



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

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Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

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

#### **April 1<sup>st</sup>, First Friday Forum –**

#### **“Complete Streets: Transportation Planning for Lexington’s Future”**

“In communities across the country, a movement is growing to “complete” the streets. States, cities, and towns are asking their planners and engineers to build roads that are safer, more accessible, and easier for everyone. In the process, they are creating better communities for people to live, play, work, and shop.”

April's First Friday will highlight some of the current transportation planning activities underway in Lexington and possible future planning directions, especially with a view to mobility in and around town that is less dependent on single-occupancy vehicles.

The panelists will discuss how we can design better streets and roads, introduce more bicycle and walking paths, and have a more effective public transportation system, so that people are less dependent on their cars. The panelists will also discuss what benefits – economic, environmental, social – the Town might realize with a comprehensive future transportation plan in place.

It is anticipated that the panel’s speakers will include members from the Planning Board, Economic Development and Lexington Town Engineer.

First Friday Forums are hosted by the League of Women Voters of Lexington to promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues. Coffee will be available at 9:30 a.m. and presentations will begin at 9:45 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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## **Town Election – March 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Check out the LWVL's Election Guide published in the *Lexington Minuteman* on March 3, 2011.**

Public input is the backbone of the American political process. As a nonpartisan organization, we do not endorse candidates, but work to help all who run for office. Please contact us at 781-862-6435 if you have questions.

For more election information and sample ballots go to <http://www.lexingtonma.gov/townclerk/electioncalendar.cfm>

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## **Election Day Reminder**

For a free ride to the polls or to volunteer to drive for the Town Election on Monday, March 7, call the League of Women Voters of Lexington at 781-862-6498.

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## **Town Meeting Information Sessions**

You do not have to be a Town Meeting member to attend these sessions and to ask questions about the Articles in the Warrant for the Town Meeting which will begin on March 21. All information sessions take place in Cary Hall starting at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 9 – Town Articles

Thursday, March 10 – School Articles

Wednesday, March 16 – Community Preservation and Citizen Articles

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## **Membership**

The League of Women Voters of Lexington is always open to new members. If you know of someone who is interested in becoming a member, you can download a membership form from our website at [www.lwvlexington.org](http://www.lwvlexington.org) or call 781-862-6435 and we'll be happy to send one.

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## ***OBSERVER CORPS INVITATION***

### **League Volunteer Opportunity**

The League always needs people to observe local town board and committee meetings. If you'd like to learn more about how Lexington operates, volunteer to be a League observer. You can either attend meetings in person or watch from home and write up a brief summary of the proceedings for the Bulletin. It's okay if you can't cover every meeting. We welcome occasional reports, as well.

We currently need observers for the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and School Committee. If you have a particular area of interest, or can recommend someone, contact Pat Costello at [patcostello@rcn.com](mailto:patcostello@rcn.com).

These reports are crucial to keeping League members informed. Please consider volunteering your time.

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### **The League of Women Voters--Acton Area Presents a Speaker Series on Contemporary Issues**

March 15 at 7:30 p.m. Cogmotion: Supporting the Cognition-Emotion Link in Children's Learning with Dr. Christopher Thurber at the Acton Memorial Library. Dr. Christopher Thurber is a board-certified clinical psychologist, educator, author, and father. Chris created ExpertOnlineTraining.com, the Internet's most popular and respected educational resource for youth development professionals.

These events are open to the public with a suggested donation of \$10 for each talk. For more information see [www.lwv-aa.org](http://www.lwv-aa.org) or email [info@lwv-aa.org](mailto:info@lwv-aa.org). Opinions expressed by the speakers are not necessarily those of the League of Women Voters.

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**We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the March 2011 Bulletin, please send it to *Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti* at [Nancor1106@gmail.com](mailto:Nancor1106@gmail.com) by February 23.**

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## **LWVMA NEWS AND INFORMATION**

### **Save the Dates**

**Day on the Hill, April 13, 2011**

Gardner Auditorium, State House

**ANNUAL CONVENTION MAY 20, 21, 2011**

**WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

The Publick House, Sturbridge, MA

[lwwma@lwwma.org](mailto:lwwma@lwwma.org)

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## **LWVUS NEWS AND INFORMATION**

### **Embarking on our 10th Decade!**

Yes, the League of Women Voters celebrated its 91st Birthday on February 14! Let me share my birthday message with you here and a few of the well wishes we received. Over the years, the issues have changed and our work has evolved, but the heart of our mission—strengthening our democratic system and increasing the public's participation—has not diminished. Today, as a grassroots organization of 140,000 supporters and more than 800 Leagues in all 50 states, we celebrate the tremendous strides we've made for voting rights and other critical issues in America — thanks, in large part, to supporters like you. Join us in celebrating 91 years of making democracy work!

Elisabeth MacNamara  
President, LWVUS League

### **Voting & Elections**

#### **Protect Voting Rights, League Tells the President:**

The League and coalition partners sent a letter to The White House urging the President to quickly appoint commissioners to the Election Assistance Commission, which is charged with improving the administration of the nation's elections. See our release to the media on this issue.

**League Urges House and Senate to Investigate FEC Failure:**

The League, with coalition partners, urged House and Senate committee leaders to investigate and hold hearings on the systemic problems with the Federal Election Commission.

**States Continue to Battle Voter Photo ID Bills:**

Voter photo identification bills have been introduced in many states around the country and the League's Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) project is working in several of these states to fight such legislation. For some states, this is the first time the bills have a reasonable chance of passing. Still, it's important to remember that even with unfriendly legislatures and/or governors, such bills have been defeated in the past – SC, MO and TX are good examples. In fact, the South Carolina League is once again fighting ID legislation and has been successful in achieving media coverage and building a strong coalition. In the meantime, the League of Women Voters of Missouri testified before its legislature, and the League of Women Voters of the U.S. and coalition partners sent key legislators in Missouri a letter, urging them to oppose ID legislation.

**League Files Amicus Brief in Arizona Proof-of-Citizenship Case:**

In an amicus brief, the League asked the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals not to grant en banc review of a previous decision invalidating the Arizona proof-of-citizenship requirement for voter registration.

**Clean Air Defense****Take Action Now to Keep Our Air Clean:**

The League is asking voters to tell their Representatives to oppose any legislation that would block or prevent action to clean up our air and protect the most vulnerable Americans.

**Health Care Defense****Working to Protect America's Health Care:**

Following the U.S. House of Representative's vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act, the League sent a letter to the Senate urging the body to oppose repeal of the Act. An attempt to repeal the Act failed in the Senate, but proponents of repeal have indicated that they will continue to raise the issue in the Senate. Please tell your Senators not to repeal the Affordable Care Act and to stand firm in support of this law which extends coverage to millions of uninsured Americans.

**Money in Elections****Oppose Elimination of Presidential Public Financing, League Urges Senators:**

National League President Elisabeth MacNamara urged Senators to oppose S. 194 and any other moves to eliminate the public financing system for presidential elections. Earlier, the League and coalition partners also sent a letter urging Senators to oppose repealing presidential public financing and support modernization. Take action on this issue: Tell your Senators to oppose the elimination of the presidential public financing system.

LWVUS – [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

**Dates to Save:**

**March 7      Town Election**

**March 29      LWVMA Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m., 143 Essex Street, Haverhill, MA**

**April 1        LWVL First Friday Forum**

**April 13      LWVMA Day on the Hill**



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