



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION

FIRST FRIDAY APRIL 1, 2016

LEARN FROM OUR LEGISLATORS

Lexington is fortunate to have three prominent legislators who are leaders in the Massachusetts State House. They have each brought attention to serious issues— climate change, fair share tax, paid leave-- beginning a conversation that transcends party lines.

On Friday April 1, 2016, the League of Women Voters of Lexington presents “Learn from our Legislators.” Hear from Rep Jay Kaufman, Sen. Ken Donnelly, and Sen. Mike Barrett about their priorities and ask them about yours.

This is the seventh in the series of 2015-2016 First Friday Forums hosted by the League of Women Voters of Lexington to promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues. The meeting will take place at the Cary Memorial Library in the Large Meeting Room. Coffee will be available at 9:15 a.m. and presentations will begin at 9:30 a.m. For more information, contact the League at lwvlexington@gmail.com. All League forums are free and open to the public.

Bulletin Editor: Nancy Corcoran Ronchetti – Nancor1106@gmail.com
Membership: Melinda Walker - melinda.walker@rcn.com
Communications: Lisah Rhodes - lisahrhodes@gmail.com
Eileen Zalisk - zalisk@aol.com
Spokesperson: Lisa Smith - lisa.lavinia.smith@gmail.com
Webmaster: Gretchen Reisig - greisig@verizon.net

LWVLexington Voter Services

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOTED!

RENEW YOUR LWVL LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP!

Thank you to members who've renewed their memberships. If you haven't already done so for 2015-2016, please do so by returning the form you received in the mail or renew your membership via the web at www.lwvlexington.org

If you have a friend or neighbor who may be interested in joining the League as a new member, please encourage them to do so at this time.

Thank you!

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 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.

LWVMA

LWVMA Council April 30 At Clark University in Worcester

The 2016 LWVMA Council “*Massachusetts Voter Engagement (MOVE) 2016: Join the Movement!*” will be held Saturday, April 30, 2016 at Clark University in Worcester. Council is an all-day, all-member event that features a panel discussion, buffet lunch, and timely workshops.

This year’s Council will focus on voter engagement during the 2016 election cycle and will feature:

A kick off of LWVMA’s voter engagement campaign, **MOVE 2016** (Massachusetts Voter Engagement 2016)

A panel discussion, “The Massachusetts Electorate: Who’s Not Participating and What Will It Take to Reach Them?”

Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, Director, CIRCLE (The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement), Tufts University, a research center that focuses on young people in the United States, especially those who are marginalized or disadvantaged in political life. Kawashima-Ginsberg became the Director of CIRCLE in

April 2015, after joining CIRCLE in 2008 as the Lead Researcher and serving as Deputy Director since 2013. She is a key author of several CIRCLE reports, including *All Together Now: Collaboration and Innovation for Youth Engagement*, and she applies her expertise in positive youth development and community psychology to youth civic and political development, and how diverse young people interact with the community and cultural contexts as they learn to participate in civic life. She earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology with specialization in Family and Children from Loyola University Chicago.

Eva Millona, Executive Director, MIRA (Massachusetts Immigration and Refugee Advocacy Coalition), the state’s largest organization representing the foreign born, and co-chair of the National Partnership for New Americans, the lead national organization focusing on immigrant integration. She joined MIRA in 1999 and served as Director of

Policy and Advocacy and as Deputy Director before becoming Executive Director in 2008, and she is now one of New England's most highly quoted immigration experts.

Prior to MIRA, Millona directed the refugee resettlement program in Central Massachusetts. In her native Albania, she practiced civil and criminal law, serving on Tirana's District Court from 1989 – 1992, when she was the nation's youngest district judge ever appointed. Millona is also the co-chair of the Governor's Advisory Council for Refugees and Immigrants and serves on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Nathaniel Stinnett, Founder and CEO, Environmental Voter Project, a non-partisan nonprofit using data analytics and behavioral science to identify and mobilize non-voting environmentalists. Called "The Voting Guru" by Grist, Stinnett has over a decade of experience as a senior advisor, campaign manager, and trainer for U.S. Senate, Congressional, and mayoral campaigns as well as issue-advocacy nonprofits. Formerly as attorney at the international law firm of DLA Piper LLP, Stinnett holds a B.A. from Yale University and a J.D. from Boston College Law School.

And **workshops** on the state charter school study and environmental activism. State Council is a valuable opportunity for members from across the state to meet, connect, and learn! All members are welcome to attend and fully participate.

The fee is \$35 per person (early bird rate through April 8) and \$45 per person after April 8. Some financial aid is available. Call the LWVMA office, 617.523.2999, for further details. Registration deadline is April 25. Register [here](#).

To print a flyer, click [here](#). To print our panelists' bios, [click here](#).

LWVMA Salutes Boston City Council Decision on Flame Retardants

The Boston City Council voted March 23 to amend the city's Fire Prevention Code, allowing hospitals, schools, colleges and other public buildings with sprinkler systems to use furniture free of toxic flame retardant chemicals. Lynn Wolbarst, LWVMA legislative specialist on the environment, had testified before the City Council on the hazards caused by these chemicals, including the risk of cancer for fire fighters.

Efforts to phase out this type of flame retardants in children's products and upholstered furniture continue at the state level. LWVMA is supporting bills which were recently

reported favorably out of the Joint Committee on Public Health and the Joint Committee on Public Safety to ban the sale of products with these chemicals in the state.

LWVUS

As [Women's History Month 2016](#) comes to a close, I am reminded of Carrie Chapman Catt's call for a League of Women Voters 'to finish the fight' in 1919. Why did Carrie Catt believe that a League of Women Voters was needed? Put very simply, it was because she believed, and we continue to believe, in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy. No representative government can be perfect or even really good, as long as it represents the points of view and the experiences of only some of its citizens. As Mrs. Catt pointed out all those years ago, the vote is the symbol of our equality, we need to use it well. Last night, we hosted [a Women's History Month event with the Sewall-Belmont House & Museum](#) where I raised these points as part of our discussion on women and their influence in politics, advocacy and activism.

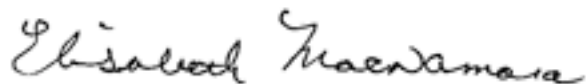
So for the past 96 years, the women and men who joined the League in its belief in the power of women, have shared [a commitment to making sure our elections are free, fair and accessible to every eligible voter](#). With the power that the vote brings, the League has also been committed to changing the conversation in the public arena. Over the years, the power of women has helped raise many issues in the context of the greater good of society, just as it has taken the power of diverse racial and ethnic groups to reinforce the undeniable fact that while a perfect democracy may always be just beyond our grasp, a more perfect democracy depends on 'we (all) the people' not 'we (some of) the people.'

In 2016, voters will go to the polls to elect a president, one-third of the U.S. Senate and the entire U.S. House of Representatives, as well as thousands of other elected officials in state and local races. This will be the first such election in half a century where voters in every state will go to the polls without all the protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. It is also an election in which we are facing issues of economic, domestic and international security that are as seemingly intractable as any I have ever seen. And yet, the fact remains that on

Election Day every vote and every voter is equal. It is not just a matter of resolving that we ourselves will vote; it is a matter of resolving that we will do all we can to insure that others have [the information](#) they need as well.

In 1920, 23 million women won the vote. Every woman who has used the power of their vote has changed this country and changed the world. The good news is that in every election, we have the potential and the power to do it again. We can make our democracy more perfect. The suffragists believed it; I believe it, too.

In League,



Elisabeth MacNamara
League of Women Voters

We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the May 2016 Bulletin, please send it to Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti at Nancor1106@gmail.com by April 25, 2016.

Dates to Save:

April 1 Presidential Primary and Annual Town Elections. Polls are open 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

April 30 2016 LWVMA Council, “Massachusetts Voter Engagement (MOVE) 2016: Join the Movement!”, all-day event, Clark University, Worcester



League of Women Voters of Lexington
P. O. Box 233
Lexington, MA 02420