



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

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Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

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

#### **LWVL NOVEMBER FIRST FRIDAY FORUM Housing Production Plan Draft November 1, 2013**

On Friday, November 1, the Lexington League of Women Voters First Friday program will feature a draft Housing Production Plan prepared for Lexington by the Metro Area Planning Council (MAPC) and the town Planning Department, with input from the Housing Partnership and other interested groups.

Aaron Henry, Assistant Town Planner, will review the draft as a take off point for discussion of the Town's housing needs and strategies. Commenting will be Steve Keane of the Lexington Housing Authority, Carol Marine of the Lexington Housing Partnership, and Michelle Ciccolo, a member of the Lexington Planning Board and current President of the MAPC. Also commenting will be anyone who wishes to attend and join the discussion. Please join us for a lively exchange!

This is the second 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. 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 or to carpool, contact the League at [781-863-1733](tel:781-863-1733). All League forums are open to the public at no charge.

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### **WE WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

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## **LWVL'S FALL KICK-OFF EVENT HELD ON OCTOBER 10, 2013 Community Forum - The Effects of Violent Media**

This conversation about the relationship between media and its positive and negative effects on societal behavior as well as the development of children was held on October 10, 2013 and it kicks-off a year-long community discussion about this topic, with a focus on the awareness of violent media. This is an opportunity for parents, guardians, caregivers, educators and youth to learn more as well as develop strategies for using media in a healthy way.

Anthony Brooks, co-host, Radio Boston, WBUR, was Moderator of the forum and panelists included Michael Rich, MD, MPH, Director and Founder of the Center for Media and Child Health at Boston Children's Hospital, Nancy Carlsson-Paige, Professor Emerita, Lesley University, author and child development expert; Tom Fielder, Dean, College of Communications, Boston University. To watch the video of this event, go to [www.lexmedia.org/ondemand](http://www.lexmedia.org/ondemand) and click on League events.

The forum and ongoing programs are being planned and developed by volunteers from the Lexington community and the League. For more information or to participate in future programming about this topic, please email [CommunityForum@lwvlexington.org](mailto:CommunityForum@lwvlexington.org).

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### **Rides to the Polls**

Thank you to Liz Andrews for coordinating our rides to the Polls on October 15, 2013 for the Special State Primary Election for the 5<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congressional District and to Carol Ann Bottino, Pat Costello and Setha Olson who drove voters to the polls.

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**TO ALL THOSE WHO VOTED - THANK YOU!**

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### **The League's F/Y 14 Membership Drive is On!**

If you haven't renewed your League membership for F/Y 14, please remember to do so. The League thanks those members who have already renewed their memberships.

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***Breaking New Ground***  
**Lester Brown on the Future of Our Planet**  
**Sunday, November 3, 2013**

7 pm – 9 pm

**Cary Hall, 1605 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington, MA**

“...one of the great environmentalists of our time” – E.O. Wilson

Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear one of the icons of the sustainability/environmental movement. Winner of a MacArthur Fellowship, among numerous other awards, the Washington Post called Lester Brown “one of the world's most influential thinkers.” The Library of Congress requested his personal papers in 1986.

Those of us who heard him speak in Lexington eight years ago know that he is a powerful, empathic and memorable speaker: not to be missed.

**Sponsored by the Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition, League of Women Voters Lexington and LexFarm. Free Admission.**

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

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

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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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## **LWMA**

### **Donate to LWVMA's 2013 Fall Appeal**

Thank you for your support of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts. Giving to the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts continues the mission we began in 1920 to promote citizens' active involvement in our democracy.

The League's Fall Appeal is our biggest fundraiser. Your generous gift will increase our effectiveness in advocacy for League positions and providing citizen education. To make a donation, go to <http://lwvma.org/> and click on the donate button.

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### **LWVMA Leads Effort to Get Updated Bottle Bill on Ballot**

Go League! The LWVMA, through the work of 35 local Leagues, is leading the signature gathering campaign in the state, along with MassPIRG. The League had gathered just over 9,000 signatures as of Monday, Oct. 7! We are well on our way to meeting our goal of 10,000 signatures, but we really need to exceed that goal to help with the overall effort and get the Updated Bottle Bill on the November 2014 ballot!

Other signature-gathering groups in the coalition have asked League representatives why the League has been so successful. That's easy! We know our communities and our communities know us. We know where to go and when, we are committed to the campaign, and we will make it happen!

LWV submitted 6,600 signatures to the mid-count collection. Nineteen Leagues submitted signatures, and three Leagues should be recognized for contributing over 900 signatures each to this collection: Sharon-Stoughton, Concord-Carlisle, and Needham. With three weeks to go and many fall fairs remaining, we are sure all Leagues will be exceeding their estimates as we head to the finish line Nov. 2.

Great job everyone!

**Update:** The Lexington League would also like to thank all the League members who helped collect bottle bill signatures. We have exceeded our goal to collect 700 signatures.

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## **LWVUS**

The government is finally back up and running, and many of you are in the final throes of getting word out in your communities about the elections on November 5. While

[reports of record low turnout](#) in New Jersey, Georgia and elsewhere confirm that this is a typical “off year” for elections, I’m nevertheless proud to see that for many Leagues, it is anything but.

With reports still trickling in, we now know that Leagues helped 8,007 voters register or update their registration [on September 24, National Voter Registration Day](#). Whether you helped two people or helped 200, your work has made the difference in the lives of voters—not only for this year, but moving into the important 2014 and 2016 election cycles, when so much will be at stake on the national stage.

And, we’re thrilled that more and more Leagues are embracing resources like [VOTE411.org](#). Compared to the last off-year election, there’s been over 100% growth in League participation and so far this year more than a 30% growth in the number of visitors. Together we’re not only able to reach hundreds of thousands of voters but we’re also providing them with the information they need to overcome barriers and participate in the vast array of elections happening this year. Leagues are already signing up for 2014 and we can’t wait to work together to make 2014 our most successful year yet!

This is the time to send out that [press release](#) and [letter to the editor](#), update your Facebook page, call up your neighbors, and make sure your voters’ guide is available in local grocery stores, schools, lobbies and bus stops. This is what the League does best. But voters only know about our resources if we share them far and wide.

Finally, we know that many of you are already gearing up for vigorous 2014 action. Whether you’re [pushing for cleaner air](#), [supporting citizens’ access to health care](#) or [fighting for better elections](#) in your town and across your state, League leaders will be at the forefront of driving positive change. As always, I’m so proud to stand united with all of you. Let’s get out there and help voters. Then, let’s start planning for even bigger and better things next year.

In League,

Elizabeth McNamara, President

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**We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you’d like to submit an article for the December 2013 Bulletin, please send it to *Nancy Corcoran Ronchetti* at [Nancor1106@gmail.com](mailto:Nancor1106@gmail.com) by November 23, 2013.**

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**Dates to Save:**

Nov. 1st<sup>th</sup>            First Friday Forum – Panel discussion on the Housing  
Production Plan

Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>            Breaking New Ground, Lester Brown on the Future of Our  
Planet

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>            First Friday Forum – Can We Talk About the Carbon  
Tax?



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