

## **League of Women Voters of Lexington**

Election Guide for the Monday March 5, 2018 Lexington municipal election

Question for Town Meeting Member candidates: A motion to ban or reduce plastic bags in Lexington may come before Town Meeting this year. Some nearby towns such as Bedford and Concord have such restrictions. What are your thoughts about banning or reducing plastic bags in Lexington?

### **Precinct 4**

7 three-year terms

#### **Gloria J. Bloom**

17 Loring Road

#### **Robert N. Cohen**

E-mail: cohendr@verizon.net

#### **Peter D. Enrich**

E-mail: p.enrich@northeastern.edu

Phone: 781-861-7637

#### *Community Activities:*

- Precinct 4 Town Meeting Member since 1986
- Selectman (1997-2003)
- Founder and leader of Lexington 20/20 Vision Committee (2000-present)
- Chair, Selectmen's Ad Hoc Fiscal Policy Task Force (2009)
- Founder and statewide leadership team member, Progressive Democrats of Mass. (2003-present)
- National authority on issues of state / local tax, fiscal, and economic policy

#### *Response:*

I definitely will support the proposal for Lexington to join the growing list of communities banning single-use plastic bags. In my role with Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts, I have helped connect Lexington environmental activists with people in other communities that have already adopted such bans. This is only a modest step but a positive one that will help to limit the dangerous proliferation of plastics in our environment. At the same time, I plan to keep my primary focus as a Town Meeting member on several key issues: ensuring the excellence of Lexington's schools and municipal services; expanding and sustaining the diversity of our community (ethnic,

economic, generational, etc.); placing our current decisions in the context of a long-range vision of Lexington's future; and encouraging and facilitating broad community participation in Lexington's governance. I'd be happy to respond to any questions or concerns from voters at the email or phone listed above.

### **Eileen Jay**

E-mail: Eileen.Jay@lexingtonmma.org

Phone: 781-860-0689

#### *Community Activities:*

- School Committee, Vice Chair
- Policy Subcommittee, Chair
- Town Meeting Member, Precinct 4
- Lexington Community Coalition
- CAAL Executive Committee

#### *Response:*

I would favor actions to ban or reduce plastic bags in Lexington. The synthetic materials used in thin-film, single-use plastic bags are not biodegradable and are detrimental to the environment. Replacing plastic bags with re-useable or biodegradable alternatives would be consistent with the many environmentally-sound initiatives and sustainable building projects that Lexington has endorsed. Let us join 61 towns in Massachusetts that have already passed bans on single-use plastic shopping bags.

### **Kathleen M. Lenihan**

E-mail: kathleen1lenihan@gmail.com

### **Claire Sheth**

E-mail: claireshethma@gmail.com

Phone: 617-596-4356

#### *Community Activities:*

- Town Meeting Member, 2015-Present
- Board Member, Lexington Youth and Family Services (LYFS)
- Parent Rep, 2018 School Superintendent Search Committee
- Communications Chair, 2017 YES for Lexington Debt Exclusion Campaign
- Lexington Little League volunteer coach

#### *Response:*

I am in favor of programs that encourage the use of reusable shopping bags, be it through financial incentives or comparable restrictions. I think it important that our policies be thoughtfully phased in and mindful of our need to balance on commitment to the

environment with the reality that we want to continue to attract and meet the needs of the many visitors to our community. In other words, whatever policies we put in place must be sensitive to our "guests" and not one so draconian as to discourage folks from shopping locally.

## **Lawrence Chan**

E-mail: Lawrencechan508@hotmail.com

Phone: 781-860-5120

### *Community Activities:*

Executive Committee Member for Chinese American Association (CAAL) for over a decade. CAAL for Cary Fundraising, Light up Lincoln Park, CAAL for METCO Fundraising, Chinese Cultural Celebration at Cary, Town Meeting Member 2016.

### *Response:*

The initiative to ban or reduce plastic bags in Lexington is aligned with my personal values of sustainability. It is estimated that fewer than one out of seven plastic bags are recycled. I have personally reduced the use of single use plastic bags by bringing and using reusable grocery bags for over a decade. I recycle my dry-cleaning plastic bags at the local grocery store. However, for vegetable/fruit shopping only plastic bags are offered. Reducing or banning single use plastic bags will enable stores to offer alternates such as paper bags which are sustainable and safely degradable.

We have a moral and ethical responsibility to reduce our waste stream; plastic takes half a century to degrade and even then is not safe (toxin sponge). We need to safeguard and protect our future generations. If elected to Town Meeting Member I would support the concept of banning or reducing single use disposable bags. I would be opened minded to read / edit the detailed language to support a successful implementation.

As a Town Meeting member, I promise to represent and honor my constituents. I will leverage my decades of corporate experience to engage and evaluate all warrants and associated data. I will envision if the proposed solutions are true to our town heritage, character, values, and my constituents and vote according.

## **Charles Lamb**

E-mail: cwl@yahoo.com

Phone: 781-674-9101

### *Community Activities:*

- Chair of the Capital Expenditures Committee (a Moderator appointed Town Meeting finance committee) from 2005 to 2014 and 2017 - present
- Town Meeting Member (2001 - 2014)
- Member [School] Superintendent Search Committee (2014, 2017)
- Lexington resident since 1994

*Response:*

Several towns in MA already have this type of by-law so the concept is not new. In general, there are lots of reusable, folding shopping bags on the market which shrink down to sizes that fit in your pocket and can be easily carried around; hence, the potential inconvenience to shoppers can be reduced. Paper bags would still be an option. Hence, yes, I would support an article to create a similar ban in Lexington.

**Lisa O'Brien**

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Phone: 617-312-6920

*Community Activities:*

- Lexington Special Education PTA / PAC Co-Chair, 2016 - 2018
- Fletcher Park Ice Rink Co-Founder, est. 2015, currently in its 3rd season
- Lexington Girls Youth Lacrosse, U9 Coach, 2015 - present
- Bowman BOKS, a before school sports program: helped launch and run program at Bowman, 2015 - 2017
- Lexington Little League, Coach since 2012 including Boys AA 2017 season
- Bowman Adventure Run, a 5K road / trail race, Co-Founder and Director: 2012 - 2014, race is currently run each Fall as an annual event
- LexFUN! Co-President, 2010 - 2012
- Boston Children's Hospital Family Advisory Council, 2014 - present