



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

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Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

### **LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION**

#### **LWVL MARCH FIRST FRIDAY**

**Friday, March 6, 2015**

#### **“Is Lexington Ready for Complete Streets?”**

A number of cities and towns in Massachusetts have joined the national movement toward making roadways safe, comfortable, and accessible for all users. The principle of “Complete Streets” – or “livable streets” -- promotes the design of roadways that accommodates the needs of walkers and cyclists as well as those who drive cars and trucks. Advocates of Complete Street design principles believe that “improving our roadways can increase safety, improve a community’s health and well-being, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and advance economic development.”

At this year’s Spring Town Meeting, Warrant Article 35 will ask Town Meeting Members to accept the State laws governing the Complete Streets Program, thus enabling the Town to apply for funding under the program. A citizen-initiated resolution, Article 45, will ask Town Meeting to recommend that the Selectmen make it a priority to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists. The First Friday Forum will feature presentations by Selectman Michelle Ciccolo, Lexington Town Engineer John Livsey, and Town Meeting Member Rita Goldberg, the author of Article 45. What do we mean when we say “Complete Streets?” What are some of the ongoing projects in Lexington that already follow Complete Streets design principles? What steps might be taken to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety as we wait for longer-term improvements?

This is the sixth 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 Community Meeting Room on the lower level of Cary Memorial Library, 1874 Massachusetts Avenue.

For more information, contact the League at [lwvlexington@gmail.com](mailto:lwvlexington@gmail.com). All League forums are open to the public.

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**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!**

**TOWN-WIDE ELECTION**

**MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2015**

**POLLS OPEN 7:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m.**

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**RIDE TO THE POLLS**

For a free ride or to volunteer to drive voters to the polls on Monday, March 2, call the League of Women Voters of Lexington at 781-862-6498.

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**LWVMA**

**Forum On Inequality and Political Participation  
Rescheduled for March 19, 2015**

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"?

For a lively conversation that addresses these and other questions, 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 its new date, **Thursday, March 19 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; Claudine Gay, Professor of Government and of African and African American Studies, Harvard University; 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**, but we are asking LWVMA members and their guests to pre-register to ensure sufficient seating. Consider inviting students from your high school to attend the forum with you.

Please [click here](#) to let us know you're coming and bringing others.

Questions? Please contact the LWVMA office at 617-523-2999 or [lwwma@lwwma.org](mailto:lwwma@lwwma.org).



## ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!

### Second Annual Student Video Contest

With the start of a new two-year legislative session on Beacon Hill, LWVMA invites all Massachusetts high school students to submit two-minute videos proposing a new law that our state legislators should pass during this session. *Entries will be accepted online from February 1, 2015 through March 31, 2015.*

**WIN \$1000<sup>TOP</sup>  
PRIZE!**

## THIS YEAR'S THEME IS "THERE OUGHTA BE A LAW"

Did you know that a new two-year session of the Massachusetts legislature just opened in January 2015?

### **What new law do *you* think this legislature should pass to keep the Commonwealth great?**

A law to improve schools? Reduce pollution? Build roads? Address crime? Let us know!

Create a short (two-minute!) video to let our legislators know what's on your mind:

- What is a challenge or problem facing your community or the state?
- What law would you propose as a solution?

Share your ideas with us...and maybe *you* can help shape the priorities on Beacon Hill. Enter now!

Questions? Contact us at 617-523-2999 or [lwwma@lwwma.org](mailto:lwwma@lwwma.org).

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## LWVUS

This week [President Obama vetoed the Congressional effort to force approval of the Keystone XL pipeline](#). Once again, in response to an action alert, the League stepped up and made our voices heard on this critical issue, sending nearly 14,000 emails to President Obama.

While we may have won the battle, there is still the war. The [U.S. State Department](#) is still considering its recommendation for final approval of the pipeline. Once that is completed, President Obama will need to take the final step to approve or reject the pipeline. The League is urging the President to reject the Keystone XL pipeline because it is not in our national interest. It will threaten the safety of our drinking water, promote a bad energy policy and increase the greenhouse gases in our atmosphere that contribute to climate change. Even the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) has indicated that the pipeline will be a significant contributor to climate change if it is built. In short, the pipeline is all risk, no reward.

The League voice is critical to winning the war on Keystone XL. For 95 years, the League has recognized that protecting our environment means protecting the public

health. The public health threat that this project represents cannot be overstated. In a time of falling energy prices, there could be no better opportunity to stand up for the health and well-being of Americans.

[Let's keep those digital cards and letters coming in.](#) Let's continue to remind President Obama of what he knows too well: there is no Planet B.

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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### **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 April 2015 Bulletin, please send it to Nancy Corcoran Ronchetti at [Nancor1106@gmail.com](mailto:Nancor1106@gmail.com) by March 24, 2015.**

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**Dates to Save:**

March 2            Town-Wide Election, Polls Open 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

March 6            First Friday – “Is Lexington Ready for Complete Streets?”



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