



**BULLETIN, March, 2022**

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**MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH:  
LOOK OUT FOR LOCAL AND NATIONAL OBSERVANCES**

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## **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON**

### **LWV MARCH FIRST FRIDAY FORUM, MARCH 4, 2022: STATE "HOUSING CHOICE" REQUIREMENT FOR MBTA COMMUNITIES**

On Friday, March 4, 2022, at 9:30 am on Zoom, the Lexington League will present a discussion of Governor Baker's 'Housing Choice' proposal, enacted in January, which requires MBTA communities (including Lexington) to zone for a reasonable amount of multi-family housing in town.

The statute states in pertinent part:

*Chapter 40A, Sec. 3A (a)(1) An MBTA community shall have a zoning ... by-law that provides for at least 1 district of reasonable size in which multi-family housing is permitted as of right, provided, however, that such multi-family housing shall be without age restrictions and shall be suitable for families with children. ...[A] district of reasonable size shall (i) have a minimum gross density of 15 units per acre, subject to any further limitations imposed by ... the state environmental code, and (ii) be located not more than 0.5 miles from a commuter rail station, subway station, ferry terminal or bus station, if applicable.*

*(b) An MBTA community that fails to comply with this section shall not be eligible for funds from (i) the Housing Choice Initiative as described by the governor ... December 11, 2017; (ii) the Local Capital Projects Fund ..., or the MassWorks infrastructure program ...*

*(c) The department, in consultation with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, shall promulgate guidelines to determine if an MBTA community is in compliance with this section.*

**Chris Kluchman**, FAICP, Deputy Director, Community Services Division, Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), will discuss the draft DHCD MBTA community guidelines, which have been recently published for comment from affected communities. Until recently, Ms. Kluchman was a longtime resident of Lexington, and is very familiar with our Town. She will walk us through the proposed regulatory scheme as it may affect Lexington, including potential locations for multi-family zoning and accommodation of the required density.

This topic is particularly pertinent now, as the Lexington Planning Board, in Article 36 on the 2022 Town Meeting Warrant, has offered a zoning amendment which anticipates permitting such housing in Lexington Center.

This program is the sixth in the 2021-2022 First Friday Forum series hosted by the League of Women Voters to promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues. As always, League forums are free and open to the public, and there will be time for Q&A after the presentation. For more information about the webinar, assistance using Zoom, or other activities of the League, go to <http://www.lwvlexington.org/FirstFriday.html>.

### TOWN ELECTIONS: IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, March 1, 5:00 pm	Deadline to file Application for Absentee Vote By Mail Ballot
Friday, March 4, 12:00 noon	Deadline to file Application for Absentee Ballot
Monday, March 7, 7:00 am to 8:00 pm	Annual Town Election (voted by Select Board)
Monday, March 28	Annual Town Meeting (voted by Select Board)

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS

### LWVMA EVENTS

#### Barriers to Regional Decarbonization Webinar March 23

The LWVMA Environmental Action and Advocacy Committee invites you to a webinar, *Barriers to Regional Decarbonization*, on Wednesday, March 23 at 4 p.m.

Clean energy and the necessary reduction of our use of fossil fuels has become more and more urgent as we recognize how far human-induced global warming and climate change have progressed and how little time we have to right our course. The state released a first draft of an updated **Net Zero Building Code** in January, which will be subject to comment and amendment over the coming months.

In the meantime, a number of Massachusetts towns, including Lexington, are making efforts of their own to reduce their carbon footprint. **Article 40 on the 2022 Town Meeting Warrant** proposes to amend the Town's zoning bylaw to reduce or eliminate the use of fossil fuels in new housing in Lexington by granting builders the option to build larger homes when they incorporate clean energy systems. At this writing, it is uncertain whether this proposal can go forward, due to a ruling from the Massachusetts Attorney General issued on February 25. Responding to a similar proposal in Brookline, the AG ruled that existing state law does not permit individual communities to use zoning restrictions to ban fossil fuels. Lexington, Brookline, Acton, Arlington, and Concord have home rule petitions pending in the state legislature which, if passed, would allow them to ban fossil fuels in new construction.

These developments highlight how essential regional cooperation is to meeting clean energy goals. Longstanding regional rules favor fossil fuel interests and often stand in the way of clean energy. The League's March 23 webinar, co-hosted by the League of Women Voters and Elders Climate Action, will discuss who is in charge of these regional practices and how we can move forward from here. The speaker will be Melissa Birchard, Regulatory Attorney for Power Grid Reform, Acadia Center.

## LWVMA ADVOCACY

### Work and Family Mobility Act

For some 15 years, the League has been advocating for state legislation which would allow all qualified drivers to apply for a Massachusetts drivers license, regardless of immigration status. Allowing immigrants who live and work in Massachusetts to get drivers licenses advances safety by requiring all such drivers to be tested and show proof of insurance. It also allows police to identify drivers in the event of any problems. It removes a huge barrier to law abiding immigrants who need to be able to drive to work, access health care and transport their families. **The Work and Family Mobility Act**, is the verge of being processed out of the Transportation Committee for a vote on the Senate floor. An extension of time for the Transportation Committee report on the bill has been granted until Friday, March 4. This is a good time to contact your State Senator (See contact information in this Bulletin.) to urge them once again to support this bill.

### Medicare for All in Massachusetts

The **Medicare for All in Massachusetts Act (H.1267/S.766)** is a priority bill for the LWVMA. It requires as many co-sponsors as possible to move through the legislative process for eventual debate and vote in the House and Senate. Representative Michelle Ciccolo is already a co-sponsor of the House bill, but Senators Barrett and Friedman are not yet co-sponsors in the Senate. Contact your senator to let them know that you support this legislation and want to see them co-sponsor it.

## Natural Resources Bills: Drought and Invasive Species

Two natural resources bill supported by the LWVMA are sitting in the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JENRA) and need to be reported out favorably in order to advance.

**The drought bill** mandates a statewide policy and authority for water conservation in times of drought, exempting only agricultural water use.

**The Invasive Species Act** creates a coordinated approach to invasive species management with more effective assistance and funding from the state to minimize eradication methods that are unnecessarily expensive, laborious and toxic. It has the support of state environmental groups, developers and state agency representatives.

Please contact your legislators and urge them to ask that these bills be reported out of committee.

## Gender Parity and Racial and Ethnic Diversity on Public Bodies

**“An Act to Ensure Gender Parity and Racial and Ethnic Diversity on Public Boards and Commissions” (S.2077)**, is currently before the Massachusetts Senate’s Ways and Means Committee. The bill would ensure that appointments to state public boards and commissions broadly reflect the composition of the general public with regard to gender and race. Women and people of color are vastly underrepresented on these bodies, which can have great impact on the state’s policies and initiatives on everything from education, health and human services, housing and economic development, labor and workforce development, to public safety. More varied viewpoints and voices are needed. The LWVMA asks you to contact Michael Rodrigues, Ways and Means Chair, to urge that this bill be favorably reported out of committee as soon as possible.

## LWVMA advocacy on Beacon Hill continues to be effective.

Here is a list of LWVMA bills that were reported favorably out of committee in February.

[H.202/S.111](#) An Act improving emergency housing assistance for children and families experiencing homelessness

[H.1428/S.898](#) An Act codifying the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program/An Act relative to the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program

[H.199/S.96](#) An Act to Lift Kids out of Deep Poverty

[H.311/S.176](#) An Act to mandate domestic violence and sexual assault awareness education for aestheticians, barbers, cosmetologists, electrologists, hairdressers, manicurists, and massage therapists

[H.715/S.298](#) An Act to Promote Student Nutrition

[H.1794/S.1022](#) An Act to prevent the imposition of mandatory minimum sentences based on juvenile adjudications

[H.3289](#) An Act to expand the Bottle Bill

[H.3302](#) An Act to promote offshore wind energy and renewables

[H.898/S.530](#) An Act relative to maintaining adequate water supplies through effective drought management  
[H.920/S.527/S.505](#) An Act improving municipal water infrastructure  
[H.897/S.529](#) An Act protecting water systems through the labeling of flushable wipes  
[S.1387](#) An Act restricting toxic PFAS chemicals in consumer products to protect our health  
[H.851/S.524](#) An Act preserving open space in the Commonwealth  
[H.2960/S.1986](#) An Act increasing the conservation land tax credit  
[S.46](#) An Act establishing the Massachusetts Information Privacy Act  
[H.3658/S.2402](#) Resolutions for a United States Constitutional Amendment and a limited amendment proposing convention (LWVMA Opposes)  
[H.2437/S.1562](#) An Act relative to crime gun data analysis and reporting  
[H.2329/S.1386](#) An Act relative to accelerating improvements to the local and regional public health system to address disparities in the delivery of public health services  
[S.2289](#) An act relative to work and family mobility during and subsequent to the COVID-19 emergency  
[H.264/S.142](#) An Act providing a bill of rights for people experiencing homelessness  
[H.1290/S.761](#) An Act to streamline access to critical public health and safety-net programs through common applications  
[H.2978/S.1899](#) An Act relative to regional transportation ballot initiatives  
[H.3157/S.2077](#) An Act to ensure gender parity and racial and ethnic diversity in public boards and commissions  
[H.1984/S.1164](#) An Act relative to the defense against abusive waivers  
[S.1445](#) An Act to access disposable menstrual products in prisons, homeless shelters and public schools  
[H.673/S.318](#) An act relative to healthy youth

## **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES**

### **LWVUS EVENTS**

#### **REMINDER: LWVUS 55<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION SHERATON DOWNTOWN DENVER (CO) AND ONLINE JUNE 23-26, 2022.**

All League members are invited to attend our biennial national gathering, to be held in Denver, CO and online in 2022. Voting delegates will participate in plenary sessions dealing with the League budget, programs and election of officers. In addition, there will be opportunities to network with fellow League members from all areas of the country, attend large and small group training and education sessions, and be informed and inspired by League and invited speakers. The sessions will be fully hybrid with combined in-person and virtual experiences. More information can be found on the LWVUS website under League Management.

## WOMEN POWER DEMOCRACY LIVE PANEL

**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

**LIVE PANEL DISCUSSION**  
MARCH 3, 2022 | 12-1 PM ET

**VIRGINIA KASE SOLOMÓN**  
CEO of the LWVUS

**LATOSHA BROWN**  
Co-Founder of Black Voters Matter

**AMANDA BROWN LIERMAN**  
Executive Director of SuperMajority

**SINDY M. BENAVIDES**  
CEO of LULAC

**WOMEN POWER DEMOCRACY**

**LWV** **BLACK VOTERS MATTER** **Supermajority**

On March 3, at 12:00 noon ET on Facebook Live, the LWVUS will host a Women Power Democracy Live Panel to celebrate Women’s History Month. LWV CEO Virginia Kase Solomon will be joined by activists from SuperMajority, League of United American Citizens (LULAC), and Black Voters Matter to discuss how to build more trust in our elections, grow our electorate with equity, and create fair voter access.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/652891875922157/>.

### SAVE THE DATE

March 3, 2022	Women Power Democracy Live Panel (on Facebook)
March 7, 2022	Local Election Day
March 23, 2022	Decarbonization Webinar
March 28, 2022	Lexington Town Meeting begins
June 23-26, 2023	LWVUS Biennial Convention on Zoom & in Denver, CO

**Contact Information for Legislators**

<b>U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren</b>	309 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 202 244-4543
<b>U.S. Senator Edward Markey</b>	255 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 202 224-2742
<b>U.S. Representative Katherine Clark</b>	2448 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 202 225-2836
<b>MA Senator Michael Barrett</b>	Mike.Barrett@masenate.gov 617 722-1572
<b>MA Senator Cindy Friedman</b>	Cindy.Friedman@masenate.gov 617 722-1432
<b>MA Representative Michelle Ciccolo</b>	Michelle.Ciccolo@mahouse.gov 617 722-2210

*The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization dedicated to the principles of self-government established in the Constitution of the United States.*

*The League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.*

*For more information, contact the Lexington League Convener Margaret Coppe at [mecoppe@gmail.com](mailto:mecoppe@gmail.com).*

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

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**We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the March, 2022 LWV LEXINGTON Bulletin, please send it to Wendy Manz at [wendy\\_manz@yahoo.com](mailto:wendy_manz@yahoo.com) prior to March 25, 2022.**

