



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

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Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

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

#### **LWVL NOVEMBER FIRST FRIDAY FORUM**

##### **“Hanscom Air Base – Flight or Fight?”**

Hanscom Air Force Base has been an important member of the Lexington community for many years and contributes significantly to the local economy. The League of Women Voters of Lexington’s First Friday Forum on November 2 will discuss the mission and economic importance of Hanscom and how its activities affect us locally.

Panelists State Senator Ken Donnelly; Deb Mauger, current selectman and member of HATS (Hanscom Area Towns Selectmen Committee); Jeanne Krieger, current chair of HFAC (Hanscom Field Advisory Committee), former selectman and member of HATS; and Hanscom AFB Public Affairs Director Charles Paone will also talk about recent developments at the base and the distinction between civil aviation, managed by Massport, and Air Force activities. There will be an opportunity for questions.

This is the second 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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**WE WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

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## **LWVL Evening Forum**

**"The Voting Wars of 2012"  
With Professor Charles Stewart, MIT**

**Tuesday, October 30, 7 p.m.  
Lexington Depot, 13 Depot Square**

This talk will discuss the rise of voter ID requirements which are intended to tighten-up access to the polls, and the larger political context that has led to their passage. Despite the clearly partisan politics of these laws, Professor Stewart will discuss why they are unlikely to have much of an influence on the outcome of the 2012 presidential election. This is not to say that problems with election administration more generally couldn't lead to a repeat of the 2000 fiasco. Many of the "battleground states" have features of their voting systems that could lead to controversy, conflict, and chaos, should the results of the election rest on an election dispute in one of these states. PI

Please join us!

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## **Be An Informed Voter - Ballot Questions 2 and 3**

Jay Kaufman's September Open House discussed the Prescribing Medication to End Life and Medical Use of Marijuana ballot questions. If you missed it, you may want to log onto <http://www.lexmedia.org/ondemand.html> and scroll down to "Open House w/ Jay Kaufman" under Categories.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, issues-oriented organization of women and men which encourages informed and active participation in government. The League does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

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## **Rides to the Polls**

Thank you to Liz Andrews for coordinating our rides to the Polls. We anticipate a greater need for volunteer drivers for the state and national election in November. If you can help, even for an hour or two, please call the League of Women Voters of Lexington at 781-862-6498.

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## **November 6, 2012 State/Presidential Election**

Taken from an Update by Lexington Town Clerk Donna Hooper

### **A Very High Voter Turnout is Anticipated**

- If possible, schedule voting during non-peak hours - after the early morning and before the late evening timeframes
- Traffic and parking demands, always a challenge on voting day, should be lessened since there are no classes on Nov. 6th.
- If lines form, voters will be limited to 5 minutes in the booth

### **Ballots & Questions:**

- The ballots are lengthy because of the number and length of ballot questions. Information on statewide questions may be found at [www.mass.gov/](http://www.mass.gov/)
- Voters should study the ballot questions BEFORE going to the polls on November 6th to expedite voting within the 5 minute limit during high-volume times

### **Absentee Voting:**

- Voters absent from Lexington on November 6th from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. may vote by absentee ballot by sending a written request signed by the voter to the Town Clerk, 1625 Massachusetts Ave., Lexington, MA 02420 or fax to 781-862-2754.
- In-person absentee voting is held at the Town Clerk's Office Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., until NOON, Monday, November 5th. Possible weather conditions and other interruptions may interfere with in-person voting at the Town Office Building.
- All in-country ballots must be received at the Town Clerk's Office not later than the close of voting on November 6th.

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## **Lexington's 300<sup>th</sup> Celebration Continues!**

The 300<sup>th</sup> Celebration continues with its most elegant installment of its nine months of celebrations with the "Musket Ball" on Saturday, November 17, 2012 at Cary Memorial Hall from 8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. For more information and to buy tickets, go to [www.lexington300.org](http://www.lexington300.org), click on "The Official 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Calendar of Events" on the left side of the page, then "The Musket Ball -Tercentennial Gala" on the right side of the page.

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## **The League's Membership Drive is On!**

If you haven't renewed your membership for the coming the year, please remember to do so. The League thanks those members who have already renewed their memberships.

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## **The League of Women Voters of Lexington is on Facebook!**

"Like" us at <https://www.facebook.com/LWVLexington>

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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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## **LWVMA**

### **Annual LWVMA Fall Appeal/Phonathon**

#### **The League Is Calling**

It's Phonathon season! LWV members across the state who have not already donated to our fall appeal over the past month will be called by a fellow League member asking for a donation to LWVMA. When you answer this telephone call, remember it is a League member just like you giving his or her time to raise funds for LWVMA and a local League. Please be generous! The fall appeal/Phonathon is the largest fundraiser for LWVMA. The state League needs to raise about \$70,000 beyond what is collected by dues to operate, and your donation is very much appreciated.

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#### **Help Protect the Election**

Our partners in protecting voters' rights on Election Day, Common Cause, MassVote, the Massachusetts ACLU and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, are recruiting volunteers to work as poll observers in precincts with a history of voter protection issues, and will be providing training. To volunteer for more information on protecting the vote, call Common Cause of Massachusetts at 617-426-9600 or go to [www.commoncause.org](http://www.commoncause.org) and click on "elections and voting" under issues.

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## LWVUS

Hard as it is to believe, Election Day is less than two weeks away. There is a lot at stake in this election, and the best news for voters is the hard work that the League is doing to make sure that every eligible voter has free and fair access to the polls.

It is also hard to believe that the national Board is meeting this weekend in Washington to start looking beyond this election. One thing we already know for sure: voting and voting rights will continue to be an issue. Thanks to concerted efforts by the League, many bad election laws are on hold for this election. That is good news for voters, but continued vigilance on the part of the League will be needed not just to finish the fight on these laws in the long run, but to ensure that voters have accurate information as they go to the polls in the short run.

To this end, between now and the Election we will be communicating with editorial writers nationwide to stress the importance of providing good, reliable election information to voters, especially given changes in the election process that will impact voters in many states. We will be asking them to devote space to what the public needs to know and do in order to be ready to vote on Election Day and pointing them to two trusted sources of election information, the League of Women Voters and our election website, [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org). We will be sure to direct them to contact Leagues if they have questions, so we ask all of you be on the lookout for media inquiries in the coming days.

As we head into the final stretch, each of us can do our own get-out-the-vote campaign by reminding those around us to go vote and to help those around us to get the kind of accurate, fact-based information that only the League can provide.

In League together making democracy work,

Elizabeth McNamara

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**We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the October 2012 Bulletin, please send it to *Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti* at [Nancor1106@gmail.com](mailto:Nancor1106@gmail.com) by November 25<sup>th</sup>.**

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**Dates to Save:**

October 30 LWVL Evening Forum “The Voting Wars of 2012” with Professor Charles Stewart, MIT at the Depot, 7:00 p.m.

November 2 “Hanscom Air Base – Flight or Fight?”

**November 6 Massachusetts State Election**

November 17 The Musket Ball – Tercentennial Gala, Cary Memorial Hall, 8:00 p.m.



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