

The logo for the League of Women Voters of Lexington. It features the letters "LWV" in a large, bold, blue font on the left. To the right of "LWV" is the text "LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®" in a smaller blue font, with "OF LEXINGTON" in a light blue font below it. A red brushstroke graphic is positioned below the "LWV" text.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LEXINGTON

BULLETIN, February, 2024

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

From the Convenor's Desk

On March 5, 2024 there will be elections in Lexington—one to elect local officials and another to vote for Presidential candidates in a primary. This year there are three contested town-wide races and three precincts with races.

There are three ways to vote this year: traditional in person voting at the polls, early voting in person, and mail in voting, either no excuse mail in or absentee. You should already have received a mailing in which you can indicate which ballots and which elections for 2024 you want. If not, check with the Clerk's office in the Town Office Building.

Voters at the polls will get two ballots, as these are two separate elections. Those who have chosen to do Mail in Voting will receive two ballots in the mail, and since one will come from the Secretary of State and the other from the Town Clerk, they may not arrive on the same day. Make sure that you open both and send both back to the Town Clerk. There will also be early voting in person from Saturday, February 24 until Friday March 1. However you chose to vote, please **VOTE**. Remember, in the words of the late, great Lotte Scharfman, former LWV Lexington and LWV MA president, "Democracy is not a spectator sport."

Voter Turnout Reporting Project: The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts is partnering with the Associated Press (AP) on an Election Day Voter Turnout Pilot Project – and we need your help! If you are planning to vote in person on Election Day for the Presidential Primary on Super Tuesday, March 5, (or if you are working at the polls), please sign up to volunteer for this project. It's easy to do and will only take a few minutes of your time. You'll be helping the AP provide faster and more accurate results on Election Night.

You can volunteer by sending an email to the AP with your name, your city or town, and your precinct number to maturnout@ap.org. Reid Magney, the project coordinator, will then confirm your participation and send you detailed instructions shortly before the election. If you have any questions, you can contact Nancy Brumback, nbrumback@lwmvma.org.

Here's a sneak peek:

- When you vote on Election Day, pay attention to the number displayed on the tabulator when you insert your ballot (i.e., you were the 250th voter so far today).
- Also, remember exactly what time you voted.
- After you vote on Election Day, report that information to the AP's Election Call Center at the toll-free number you will be provided. Tell them your name, the name of your municipality and precinct number, the time you voted, and your voter number (the turnout at that point).
- If you are working or observing at the polls on Election Day, you are welcome to call the AP a few times throughout the day and provide the number of voters so far at your precinct.
- That's all!

The information you share will help the AP refine its voter turnout data models throughout the day before the polls close. That helps the AP know how far along they are in tabulation after polls close and helps with accurate and timely race calls. Most election offices do not have any process in place to collect turnout information during the day from precincts. They're focused on counting ballots after the polls close. That's why the AP asked to partner with the League on this project.

The League of Women Voters and the Associated Press are both independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit and fact-based organizations. LWVMA hopes you will consider participating in this research project designed to improve Election Night reporting.

I attended the recent LWVMA Field Service Meeting on January 26, 2024 and heard from eleven neighboring Leagues about their activities. Along with traditional candidate forums, these Leagues continue to participate in local politics by serving on boards and attending Town Meetings. They continue to be amazed at the number of nights that Lexington's Annual Town Meeting meets.

The state League is looking for volunteers willing to serve on the state board. If interested, go to [LWVMA.org](https://www.lwvma.org) and click on [Nominate yourself or others to serve on the LWVMA Board - League of Women Voters of Massachusetts](#). Volunteers must commit to a 2-year term and attend board meetings, most of which are remote.

That's all for now!

Margaret Coppe

Convener

mecoppe@gmail.com

[LEXINGTON LWV MARCH FIRST FRIDAY FORUM:](#)

WARRANT ARTICLE 33: TOWN PROPERTY FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

On Friday, March 1, at 9:30 am at the Lexington Community Center, the League's First Friday Forum will present Elaine Tung, Chair of Lexington's Affordable Housing Trust Board, and Mark Sandeen, Selectman and member of the AHT Board, to introduce us to Article 33.

The article authorizes the Select Board to sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of a parcel of land on North Street which was gifted to the Town by the State in 1978 for purposes of conservation, recreation and housing, and further authorizes the Board to enter into a Land Disposition Agreement to allow it to be used for affordable housing.

The Affordable Housing Trust, which was formed in 2023, provides a "bank" to collect and disperse funds for the creation and purchase of affordable housing in Town. As one of its first projects, it has investigated the use of a Town-owned parcel on North Street for housing. After initial feasibility studies, the AHT has sought and received the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee that CPA funds be used for some of the costs of this project. The next step is for the Select Board to authorize sale or lease of the parcel for this purpose, which will allow the Town to issue an RFP for project proposals from affordable housing developers.

Ms. Tung and Mr. Sandeen will discuss the need for affordable housing in Lexington and the Commonwealth, and will discuss more details of the process by which such a project is designed, reviewed, and ultimately, accepted, taking into consideration input from residents, as well as from experts and planning staff .

This program is the fifth in the 2023-2024 LWV First Friday Forum series hosted by the League of Women Voters to promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues. The program is free and open to the public, and as always, there will be time for Q&A after the presentation. For more information about the League and this program go to <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts.lexington>.

RIDES TO THE POLLS

If you plan to vote in person and need a ride to your polling place on March 5, contact Margaret Coppe, Lexington League Convenor, so that we can arrange a ride for you on election day. mecoppe@gmail.com, (339) 223-0832.

VOTING BY MAIL

The coming election will be a little more complicated than usual, because both state primary contests and local office contests will be decided on March 5.

If you have already returned a Vote-by-Mail card to the Town Clerk, you will receive a **State Ballot** and a **Town Ballot** in the mail, and should return each of them by mail as directed on the ballots. [The last day to request a mail in ballot from the Clerk is February 27.] The state ballots are going out the week of February 5 and the local ballots will go out within two weeks after that. If you are just returning your Vote-by-Mail card to the Clerk, you may receive them together, but they must be filled out separately and both returned.

State Ballots

There are separate state ballots for Republicans, Democrats and Libertarians, and you will receive one for the party in which you registered. Each party has a different color header, matching the color label on the return envelope. It must be returned in the matching color envelope in order to be counted.

Local Ballots

Local ballots do not have a party affiliation, and they are all bright yellow/green with a matching color on the return envelope. They must be returned in the matching color envelope in order to be counted.

Ballots can be placed in the regular mail or in the designated post box on the Cary Memorial Building circle. If you vote by mail, you don't need to come to the polling place on election day.

LEX LWV CANDIDATES FORUM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Mark your calendars for the 2024 LWV Candidates' Forum at **7:00 pm at Clarke Middle School, Thursday, February 15**. There are Town-wide contested races for the Select Board, the Planning Board, and the School Committee. This will be an excellent opportunity to hear directly from the candidates and judge their respective plans and qualifications.

Precinct meetings for each of our nine precincts will be held prior to the general session, for in-person discussions with each precinct's Town Meeting member candidates.

TOWN OF LEXINGTON
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION AND
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY



EARLY VOTING	
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH	9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH	8:30 AM TO 4:30 PM
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH	8:30 AM TO 7:00 PM
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH	8:30 AM TO 4:30 PM
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH	8:30 AM TO 4:30 PM
FRIDAY, MARCH 1ST	8:30 AM TO 1:00 PM

ALL EARLY VOTING SESSIONS WILL BE HELD IN THE CARY MEMORIAL BLDG.,
1605 MASSACHUSETTS AVE, LEXINGTON

QUESTIONS?
Contact the Town Clerk's Office:
781-698-4558
or
elections@lexingtonma.gov

DEADLINES
LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE FOR EITHER ELECTION:
5PM - Saturday, February 24th
LAST DAY to Apply for Ballot by Mail
5PM - Tuesday, February 27th
LAST DAY for In-Person Absentee
NOON - Monday, March 4th

ELECTION DAY
**TUESDAY,
MARCH 5, 2024**
**POLLS OPEN
7AM TO 8 PM**

DOES PROVISION FOR PARKING DETERMINE HOW WE LIVE? A CONVERSATION WITH JOURNALIST HENRY GRABAR ESTABROOK HALL, APRIL 25, 2024

The Lexington League, with generous support from Town Transportation Manager Susan Barrett and League member and transportation activist Pamela Lyons, is sponsoring an evening conversation with **Henry Grabar**, author of the recent book, **Paved Paradise: How Parking Explains the World.** The event will be held at **Estabrook Hall, in the Cary Memorial Building, at 6:30 pm on Thursday, April 25, 2024.**

A staff writer at Slate's online site, where he writes the Metropolis column on issues of housing, transportation and the environment, **Henry Grabar** is currently a Loeb Fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. In 2023 he published **Paved Paradise,** which he describes as, in part, the story of how we destroyed our cities in search of more and more available parking and the people who helped make it so - the mall builders, mobsters, police and the politicians, the garage magnates and community groups. There are new alternatives in the works for dealing with traffic and parking which he also presents in the book.

This topic is particularly pertinent now, as Lexington looks to increase its housing stock, and will be dealing with issues of siting and services. The program is free and open to the public, and the League urges Lexington citizens to attend and join in the conversation. For more information, contact League Convenor Margaret Coppe at mecoppe@gmail.com.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS

LWVMA EVENTS

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month is an appropriate time to remember that suffrage movements (including our own) are not immune to systemic racism. This point was brought home in a July 2018 *New York Times* article that explored 'how the suffrage movement betrayed black women' and was a major impetus for the creation of a DEI focus for the League.

In response to the article, the League 'faced these hard truths' and embraced a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policy which was officially incorporated into the

League by-laws in 2020. That year, Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, the first woman of color to serve as president of the LWVUS, from 1996-2002, published “The Untold Story of Women of Color” in the League of Women Voters.

Now, DEI efforts are under a concerted attack across the country, as documented in a Jan. 21, 2024, article in the Sunday NYT. This DEI backlash challenges us to be courageous, to resist the attack, and to renew our commitment to include more voters, to expand and protect voter access and to ensure that elections remain fair and accessible.

The LWVMA DEI committee, which began in 2019, is always open to new members. If you are interested, please reach out to diversitycommittee@lwmvma.org and let us know how you would like to be involved.

MAKING THE DISABILITY VOTE COUNT

LWVMA is working with **Rev Up MA** and the **Disability Law Center** (DLC) – our partners in the Election Modernization Coalition – to make the disability vote count. As part of a campaign to assess disability access to polling places, we are hoping to recruit League members to join in surveying polling places during an election. If you are interested in learning more about this volunteer opportunity, please contact the state League at lwmvma@lwmvma.org or (857) 452-1715.

LWVMA ADVOCACY

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BILL PASSES HOUSE AND IS REFERRED TO SENATE

Massachusetts House Bill H4241 (formerly H4115), which broadens the definition of domestic violence to include types of coercion beyond physical abuse, has been passed by the House and referred to the Senate Ways and Means Committee. This is one of the bills that the LWVMA has been supporting with testimony, and League members are urged to contact their senators to express support. .

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

LWVUS EVENTS



WASHINGTON — It is with profound sadness that the League of Women Voters announces the passing of our esteemed president, Dr. Deborah Ann Turner, who passed away on January 28, 2024, from complications of a pulmonary embolism.

A fearless advocate for voting rights and women's rights, Dr. Turner devoted her life's work to making meaningful changes in the lives of voters across the nation. As the 20th president of the LWVMA, Dr. Turner played a pivotal role in fighting for a more fair and representative union, while uplifting racial equity in the League's mission work.

Dr. Turner first joined the League of Women Voters of Metro Des Moines in 2010 and later served as president until 2015. At the same time, she also served on the LWV of Iowa board as the state vice president from 2011 to 2015, becoming co-president in 2015. In her dual roles with state and local Leagues, Deborah has devoted her leadership to strengthening relationships between local leagues and the state Board.

Dr. Turner was the consummate leader who poured her heart and soul for the preservation of our democracy," said **Virginia Kase Solomón, CEO of the League of Women Voters.** "Her leadership exemplified grace, empathy, strength, and determination, and we will forever be grateful for her passion and dedication to this organization."

Dr. Turner practiced gynecologic oncology for 35 years, working directly with patients and teaching students and trained residents in university programs across the Midwest. She participated in a dozen international medical missions and served as the associate medical director of Planned Parenthood of North Central States.

The League of Women Voters staff, board, and Leagues from across the country mourn this loss, and our thoughts are with Dr. Turner's family during this difficult time. We are committed to honoring her legacy by continuing to uphold our values to empower voters and build a stronger, more inclusive democracy.

LWVUS 104TH ANNIVERSARY IS FEBRUARY 14, 2024
EMPOWERING OUR DEMOCRACY IN 2024
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM ON FACEBOOK

On our 104th Anniversary, February 14, the LWVUS is hosting a gathering streamed live on Facebook between 11:30 am and 12:30 pm, Eastern Time, to observe the day and to honor Dr. Deborah Ann Turner, our President, whom we lost unexpectedly on January 28. The panel of guest speakers will highlight young voters, who will carry our work forward into 2024 and beyond.

EMERGING ISSUES: AN OVERVIEW
FEBRUARY 22, 2024
3:00 - 4:00 PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME

LWVUS' Advocacy team will provide an overview of the League's Emerging Issues portfolio, including how we do our advocacy work, what related resources we offer, and how we can support affiliate efforts on climate change, criminal justice, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), health care, and immigration. Register for this Webinar at

<https://web.cvent.com/event/de4c9f18-182d-4c48-86f5-4d42a9254a53/regProcessStep1?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=33c9dfc3-512a-4820-a103-36fbee44debd>.



Contact Information for Legislators

U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren	309 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 202 244-4543
U.S. Senator Edward Markey	255 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 202 224-2742
U.S. Representative Katherine Clark	2448 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 202 225-2836

***Mailing addresses for MA legislators are all at
24 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02133 with a room number.***

MA Senator Michael Barrett	Mike.Barrett@masenate.gov Room 617 722-1572
MA Senator Cindy Friedman	Cindy.Friedman@masenate.gov Room 617 722-1432
MA Representative Michelle Ciccolo	Michelle.Ciccolo@mahouse.gov Room 617 722-2210
MA Representative Ken Gordon	Ken.Gordon@mahouse.gov Room 156 617 722-2240

SAVE THE DATE

February 14, 2024	104 th Anniversary Facebook	11:30 – 12:30
February 15, 2024	Candidates' Night Clarke Middle School	7:00 pm
February 22, 2023	Emerging Issues Webinar Zoom	3:00 – 4:00 pm
March 1, 2024	First Friday: Affordable Housing Trust Community Center	9:30 am
March 5, 2024	Election Day	7:00 am -8:00 am Lexington
April 25, 2024	Henry Grabar: Conversation on Parking Estabrook Hall, Cary Memorial Building	6:30 pm
June 27-30, 2024	LWVUS Biennial Convention	Washington, D.C.

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 Lexington League Convenor, Margaret Coppe at mecoppe@gmail.com. All League forums are free and open to the public.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the March 2024 Lexington LWV Bulletin, please send it to Wendy Manz at wend_manz@yahoo.com by February 24, 2024.