



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION

Preview of the 2012 – 2013 League’s First Friday Forums

Planning is still underway but early topics for the League’s successful First Friday Forums for the coming year include:

October: Management of Lexington’s Conservation Lands

November: Hanscom update

December: Community Center Task Force Report

More details to follow.

State Election Primary – September 6, 2012

For a free ride or to volunteer to drive voters to the polls for the State Primary Election on Thursday, September 6 call the League of Women Voters of Lexington at 781-862-6498.

Lexington’s 300th Celebration

Kick-off for Lexington’s 300th Celebration is September 22, 2012. Enjoy the All-Town Picnic and Country Fair at Hastings Park after the Opening Ceremonies.

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The League's Membership Drive is On!

Look for information in the mail from Wendy Manz and Melinda Walker regarding this year's Membership Drive. Plans are also being made for this year's Fall Kick-off. More details to follow.

The League of Women Voters of Lexington is on Facebook!

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

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.

LWVMA

Also available for viewing on LexMedia is the video of the multi-League Candidates' night forum for the Third Middlesex Senate District held on August 15, 2012. Check it out!

LWVUS

Elections are about choices. The ballot that a voter receives on Election Day is a long list of choices: who will be the next president; who will represent the voter in Congress, the state legislature, the county or city commission; should the state constitution be amended. These important choices cannot be made without information. The League was founded to help newly enfranchised women get the information they needed to cast informed votes. The League has never supported or opposed candidates or parties because the partisan pursuit of political power encourages campaigns of disinformation rather than information. While this has always been true, advances in communication

technology from radio to television to the internet have accelerated the ability of candidates and supporters to disseminate misleading and outright false information in their effort to persuade voters.

This election year, special interests from candidates to so-called independent groups are flooding the airwaves and social media with messages that can be difficult for voters to assess. While negative political messages are disturbing and discouraging, blatant falsehoods have no place in our politics and voters need all the help they can get in sorting fact from fiction.

The League plays a vital role in that sorting process, and this year we are asking local media to help us. In partnership with the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, local Leagues are encouraged to visit their local television stations and their local newspaper editorial board to enlist support for fact checking political advertising. To assist Leagues in this outreach, LWVUS is using a grant to develop a toolkit for this campaign. That material should be available on the website <http://lww.org/> and through the weekly Update by early to mid September.

Television stations can do this in two ways: while candidates can say anything they want in political ads, third parties are subject to the same rules as product advertising and local stations have the authority to demand that false claims be eliminated from such advertising; and television news reporters can fact check and inform the public about the truth of claims made by both the candidates and third parties. Newspapers can keep the campaigns honest through editorial pages and fact checking. But local media needs support from the community in these efforts and the League can lead the way.

Many Leagues have strong partnerships with local media. All Leagues need such partnerships. A national League campaign to get the facts to voters with the support of local media is a powerful opportunity for media outreach during this important election season.

Elections are about choices for our communities. Voters need information they can trust in making those choices. The League has always been a trusted source for fact-based information at election time and local media is our natural and logical partner. Together we can make sure this election is about the real issues facing our country.

In League together making democracy work,
Elizabeth McNamara

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 by October 25th.

Dates to Save:

September 6 Massachusetts State Election Primary

September 22 Kick-off for Lexington's 300th Celebration

October 21 *Climate Change and Geo-engineering* talk at Cary Hall,
presented by David Keith, Gordon McKay Professor of
Applied Physics at Harvard and Professor of Public Policy
at the Kennedy School



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