



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

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Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

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

#### **LWVL MARCH FIRST FRIDAY FORUM March 1, 2013**

#### **“What’s Up in Downtown Lexington?”**

For its First Friday Forum on March 1, the League of Women Voters has invited Melisa Tintocalis, Lexington’s Economic Development Director, to present an update on Lexington Center activities and proposals for some Center improvements. Ms. Tintocalis will be joined by representatives from the business community.

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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#### **TOWN ELECTIONS MONDAY, MARCH 4 DON’T FORGET TO VOTE**

#### **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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**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. For more information contact the League at 781-863-0474. All League forums are open to the public at no charge.

In the event of snow, the LWV of Lexington will follow the lead of the Lexington Public Schools and cancel an event if schools are cancelled. Check the school website for the latest: <http://lps.lexingtonma.org/Page/929>. For more information, call 781-863-0474

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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 volunteers are needed 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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*Cancelled by a storm in February, rescheduled by popular demand!*

**LWVL APRIL FIRST FRIDAY FORUM  
April 4, 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 sixth 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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**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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## LWVMA DAY ON THE HILL

### ***DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT!***



The League's annual Day on the Hill lobbying day at the State House is Wednesday, March 13, with a focus on how to be an effective advocate. The Day on the Hill program runs from 10 a.m. to noon in the Gardner Auditorium at the State House. Please plan to come with a group of other interested members from your League. The more people who visit their legislators, the more influence the League has.

Rep. Thomas Conroy will use an upcoming piece of legislation to illustrate the process of drafting legislation, getting sponsors, and the role advocacy plays, including how the state and local Leagues can be effective in presenting their positions on legislation. A second speaker from an advocacy organization will discuss the issue from that point of view.

The state League's legislative specialists will talk briefly about key bills expected in this session of the legislature. Details on the bills, including specific talking points, will be distributed to local Leagues before Day on the Hill, so you will have the information you need to make the case with your legislators.

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### **LWV House Tour in Concord – *What's New!*** **Saturday, April 6, 2013, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

The League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle invites you to spend a day touring seven unique Concord homes that highlight new concepts in energy efficiency, accessibility and design. Pick up your map/guide between 10 and 12 at the Alcott School, 93 Laurel Street, Concord, and then chart your own course among the houses. Enjoy displays on technologies for sustainable and comfortable living. Get inspiration to improve and beautify your own home.

Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 on April 6. Purchase tickets online at [www.lwvcc.org](http://www.lwvcc.org). Tickets may also be reserved by mail. Send check, name for pickup, phone and email to: LWVCC House Tour, P.O. Box 34, Concord, MA. All proceeds benefit the League of Women Voters.

For information, visit [www.lwvcc.org](http://www.lwvcc.org) and our [House Tour web page](#), email [HouseTour@lwvcc.org](mailto:HouseTour@lwvcc.org), or call [978-254-1598](tel:978-254-1598).

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## LWVUS

The [Voting Rights Act](#) (VRA) is the jewel in the crown of Federal elections law. Authorized by the 15th Amendment, passage of the VRA required tireless effort. Determined opposition in the Senate thwarted Congressional action for many years. But in 1965, proponents overcame a filibuster to finally pass a law that has stood the test of time and which has been reauthorized with overwhelming bipartisan support in 1970, 1975, 1982 and 2006.

Next Wednesday, the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in the case of [Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder](#) in which the constitutionality of Section 5 of the VRA is being challenged. It was under [Section 5](#), that the League challenged restrictive voter photo ID laws in [South Carolina](#) and [Texas](#) just last year, and the VRA served as the basis for challenges to a cut back in early voting hours in Florida and to the Texas redistricting plan. The continued relevance of the VRA in protecting the voting rights of all Americans is clear. To drive that message home, the League will be participating in a rally on the steps of the Supreme Court as the arguments proceed.

The LWVUS and the [LWV South Carolina](#) have joined in [amicus briefs](#) in support of the VRA, which has such important ramifications for our work to protect and empower voters nationwide. We are calling on League members in the Washington D.C. area to [join us as volunteers at the rally](#). But whether you are nearby or far away, please customize this [press release or letter to the editor template](#) to draw attention to the importance of this case. Finally, be sure to follow and weigh in on our up-to-the minute updates on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) throughout the day.

In League,

Elizabeth McNamara  
President

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

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## **Dates to Save:**

- February 26      LWVL Community Conversation, Climate Change:  
How Can We Make a Difference in Lexington?  
Thriving in the Face of Challenging Weather
- March 1            First Friday Forum:  
                          What's Up in Downtown Lexington?
- March 4            Town Election
- March 13          LWVMA Day on the Hill, State House
- April 5             First Friday Forum:  
                          Our State Budget – Making Tough Choices
- May 17, 18        LWVMA Convention 2013, Boston Marriott Peabody



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