



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION

LWVL MAY FIRST FRIDAY Friday, May 1, 2015

Hold your WATER! Lexington's Watershed Stewardship

Why are watersheds important? What is the Town doing to monitor and protect our water resources? What is the relationship between storm water management and watershed management? Could the Town be doing more?!

Please come join Conservation Administrator Karen Mullins; Town Engineer John Livsey; and the Conservation Stewards as they discuss recent successes and ongoing projects in Watershed Management at our League of Women Voters First Friday Forum on Friday, May 1, 2015 at Cary Memorial Library, Large Meeting Room (basement).

This is the eighth 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 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
Spokesperson: Lisa Smith -lisa.lavinia.smith@gmail.com
Webmaster: Gretchen Reisig, - greisig@verizon.net

SAVE THE DATE!

LWVLexington - Annual Meeting - June 18th

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2015
LESTER BROWN PIONEER ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMIST
Clarke Middle School Auditorium
7:30 P.M.

Please join LexGWAC and LWVLexington for an evening of wisdom and inspiration as Mr. Brown discusses his new book: **The Great Transition Shifting from Fossil Fuels to Solar and Wind Energy.**

After half a century of working on global environmental issues, Lester Brown, who pioneered the concept of sustainable development and of looking at global issues through an interdisciplinary lens, is retiring.

His latest, and last, book describes the energy transition from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy that is under way.

The Great Transition details the accelerating pace of this global energy revolution. As many countries become less enamored with coal and nuclear power, they are embracing an array of clean, renewable energies. Whereas solar energy projects were once small-scale, largely designed for residential use, energy investors are now building utility-scale solar projects. Strides are being made: some of the huge wind farm complexes under construction in China will each produce as much electricity as several nuclear power plants, and an electrified transport system supplemented by the use of bicycles could reshape the way we think about mobility.

Pay 2 Play in Lexington

On Wednesday, June 3rd, ***Pay 2 Play***, a documentary about the corrosive influence of big money in politics, will be shown at the Cary Memorial Library in Lexington. Following the movie, Pam Wilmot, Executive Director of Common Cause Massachusetts, will lead a discussion about the various campaigns to take back democracy. Admission is free, so please come, and bring friends!

The problem at hand started with the US Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision, which permitted the formation of Super PACs and other groups that can spend unlimited dollars in elections.

What has been the result? A "pay-to-play system" that ties the rich, lobbyists, and politicians ever closer together at the expense of all the rest of us. *Pay 2 Play* will not only get you riled up, **but will point out specific ways you can help change the status quo.** Using the game of Monopoly and its cartoon mascot, the mustachioed Uncle Pennybags, the film shows that it's the spirit of Monopoly, where the player with the most money wins, that's key to what's wrong today. In the movie, former Labor Secretary Robert Reich, Harvard Law Professor Lawrence Lessig, and Historian Noam Chomsky, among others, comment as well.

So, come June 3rd at 6:00pm to see *Pay 2 Play* to understand the problem - and what you can do about it. The showing is co-sponsored by Common Cause Massachusetts and League of Women Voters of Lexington. Please email questions to EKashdan@CommonCause.org.

LWVMA BIENNIAL CONVENTION

LWVMA is holding its biennial Convention Friday and Saturday, May 15-16, at the Clarion Hotel in West Springfield. Every member is welcome, and we hope that every League is represented.

Why should you come?

First, a League Convention is fun and it is stimulating. You will meet some exceptional people and have a chance to share ideas to make your League more effective. You are guaranteed to go home inspired and energized.

Second, we will make some major decisions about LWVMA's actions for the next two years. Chief among them is whether the state League should undertake a two-year study of charter schools that could lead to a League position on that very pressing subject. A vote at Convention will decide whether we do that study. Delegates will also be voting on what topics and actions the state League should be putting its energy behind.

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part. There's a reception, banquet and silent auction, and lots of time to catch up on old friendships and make new ones. While the deadline to reserve a room at the reduced rate is Friday, April 24, the deadline to register for convention is Tuesday, May 5. You can register and find much more information on the Convention website at LWVMA.org.

Never been to a state League Convention before? This is the year!

HELP LWVMA Win *BOSTON GLOBE* Grant



For the second year, the *Boston Globe* will be awarding grants of advertising space to non-profit organizations. If you are a *Boston Globe* subscriber, when you receive a silver envelope announcing the grant program, please consider listing the

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Lotte E. Scharfman Memorial Fund on your voucher. Last year, the Scharfman fund received advertising space worth \$6,800, about an eighth of a page, thanks to *Globe* subscribers.

If you are a *Globe* subscriber but don't have the mailed voucher, you can participate in the program online [here](#). The deadline is April 30.

HAPPY 95th Birthday LWVMA!!

LWVUS

We had much to celebrate this week as we marked Earth Day and a 45 year-long crusade to protect our beautiful natural resources. Every year since 1970, millions of Americans have used Earth Day as a way to come together and celebrate our planet. This year, as we have done for so many years, Leagues around the country helped plan celebrations.

The League of Women Voters has been at the forefront of the environmental protection movement for decades by consistently supporting legislation to preserve our nation's natural resources and protect our public health. Sadly, our work is not done. America's natural resources continue to come under attack and the League is right there to help fight another battle.

In November, the [Florida League helped pass Amendment 1](#), a conservation amendment that establishes environmental protections and also sought to reestablish a dedicated funding stream to purchase environmentally sensitive lands that were in danger of being developed. This took months of dedication by members and partners gathering signatures and holding forums. Ultimately, Amendment 1 passed with the

support of 75 percent of the votes cast. The League is continuing to work to ensure it is properly implemented.

Another contribution from the League comes from a new website, priceoncarbon.org, which is a potent tool in the fight against climate change, developed by League of Women Voters of Berkeley-Albany-Emeryville member Diz Swift in consultation with some of the nation's experts. In addition to the [League's support for the Administration's Clean Power Plan](#) to help reduce greenhouse gasses and carbon emissions, Swift sees a complementary step: putting a price on carbon. Swift viewed the site as a way to better educate us all on the basics of what a price on carbon could mean for our country. The LWVUS Advocacy Committee endorsed this website at the April Board meeting.

Earth Day is just one day each year, but we can work every day to protect our planet. Whether it is by taking action in your community or helping us [tell Congress to put people before polluters](#), we must ensure that we are all protecting public health while protecting our beautiful planet.

In League
Elizabeth McNamara, President

The League of Women Voters of Lexington is on Facebook!

"Like" us at <https://www.facebook.com/LWVLexington>

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 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.

We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you would like to submit an article for the June 2015 Bulletin, please send it to Nancy Corcoran Ronchetti at Nancor1106@gmail.com by May 24, 2015.

Dates to Save:

- May 1 First Friday – Hold your WATER! Lexington’s Watershed Stewardship
- May 7 LexGWAC - Lester Brown, Pioneer Environmental Economist, Clarke Middle School Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
- May 15–16 LWVMA 2015 Convention, Clarion Hotel, West Springfield
- June 3 *Pay to Play* documentary movie, Cary Memorial Library, 6:00 p.m.
- June 18 LWVLexington - Annual Meeting



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