



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

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Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

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

#### **LWVL FEBRUARY FIRST FRIDAY FORUM**

**February 8, 2013**

#### **“OUR STATE BUDGET: MAKING TOUGH CHOICES”**

The League of Women Voters Forum, moved to the second Friday, February 8, will provide an interesting look at the Massachusetts state budget and its effect on Lexington. How do we, as a Commonwealth, choose to invest our resources to strengthen our communities, support vulnerable residents, and build a vibrant economy?

Luc Schuster, Senior Policy Analyst, Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, will show, through data prepared by MassBudget, how past tax policy choices have contributed to the state's ongoing fiscal crisis, leading to painful cuts to many programs.

Mr. Schuster will also outline how these decisions have affected programs designed to support cities and towns: general local aid and Chapter 70 education aid. A discussion will follow with Senators Michael Barrett and Ken Donnelly and Representative Jay Kaufman about ways the state could improve its revenue system.

This is the fifth in a series of 2012-2013 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. The library is easily accessible by Lexpress and from the Minuteman Bikeway. For more information or to carpool, contact the League at 781-862-6435. All League forums are open to the public at no charge.

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#### **New to the LWVL website!**

View the PSA link on our website - [www.lwvlexington.org](http://www.lwvlexington.org)!

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## **An Evening Conversation with Your Elected Representatives January 30, 2012**

Plan to attend an evening conversation with your elected representatives on January 30<sup>th</sup> at Cary Hall from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Representative Jay Kaufman, Senator-Elect Michael Barrett and Senator Kenneth Donnelly will be present to answer questions and share their thoughts. Town Moderator Deborah Brown will facilitate. It will be an informative evening so we hope you can make it! Co-sponsored by the LWVL and Lexington's Town Meeting Members Association.

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## **Candidates Night February 14**

The League of Women Voters of Lexington will present a Candidates Night on Thursday, February 14, in the Science Lecture Hall at Lexington High School. An annual event presented by the League to encourage greater participation in Town elections, this is an opportunity for candidates to present their positions on the issues and to listen to their constituents' concerns.

In the first part of the evening, candidates for Town Meeting will gather in assigned classrooms to meet and exchange ideas with voters from their own precincts. In the second part, the audience will meet in the school auditorium to hear the views of people seeking Town-wide elective office, after which a League moderator will preside over a question and answer period. The evening will be informative and provide a lively forum for discussion of topics that will be voted upon at Town Meeting.

Doors will open at 7:00 p.m. and precinct meetings will start at 7:30. The meeting with Town-wide candidates is scheduled from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. There is no admission charge and the public is encouraged to attend. For further information, call the League of Women Voters at 781-862-6435.

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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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## **Taping First Fridays**

The League is looking for volunteers to videotape our First Friday Forums on the first Friday of the month during the months of October through May. If interested, contact the League at 781-863-0474 for more information.

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**February 26, 2013**

**League of Women Voters of Lexington  
Community Conversation  
Climate Change: How Can We Make a Difference in Lexington?  
Thriving in the Face of Challenging Weather**

**Tuesday, February 26  
6:45 to 9 PM  
Keilty Hall, St. Brigid's Church  
2001 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington**

Where are you in the climate change conversation? Come join the League of Women Voters of Lexington at our second annual Community Conversation where we will explore Lexington's readiness to adapt to the challenges of a changing climate. Join neighbors, town staff and local business owners to learn how other towns are preparing for potential problems and share your thoughts about this issue. Deborah Brown, the Lexington Town Moderator, will be the facilitator for the evening. The goal of the evening discussions is to produce a realistic set of next steps to help the town better prepare for climate change. This could include, among other things, town-wide education programs and activities, a capital project, proposed zoning and/or by-law changes.

The planning committee for this second annual Community Conversation includes members of the following Lexington groups: the League of Women Voters; the Global Warming Action Committee; Citizens for Lexington Conservation; Sustainable Lexington; LexFarm; the Planning Board, and the Town Manager's office.

Additional details will be provided as we get closer to the event. In the meantime, call 781-863-0474 if you have questions.

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**LEXINGTON 20/20 VISION COMMITTEE - TOWN-WIDE VISION SURVEY**

Lexington residents are invited to complete a quick town-wide survey designed to gather new forward-looking information for guiding community decisions affecting our town's future. The survey web link is available at: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/J3DVLZR](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/J3DVLZR) and will remain live until February 20, 2013.

Your input will help assure a shared community vision for Lexington's future. For further information, please contact Candy McLaughlin, Town Manager's Office (781) 862-0500, ext. 244. A printed version of the survey questionnaire will also be made available at the Council on Aging offices, Cary Memorial Library and at the Clerk's office in Town Hall.

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## INVITATION TO A HEALTHY COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP

There is one more chance for League members to participate in a Lexington Healthy Communities Project Focus Group on Monday, February 25, 2012 at the Senior Center, 1475 Massachusetts Avenue, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. These focus groups are being conducted as a part of a grant funded community planning process to learn what resources contribute to community health and quality of life, as well as learn how to improve the health of the Lexington community. Participants are encouraged to consider "health" in its broadest definition, including physical, mental, cultural and spiritual aspects.

Please submit your RSVP to Megan Baldwin, Lexington Healthy Communities Project Coordinator at [mbaldwin@lexingtonma.gov](mailto:mbaldwin@lexingtonma.gov) or 781-862-0500 x 200. For more information, and to fill out our online survey, please visit our website: <http://www.lexingtonma.gov/health/healthycommunities.cfm>

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## MOCK TOWN MEETING FOR 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE STUDENTS

The Community Mock Town Meeting will be on Saturday, March 16, 2013 at Cary Hall and we need volunteers to assist with planning event work and/or be present on the day of the event to help. If interested, please contact Jessie Steigerwald at [jess@shininghours.com](mailto:jess@shininghours.com) or Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti at [nancor1106@gmail.com](mailto:nancor1106@gmail.com) for more information.

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## LWVMA REMEMBERING DAN SCHARFMAN

Dan Scharfman, LWVMA Lotte E Scharfman Fund Trustee, passed away Sunday, Jan. 20, of a heart attack at 55. He was a long-time trustee of the Scharfman Fund, which was founded in honor of his mother, who died during her term as president of the state League. His service on the Scharfman board brought both expertise and continuity. He made a lasting impression on LWVMA and will be missed tremendously. Our sincerest condolences go out to the Scharfman family.

Dan was a valuable member of his community as well as the League, serving as a member of the Belmont School Committee. Services have been held.

*Lotte Scharfman was president of the League in Lexington for 1963 to 1965.*

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## League Membership!

Thank you to members who've renewed their memberships. If you haven't renewed your membership for 2012-2013, please use the form that you received earlier or the one on our website at [www.lwvlexington.org](http://www.lwvlexington.org).

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## LWVUS

In his inaugural address, President Obama reminded us that there can be no justice or economic stability without equality and called upon citizens to come together to work towards a better America. The President has hitched the wagon of his legacy to a star made up of the diverse patchwork of voters who turned out in 2008 and again in 2012 to make his presidency possible. This inaugural address was a call to action, enlisting "We the People" in working for a new America to go beyond merely casting a vote by becoming a voice in support of a sensible and sustainable social safety net, a solution to [climate change](#), [safety for our children](#) and a level playing field for all.

As a leading citizens group with members in every state of the union that embraces precisely these same values, the League can play a key part in making this vision of a new America a reality. Now it is up to us to find ways to reach out into our communities and start the conversation. Can we work together within League to use social media and the internet to reach out to a more diverse audience when we do educational forums? Can we translate some of our internal methodologies, such as study and consensus, to involve a broader audience in finding common ground on issues? Can we take lessons from the past election and learn new ways to engage the many stakeholders in our communities?

These are questions that we need to answer because the best way for citizens to get and stay engaged is to join the League of Women Voters. Many years ago, Anna Lord Strauss told a League Convention, "The League of Women Voters is not an end in itself. It is a marvelous training ground. We awaken the apathetic, combine the few minutes here and there of many people and are the constructive expression of otherwise uneasy consciences." That still holds true today. Let it never be said that anyone is too busy to join the League. It is precisely those who are too busy who should join the League so that we can combine the few minutes here and there of many people to take the collective action needed to keep the American Dream alive.

Elizabeth McNamara,  
President

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

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**Dates to Save:**

January 30      An Evening Conversation with Your Elected Representatives

February 8      First Friday Forum:  
                         Our State Budget – Making Tough Choices

February 14      LWVL Candidates' Night, Lexington High School

February 26      LWVL Community Conversation, Climate Change:  
                         How Can We Make a Difference in Lexington?  
                         Thriving in the Face of Challenging Weather

May 17, 18      LWVMA Convention 2013



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