



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION

LWVL NOVEMBER FIRST FRIDAY November 7, 2014

Local Police, Citizens and Federal Grants

We are fortunate to live in a town where violent crime is relatively rare, and where our local police force has a well-deserved reputation for dealing sensitively with citizens, as they go about keeping the town peaceful and safe for us all.

However, the recent painful events in Ferguson, Missouri, have led us to think seriously about the interaction between local police forces and citizens. New to many of us is the existence of federal grants which can provide military grade equipment and weaponry to local police.

Join us to learn firsthand from Lexington Police Chief Mark Corr and Community Resource Office Aidan Evelyn about their grant requests and the status of these requests.

This is the second 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. Presentations 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 of Women Voters of Lexington at lwv.lexington@gmail.com. All League forums are open to the public at no charge.

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, - greizig@verizon.net



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

**STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2014
POLLS OPEN 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.**

RIDE TO THE POLLS

For a free ride or to volunteer to drive voters to the polls on Tuesday, November 4, call the League of Women Voters of Lexington at 781-862-6498.

LWVMA

LWVMA Voters' Guide Is Online & Includes All State Office Candidates

All 21 candidates for statewide offices on the November ballot have answered questions posed by the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts.

Their responses are presented in a Voters' Guide to Statewide Offices now available on the League's website, www.lwvma.org.

LWVMA Positions on Ballot Questions

Four ballot questions will be on the statewide ballot Nov. 4. The League of Women Voters urges voters to vote NO on Question 1 and YES on Questions 2 and 3. Our decisions on these questions are based on policy positions taken after study of issues at the state and national levels and consensus by League members.

Listed below are the questions, in the order they will appear on the ballot, and the League's positions:

Question 1: Eliminating gas tax indexing.

This question would repeal a law passed in 2013 and eliminate the requirement that the state's gasoline tax be adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index. **The League urges a NO vote.** We believe indexing the gasoline tax to the CPI provides funding needed to maintain and improve the state's transportation infrastructure.

Question 2: Expanding the beverage container deposit law.

This question would update the state's current deposit law, the Bottle Bill, to include non-carbonated beverages and require that unclaimed deposits go to a fund dedicated to recycling and environmental efforts. **The League urges a YES vote.** We believe an expansion of the Bottle Bill will increase recycling, reduce litter, and save cities and towns money in cleanup costs.

Question 3: Expanding prohibitions on gaming. This question would prohibit casinos and gaming establishments with slot machines, even if licenses have already been granted. The League urges a YES vote. We have long opposed casinos in Massachusetts, arguing the costs in services and social impact outweigh projected gains in tax revenue and employment.

Question 4: Earned sick time for employees. This question would entitle employees in Massachusetts to earn and use sick time according to certain conditions. The League has not studied this issue and has not taken a position on this question.

The full text of the questions and pro and con arguments are also on the Secretary of State's website, <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/ele14/pip14idx.htm>, and in the red booklet each household received in the mail before the election.

LWVUS

In states all around the country, early voting periods are underway and Election Day is next Tuesday, November 4. Yesterday, I took advantage of Georgia's early voting in anticipation of a final election season trip to Ohio, where that state's early voting will continue over the weekend. In states like [Ohio](#), [Texas](#), [North Carolina](#) and [Georgia](#), which have enacted restrictive voting laws, early voting provides voters and elections officials alike an opportunity to identify and resolve issues that might otherwise prevent

votes from counting on Election Day. Earlier this week, [a Georgia judge dismissed a lawsuit](#) that accused election officials of failing to fully process thousands of pending voter registration applications, meaning thousands of Georgians' right to vote may be compromised this election cycle.

Early voting is also a convenience for both voters and election officials. In [Georgia](#), where the ID and proof of citizenship requirements are very strict, some local election officials have used their discretion to offer Sunday voting for the first time; approximately 10,000 voters came out last Sunday to take advantage. [One voter was quoted in the newspaper](#) crediting his pastor with reminding him to go and vote.

This is an important election, not just because of the federal races involved but also because so many state and local officials are on the ballot. While the League continues to oppose new restrictions on registration and voting, we also continue to work at the local level with registrars and administrators dedicated to making elections about voters and their ability to weigh in on the issues most important to them, and not about which party wins or loses.

As we near the end of yet another election season, let us continue to encourage voters to turn out and make their voices heard; let us continue to work with those dedicated professionals to make this election free, fair and accessible to every eligible voter. Please share VOTE411.org with your communities and networks – via email, social media, etc. to make sure all voters can have their last-minute elections questions answered.

In every state in the union, Leagues are doing the work that the League does best: [arming voters with the information they need to get to the polls](#) and make the choices that will best serve our nation, our states and our communities. It is the work that the League has done for almost 95 years and there is no one that does it better than us.

In League,

Elizabeth McNamara, President

WE WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

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 of Women Voters of Lexington is on Facebook!

"Like" us at

<https://www.facebook.com/LWVLexington>

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 December 2014 Bulletin, please send it to Nancy Corcoran Ronchetti at Nancor1106@gmail.com by November 23, 2014.

Dates to Save:

November 4 State and Local Elections, Polls open 7:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.

November 7 First Friday- Local Police, Citizens and Federal Grants



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