefit our health, productivity, and resilience?
- Are zero-net energy and zero-emission buildings possible and affordable in Massachusetts?
- How do we choose the best sustainable building standards for our community?
- What support is available to help our community get started building a healthy future?

Who should attend? Anyone interested in the health, efficiency, and resilience of public buildings in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This workshop is open to the public—regardless of where you live.

RIDES TO THE POLLS

Thank you to Liz Andrews for volunteering to coordinate requests for rides to the Polls on March 3, 2014. No requests were received. The League thanks all those who voted.

SECOND ANNUAL STUDENT MOCK TOWN MEETING HELD MARCH 8TH

The second annual 8th grade Lexington Student Mock Town Meeting was held on March 8th in Battin Hall, when over 60 8th grade students gathered to play the part of Town Meeting members.

The event was co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters Lexington, the Lexington Town Meeting Members Association, the Chinese American Association of Lexington and the Indian Americans of Lexington.

Beginning in February, many League members and Town Meeting Members volunteered as guests in 24 8th grade classrooms. As part of the classroom unit Students read selected pages from the "Lexington Then and Now." book that illustrates Mock Town Meeting in action and follow the progress of a Citizen Article seeking to ban the sale of single-serving plastic bags made of PET plastic. As students complete their reading, they step right into a role play in the classroom, arguing both sides of the plastic bottle ban as either a Town Meeting Member or a citizen. Following the class experience, students were invited to attend the All-Town 8th Grade Mock Town Meeting at Battin Hall, where they could sit in the actual seat of the town's government.

The students enthusiastically embraced their roles and the volunteers were thrilled with the outcome, and felt inspired once again as they saw this year's 8th grade students actively participating in a uniquely New England event!

LWVMA National Committee on Voting Rights Hearing March 31, 2014

The National Committee on Voting Rights will hold a hearing on voting issues in New England Monday, March 31, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Suffolk University Law School, 120 Tremont St., Boston. LWVMA is a supporter of this project.

The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Economic Justice in Boston is organizing the event, in which volunteer commissioners will hear testimony on problems,

successes and opportunities for reform in the election process throughout New England. The committee is seeking testimony from voting rights organizations, other organizations, and from individuals. This hearing is free and open to the public. For more information, go to ncvr.lawyerscommittee.org for the national effort and nehearing.lawyerscommittee.org for the New England hearing.

Leagues in several states, including Arizona, Michigan, South Carolina, Wisconsin and Minnesota, have participated in similar hearings, designed to gather information on voting issues in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's June decision on the Voting Rights Act.

LWVMA 2014 Council

The 2014 LWVMA Council "***Civility in Politics: Challenge to Good Government***" will be held Saturday, May 10, 2014 at Framingham State University from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Council this year will focus on the issue of civility in elections and government. In this era of blogs, Facebook, Twitter, and talk radio, the lack of civil discourse is making its way into town and city politics. You may have seen the impact in your own town. This incivility is affecting whether candidates are willing to run for public offices and to serve on public boards and committees. We will consider this issue and explore roles for LWV in improving the civic conversation, particularly at the local level. Council is an opportunity for League members to come together to share League experiences, explore the theme topic, learn what's happening around the state, and attend workshops to help you and your League be more effective. All members of LWVMA are welcome to attend Council, including local League members and Members-at-Large.

This year's Guest Speaker will be Susan M. Jeghelian, Executive Director, Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration (MOPC).

LWVUS

The League of Women Voters trains good citizens who have a sense of responsibility about what goes on in their locality, their state and their nation.

- Eleanor Roosevelt

The League of Women Voters, which is rooted in the women's suffrage movement, is proud to observe Women's History Month as an opportunity to honor the great work that women, like League member Eleanor Roosevelt, have done to strengthen our country and democracy.

But this month isn't just about our past, it is also about our future! Nearly 1 in 4 Americans is not registered to vote. *Imagine what our communities and country would look like if every single eligible American was registered to vote.*

Voter registration is the key to engaging all Americans in the political process – [so send our eCard and encourage everyone in your life to get registered!](#)

We're all equal on Election Day, and every one of us has the chance to stand up for the issues that matter most to our families, our communities and our country. The first step to taking a stand is registering to vote. [Make sure you encourage your friends and family to do so with our handy eCard!](#)

From the League's founder, suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt, to Eleanor Roosevelt and the thousands of dedicated League members working across the country today, we're proud of the powerful role that League members, both women and men (since 1974), have played – and continue to play – in Making Democracy Work®.

In League,
Elizabeth McNamara, President

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.

The League of Women Voters of Lexington is on Facebook!

"Like" us at

<https://www.facebook.com/LWVLexington>

We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you would like to submit an article for the May 2014 Bulletin, please send it to Nancy Corcoran Ronchetti at Nancor1106@gmail.com by April 23, 2014.

Dates to Save:

- April 1 Rep. Jay Kaufman's "Open House" Candidate Forum for announced State Candidates for Attorney General and State Treasurer, Historic Depot Building, Lexington
- April 4 LWVL First Friday, Cary Memorial Library, Lexington
- May 3 Building a Healthy Future: Setting our Goals for the Next Generation, Cary Memorial Hall, Lexington
- May 10 LWVMA 2014 Council, Framingham State University



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