



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

LWVL NEWS AND INFORMATION FIRST FRIDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2017

Sustainable Energy Initiatives in Lexington - 2017

The dangers of climate change are all around us and there is an immediate need to develop new energy sources as part of a healthy and sustainable environment. Come hear what is going on in Lexington to address this need and what we, as citizens can do about it.

Join us on Friday, February 3, 2017 to hear an overview of Sustainable Lexington's programs that will increase residents' access to renewable energy, improve the performance of our homes, schools and municipal buildings while reducing our energy costs; and a program to reduce our building's emissions to zero over the next 25 years. Learn about the following programs taking place in Lexington in 2017 including the Lexington Energy Challenge, Community Choice Aggregation, Net-Zero Emissions Community and the Sustainable Building Policy.

Learn how you can take advantage of these opportunities and help ensure each of these programs is a success.

The program will be held in the Large Meeting Room at Cary Memorial Library, 1874 Massachusetts Avenue. This is the fifth in the series of 2016-2017 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 and the presentation will begin at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, contact the League at lwvlexington@gmail.com or Lisa Smith at lisa.lavinia.smith@gmail.com. All League forums are free and open to the public.

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**LWVL CANDIDATES' NIGHT
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017
CLARKE MIDDLE SCHOOL
7:00 P.M. – 9:20 P.M.**

Candidates' Night is an annual event organized by the League of Women Voters of Lexington to provide Town Meeting and town-wide office candidates an opportunity to present their positions on issues and to listen to constituents' concerns.

From 7:00pm to 7:20pm, there will be coffee and conversation on the first floor outside of the school auditorium.

From 7:20pm to 7:45pm, there will be precinct meetings in individual classrooms on the first floor for Town Meeting candidates and interested voters.

At 7:45 pm, participants will gather in the Clarke school auditorium to hear the views of candidates seeking town-wide elective office (Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Planning Board, Town Moderator and Housing Authority).

The evening promises to be informative and to provide a lively forum for discussion of topics that may be voted on at Town Meeting and other topics.

To get to Clarke Middle School: Take Brookside Avenue off Waltham Street, park in the school parking lot, and enter the school at the main entrance or the lower entrance. Parking may be limited because of construction. We encourage attendees to carpool if possible. Additional parking is available on some parts of Allen Street.

There is no admission charge and the public is encouraged to attend.

Please note that there is no snow date.

For further information, please contact the League of Women Voters at: lwv.lexington@gmail.com.

LOCAL ELECTION REMINDER!!!

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION – MARCH 6, 2017

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER WHEN VOTING

- Voter registration deadline – 20 days prior to election
- Absentee deadline - Friday prior to Monday election

The League of Women Voters encourages citizens to register to vote.

**LWVLEXINGTON - LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP!
RENEWAL FORMS HAVE BEEN MAILED!**

Membership renewal forms for 2016-2017 have been mailed. Thank you to our members who have already renewed their membership for the coming year.

If you haven't already renewed your 2016-2017 membership, please do so soon. To renew your membership, you may use the form you received in the mail or use the form on our website www.lwvlexington.org

If you have a friend or neighbor who may be interested in joining the League as a new member, please encourage them to do so at this time.

Thank you!

**LWVLEXINGTON BOARD MEETING
February 6, 2017**

The LWVLexington Board meeting will be held on Monday, February 6, 2017 from 7:00 P.M. – 8:45 P.M., Lexington Community Center, Room 242, Lexington, MA. All members are invited.

Watch the League's Forums on Demand

If there is a League of Women Voters of Lexington's First Friday Forum that you've missed or would like to see again, log onto <http://www.lexmedia.org/ondemand.html> and scroll down to "League of Women Voters" under Categories.

LWVMA

PLEASE JOIN US FOR CONVENTION 2017

April 28th and 29th
Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center
1657 Worcester Road
Framingham, MA

The Future of Democracy Facing the Challenges

Join delegates and members from across the state in brainstorming *The Future of Democracy: Facing the Challenges* at the LWVMA Convention Friday and Saturday, April 28 and 29, at the Framingham Sheraton in Framingham.

Help us develop strategies and priorities for an energized League ready to make its impact felt.

The complete Convention schedule is [here](#).

Highlights will include:

Brian McGrory, Editor of *The Boston Globe*, will discuss the media's role in the face of criticism and fake news at Friday night's banquet. For Brian's biography [click here](#).

Wylecia Wiggs Harris, Executive Director, LWVUS, will discuss the League's "Impact, Engagement, Sustainability" at Saturday's breakfast. For Wylecia's biography [click here](#).

Rachael Cobb, Associate Professor and Chair of the Suffolk University Department of Government, will discuss how grassroots organizations can respond to threats to democracy. For Rachael's biography, [click here](#).

A panel discussion will highlight **Millennial Voices in the Massachusetts State Legislature**.

Member Focus Groups will discuss the future of the League. We encourage you to register by clicking the yellow "Register Now" button, but if you cannot register online, print and mail [this form](#). By registering online, you will have an option to pay by credit card or by check.

Make Your Hotel Reservation Now--

Rooms are available at the Sheraton Hotel for \$139/night (plus tax). This is a special rate for the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, and it is available until **April 7th**.

To receive our special rate, you can either call 508-879-7200 and ask for the League of Women Voters Convention or [click here](#) to reserve a hotel room online (use the link to book, modify or cancel a reservation). **You will not receive our special rate if you try to book directly on the hotel's website or third party website.**

GO TO LWVMA.ORG TO REGISTER

LWVMA Taking Action On Clean Energy!

Members of LWVMA met with legislators and aides at Mass Power Forward's Lobby Day on Jan. 25. We met with Senator Barrett @BarrettSenate to discuss clean energy bills, including his 2017 carbon pricing bill An Act combating climate change, SD 1021. LWVMA strongly supports carbon pricing! LWVMA members from the Concord-Carlisle and other Leagues and also met with @BarrettSenate Legislative Director, Sam Anderson, to advocate for clean energy for all! Five members of the Needham League were part of the Mass Power Forward contingent that met with Senator Mike Rush. Thank you, @SenatorMikeRush for voicing support for clean energy bills discussed!

The League is Looking for Volunteers

The League is looking for volunteers to fill position openings it has. If interested, contact the League at 781-307-3116 for more information.

REMINDER!! STATE PROGRAM PLANNING REPORT TIME

The program planning process to develop the recommended program for LWVMA's 2017-2019 biennium is getting underway. Program planning materials were sent to all local Leagues in early December, so please schedule a program planning meeting for your League before the deadline in early February to submit recommendations.

During the program planning process, Leagues can suggest action priorities, the focus of the state League's work for the next two years; action items, specific projects to tackle; and proposed studies, restudies or concurrences.

The state board will use the results of local League program planning reports to develop a recommended program for 2017-2019, to be voted on at the spring Convention.

LWVMA – DATES TO SAVE - 2017

February 1
April 28 - 29

2017 Student Video Contest Kick-Off
LWVMA Convention, Sheraton Hotel, Framingham

LWVUS

League Sends Memo to U.S. Senate Regarding Supreme Court Nominee (NEW) ★

The League sent a memo to the U.S. Senate about the most recent nominee to the Supreme Court. The memo outlines three questions that the League would like the nominee to answer during the confirmation process. The next Supreme Court Justice will play a major role in setting the course for American Democracy over the coming decades.

To: Members of the U.S. Senate
From: Chris Carson, President
Re: Three Questions for the Supreme Court Nominee
Date: February 1, 2017

The Supreme Court nominee President Trump announced this week will play a major

role in setting the course for American democracy over the coming decades. That may seem like an exaggeration, but the Supreme Court is currently divided four to four on most major issues. The incoming justice will ultimately be the deciding vote on crucial issues that shape the direction of our system of government and our country.

The League of Women Voters believes that any Supreme Court nominee should share his or her views on fundamental issues. We have three questions for a nominee:

1. Must the Executive Branch obey court orders from the federal judicial system? Our system of checks and balances is the basic tenet of a free democracy. To prevent authoritarianism, the Founders made sure that no one branch of the government could dominate the others. But in recent days, it appears that the Executive Branch is challenging that system by refusing to obey federal court orders limiting President Trump's anti-immigration policies. The Supreme Court nominee must take a stand, one way or the other, on the role of federal courts in our system of government.
2. What is the appropriate role for voting rights in our democracy? Our nation was founded on a belief that voters should be in charge of our government rather than government being in charge of the voters. However imperfect at the beginning, citizen voting rights have grown through constitutional amendments to include women, racial and ethnic minorities and young people. But we are seeing efforts to roll back voting rights, with laws designed to make it more difficult for people to exercise their right to vote. The Supreme Court nominee should let the American people know his or position, whether voting rights enforcement is a vital component of our representative democracy or if the nominee thinks limitations can be justified under our Constitution.
3. Is big money in politics a fundamental part of our electoral system, or can limits sometimes be justified? Some believe that corporations, unions, organizations and individuals should be able to spend unlimited amounts of money to influence elections, and to do so secretly. Others see this as an existential threat to our democracy. The Supreme Court nominee should state his beliefs related to the influence of money in our elections.

We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the March 2017 Bulletin, please send it to Nancy Corcoran Ronchetti at Nancor1106@gmail.com by February 26, 2017.

Dates to Save:

- February 3rd LWVLexington First Friday, Sustainable Energy Initiatives in Lexington – 2017, Cary Memorial Meeting Room, Lexington, 9:15 a.m.
- February 6th LWVLexington 2017 Candidates' Night, Clarke Middle School, 7:00 P.M. – 8:45 P.M. Please note: There is no Rain Date.
- April 28th and 29th LWVMA Convention 2017, Sheraton Hotel, Framingham



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