



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

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Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

### **LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION**

#### **LWVL JANUARY FIRST FRIDAY**

**January 9, 2015 – At the Lexington Depot**

**“How Can We Prepare for a Massive Storm?”**

Are you ready for the next super storm? Are your neighbors? Exactly where do you go and what do you do if there is a true town-wide emergency? How will Lexington respond to the impacts of Climate Change? What can we, as a community, do to anticipate and respond to the impacts of our warming environment?

Please join the Lexington League of Women Voters on Friday, January 9, 2015 at the Lexington Depot, for a lively panel discussion on this topic. Our panelists include Dan Voss – Energy, Marcia Gens – Food, Todd Rhodes – Transportation, Mark Sandeen – Buildings, Sheryl Rosner – Emergency Preparedness and Rick Reibstein – Toxics & Waste.

This is the fourth in the series of 2014-2015 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. and presentations will begin at 9:30 in the Lexington Depot, 13 Depot Square, Lexington. For more information or directions, contact the League at [lvvlexington@gmail.com](mailto:lvvlexington@gmail.com). All League forums are open to the public at no charge.

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## **SPECIAL THANKS**

In addition to Liz Andrews, the League also wishes to recognize and thank the following individuals who provided rides to the polls on November 4, 2014: Carol Ann Bottino, Pat Costello, Liz Haines, Sandy Shaw, Kay Tiffany, Melinda Walker and Eileen Zalisk.

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## **LWVMA**

### **LWVMA Plans January 28, 2015 Forum on Inequality**

How is the marked rise in economic inequality affecting civic participation and political expression in the United States? Is the growing gap between the very wealthy and everyone else influencing whose voice is determining political and policy issues? What are the implications of extreme economic inequality for the democratic ideal of “one person, one vote”?

Please plan to attend the panel discussion, “Economic Inequality and Political Participation – Whose Voice is Heard?” co-sponsored by LWVMA and Bentley University’s Valente Center for the Arts and Sciences on Wednesday, January 28, 2015, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Bentley University, 175 Forest Street, Waltham. The panel will take place in Bentley’s Wilder Pavilion (Adamian Academic Center 165).

Noah Berger, Executive Director, Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, Hahrie Han, Associate Professor of Political Science, Wellesley College, and Kay Schlozman, J. Joseph Moakley Professor of Political Science, Boston College will be the speakers. Juliet Gainsborough, Associate Professor of Political Science at Bentley, will moderate, and Bentley President Gloria Larson will help us introduce the event.

This forum is free and open to the public, and LWVMA members and their guests are asked to pre-register to ensure sufficient seating.

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## **Taking Action in Massachusetts LWVMA 2015 Legislative and Advocacy Agenda**

### **Elections and Voting:**

Support early voting in statewide elections, option for early voting in location elections, Election Day registration, and measures 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 at every level.

**Public Financing for Campaigns:**

Endorse restoring the “clean election” system the voters chose in 1998 and the legislature repealed in 2003.

**Climate Change:**

Back a carbon tax to encourage use of less-polluting fuels.

**Environment:**

Endorse rules for disposal of electronic products and for the use of certain toxic chemicals; measures to increase recycling.

**Economic Inequality:**

Explore and educate on the issues of economic inequality.

**Gun Safety:**

Advocate for the effective implementation of Massachusetts gun laws.

**Fiscal Policy:**

Back a more progressive graduated state income tax.

**Civic Education:**

Favor greater emphasis on civics in middle and high schools and involvement of teens in government.

**Civic Engagement:**

Support restoring civility in public discourse and encouraging citizen participation in government at all levels.

**Basic Human Needs:**

Support training and education programs to help people get off of welfare.

**Transportation:**

Favor adequate funding for infrastructure and alternatives to auto travel.

**Health Care:**

Endorse measures to improve access and care and to reduce costs, including continued support of a single-payer health care option.

**Women’s Issues:**

Support a woman’s right to choose and to safely exercise that right. Advocate for gender equality in wages, insurance and other areas.

**Transparency:**

Back compliance with the Open Meeting law and recommend that the legislature be subject to that law.

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## LWVUS

Another year has nearly passed us by, and the League of Women Voters has stayed busy! We could not have had as far-reaching an impact without our incredible supporters, like you, who assist in Making Democracy Work®.

In 2014, Leagues across the country helped protect our democracy by thwarting widespread voter suppression efforts and educating and empowering voters. With your help, we were vital in the fight to protect our climate, repair and modernize the Voting

Rights Act and so much more. [Check out our year-in-review video and the incredible work done by our supporters across the country and here in Washington.](#)



As this year comes to a close, we're already hard at work gearing up for programs to protect and empower millions of voters in 2015 and 2016 election cycles. We're committed to stepping up our work to register more new voters, hold more forums and debates, provide more ballot information and help all eligible voters participate in our electoral process. We'll also keep pushing for necessary legislation and regulations at the state and federal levels to protect our planet for future generations, keep secret money out of our elections and ensure that our elections are fair, free and accessible.

[Learn more about how we were busy Making Democracy Work® in 2014.](#)

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the League of Women Voters. Without your help and support, we would not have so many accomplishments to share – we look forward to working with you again in 2015.

Wishing you and yours a very happy and healthy holiday season.

In League,  
Elizabeth McNamara, President

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## **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

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### **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.

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### **The League of Women Voters of Lexington is on Facebook!**

"Like" us at

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

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### **The League is Looking for Volunteers**

The League of Women Voters of Lexington is looking for volunteers to fill board and off-board positions for the coming year. Contact the League at 781-307-3116 for more information.

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**We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you would like to submit an article for the February 2015 Bulletin, please send it to Nancy Corcoran Ronchetti at [Nancor1106@gmail.com](mailto:Nancor1106@gmail.com) by January 24, 2015.**

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**Dates to Save:**

January 9            First Friday - How Can We Prepare for a Massive Storm?,  
Lexington Depot, 13 Depot Square, 9:30 a.m.

January 28          LWVMA Forum on Inequality, Bentley University,  
Waltham, MA, 7:00 p.m.



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