



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION

LWVL OCTOBER FIRST FRIDAY FORUM October 4, 2013

Tree Management 101

The League's popular and informative "First Fridays" program will resume October 4, 2013 with "Tree Management 101". Mindful of the recent super storms, we have put together a panel to discuss when it is appropriate and when it is inappropriate to cut trees. Our panel includes the tree warden and members from the Tree and Conservation Committees.

SAVE THE DATE

LWVL'S FALL KICK-OFF EVENT

**Community Forum - Awareness of the Effects of Violent Media
Thursday, October 10, 2013, 7:30 PM, LHS Auditorium
Panelists: Michael Rich, Nancy Carlsson-Paige, and Tom Fiedler**

Join us for this conversation about the relationship between violent media and its effect on societal behavior as well as the development of children.

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, Professor Emerita, Lesley University; and Tom Fiedler, Dean, College of Communications, Boston University.

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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; [781-674-2795](tel:781-674-2795)) for more information. Sponsor opportunities are available/

LWVL MEMBERSHIP!

LWVL's fiscal year ended June 20 and our membership *renewal* forms for F/Y14 are in the mail. Please plan to renew your membership.

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.

LWVMA

LWVMA Takes Leading Role in Updated Bottle Bill Ballot Question

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is asking voters to expand the deposit on single-serve beverage containers to non-carbonated beverages.

The League joined MassPIRG and the Sierra Club Wednesday, August 7 in filing a request with the Massachusetts Attorney General to put the updated bottle deposit question on the ballot in November 2014 and will be working to collect the signatures needed to get the issue on the ballot.

Please contact fellow League member Jeanne Krieger @ jkkrieger@gmail.com for more information or to volunteer.

The current five-cent deposit on carbonated beverages was enacted in 1982. Supporters of the ballot initiative argue that the deposit should be expanded to include such non-carbonated beverages as water, tea and sports drinks. They have been encouraging the legislature to make that change for over 14 years, but the legislation has failed to pass.

Supporters of the expanded bottle deposit initiative, including the League, will be collecting signatures this fall to put the question on the ballot. As with the original bottle bill initiative that led to the 1982 law, members of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts will work to make the updated bottle bill a reality!

LWVMA to Testify at Gun Law Hearing at State House Sept. 13

The Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security's final public hearing to take testimony from people across the state about the need for strengthened gun laws in Massachusetts has been scheduled for Friday, Sept. 13, at 10 a.m. in the Gardner Auditorium at the State House.

Anne Borg, LWVMA co-president, will be testifying on behalf of the state League. Any interested League members are encouraged to come and add to the numbers of people in support of stronger gun safety legislation. The hearing is expected to last for most of the day.

The joint committee has held four other hearings around the state, and LWV members have testified at all of them. The hearings are drawing large crowds from all sides of the gun safety issue. There were 500 people at the hearing in Springfield, including about 300 Smith & Wesson employees there to hear their CEO testify. These hearings will inform the Committee's work in crafting a gun safety bill for consideration by the full House and Senate, with floor debate likely this fall.

The hearings have been orderly, with arguments presented in a respectful fashion. LWVMA has joined the Mass Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, which is coordinating testimony at the hearings. LWV has very strong positions on gun control at both the state and national level, though the state League has not yet taken a position on any of the specific bills that have been introduced since the joint committee will most likely craft a new bill for the legislature's consideration.

Additional restrictions likely to be considered for a revised Massachusetts gun safety law and which are covered by existing League positions are:

- Universal background checks for all gun purchases, including private sales, no exceptions.
- Standardized licensing procedures with enforcement of existing laws.
- Prohibition of high-capacity magazines and all assault weapons.

LWVMA urges its members to attend the final hearing and express the League's support of strong gun safety legislation. The gun lobby must not be the only voice legislators hear.

[News article](#) from July 8 Worcester hearing with League Legislative Specialist Terry Yoffie pictured in red.

[News article](#) from August 2 Springfield hearing attended by League members from Sudbury, Amherst, and Northampton as well as the state League.

LWVUS

Although the term "American Dream" was coined in 1931 by James Truslow Adams, the concept that America is the land of opportunity offering every man the chance to go as far as his ability will take him is as old as the republic itself. Our nation's history tells the story of expanding the dream beyond white northern European men to women and men of all races, ethnicities and national origins. The struggle to achieve the vote, which we celebrated this week on [Women's Equality Day](#), was a central principle in the ongoing effort of women to realize the American Dream. Continuing efforts to welcome in waves of immigrants from all over the world expands the Dream. The March on Washington, which we commemorated over the past week, represented the resolute determination of African Americans to claim their rightful share of that Dream. Dr. King's dream was for an America where every person is not only created equal, but also has an equal chance to succeed.

The [commemorations this week](#) demonstrated how far we have come over the course of our history and at the same time served as a reminder that we still have work to do.

Fifty years ago, those who marched were genuinely afraid for their safety. Gathering on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, they demanded an end to economic discrimination and an end to Jim Crow. This week, those who gathered were confident in their ability to shape a future that offers equality to all persons regardless of gender, race, ethnicity or

sexual orientation. Central to the calls to action by the various speakers, was protection of what Carrie Chapman Catt called “the emblem of [our] equality,” the vote. The Reverend Al Sharpton declared yesterday that the era of Jim Crow was over. Now we face “James Crow, Jr., Esq.”

This has been an amazing week, and the League has been a part of the events. [League members gathered to march on Saturday](#), and the League was accorded VIP status at an event celebrating [the contribution of women to the march](#) as well as a reception on

Friday evening and VIP seating for the March and the closing ceremonies at the Lincoln Memorial. We earned that status. The importance of [the work the League has done and continues to do protecting the right to vote](#) cannot be overstated. We must go forward, we cannot go back. As John Lewis continues to exhort us, we must keep “getting in the way.”

In League,
Elizabeth McNamara, President

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'd like to submit an article for the September 2013 Bulletin, please send it to *Nancy Corcoran Ronchetti* at Nancor1106@gmail.com by September 23, 2013.

Dates to Save:

- Sept. 13th Final Gun Law Hearing, State House, Boston
- Oct. 4th First Friday Forum - Tree Management 101
- Oct. 10th Fall Kick-Off – Awareness of the Effects of Violent Media
- Nov. 1st First Friday Forum – Panel discussion on the Housing
Production Plan
- Dec. 6th First Friday Forum – Can We Talk About the Carbon
Tax?



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