LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS
"What a glorious morning for America”
May 2009 BULLETIN

Vol. 60, No. 8 A Publication by and for the Members of the League of Women Voters of Lexington

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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<td>1 (Fri)</td>
<td>First Friday on Tourism</td>
<td>Cary Library, Community Meeting Room, 9:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>5 (Tues)</td>
<td>LWVL Board Meeting</td>
<td>9 Burroughs Rd., 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>21 (Thurs)</td>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td>143 Cedar St. 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.</td>
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<td>LWVL Board Meeting</td>
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<td>5 (Fri)</td>
<td>First Friday on Town Trees</td>
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<td>9 (Tues)</td>
<td>DPW Presentation</td>
<td>Cary Library, Community Meeting Room, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.</td>
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ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND BOARD MEETINGS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH OR ALTERNATE DATE AS LISTED IN THE CALENDAR

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON
Box 233
Lexington, MA 02420-0003
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www.lwvlexington.org

President Deborah Mauger
Vice-Pres. Melodee Wagen
Vice-Pres. Peg Bradley
Vice-Pres. Marjorie Daggett
Bulletin Editor Judy Otto

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

June Bulletin Deadline Friday, May 15
The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, grassroots political organization open to all citizens of voting age. Formed in 1920 and dedicated to the principles of self-government established by the Constitution of the United States, the League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

All members receive the Lexington League Bulletin, which is published nine times during the year, September through June, with a combined November-December issue. They also receive The Massachusetts Voter from the LWV of Massachusetts.

Earth Day (at Discovery Day) cancelled

Objecting to the fee and milieu, several of the non-profit organizations who had initially indicated they would participate in Earth Day efforts held at Discovery Day on May 23, have dropped out. Also, only one League member volunteered for the booth we’d hoped to have there.

We are still encouraging the municipal committees who regularly participate in Discovery Day to focus on their green practices, those in current use and those planned for the future.
President’s Letter

Deb Mauger, LWVL President
debmauger@aol.com, (781) 861-7697

Dear Members:

May 2009

I am filling in this month for Deb Mauger who fell on April 3 and broke the tibia bone of her leg in a spiral fracture. She is under doctor’s orders to keep her leg straight and up for several more weeks. She is confined to a hospital bed, which is not on the same floor as her computer. That may be remedied soon, but she is in phone contact. Most importantly, she is in good spirits and thinking about the League and its projects for next year. Many thanks to all who have pitched in and helped out since Deb’s accident.

Our First Friday on May 1 will take up Tourism in Lexington and focus on the Battle Green. The town’s Tourism committee has done a splendid job in signage around town and is anxious to talk about the ways that having a welcoming town can benefit us all as well as the town’s finances.

The First Friday in June will be devoted to the Tree Inventory and the work of the Tree Committee in determining the health of all the trees in Lexington. The speaker will be Anne Sennig of the Tree Committee.

This May all members have two major League events to attend: our Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 21 and the LWVMA State Convention on May 29 and 30. The theme for Lexington’s Annual Meeting is education and the work and approach of the organization, Stand for Children. The LWVMA State Convention is focusing on Healthcare for its speakers and workshops. Additionally, a very serious topic that will be addressed at Convention is the state of the LWVMA’s finances. Non-profit organizations have been hit very hard by this recession and the state League is not exempt – and neither is our Lexington League. One of the workshops at convention is on the LWVMA’s current fiscal situation. Attendees – and all of us – should think long and carefully about the questions to be posed in that workshop:

- Is the League of Women Voters a relevant organization among civic organizations in today’s non-profit world?
- Is the League relevant on Beacon Hill and in this community?

The casino gambling topic looks as if it will come up again in some form now that the Senate President has voiced an interest in exploring that topic further. The finances of the state were healthier when the last legislative vote turned it down again. Now the argument for capturing gambling revenues in state and creating jobs may be a lot harder to counter -- also the new Speaker of the House is not opposed to casino gambling.

Marge Daggett

CRICKET’S FLORIST BENEFITS LEAGUE

Through their Neighbor-to-Neighbor program, Cricket’s Florist at 229 Massachusetts Avenue will donate $5.00 to the League whenever they receive an order where the customer mentions the program and the League. Cricket’s has been a long-time supporter of the League through their ads in the bulletin and this goes even further in their effort to give back to the community.
League First Friday to Focus on Battle Green and Tourism

A master plan being developed for the Battle Green by the Lexington Tourism Committee will be the focus of the League of Women Voters of Lexington’s First Friday Forum on May 1.

Some of the questions being raised are: What do we want the Battle Green to be? Should it only be a historic representation of the Battle era? Should the Belfry be moved back to the Battle Green? Should there be flowers in the watering trough? Should we accommodate different layers of history? What constitutes the Battle Green area? What uses should be allowed? Should traffic be diverted from the area? How do we handle Tour Buses? How do we address historic landscape design coherence? What is the right stewardship structure to ensure the plan is funded and followed?

Dawn McKenna, Chair of the Committee, and members of the Battle Green working group will facilitate citizen input into the long-term vision for the Battle Green area.

In addition, the Tourism Committee will briefly outline other economic development initiatives:
- John Patrick will speak about the rededication in Antony, France, of the Place du Lexington scheduled for September 19, 2009, and hosting the Sister City Exchange delegation from Antony in Lexington for Patriot’s Day weekend, April 2010.
- Masha Traber will provide an update on the economic impact of the Liberty Ride as it begins its eighth year of operations.

This is the eighth in a series of 2008-2009 First Friday Forums hosted by the League of Women Voters of Lexington to promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues. Refreshments 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 781-861-0123. All League forums are open to the public at no charge.

June First Friday on Town Trees

The Lexington Tree Inventory: Tree Health Data Summary will be presented at the League of Women Voters of Lexington’s First Friday Forum on June 5 by Anne Sennig, member of the Tree Committee.

This is the ninth in a series of 2008-2009 First Friday Forums hosted by the League of Women Voters of Lexington to promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues. Refreshments 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 781-861-0123. All League forums are open to the public at no charge.
Water Conservation Outdoors
by Judy Otto
otto.judy@gmail.com

Landscape wisely

Learn to love your moss. In Japan, moss is cultivated for its natural beauty, its ability to flourish in shade and in acidic soil, and its cushiony feel underfoot. In the U.S., we actually have chemicals to kill moss so that we can try, endlessly, to grow grass in shade.

Xeriscape your yard. That word is a combination of “landscape” and the Greek word “xeros” (dry) and is a system for saving water in landscaped areas. There are seven basic principles in this method: water conservation, soil improvement, limited turf, appropriate plants, mulch, irrigation using soaker hoses and drip irrigation, and maintenance. For a comprehensive explanation and a list of plants requiring little water, see http://www.eartheasy.com/grow_xeriscape.htm

Use Natural landscaping. Using native plants is another way to conserve water in your yard. Because native plants have evolved and adapted to local conditions over thousands of years, they are vigorous and hardy. Once established, they require no irrigation or fertilization and are resistant to most pests and diseases. To learn about and find native plants for your yard, see http://www.newfs.org/grow/bring-native-plants-into-your-landscape.html/?searchterm=native%20plants

Even easier if you can release yourself from the need for a manicured yard, is wildscape gardening - developing a landscape that attracts wildlife such as birds, fox, and deer. Wildscaping often requires less water than the equivalent amount of turf because the plants are native species.

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) encourages wildscaping for these reasons:
1. It's fun! Watching wildlife in action can be fun and relaxing for everyone. Your habitat may attract beautiful songbirds, butterflies, frogs, and other interesting wildlife for viewing from your very own window.
2. Curb appeal! Replacing grass lawns with native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees will increase the beauty of your property and provide a nurturing refuge for wildlife.
3. Bring wildlife home! Restoring habitats where commercial and residential development have degraded natural ecosystems can be your way of giving back to wildlife.
4. Eco-friendly! Gardening practices that help wildlife, like reducing the use of chemicals, conserving energy and water, and composting also help to improve air, water and soil quality.
5. Community! Gardening for wildlife can help you share your love of wildlife with your neighbors and help them get involved in creating a home for wildlife.

In fact, you can apply to have your yard certified as a NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat, and display a durable plaque in your yard or on a tree for all to see. http://www.nwf.org/backyard/index.cfm

Harvest rainwater

Now, about water for those gardens, when they need it: Residential irrigation can account for 40% of domestic water consumption in a given municipality. Irrigation water can be free if you use rain barrels to capture rainwater from your roof. Precipitation in New England is typically 3-4 inches per month, and one inch of rain on a 1000 sq. ft. roof yields 623 gallons of water. This will be an even more impressive

Continued on next page
figure if you calculate the savings on your water bill. Rainwater contains no fluorides or chlorine and this soft, warm, oxygen-filled rainwater is perfect for watering the garden.

To find rain barrels, Google that term and you’ll find a myriad of choices, ranging from recycled pickle barrels to those that look like terra cotta, to old oak barrels. There are alternatives called rain boxes [http://www.aquabarrel.com/product_rain_box_75_gal.php](http://www.aquabarrel.com/product_rain_box_75_gal.php). You can even make your own rain barrels with these instructions: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGFDlkJODaM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGFDlkJODaM)


Water your plants, not the air

Soaker hoses, which lie flat on the ground and slightly buried under the soil or mulch, allow water to seep directly into the soil and deliver water at the root zone of your plants. Soaker hoses work by slowly releasing small amounts of water over a longer period. By releasing water slowly, more water can soak deeper into the soil and less is wasted through the evaporation, overspray, and runoff than when using sprinklers. You can also avoid having to move sprinklers or hand watering, save money by using less water, and avoid plant diseases caused by water on the leaves. Soaker hoses are great to use for the first season of newly planted trees or shrubs. After that, these plants, especially if native, are usually satisfied with rainfall.

You can also connect a soaker hose to a rain barrel but you must raise the rain barrel on a platform such as cement blocks so that gravity helps the rainwater get to your garden.


Think big

If you have several and/or large gardens, or are ready to try greywater use as described in last month’s Bulletin, 500-gallon barrels are available from the same company that supplies Lexington’s DPW with water barrels for residents’ purchase. [http://www.skyjuice.us/html/large_tanks.html](http://www.skyjuice.us/html/large_tanks.html)

Companies such as [http://ncrainwaterharvesting.com/underground.aspx](http://ncrainwaterharvesting.com/underground.aspx) supply ready-made cisterns that can be buried in the ground. Before our era of abundance, when homes were built cisterns were also constructed in the ground to store water for household needs. Pumps can be installed in the newer ones to deliver the water where you need it.

For other methods of conserving water outdoors in the summer, see [http://watersavingtips.org/saving.html](http://watersavingtips.org/saving.html)
**Water Conservation Library Display**

Our water conservation action will get a boost throughout May with a display at Cary Library. Jessie Steigerwald has designed an engaging interactive display that will appeal to adults and children alike.

Elizabeth Dickinson, reference librarian, has selected all kinds of books and music with the word "water" in the title, or "rain," "river," etc. to display.

Look for Water Savings handouts and posters of all the Bulletin articles on water conservation.

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**Medical Waste Disposal June 3**

The Lexington Health Division will hold a Medical Waste Disposal opportunity Wednesday, June 3, 2009 from 5-7:30 p.m. in the parking lot behind Town Hall. This is for expired medicine and sharps, needles, and syringes stored in capped sturdy containers.

Medicines should never be disposed of in the trash nor flushed down the toilet, as they are pollutants that can reappear in drinking water.

This disposal is for Lexington residents only and identification such as driver’s license will be required. For more information, call 781-862-0500 x237.
Please support our sponsors.
Learn about the new green DPW facility

Tuesday, June 9, 2009  7:00 – 9 p.m.
Cary Memorial Library Large Meeting Room

Bill Hadley, Lexington DPW Director
and Michael Lawrence of HKT Architects, Inc.

will show why the new DPW facility is the first DPW building in Massachusetts to earn a LEED silver status.

LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) is a benchmarking tool used to create environmentally responsible projects that promote healthy places to live and work. LEED has six sections: sustainable site planning, safeguarding water and water efficiency, energy efficiency and renewable energy, conservation of materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, and innovation and design process. LEED criteria reduce the impact on natural resources, minimize strain on local infrastructure, promote long-term economic savings, and enhance occupant comfort and health.

The building design also meets the requirements of Lexington’s 2008 storm water management bylaw.

STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

Co-sponsored by The League of Women Voters of Lexington, Citizens for Lexington Conservation, Friends of Lexington Bikeways, and Global Warming Action Coalition

See what the DPW does for us:
http://www.lexingtonma.gov/April_Slideshow_Update.pdf
Observer Corps

The LWVL would like more observers to share coverage of the Board of Selectmen (meeting Monday evenings), the School Committee (meeting Tuesday evenings) and the Planning Board (meeting Wednesday evenings), and cover the Conservation Commission (meeting Tuesday evenings). If you happen to be attending a meeting of one of these boards, please contact Marge Daggett at 781-862-1651 or mmdaggett@verizon.net to be an observer for a day.

Selectmen

http://www.lexingtonma.gov/Selectmen/Selectmen%20Office%20Hours.pdf

There has been no League observer at Selectmen meetings in recent weeks.

Approved minutes of Selectmen meetings can be read at http://www.lexingtonma.gov/selectmenminutes.cfm

School Committee by Anne Frymer, Observer

http://ci.lexington.ma.us/schools.htm
http://lps.lexingtonma.org/admin/school_committee.html

Present: Supt. Dr. Ash; Members Margaret Coppe, Rod Cole, Tom Diaz, Jessie Steigerwald, Mary Ann Stewart. Location: Selectmen’s Meeting Room, 7:30 p.m.

Election of Officers: Dr. Ash presided over the election of the SC Chair, to replace former chair Helen Cohen. Margaret Coppe was elected by a 5-0 vote. Rod Cole was elected as vice-chair, also 5-0. Mrs. Coppe welcomed newly elected members Jessie Steigerwald and Mary Ann Stewart.

Superintendent’s Report: Dr. Ash listed the retirement this June of three principals: Joanne Hennessy, Diamond Middle School; Martha Batten, Estabrook Elementary; and Nancy Peterson, Fiske Elementary. Applications for these vacancies are currently being processed. The choice for the elementary positions will be announced in early April and for Diamond in early May. The last day of school (half-days) will be June 22 for grades K-8 and June 25 for the high school.

Pre K-12 Facilities Master Plan: Mr. David Finney, chief architect for Design Partnerships, presented his findings and recommendations for a master plan for the update or replacement of schools. In short, he found that both the Bowman and Bridge elementary schools were built to last until mid-century, with proper maintenance. Estabrook and Hastings elementary schools are far outdated and would be the first to be replaced, when the time comes. Fiske and Harrington are new schools, needing no recommendations.

Continued on next page
The two middle schools, Clarke and Diamond, both recently renovated, are in good shape for now. The only question might be when to remove the portable classrooms from Diamond.

The high school, with its 2000 plus students, is overcrowded by about 170 students, and will remain overcrowded for the next several years. Many of the classrooms are too small, with some being only 450-550 sq. feet, while 800 sq. feet is the current standard.

The SC will use this facilities report when it makes recommendations for future capital projects.

**Budget shortfall**

Dr. Ash projects a $375,000 budget shortfall for the current fiscal year, ending July 1, 2009. Instead of cutting programs to close this gap, he recommends that the SC request an appropriation from the upcoming Town Meeting under Article 30 to cover the shortfall. As the time to request this amount comes nearer, Dr. Ash will update his findings to the SC.

**New position recommended**

The Superintendent recommends that the position of Financial and Operations Manager be created for the office of Pre K-12 Student Services. Currently the position of financial secretary is vacant in the Office of Student Services. Instead of filling this position, the Superintendent would like to hire a manager with both financial and executive skills. This new position is estimated to cost $85,000 for a 12-month position, replacing the $45,000 financial secretary.

The SC will vote on this recommendation at a later date.

Approved minutes of School Committee meetings can be read at http://lps.lexingtonma.org/admin/approvedminutes.shtml

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**Planning Board**

*by Judy Otto, Observer*

http://ci.lexington.ma.us/Planning/PlanningDept.htm

4/16  Present: Board: Chair Charles Hornig, Members, Wendy Manz, Richard Canale, Anthony Galatsis. Staff: Maryann McCall Taylor, Aaron Henry, Lori Kaufmann

A public hearing on the Patriot Partners proposal constituted the first part of the meeting, which was not observed. After the hearing, the Board did not take a vote, as they wanted more discussion among themselves. That discussion will be continued at their April 22 meeting. Extensive information concerning this proposal can be found at http://www.lexingtonma.gov/planning/STM2009.cfm

Part II was a typical Planning Board meeting that the public rarely sees, when the staff and board members work through the discussion and detail of items under their purview. This evening they were finalizing their report to Town Meeting on Articles 44 – 46 concerning Hartwell Avenue and Articles 47 & 48: Technical Corrections & Financial Support for Transportation.

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Several among the board and staff had reviewed the wording of the above articles and made comments, so the group debated grammar, meanings of words and phrases, implications, and possible unintended interpretations.

The public may not realize the level of detail and the amount of grunt work that goes into the Boards’ deliberations and decisions. Before any decision or recommendation is reached, the Board considers staff input, expert/consultant input, research, studies, precedents, planning methods and decisions in other Massachusetts towns, and, of course, state regulations. Also offering their recommendations are various town committees such as the Design Advisory Committee, the Traffic Mitigation Committee, the Noise Committee, and the Economic Development Committee.

In their work on development proposals, the Board may see the principals of any one proposal several times, from initial plans to sketch plans, to preliminary plans and public hearings, and then the cycle may start over given public input.

The Board seems to be diverse enough to represent a wide range of constituents, and absences are infrequent even though the Board meets almost every Wednesday evening of the year, often until 10:30 or 11 p.m. During Town Meeting they convene at 6 p.m. and recess at 7:30 to attend Town Meeting.

This evening the Board voted on their support of Articles 44 – 46. Mr. Hornig, Mr. Canal, and Ms. Manz voted in favor, and Mr. Galaitsis opposed.

Approved minutes of Planning Board meetings can be read at http://www.lexingtonma.gov/planning/minutes.cfm

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Forum Discusses Safe Driving for Seniors

When should a senior stop driving? A forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Lexington looked at medical, social, and legal implications for older drivers, their families, and caregivers Thursday morning, April 9.

The League's Senior Issues Committee thanks Dr. Beth Dugan, one of the panel members on the Safe Driving for Seniors Forum, for her gifts of her book The Driving Dilemma to the COA/Senior Center and to Cary Library. It is an excellent resource for seniors and family regarding the medical, social and legal implications for driving seniors.

Dr. Bryan Reimer from the MIT AgeLab also made a presentation and noted the need for volunteers for their studies and research to improve the quality of life for older adults. If you wish to volunteer or learn more of the research, contact agelab-volunteer@mit.edu or call 617-324-9054.

Thanks go to the League's Senior Issues Committee who put together the forum; Anne Frymer, Howard Cravis, Mary Lania, Pat Costello, Phyllis Rand, and Barbara Ciampa, Chairperson.
As the 2009-11 Biennium Convention fast approaches, we would like you to be aware of the financial state of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA). This letter is sent in advance of the Convention materials so you will have time to carefully consider our fiscal position before reviewing the contents of the pre-Convention packet. We also strongly encourage you to attend the Convention on May 29 and 30.

As you know, the financial outlook for many individuals, governments, businesses and non-profit organizations presents some of the most difficult challenges in decades. The financial status of the Massachusetts League is no exception. We are informing you, a dedicated and supportive member of the League, of the current status, as well as the measures we are currently taking at the state League level in an attempt to correct the situation.

The LWVMA is currently running a deficit in both the League and Scharfman (Citizen Education) Fund accounts. A variety of factors have contributed to this situation. Neither the LWVMA nor the Scharfman accounts are invested in the stock markets; however, we hold funds in certificates of deposit and trusts that have been negatively affected, and we have received returns that were far below the expected interest income. In addition, our fundraising efforts, particularly in this current year, proved to be far short of our budgeted expectations and have been the largest contributors to our current fiscal crisis.

Despite strong participation by local Leagues at phonathon calling centers, this year's phonathon raised only half of our budgeted expectations and fell far short of the level of giving from 2007. The Guardian of Democracy Award Dinner was a clear success in program and execution, with a wonderful and worthy honoree. However, corporate and individual sponsorships, in particular, fell dramatically from the past level, resulting in lower than projected revenue.

The Board of Directors and Budget Committee have been working on cutting specific costs in the budget and planning proactively for the future. There have been some immediate changes in current LWVMA spending.

Since February 25, 2009, all non-vital expenditures for the remainder of the fiscal year have been cut. Several measures have been implemented to keep the expenses of Convention to a minimum. The Massachusetts Voter will be sent electronically via email to save both printing and postage costs and the moderator pass through grant program to individual Leagues has been temporarily suspended. These are just a few of the tangible cuts being made to control expenses in the immediate future. A detailed report from our Treasurer regarding the specifics of the current budget and the proposed budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year will be included in your Convention packet later this month.

Clearly, we need to review all of our programs and practices as we plan for the future of the LWVMA. Together we must decide how to shape the future of the League, how to best support local Leagues in the coming biennium, and work together to guarantee the success of the League. This is a challenge we are prepared to accept, and we have every confidence our organization can weather the storm and survive with the strength and determination typical of the League.

We hope that you have found this letter informative and helpful in understanding where our organization stands fiscally at this time.

We look forward to seeing you at Convention.

Very truly yours,

The LWVMA Board of Directors
League of Women Voters of Massachusetts
Convention 2009
Health Care Rx:
Challenges and Solutions for Our State and Nation

First Call

May 29-30, 2009
Boston Newton Marriott, Newton, MA

Featured Speakers

Patricia A. Walrath
Former Representative for the Third Middlesex District

Nancy Turnbull
Department for Health Policy and Management
Harvard School of Public Health

Mark your calendars now!

What do we do at Convention 2009?
Plan the Program for 2009 - 2011
Approve the Budget for 2009 - 2011
Elect LWVMA Officers to the Board
Participate in Interesting Workshops
Network with League Members from across Massachusetts

For more information, contact the LWVMA office:
617-523-2999 or www.lwvma@lwvma.org
March 11, 2009

Senator Charles Schumer
Chairman, Committee on Rules and Administration
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing to provide our perspective on current problems in voter registration. We ask that this letter be included in the record of the hearing the Rules Committee held on this subject today.

The single most important issue in voter registration is the failure of the states to fully implement - and the failure of the U.S. Department of Justice to enforce -- Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. Section 7 requires that states provide extensive voter registration opportunities at public assistance and disability agencies. Registration figures indicate, and investigations by outside organizations confirm, that most states are not implementing the law.

In the first years after enactment of the NVRA, registration from social service agencies was significant but not large. Since then, however, registration has dropped precipitously, resulting in the loss of millions of voters from the voter rolls according to work by Project Vote, Demos, and others.

While the Department of Justice is responsible for enforcing Section 7, the performance of the Department has been lackluster at best. Few cases have been brought and there is no clear enforcement strategy.

The League of Women Voters urges the Committee to address this issue. We ask that you call attention to the failure of the states to fully implement Section 7 and we urge you to explore with the Department of Justice what enforcement strategies might be pursued. If states were simply to reinstate their earlier programs, it would result in the registration of millions of eligible citizens. It states had clear direction from the Department of Justice, additional significant improvements could be made.

Because of the number of potential voters involved, full implementation of Section 7 is critically important. Because enforcement is essential for any program designed to protect voters, effective enforcement of Section 7 by the Department of Justice deserves special attention.

We also believe that there are opportunities to enhance voter registration through designation of federal offices as voter registration agencies under the NVRA, such as the Veterans Administration, naturalization services, Supplemental Security Income, and other programs.

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The League is also concerned about limitations on third-party voter registration drives by states and localities. In 2005, the League of Women Voters of Florida was forced to stop all its voter registration activities in that state because of burdensome restrictions that could have resulted in bankrupting that League. The Florida League challenged these restrictions in the courts, but, unfortunately, this was not an isolated example of a state acting in a way that undermines voter registration.

Organizations such as the League are crucial to assuring that voter registration is available to every voter, but the facts also show conclusively that we are key to assuring that minority voters have access to registration. In 2004, approximately 8.5 percent of registrants had been registered by the efforts of third party organizations, according to the Bureau of the Census. The data also make clear who is impacted by restrictions on third-party voter registration efforts. In 2004, 15 percent of African-American and Hispanic registrants had been registered to vote as a result of an organized drive – a rate much higher than the 8.9 percent rate for Whites.

We urge the Committee to look into the limitations that states and localities place on voter registration activities by outside organizations such as the League.

We are also concerned about the operation of statewide voter registration databases. The Help America Vote Act of 2002 requires each state to implement a single, uniform, computerized statewide voter registration list to serve as the official voter list for the conduct of all elections for Federal office.

Statewide databases should be designed to streamline communication among voter registration agencies and to improve election administration. In many instances, however, ”no match“ rules, lack of clear statewide administration and other problems have undermined rather than enhanced voter registration. Properly implemented statewide databases should ensure that once registered, no eligible voter will be removed from the official list because he or she has moved within the state.

We urge the Committee to work with the Election Assistance Commission, the Department of Justice and the states to encourage proper implementation of statewide voter registration databases. Effective management of state voter lists is the necessary starting point for any discussion of improvements in voter registration systems.

A closely related issue is the question of purging. Both HAVA and the NVRA have provisions to ensure that eligible voters are not dropped from the registration list. Anecdotal evidence suggests that these protections are not always followed. For example, many jurisdictions seemingly purge voters within 90 days of an election, which is prohibited.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our views on these voter registration issues. As you know, restrictions on voter registration remain as the single largest barrier to voter participation, especially when the number of affected persons is considered. We commend the Committee for your work in this area.

Sincerely,
Mary G. Wilson
President
Sharpen your game before you take action on the course at Stone Meadow Golf.

Open Daily 7am - Dusk
9 Hole Par 3 Course
Natural & Synthetic Turf Range
Practice Bunker & Putting Greens
Gift Certificates & Lessons Available
Club Regripping & Repair

www.stonemeadowgolf.com
675 Waltham Street, Lexington | 781.863.0445
CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING
AND WORKBOOK

65th Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 21, from 7 p.m. 9 p.m.
at the home of Jesse Steigerwald,
143 Cedar St. Lexington, MA 02421-650
http://preview.tinyurl.com/c5wktr

AGENDA

7:00 pm  Meeting and Greeting Time
Dessert and Coffee (no charge)

7:15 pm  Speakers: Rita Goldberg and Ann Kelly,
co-coordinators of Lexington STAND:
How can the League and STAND cooperate to
ensure high quality education
for Lexington's children?

8:00 pm  Business Meeting
Deb Mauger, President
Announcements
Treasurer’s / Auditor’s Report  Setha Olson
Adoption of 2006-2007 Budget
President’s Message
Adoption of Local Program
Election of Officers and Directors  Wendy Manz
Direction to the Board

REMEMBER: PLEASE BRING THIS WORKBOOK WITH YOU
TO THE ANNUAL MEETING.
## LWV of Lexington Proposed Budget for 2009-2010

### EXPENDITURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Budget 2007-08</th>
<th>Totals 2007-08</th>
<th>Budget 2008-09</th>
<th>Spent 3/19/09</th>
<th>Proposed Budget</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A. Operating Costs</strong></td>
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<td>1. General Supplies</td>
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<td>169</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>188</td>
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<td>2. Telephone</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>372</td>
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<td>3. Tax fees; 990T</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>73</td>
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<td>63</td>
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<td>4. Miscellaneous</td>
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<td><strong>Total Operation Costs</strong></td>
<td>350</td>
<td>686</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>512</td>
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<td><strong>B. Board Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Secretary</td>
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<td>2. Treasurer</td>
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<td>28</td>
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<td>3. Membership</td>
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<td>28</td>
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<td>242</td>
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<td>4. Finance Drive</td>
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<td>5. Other (Inc. Pres, PR)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>76</td>
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<td>500</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>253</td>
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<td><strong>sC. Meetings</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. State Convention/Council</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>2. National Convention</td>
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<td>4. Fall Coffee</td>
<td>225</td>
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<td>368</td>
<td>200</td>
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<td>5. First Friday &amp; Other Meetings</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td><strong>Total Meetings</strong></td>
<td>2,450</td>
<td>3,008</td>
<td>1,625</td>
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<td><strong>D. Financial Support for the League</strong></td>
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<td>1. State PMP</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>3,496</td>
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<td>2. National PMP</td>
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<td>3. Gifts</td>
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<td><strong>Total Financial Support</strong></td>
<td>8,600</td>
<td>7,710</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>4,282</td>
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<td><strong>E. Bulletin</strong></td>
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<td>1. Printing</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>2,184</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>1,543</td>
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<td>2. Supplies</td>
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<td>48</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<td>4. Postage/Permit</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>654</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>330</td>
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<td><strong>Total Bulletin</strong></td>
<td>2,800</td>
<td>2,896</td>
<td>2,875</td>
<td>1,882</td>
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<td><strong>F. Education and Communication</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>a. Production</td>
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<td>b. Web site fees</td>
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<td>c. LexMedia</td>
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<td>2. Study Committees</td>
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<td>80</td>
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<td>3. Voter Service</td>
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<td>a. Candidates Night</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>b. Other (Mock Tn. Mtg., Mitzi Fennel)</td>
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<td><strong>Total Educational Activities</strong></td>
<td>1,025</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>905</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>620</td>
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<td><strong>G. Action Activities &amp; Lobbying</strong></td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>Received</td>
<td>Proposed</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>3/19/09</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Grand Total Expenditures      | 13,400 | 15,853 | 13,355 | 7,584    | 11,550   |

### INCOME

#### Budget

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<table>
<thead>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>A. Dues Total (see note 1)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Regular Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Household Members</td>
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<td>3. Over 65</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Dues</strong></td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>5,905</td>
<td>6,855</td>
<td>5,145</td>
<td>6000</td>
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</table>

#### Contributions

|                                |        |        |        |          |          |
|                                |        |        |        |          |          |
| **B. Contributions**           |        |        |        |          |          |
| 1. Member                      |        |        |        |          |          |
| 2. Non-member                  |        |        |        |          |          |
| 3. Other                       |        |        |        |          |          |
| **Total Contributions**        | 3,900  | 3,933  | 3,500  | 775      | 3100     |

#### Publications

|                                |        |        |        |          |          |
|                                |        |        |        |          |          |
| **C. Publications**            |        |        |        |          |          |
| 1. General                     |        |        |        |          |          |
| 2. Lexington, USA (Know Your Town) |        |        |        |          |          |
| **Total Publications**         |        |        |        |          |          |

#### Other Sources

|                                |        |        |        |          |          |
|                                |        |        |        |          |          |
| **D. Other Sources**           |        |        |        |          |          |
| 1. Bank Interest               |        |        |        |          |          |
| 2. Phonothon                   | 800    | 571    | 600    |          | 500      |
| 3. Annual Meeting              | 1,150  | 0      | 0      |          |          |
| 4. Bulletin Ads                | 2,000  | 2,125  | 2,000  | 1,600    | 1600     |
| 5. Other                       | 0      | 290    | 0      | 30       | 30       |
| **Total Other Sources**        | 3,950  | 2,986  | 2,600  | 1,600    | 2130     |

#### Income from Reserves (interest income)

|                                |        |        |        |          |          |
|                                |        |        |        |          |          |
| **E. Income from Reserves**    |        |        |        |          |          |
| 1. Bank Interest               |        |        |        |          |          |
| 2. Phonothon                   |        |        |        |          |          |
| 3. Annual Meeting              |        |        |        |          |          |
| 4. Bulletin Ads                |        |        |        |          |          |
| 5. Other                       |        |        |        |          |          |
| **Total Other Sources**        |        |        |        |          |          |

|                                | 750    | 834    | 400    | 253      | 320      |

### Change in Reserves

|                                | 5,050  |        |        |          |          |

### Grand Totals

|                                | 15,600 | 18,707 | 13,355 | 7,736    | 11,550   |
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4. REGIONAL PLANNING

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   5.2 Education
   5.3 Housing
   5.4 Human Resources
   5.5 Library
   5.6 Urban Responsibility
   5.7 Youth
   5.8 Senior Citizens

6. TOWN GOVERNMENT

7. TRAFFIC SAFETY AT SCHOOL SITES

8. DIVERSITY

III. 2009-2010 LOCAL STUDY

IV. 2009-2010 ACTION PRIORITIES
I. DEFINITION OF LOCAL PROGRAM

Local program consists of:
- Such current local governmental issues as the membership shall choose for concerted study and action; and
- Those positions on local governmental issues to which the League of Women Voters of Lexington has given sustained attention and on which it may continue to act.

II. POSITIONS

1. FISCAL POLICY

- Support the use of overrides of Proposition 2 1/2 or debt exclusion as appropriate responses to increasing costs of town government and public education (1988).
- Promote measures to improve Lexington's long-range financial planning (1978).

2. NATURAL RESOURCES

   2.1 Air
   - Support efforts to identify those factors within Lexington which impact air quality, including acid rain (1980).

   2.2 Conservation
   - Promote alternatives to pesticides (i.e., Integrated Pest Management) (1980).
   - Promote the development of a pesticide policy by the town which would initially address town use, including both land and buildings (i.e. schools) (1990)
   - Support measures to designate, preserve, and protect wetland areas and brooks (1972).

   2.3 Land Use
   - Promote land use planning for the entire town (1980).

   2.4 Energy
   - Support conservation of energy in the community (1980).

   2.5 Waste
   - Support a household hazardous waste collection at least once a year as a municipal service to residents, in cooperation with the town (1983).
   - Promote citizen education about the safe disposal of household hazardous waste (1982).
   - Continue to promote recycling (1980).

   2.6 Water
   - Support water conservation in Lexington (1980).
3. RECREATION

- Support measures to implement a long-range recreational program consistent with the needs of Lexington (1980).

4. REGIONAL PLANNING

- Oppose extension of Hanscom Field into a major airport (1988).

5. SOCIAL POLICY

5.1 Day Care

- Support the extended day care program in the Lexington Public Schools (1984).
- Support appropriate zoning regulations which do not unduly restrict family day care centers in Lexington (1984).

5.2 Education

- Support the implementation of all Chapter 766 (special education) programs in which Lexington students are involved, particularly through improved communication among parents, teachers, and students (1980).

- Support the implementation of Chapter 622 (anti-discrimination) in Lexington schools (1978)
- Support heterogeneous grouping at Lexington High School in some subjects in some grades. Any further implementation of heterogeneous grouping would be supported only if adequate funding were available to maintain small class size, to develop appropriate curricula, to purchase appropriate instructional materials and assessment tools, to provide professional staff development, and to educate the community about the practices employed. (1994)

- Promote high standards of education through support of:
  - Programs in human development and human relations, including a program in sex education appropriate to all age levels (1973).
  - Programs to meet equally the educational needs of all children residing in Lexington or attending Lexington Public Schools (1970).
  - Educational, organizational, and operational policies of the Lexington Public Schools that are consistent with League goals and positions (1969).

5.3 Housing

- Support efforts to provide housing in Lexington for an economically diverse population through:
  - Promotion of affordable housing.
  - Development of low/moderate income housing through use of tax title lots and zoning changes consistent with sound planning.
  - Planning for heterogeneous residential development.
- Participation of the Lexington Housing Authority in state and federal programs (1969, 1982)
- Support local measures designed to meet metropolitan housing needs (1969).
5.4 Human Services

- Continue to support delivery of and education about human services in Lexington (1982).
- Support efforts toward strengthening and coordinating human services in Lexington (1976).

5.5 Library

- Support the high standard of our current library and the need for equal access for all populations.
- Support current library policies (e.g. access for all populations, diversity of resources, and retention of state accreditation).
- Support reciprocal borrowing while seeking equitable reimbursement for services provided to non-residents.
- Support funding for library that is adequate to maintain current high level of services.
- Support cost effective alternative revenue sources that do not jeopardize free access to "basic" library services (1992).

5.6 Urban Responsibility

- Support the responsibility of Lexington to share in the solution of problems within the core city (1968).

5.7 Youth

- Support programs to meet the needs of youth in Lexington; support interaction among the courts, police and youth agencies (1976).

5.8 Senior Citizens

- Promote and support programs to increase the well being of Lexington seniors, including programs that serve as a clearinghouse for resources available to seniors.
- Support Town-funded programs that identify and, where feasible, fill gaps in services and resources for seniors and their caregivers.
- Promote and support coordination among agencies within the Town and the region serving Lexington seniors and their caregivers.
- Promote programs to increase awareness of services available to seniors and their caregivers.

6. TOWN GOVERNMENT

- Support the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law (1983).
- Support cooperation and effective functioning of town committees and boards through their mandates, responsibilities and relationships with each other (1980).
- Support adequate and timely public announcement of appointments to be made to town boards and positions (1975).
- Oppose dual office holding on major boards (1975).

7. TRAFFIC SAFETY AT SCHOOL SITES

- Support implementation of improvements in school crossings (1986).
- Support implementation of improvements in bus safety (1986).
- Support traffic safety education programs for students and adults (1986).
8. **DIVERSITY**

   The League of Women Voters of Lexington affirms its commitment to reflect the diversity in our community.
   The League acknowledges that pluralism and diverse perspectives are necessary for responsible and representative decision-making, as well as fundamental to the values the League upholds.
   In both its principles and practices, the League of Women Voters will promote inclusion: there shall be no barrier based on race, ethnicity, national origin, creed, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or age in leadership, staffing, membership, or participation in any League-sponsored activity. (1998)

**III. 2009-2010 LOCAL STUDY**

**Youth Services**

- To evaluate the services needs of Lexington’s youths and to determine if these services are available and what are the gaps in needed services, including but not limited to the areas of physical and mental health, nutrition, and physical activity, transportation, public safety, and emergency services, and how these gaps should be filled.

**IV. 2009-2010 ACTION PRIORITIES**

No special action priorities for the coming year were decided.

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Once a year in the fall, we need help with renewing ads for the Bulletin. Please contact Pat Costello at 781-862-6435 or patcostello@rcn.com to offer help with ads.

We’re grateful to our highly experienced proofing team of Marge Daggett and Lilah Groisser.

We thank Helen Jinx Crouch for distribution of the paper Bulletins.
May 1      First Friday/Tourism
May 21     LWVL Annual Meeting
June 5     First Friday/Town Trees
June 9     DPW Presentation

Please patronize our sponsors.
Our sponsors need to know that their ads are seen and bringing business. Please stop in and tell them you saw their ads in the League Bulletin.