



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

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Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

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

#### **LWVL October First Friday**

##### **League Forum: What Drives the School Budget?**

Most taxpayers are well aware that spending for schools is the largest item in the Town of Lexington's budget. The League of Women Voters of Lexington's First Friday Forum on October 7 will focus on some of the elements that drive the school budget.

Panelists Thomas Plati, Director of Educational Technology & Assessment; Linda Chase, Director of Student Services; and Patrick Goddard, Director of Public Facilities will talk about the importance of their departments and demands on the overall school budget. Barbara Manfredi, former principal of Bridge School, will introduce the panel and moderate the meeting.

This is the first in a series of 2011-2012 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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**CONGRATULATIONS** to Nancy Adler, Peggy Enders, Pam Hoffman and Pat Romeo-Gilbert for the excellent organization of the Community Conversation held on Sept. 27, 2011. Watch for the results in the next League of Women Voters of Lexington bulletin.

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## LWVMA

### From the League Leaders Update:

#### Advocacy Report with Updates on the Casino Bill

**Senate Bill 150: An Act Relative to an Independent Analysis of Expanded Gaming in the Commonwealth**, which was supported with testimony by Louise Haldeman, LWVMA Casino Specialist, was incorporated into the current **House Bill 3711: An Act Establishing Expanded Gaming in the Commonwealth**, opposed by LWVMA, which was passed in the House on September 15. LWVMA President Eva Valentine joined former state Senator Susan Tucker and United to Stop Slots members at a State House rally opposing Class III gambling (slots and table games) on September 13. Vice President and Program and Action Chair Carole Pelchat along with members of the United to Stop Slots coalition, met with Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Gregory Bialecki on September 21 to discuss problems with the current bill and its implementation. The Senate is currently voting on amendments to the bill, which will necessitate a conference committee to resolve.

**House Bill 890/ Senate Bill 1650: An Act Updating the Bottle Bill**, which adds a deposit to noncarbonated beverages including mineral water, flavored and unflavored water, vitamin water, and other water beverages, tea, sports drinks, isotonic drinks and all other non-alcoholic carbonated and noncarbonated drinks in liquid remain in the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy. A ballot initiative in support of the "Expanded Bottle Bill" developed by the Massachusetts Coalition to Update the Bottle Bill has been put aside, and all efforts will be focused on getting the bill passed and implemented.

**House Bill 1469: An Act Relative to Patient Safety** requires the development of nurse to patient assignment standards, a patient acuity system and creates support systems to increase and retain nurses, is in the Joint Committee on Public Health, which heard testimony from Judith Deutsch, Health Care Specialist, on September 20.

**House Bill 1063/ Senate Bill 190: An Act Relative to Healthy Youth** requires each school district or public school that offers sexual health education to provide medically accurate, age-appropriate education, is in the Joint Committee on Education, which received testimony from Terry Yoffie, Education Specialist, on September 20.

**Senate Bill 185: An Act Preventing Students from Dropping Out of School**, is in the Joint Committee on Education, was accepted for support by the LWVMA Board. On September 27 testimony was given to the Joint Committee by Terry Yoffie, Education Specialist and Jo Corro.

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## LWVUS

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear League Leaders:

The deadline for nominations to the 2012-2014 LWVUS Board is this coming Monday, October 3. I am sure you have all seen the announcements from the Nominating Committee encouraging League leaders to apply. There is one final notice just below this message.

In Membership and Leadership Development, we love personal stories. Perhaps my personal story will inspire some of you to send in a nomination.

In my adult life, the three most important interests have been my family, my work and the League of Women Voters. I have served on League boards every year but one since 1983, sometimes on more than one board at the same time. I attended my first national Convention in 1994. While I was inspired by the energy and enthusiasm of the delegates, I was so in awe of national Board members that I never presumed to think that I could serve at the national level. But at Council 2005, I sat in on the Nominating Committee presentation and received encouragement from Jane Gross, a Committee member. Jane and I were presidents in neighboring states (Florida and Georgia) during the 2000 election debacle and the ensuing implementation of HAVA, so I took heart and my board nominated me.

Serving on the national Board since 2006 has been a great experience. I have learned more about League history, League process and League potential than I ever thought possible. I also have worked harder on League projects than I ever thought possible.

I have always been passionate about this organization because of all it has taught me. I can safely say that in everything from professional development to child rearing, the League has made me a better person. But that passion has increased many times over since I joined the national Board. Like many before me, I have entered this university without walls to learn and I have had the privilege of remaining to shape the curriculum.

I know there are many who share my passion for the League. I hope that other passionate leaders will take this opportunity and send in that nomination!

In League,

Elisabeth MacNamara

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## LWVUS LATEST UPDATES

### **House Passes Sweeping Anti-Clean Air TRAIN Act**

Leading Environmental Groups Call on Senate to Reject It, Commend Veto Threat from White House

### **League Urges Lobbying Disclosure for Members of Deficit Reduction Committee**

The League and coalition partners sent a letter to members of the Committee on Deficit Reduction urging them to immediately take steps to voluntarily disclose the efforts of outside interests to lobby them on matters related to the business of the committee.

### **League Expresses Concern with Delay of Pollution Regulation**

The League and coalition groups sent a letter to the White House expressing deep concern that the Environmental Protection Agency will not meet its commitment to propose long- overdue Clean Air Act standards limiting dangerous carbon pollution from new and existing power plants. The groups also asked the President to reaffirm the administration's commitment to issue strong standards that significantly reduce carbon emissions from both new and existing power plants as the Clean Air Act requires.

### **League Asks House to Promise to Protect Public Health**

League President, Elisabeth MacNamara, sent a letter to the House of Representatives asking them to make the promise to protect public health through clean air standards.

### **League Opposes Cantor Agenda**

The League and coalition groups sent a letter to the House of Representatives to oppose the suite of bills contained in House Majority Leader Eric Cantor's legislative agenda memo that would block the Clean Air Act's ability to clean-up life-threatening pollution.

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## **Nominate a League Leader to the National Board - Deadline is October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

The LWVUS Board is made up of members like you from local and state Leagues across the country willing to dedicate two years of their time and effort to the leadership of our national organization. It is a great opportunity also to connect with our members and activities nationwide!

Do you know someone who you think would be a good leader on the national level? Is there someone in a League in your state who has been an asset to the local and state Leagues? Nominate them with their permission, for a place on the LWVUS board. The deadline is October 3rd!

If you have questions about the nomination process, please email me, Elaine Blodgett, Nominating Committee Chair at [NominatingCommittee@lwv.org](mailto:NominatingCommittee@lwv.org) or nominate yourself or a League leader you admire here.

Sincerely,

Elaine Blodgett  
Chair  
LWVUS Nominating Committee

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## Membership

The League of Women Voters of Lexington is always open to new members. If you know of someone who is interested in becoming a member, you can download a membership form from our website at [www.lwvlexington.org](http://www.lwvlexington.org) or call 781-863-2024 and we'll be happy to send one.

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**We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the November 2011 Bulletin, please send it to *Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti* at [Nancor1106@gmail.com](mailto:Nancor1106@gmail.com) by October 26<sup>th</sup>.**

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**Dates to Save:**

October 7      LWVL First Friday Forum at Cary Memorial Library  
November 4    LWVL First Friday Forum at Samuel Hadley DPW Building



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