



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

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Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

### ***LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION***

#### **LWVL FEBRUARY FIRST FRIDAY FORUM The Sun Shines on Lexington: Our Rooftop Revolution March 7, 2014**

State and federal incentive programs have made installation of solar panels on residential, commercial and municipal buildings economically favorable. How can you join the Solar Revolution and put your rooftop to work? Are solar panel installations available to all? What other changes in the building codes can lead to even greater energy savings?

Please join the Lexington League of Women Voters for a lively panel discussion on this topic. Our panelists include: Marcia Gens, Solar Coach, Solarize Lexington-Bedford; Mark Sandeen, Sustainable Lexington; Joe Welch, Historic Districts Commission; and John Wilson, Chief, Lexington Fire Department

This is the sixth 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, Friday March 7, 2014. For more information or to carpool, contact the League at League of Women Voters of Lexington [lwv.lexington@gmail.com](mailto:lwv.lexington@gmail.com). All League forums are open to the public at no charge.

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### **TOWN ELECTIONS MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2014**

#### **DON'T FORGET TO VOTE**

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## RIDE TO THE POLLS

For a free ride or to volunteer to drive voters to the polls for the Lexington Elections on Monday, March 3, call the League of Women Voters of Lexington at 781-862-6498.

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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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## STUDENT MOCK TOWN MEETING IS MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>

The Lexington Student Mock Town Meeting is March 8<sup>th</sup> 2014 at Cary Hall.

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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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## LWVMA

### “Dear Future Governor” Student Video Contest - Join the Fun!

The Massachusetts gubernatorial election is just 10 months away! LWVMA invites Massachusetts high school students to submit two-minute videos illustrating a problem or issue in their communities that the next Governor should address.

**Are there prizes?** YES! First place wins \$1000; second place wins \$500; and third place wins \$250. **Who can enter?** The Contest is open to any Massachusetts high school student in grades 9-12. **When is the Contest?** Entries can be submitted online at [www.lwvma.org](http://www.lwvma.org) starting February 1, 2014.

The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2014. Judging will take place in April, and winners will be announced in May.

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## Annual Lobbying Day is Wednesday, March 26

LWVMA's annual Lobby Day at the State House is Wednesday, March 26, in the Gardner Auditorium. Registration is at 9:30 a.m., the program is from 10 a.m. to noon.

Our theme this year is Advocacy: Beacon Hill and Beyond, championing the legislation we support at the State House and learning how to be more effective dealing with executive branch agencies and at the local level.

State Auditor Suzanne Bump will outline her office's efforts to prevent corruption and will outline how local Leagues can effectively work with state agencies on specific issues. Senator Eileen Donoghue of Lowell will discuss how local Leagues can help in cities like Lowell and Lawrence on issues and projects such as voter registration. Afterwards, LWVMA Legislative Specialists will present specific bills to discuss with your legislators.

Since hearing from constituents in person can make a major difference in the way a legislator will vote, we urge local Leagues to make appointments to meet their Senators and Representatives after the program to discuss pending legislation. If you RSVP here in advance, we will alert your legislators that League members from their districts will stop by their offices to discuss legislation between noon and 1 p.m. on March 26. But if you don't RSVP in advance, you are welcome at Day on the Hill, and should still plan to visit your legislators after the program.

You will receive background information on legislation currently being supported by the League before Day on the Hill to make it easy to talk to your legislators. There is no charge to attend Day on the Hill.

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## Time to Act on Bottle Bill!

It's time to turn out and show the legislature just how much public support the updated bottle bill has.

The Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy has scheduled a hearing on the updated bottle bill, H.3848, **Thursday, March 6**, at 10 a.m. at the State House. Please come, bring your friends, and help make an impression on our legislators.

The hearing is on the version of the updated bottle bill that is the text of the petitions we collected so many signatures on last fall. It is the next step in the ballot initiative process. If the legislature passes this bill before May 4, we do not have to go to a ballot question this fall.

The supporters of the updated bottle bill, including the League, are preparing for a ballot question campaign, where we will be facing opposition from well-financed beverage interests. It would be great if the legislature would pass this bill instead, and this hearing is a final chance to make it clear the bottle bill has widespread public support.

The hearing is currently scheduled for Hearing Room A-1, but it may be moved to a larger room in the State House. You can check the legislature website just before you come to confirm the location,

<https://malegislature.gov/Events/HearingsForHomePage?hearingType=Joint>.

If you can't attend the hearing, please call or email your Senator and Representative and remind them it is past time to pass this legislation. Also, ask them to oppose S.379, which would repeal the existing bottle deposit program that has been so successful in reducing litter and increasing recycling. You can find more information on the updated bottle bill on our website <http://lwvma.org/updated-bottle-bill-signatures-certified-2/>.

You can find your legislators here: <https://malegislature.gov/people/search>.

## LWVUS

Ninety-four years ago on February 14, 1920, pioneering suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt founded the League of Women Voters to secure the right to vote for women. Within just a few months, Congress would grant American women the vote after decades of advocacy.

**But that did not complete the League's work – and our work is still not done today.** Barriers to the ballot box might look different today, but threats to our democracy remain. Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision which gutted a key component of the monumental Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965, but last month members of Congress introduced legislation to update the VRA through common sense solutions.

[Tell Congress you support the Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014.](#)

This bipartisan legislation was carefully crafted to protect the rights of all voters from discrimination and repair the damage to the VRA inflicted by the Supreme Court's decision. The updated legislation seeks to better protect all voters against discrimination and ensure Americans are guaranteed their right to vote.



The modernized VRA will ensure that equal access to the ballot box is about fairness and equality – something that Carrie Chapman Catt knew when she founded the League of Women Voters. [Tell Congress that the Voting Rights Amendment Act needs to be restored this year.](#)

Nearly 100 years after the League was founded, we continue to hold fast to the belief that our nation is at its strongest when the voices of all voters are heard. “***There will never be a true democracy until every responsible...adult in it, without regard to race, sex, color or creed has his or her own...voice in government,***” said Chapman Catt. The Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014 is a critical step to ensure just that.

The League refuses to remain silent as voters across the country face grave barriers to the vote. [Urge your elected officials to support this important legislation and encourage them to act swiftly to move toward final passage.](#)

Thank you for Making Democracy Work®.

In League,  
Elizabeth McNamara, President

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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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**We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you would like to submit an article for the April 2014 Bulletin, please send it to Nancy Corcoran Ronchetti at [Nancor1106@gmail.com](mailto:Nancor1106@gmail.com) by March 23, 2014.**

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**Dates to Save:**

- March 3            Lexington Town Election
- March 6            Updated Bottle Bill Hearing, State House, Boston
- March 7            LWVL First Friday, Cary Memorial Library
- March 8            Mock Town Meeting for Lexington 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students
- March 26          LWVMA Annual Lobbying Day, State House, Boston



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