



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

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Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

### **LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION**

#### **LWVL OCTOBER FIRST FRIDAY FORUM October 4, 2013**

##### **Trees 101 – To Chop or Not!**

Join the League of Women Voters of Lexington at its First Friday Forum for an educational and informative discussion on tree issues: what to do in an emergency, what to look for in healthy trees, how to maintain trees, as well as highlighting conservation efforts to repair and reestablish fruit trees on town-owned property. Panelists include Chris Filadoro, Lexington Tree Warden; Gerry Paul and Karen Longeteig, Tree Committee and Stew Kennedy, Conservation Commission.

This is the first 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. All League forums are open to the public at no charge.

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## SAVE THE DATE

### LWVL'S FALL KICK-OFF EVENT

**Community Forum - The Effects of Violent Media**  
**Thursday, October 10, 2013,**  
**7:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M., LHS Auditorium**

**Panelists: Michael Rich, Nancy Carlsson-Paige, and Tom Fiedler**  
**Anthony Edwards, Moderator**

Join us for this conversation about media and its positive and negative effects on societal behavior as well as the development of children. This is an opportunity for parents, caregivers, educators and youth to learn more as well as develop strategies for using media in a healthy way.

Panelists include: Michael Rich, MD, MPH, Director and Founder of the Center for Media and Child Health at Boston Children's Hospital; author and child development expert, Nancy Carlsson-Paige, Ed. D., Professor Emerita, Lesley University; and Tom Fiedler, Dean, College of Communications and Professor of the Practice in Journalism, Boston University. And Anthony Brooks, co-host of WBUR's Radio Boston will moderate the Forum

The program is the kick-off to a year-long community discussion about this topic with several opportunities for parents, guardians, caregivers and educators to learn more and as well as develop strategies for using media in a healthy way. The forum and ongoing programs are being planned and developed by volunteers from the Lexington community.

Please contact Paula Antonevich ([pkantonevich@verizon.net](mailto:pkantonevich@verizon.net); [781-674-2795](tel:781-674-2795)) for more information. Sponsor opportunities are available.

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## LWVL MEMBERSHIP!

LWVL's membership drive for F/Y 14 is underway and our membership *renewal* forms have been mailed. If you did not receive a membership renewal form, contact the League. Please plan to renew your membership. It's easy to do so via our website too.

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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 and LexFarm. Free Admission.**

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**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!**

**SPECIAL STATE PRIMARY ELECTION  
For the 5<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congressional District  
Tuesday, October 15, 2013**

The Special State Primary election for voters in the 5<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congressional District is Tuesday, October 15, 2013. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For more information, go to <http://ci.lexington.ma.us/towngovernment/departments.cfm>, click on “Clerk”, “*Election Calendar, Warrants, and Specimen Ballot*” on the left hand side of the page, and “*Special State Primary*” under “*Upcoming Elections*” in the middle of the page.

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## RIDE TO THE POLLS

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

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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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## 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.

The League of Women Voters of Lexington is looking for volunteers to fill Board and off-Board positions for the coming year:

\* **STUDY:** Our fall kick off event this year is an all-star panel on the topic of **violence in media, its effect on society** in general and the development of children in particular. As a follow up, our local League has committed to a study over the next six to eight months to marshal the extensive research which has been done on this topic. As League members know, once the League has completed its study in the spring of 2014, all our members will review the work and vote to reach a consensus on a public position. Local leagues may endorse particular positions of their own, as long as they do not conflict with already established state and national positions of the League of Women Voters. Endorsing a public position will then allow us to advocate for specific

programs and action. This is hot topic, and we need volunteers who enjoy research and writing. Specific experience with the effects of media on children and society is a plus, but not required.

\* **LOBBY:** Massachusetts legislature is currently considering some 60 bills related to **gun violence and gun control** in our society. The Lexington League has voted to make this one of our focal topics for 2013-2014. We need volunteers to help track legislation, to keep our local board informed, and to lobby in support of League positions on gun control. As Lexington's legislators have publically supported League positions in this area, we need to demonstrate grass roots support and appreciation for their efforts on a very difficult topic. Sign up to join us in trips to Beacon Hill.

\* **TAKE ACTION:** Our League continues to support efforts to make Lexington and Massachusetts more **sustainable communities**, which includes investigation of solar energy, energy conservation in homes and public buildings, a carbon tax and other measures. There is much more work to be done in this area, and we welcome volunteers.

If interested or want more information, please send an e-mail via our home page.

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## LWMA

### Fall Legislative Season in High Gear at State House

The Massachusetts legislature is back in full swing, and hearings on a huge number of bills are keeping our legislative specialists more than busy.

At the final hearing on gun legislation, LWVMA focused its testimony on guns and domestic violence. Anne Borg, co-president, spoke of the League's long-standing support of domestic violence prevention programs and the danger guns pose to victims. She was joined by Marilyn Ellsworth of the Sudbury League, a volunteer victim's advocate, who told the story of a Concord woman whose abuser still had his guns and was still a gun dealer, despite seven restraining orders.

Testifying with them were representatives of Jane Doe, Inc., the victims' advocacy organization, and Emerge, an abuser education program.

The Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security is expected to draft gun legislation and bring it to the floor by mid-November.

Lynn Wolbarst, environmental specialist, and Carole Pelchat, legislative director, represented the League at the joint committee hearing on the updated bottle bill Sept. 17.

Carolyn Lee, good governance specialist, and Nancy Brumback, vice president, program and action, attended and testified at the joint committee hearing on campaign finance reforms Sept. 18.

**Other upcoming hearings include:**

Oct. 16—Election-related legislation 2 p.m., hearing room A-2, State House. Joint Committee on Election Laws. Hearing covers a variety of laws, including ones calling for audits of election results.

Nov. 20—Photo ID to vote and other election legislation, 2 p.m., hearing room A-2, State House. Joint Committee on Election Laws.

If you have a special interest in any of these areas, please consider attending the hearing to lend your support to League specialists who are testifying. The schedule listed by the legislature is subject to change, so before you go to Beacon Hill, please confirm the date, time and location by going to the legislature's [website](#).

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## LWVUS

Tuesday was the second annual [National Voter Registration Day](#). Across the country 800 organizations came together sponsoring registration events. The League came out in force with 300+ events aimed at the one in four eligible Americans who are not registered to vote—likely making us once again the single largest on-the-ground participant in this day. The [New York City League](#) partnered with city government and various groups representing a range of age and ethnic populations to sponsor [an impressive event at Bryant Park](#) in midtown Manhattan.

The lunch crowd in the park on a picture perfect fall day was treated to music and [speakers](#) and volunteers with information on registration and the issues coming up in the city elections this fall. Television star America Ferrera, representing [Voto Latino](#), spoke about her experience of being asked in school about her [citizenship](#). Her mother, hearing about the challenge, reassured her that she was an American and to never forget what that means and how important it is to always exercise that most important right of citizenship: voting.

Voters go to the polls every year to stand up for what matters to them. This year, New Yorkers will not only elect a new mayor, but will also decide numerous ballot issues. They are not alone. In 2013, millions of voters will decide the outcome of over 5,000 local and state races and ballot initiatives. If the New York City mayoral primary is any example, these key races and issues will be decided by a dismally small number of voters. **But we can do something about that** and National Voter Registration Day was a reminder that registration deadlines are approaching. My sincere thanks to all the League volunteers who took part in this important day for our country and for our organization.

Whether you sponsored or attended an event on Tuesday, or are in the midst of planning other important voter education efforts, now is the time to remind your community that every election is important; and every chance that Americans have to vote, is a chance to make a difference.

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 September 2013 Bulletin, please send it to *Nancy Corcoran Ronchetti* at [Nancor1106@gmail.com](mailto:Nancor1106@gmail.com) by October 23, 2013.**

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**Dates to Save:**

- Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>                      First Friday Forum – Trees 101 – To Chop or Not!
- Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>                     Fall Kick-Off – The Effects of Violent Media, 7:30 p.m. –  
9:30 p.m., Lexington High School Auditorium
- Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>                     Special State Election, 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District
- Nov. 1<sup>st</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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