



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION

LWVL MAY FIRST FRIDAY FORUM May 3, 2013

Let's Do More Than Talk!

How can Lexington thrive in the face of changing climate? Join the League of Women Voters of Lexington at its First Friday Forum on May 3 to hear results from the recent LWV Community Conversation on Climate Change and learn what Lexington has accomplished so far.

Bill Hadley, Director of Public Works, Mark Sandeen of Sustainable Lexington, and others will talk about plans for the development of our own Climate Action Plan and the next steps we can take as a community to both reduce the effects of the changing climate and respond to its impacts.

This is the seventh 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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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FIRST FRIDAY COMMITTEE

The LWVL thanks the members of the 2012- 2013 First Friday Committee for presenting a series of informative and topical subjects. Committee Members Nancy Adler, Jinx Crouch, Peggy Enders, Lisah Rhodes, Sandy Shaw and Judy Uhrig did a fantastic job. These community forums are popular and well attended and will begin again in the fall.

STATE ELECTION PRIMARY - April 30, 2013

Massachusetts voters are choosing a new United States Senator to fill John Kerry's term after his appointment as Secretary of State. The State primary election is Tuesday, April 30, and the general election is Tuesday, June 25. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

LWVL ANNUAL MEETING - June 4, 2013

Join us for the League's Annual Meeting on June 4 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in the Large Conference Room, Cary Memorial Library. The League's Annual Workbook will be sent out to all members in early May.

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.

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.

LWVMA Convention 2013



***“The Future of
Our Democracy:
What’s Next?”***

Convention Registration Open

The LWVMA Convention 2013 ***“The Future of Our Democracy: What’s Next?”*** will be held May 17-18 at the Boston Peabody Marriott in Peabody, MA.

This year's keynote speakers will be WGBH Host Margery Eagan and Harvard Professor and author of *No Citizen Left Behind* Meira Levinson.

LWVMA's Convention is a valuable opportunity for League leaders and members of our 48 local Leagues across Massachusetts to gather, plan future programs and discuss issues of public importance.

To register, view the pre-convention materials, reserve a hotel room, etc., visit our [Convention Registration Page](#).

LWVUS

The fate of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) now lies with the Supreme Court. For the second time in as many months, the justices are hearing arguments on vital legislation that has encouraged active participation in our democracy for nearly two decades. The League of Women Voters of Arizona is a plaintiff in the case and the LWVUS has submitted an amicus brief to the Court.

If the Supreme Court rules against the NVRA, states would be free to pass laws that could restrict voter registration activities and thereby prevent eligible citizens from registering to vote.

The National Voter Registration Act, commonly known as “Motor Voter,” became law in 1993 and streamlines the voter registration process. It requires states to provide voter registration opportunities when citizens get a driver’s license or seek government services at other agencies and provides for voter registration by mail, which is particularly important for citizen-led voter registration drives. In so doing, it protects voters against state restrictions on voter registration for federal elections. The League was a key player in the passage of the NVRA – we worked on the initial bill and later co-chaired a national coalition that brought together over 60 organizations dedicated to improving the voter registration process.

What’s more – if the NVRA is not upheld, *the work of the League of Women Voters is at risk!*

If the opponents of the NVRA have their way, the mission of our organization is in jeopardy. The case endangers the League’s work of running independent voter registration drives. The NVRA streamlined the numerous state laws that hindered citizen-led registration drives, and a decision against the NVRA would leave the voter registration process vulnerable to new forms of political manipulation. The League and our community partners are often the only effective way for many new voters to get registered to participate in our great democracy.

Restricting voter registration is just one way to limit the right to vote and altering the NVRA could reverse years of progress. For more information, contact the LWVUS at 1730 M Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036-4508

Thank you for making democracy work.
Elizabeth McNamara, President

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

We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the June 2013 Bulletin, please send it to *Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti* at Nancor1106@gmail.com by May 23, 2013.

Dates to Save:

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| April 30 | State Primary Election |
| May 3 | First Friday Forum: Let's Do More Than Talk! |
| May 17, 18 | LWVMA Convention 2013, Boston Marriott Peabody |
| June 4 | LWVL Annual Meeting, Cary Memorial Library, Large Meeting Room, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. |



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