



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION

LWVLEXINGTON'S ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 2, 2016

Lexington Community Center

An American goes to Paris

(For The Paris United Nations Climate Conference, Nov./Dec. 2015)

Anne Kelly went to the 2015 UN Climate Conference, representing Ceres, a non-profit coalition of investors, companies and public interest groups, which seeks to promote leadership and best practices in sustainability.

What happened in Paris? What's happened since the UNCCC in Paris? Anne will be our guest speaker after the LWVLexington's Annual Meeting.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, June 2, at the Lexington Community Center "dining room". Business meeting will be from 6:30PM to 7PM, coffee and refreshments at 7:00 p.m. then Anne will speak at 7:30 p.m. The League's meeting will close at 8:40 p.m.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization dedicated to the principles of self-government established in the Constitution of the United States. The League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. For more information, contact:

For more information, contact the League at lwvlexington@gmail.com. All League forums are free and open to the public.

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**LWVLEXINGTON
MAY 6, 2016 FIRST FRIDAY CANCELLED!!**

Due to scheduling issues, the May 6, 2016 First Friday has been cancelled.

So please make plans to attend the LWVLexington's Annual Meeting on June 2, 2016 at the Lexington Community Center, 6:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. Special Guest Speaker will be Anne Kelly, representing Ceres, a non-profit coalition of investors, companies and public interest groups, which seeks to promote leadership and best practices in sustainability.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!!!!!

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2016

Special Town Election - Debt Exclusion

- [Warrant](#)
- [Specimen Ballot](#)
- [Tax Payer Impact Analysis](#)

Polls Open 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

LWVLexington Voter Services

RIDE TO THE POLLS!

The League is once again offering rides to the polls for the Special Town Election – Debt Exclusion on Tuesday, May 3, 2016. If you need a ride to the Polls, please contact Liz Andrews at 781-862-6498.

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

April 2016 Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education Grants Go to Four Local Leagues

Congratulations to the four Leagues awarded Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education Grants. The total amount dispersed in this cycle for the four grants was \$1,000.00 For information on the grant program, [click here](#).

The grant program offers funds to help Leagues carry out events and projects in the areas of citizen education and voter service. Generous contributions to the Lotte E. Scharfman Education Fund have made this successful grant program possible. Please consider donating to the fund. Donations can be made through the website, lwvma.org. A big thank you to those of you who have donated in the past, making this grant program possible.

LWV Cape Ann: Public Forum on the November 2016 referendum questions

This is an educational forum for the voters of Cape Ann explaining the referendum questions that will appear on the November 2016 ballot. LWV Cape Ann plans to involve high school students in researching and developing the discussion points, one student for the PRO and one for the CON in each presentation. If all three Cape Ann high schools participate, LWV Cape Ann will do the presentation three times in three separate locations.

LWV of the Springfield Unit of the Northampton Area: Candidate meet and greet for Hampden County Sheriff

In 2016, Voters in Hampden County will elect a sheriff for the first time in 42 YEARS. The Springfield Unit of the LWV of Northampton Area is planning an educational event followed by a candidate meet and greet in the “candi-dating” format pioneered by the LWV of Southwest Missouri to maximize voter contact time and allow for more in-depth discussion with primary candidates.

LWV Norwood: Norwood Public Schools Financing Study

The Norwood League of Women Voters elected to study the financing of the Norwood Public Schools. Each year, the School Committee is asked to prepare a budget and the appropriate funding of the schools has become very difficult. The funding being provided by the Town of Norwood and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has left the School Committee with some very difficult choices. The League elected to study this issue to determine why there was a continual problem and what needs to be done to provide adequate funding. Norwood is one of many towns facing a financial strain with regard to funding public schools.

LWV Westford: “A Guide to Town Meeting” booklet

The Westford League edits and prints a booklet named “A Guide to Town Meeting.” This 28-page booklet describes the entire process of Town Meeting for Westford. It includes sections on the participants, articles and motions, the debate, and voting. It is an invaluable reference for voters who have just moved to Westford, or are unfamiliar with the way Town Meeting is run locally. As procedures and rules change, League members have worked on the document to keep it up to date. The League prints and distributes this booklet at Town Meeting.

**LWVUS
TAKE ACTION!**

The agency that is tasked with overseeing federal laws governing money in politics, the Federal Election Commission (FEC), is broken. Paralyzed by its own structure, with four commissioners who regularly cast tie votes on a partisan basis, the FEC has failed to enforce and properly interpret the nation’s already weak campaign finance laws.

[It’s time to reform the FEC. Tell Congress to support the Federal Election Administration Act of 2016.](#)

The League has endorsed legislation by Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) and Representative David Price (D-NC) that would create a new independent agency to replace the FEC. The new Federal Election Administration (FEA) would be comprised of five commissioners, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, where only two members can be from the same political party. The fifth commissioner would be appointed on a non-partisan basis from a list of candidates selected by a blue-ribbon panel of retired federal judges, former law enforcement officials or individuals with election law experience. With this five-member structure, the new legislation would end gridlock at the commission and put the public's interests over partisan interests.

[Take action – tell Congress to establish a new, effective enforcement body to oversee the nation's campaign finance laws.](#)

The new Federal Election Administration will still have the responsibilities previously held by the FEC to administer campaign finance laws and the presidential public financing system, as well as to issue regulations and advisory opinions. The FEA also would have the authority to conduct investigations of possible violations. However, the legislation sets up a new system of administrative law judges with jurisdiction over individual enforcement cases in order to provide for consistent and impartial enforcement.

The League believes in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy. That's why we've been leading the charge for campaign finance reform at the state, local and federal levels for more than four decades -but we need you to join our fight.

[Join the fight to end gridlock at the Federal Election Commission.](#)

In League,



Elisabeth MacNamara
League of Women Voters

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

Dates to Save:

May 3 Special Town Election – Debt Exclusion, Polls are open
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

June 2 LWVLexington - Annual Meeting, June 2, 2016, Lexington
Community Center, 6:30 p.m. – 8:40 p.m.



League of Women Voters of Lexington
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