



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

---

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

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

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

##### **WHERE DOES THAT MONEY GO?**

##### **LEAGUE TO PREVIEW CPC PROPOSALS TO TOWN MEETING**

In 2006 Lexington voters adopted the Community Preservation Act, which provided for a three percent surcharge on real estate taxes, to be matched with state monies, to endow a locally controlled fund to be used for open space protection, historic resources, community housing and public recreation projects. Each year the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) reviews proposals for CPA funding and determines which to recommend to Town Meeting for final approval.

At the League of Women Voters First Friday Forum on March 2, Chair Wendy Manz and other members of the CPC committee will discuss proposals they are recommending for consideration at the 2012 Town Meeting. A few of the proposals to be discussed at the Forum are:

- Buckman Tavern historic structure report
- Muzzey Senior Center upgrades
- Cary Memorial Building upgrades
- Greeley Village accessible housing project
- Center Playing Fields drainage work
- Town of Lexington archives preservation

This is the sixth 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.

---

Bulletin Editor: Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti – [Nancor1106@gmail.com](mailto:Nancor1106@gmail.com)  
Membership: Wendy Manz – [wendy\\_manz@yahoo.com](mailto:wendy_manz@yahoo.com)  
Melinda Walker - [melinda.walker@rcn.com](mailto:melinda.walker@rcn.com)

---

**Sad News** – Long time League and Town Meeting member Bob Whitman passed away on February 25. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Betsy, at 1010 Waltham Street, Suite 601, Lexington, MA 02421-8047.

---

## March 6 Presidential Primary & Town Elections Ride to the Polls

For a free ride or to volunteer to drive voters to the polls for the Presidential Primary and Lexington Town Elections on Tuesday, March 6, call the League of Women Voters at [781-862-6498](tel:781-862-6498).

---

## National Program Planning in Lexington

Every two years state and local Leagues participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process, making recommendations concerning program issues for study, review and update or concurrence. This is one of the ways we remain a grassroots organization.

Lexington League representatives met with the Arlington, Bedford and Winchester Leagues to discuss LWVUS Program Planning on Sunday, February 26, at the Yangtze River Restaurant in Lexington.

After the group discussion, the Lexington League representatives voted unanimously to recommend and register concurrence on the LWVUS sentencing reform policy:

- 1) The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime.
  - 2) The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses
- 

## LWVMA

### LWVMA Calendar

March 6: Presidential Primary Election  
March 19: LWVMA Board Meeting, Noon-2pm, 133 Portland Street  
April 14: League Leaders Lunch, 11am-3pm, Amherst  
April 25: LWVMA Day on the Hill, 10am-Noon, State House  
May 5: LWVMA Council

## Come to Day on the Hill April 25

The League's annual lobbying day at the State House is set for Wednesday April 25, from 10 am to noon. Please plan to participate. There's power in numbers!

If you've never been, here's what happens. In the morning, well-known speakers from inside and outside the state government will address this year's theme of money in politics. Then the state League's legislative specialists will outline the major bills they are following and that they would like you to discuss with your legislators. You'll get a description of the legislation, complete with talking points, in advance of Day on the Hill so you will be prepared.

The presentations end around noon, and then you are encouraged to stop by the offices of your Senator and Representative and ask them to support League-backed legislation. It's helpful to contact your legislators in advance and make an appointment to see them that day, after about 12:30.

You can make a day of Day on the Hill with a late lunch at one of the many restaurants in the State House area.

Lobbying the state legislature is one of the key activities of the League of Women Voters and everyone who shows up in person makes an enormous difference in the success of our legislative efforts. Get together with friends in your League and plan to participate in this year's Day on the Hill.

### Legislative Update:

1/24/12 LWVMA Testimony in support of [HB 1172/SB 414 An Act Prohibiting Discrimination in Insurance Policies](#) and [HB1173/SB413 An Act Providing Equitable Coverage in Disability Insurance](#).

1/23/12 HB 3815 An Act Enhancing the Practice of Nurse Midwives passed in Massachusetts House and Senate! Once signed by Governor Patrick and implemented, Certified Professional Nurse Midwives will be allowed to order and interpret tests and to order therapeutics and certain prescription drugs.

1/18/12 LWVMA President Eva Valentine spoke in support of SB 772 A Resolution Restoring Free Speech at a press conference held at the State House ([talking points](#)). The resolution is in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*, which overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations from spending their general treasury funds on elections.

### LWVMA Council 2012:

#### ***Challenges to Democracy: Protecting Voter Rights and the Influence of Money***

Plans are underway for Council 2012, May 5 at Lasell College in Newton. Registration and other information will be available at a later date. Council will feature morning workshops, lunch and a keynote speaker and an afternoon plenary session.

This year's theme was chosen by a survey in November's League Leader Update, and survey respondents also indicated their preferences for workshop topics. The most popular workshop

choices were "Multi-League Candidate Nights (Congressional Races)," "How to work with your legislator and LWVMA's current issues," and "Share the success--membership and leadership." The Council planning committee will do its best to develop workshops on these topics.

## Get Involved and Make a Difference Today!

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts has many ways for you to share your talents and ideas, learn new skills, meet great people, and further our work at the state level. If you have a little time, or a lot, please help out. LWVMA needs you! Check out this opportunity:

### **Development Committee and Volunteers -**

You can help with a new LWVMA development plan, including projects for annual giving, major gifts and planned giving. Join the committee, help out with a short-term project, craft effective communications, host an event, or volunteer in others ways. To start, the committee will meet monthly by phone or in person. This committee has a place for League members who can offer input, ideas and suggestions, for member who can research (online and by phone) development practices of other organizations (including LWVs), and for members who can implement segments of the development plan. The committee also welcomes volunteers who may not want to commit to being a committee member to help on a time-limited basis with one-time events or programs. Development background not required. Contact Anne Borg at [lwvma.presidents@gmail.com](mailto:lwvma.presidents@gmail.com).

## LOCAL LEAGUES MEET FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE:

LWVMA gives a big thank you to the Leagues that helped raise funds this fiscal year (July 2011-June 2012) and the over 500 individual donors. Members of participating Leagues telephoned over 2,000 fellow League members and prior donors, resulting in \$33,000 in donations to date, 10% of which will be returned to the participating local Leagues.

Thank you for responding to the Phonathon with a donation. If you did not get a call or pledged but have not yet donated to LWVMA, visit our [www.lwvma.org](http://www.lwvma.org) for on-line or mail-in forms, or you can simply send in a check to LWVMA, 133 Portland St, Boston MA, 02114.

The following local Leagues participated in the Phonathon, thanks for pitching in!  
Concord-Carlisle, Needham, Newton, Hamilton-Wenham, Lexington, Falmouth, Wellesley, Cape Cod Area, Marblehead, Sudbury and Wayland.

Local Leagues have also generously donated \$6,500 to LWVMA this fiscal year. Donations ranged from \$100 to \$2,000. Donations from local Leagues are always welcome, and LWVMA will be collecting local League donations as usual at Council on May 5.

---

## Campaign Finance Panel Discussion

Thursday, May 17th: SAVE THE DATE - Tom Ashbrook will moderate an evening panel discussion (with audience questions) on campaign finance reform co-sponsored by LWV Concord-Carlisle and LWVMA at the Concord-Carlisle High School Auditorium. More information to follow.

---

## LWVUS

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear League Leader:

Anonymous sources of information are problematic in journalism and the law, but appear to pose no dilemma for members of Congress who oppose the DISCLOSE Act. Representative Chris Van Hollen (D MD) has introduced a sleek new version of DISCLOSE focused solely on requiring disclosure of the identities of their donors from big money outside groups like Super PACs.

The League and its partners are supporting the bill, and last Friday we were invited to a meeting with Rep. Van Hollen, Representative Charlie Gonzalez (D TX), Representative Keith Ellison (D MN) and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi at the Capitol. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss strategy for passing DISCLOSE.

In Washington last week for the LWV Budget Committee, I was among those who attended the meeting. The focus, it turned out, was not just on DISCLOSE but also on longer-term solutions to the devastation created by Citizens United, including an unspecified Constitutional amendment. As we went around the room describing our various approaches to campaign finance reform, each group, including the League, supported DISCLOSE. On behalf of the League, I was the only one raising any questions about the potential for unintended consequences in the current proposals for an amendment. The response to these concerns can only be described as the same as if we had said the emperor has no clothes. Many in the room quickly began to qualify their support.

We should take great confidence from this that the League's voice matters as does our thoughtful approach to complex issues. Recently, an article appeared in The New Republic that captures many, if not all, of the issues discussed by the League Board at its January meeting. Perhaps the most telling comment in this article is the suggestion that any Congress willing to pass a Constitutional amendment will also be willing to pass DISCLOSE or even public financing. In the meantime, we have a lot of work to do to educate ourselves and the public not just on ways to reform the system, but also on ways to cope with the system until reform is achieved.

In League,

Speaking Out in League,  
Elisabeth MacNamara

---

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

---

Dates to Save:

- March 2      LWVL First Friday – Community Preservation Projects
- March 6      Presidential Primary and Annual Town Election
- April 13     LWVL First Friday – Transportation, Anything But Your Car
- April 25     LWVMA Day on the Hill, 10am-Noon, State House
- May 5        LWVMA Council



League of Women Voters of Lexington  
P. O. Box 233  
Lexington, MA 02420-0003