



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

Box 233 Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

LWV-LEXINGTON NEWS AND INFORMATION LWVLEXINGTON FIRST FRIDAY FORUM OCTOBER 4, 2019

WHERE DO I FIND IT?

LWV LEXINGTON OPENS 2019/20 FIRST FRIDAY SERIES WITH LEXINGTON PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER SEAN DUGAN

What is my trash day, given the holiday or unexpected snow date? When will yard waste be picked up? What is the schedule for Patriot's Day? If you have questions about Town of Lexington plans, events, and services, we have the answers for you.

On October 4, 2019, the League of Women Voters of Lexington will host the first in our 2019-2020 First Friday forum. Our speaker will be Sean Dugan, Lexington's Public Information Officer (PIO), a new position in Town since January 2019. Sean comes to us having worked previously in the Information Technology field in Concord and Framingham. His work in Lexington includes updating the town website providing easier access to information and using multiple communication platforms to reach town residents. Sean will also answer your questions about how/where to find information you need.

The LWV First Friday Forums take place in Cary Memorial Library's Large Meeting Room at 1874 Massachusetts Avenue in Lexington. Coffee will be available at 9:15 a.m. and the presentation begins at 9:30 a.m. There will be a Q&A after the program. All League forums are free and open to the public.

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 the League Conveyor Margaret Coppe at mecoppe@gmail.com or contact the League at lwwlexington@gmail.com.

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**LWV-LEXINGTON BOARD MEETING
October 7, 2019**

The next LWV Lexington Board meeting will be held at the Lexington Community Center, 39 Marrett Road, Room 217, from 7:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. on October 7th, 2019.

**FUTURE LWV LEXINGTON BOARD MEETINGS
SAVE THE DATES!**

And looking forward, the LWV Lexington Board will meet at the Lexington Community Center in Room 217, from 7:30:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. on the following dates:

November 4, 2019
December 2, 2019
January 6, 2020
February 3, 2020

All are welcome to attend.

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.

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

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Climate Emergency:

Resolution Unanimously approved by LWVMA Environmental Action and Advocacy Committee, May 22, 2019 for submission to the LWVMA Convention, June 7-8, 2019.

Whereas on October 8, 2018, the United Nations released a special report that projected that limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius this century will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 12 years; and

Whereas on November 23, 2018, the U.S. Fourth National Climate Assessment was issued, which detailed the massive threat that climate change poses to the American economy and underscored the need for emergency climate action at all levels of government; and

Whereas the death and destruction already wrought by global warming of approximately 1.1 degrees Celsius above late 19th century levels demonstrate that Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by rising seas, increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, diseases, droughts and extreme weather; and Whereas one million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, according to a sweeping new United Nations report, driving the sixth mass extinction of species and – if reached – would require 10 million years for recovery; and

Whereas the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification include increasingly a rise in sea levels resulting in flooding and the displacement of thousands of coastal businesses and residences, damage to marine ecosystems and food sources, extreme weather events, devastating wildfires, and introduction of new vectors for infectious disease, increased asthma and other human health-related problems; and

Whereas climate change has a disproportionate effect on communities that typically have fewer resources for adapting to climate change and so consequently are the most vulnerable to displacement, adverse health effects, job loss, property damage and other effects of climate change; and

Whereas the world's leading climate scientists predict that serious impacts of climate change will catastrophically worsen if prompt action is not taken to curb emissions; and Whereas restoring a safe and stable climate requires a "climate mobilization" on an extraordinary scale at all levels of government to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions; and

Whereas in the absence of effective federal engagement, it is the responsibility of the individual states and municipalities to take immediate leadership actions to address climate change; and

Therefore, be it resolved, We as delegates of Massachusetts local Leagues assembled at the 2019 LWVMA Convention call upon the LWVMA Board and local Leagues to advocate for declarations of 'Climate Emergency' and urgent relevant action by state and local governments.

See also:

It's not Climate Change

It's a Climate Crisis

Ireland and Britain Declare Climate Emergencies

UN Calls Upon Member States to Pursue Ambitious Climate Action

UN Chief says total disaster if warming is not stopped

Climate emergency declarations in 528 councils cover 52 million citizens

World Wildlife Fund Demand Action on the Climate Emergency

Climate Strike for the Planet's Future

On Friday, September 20, 2019, members of the Lexington League joined more than 300 Lexington High School students and other supporters in the community in observing a youth-led international Climate Strike. For two hours the students left their ordinary classes and gathered on the athletic field to draw attention to the climate crisis the planet is facing and to advocate for curbing the use of fossil fuels and other actions to building a sustainable future. Senators Mike Barrett and Cindy Friedman and Representative Michelle Ciccolo attended the rally, as well as members of the Lexington Select Board and the Lexington School Superintendent Julie Hackett Hackett. Members of the League staffed a voter registration booth.

The local strike was supported by the Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition (GWAC), Minuteman Indivisible, the First Parish Climate Action Team and the Hancock Environmental Action Team, as well as LWVLexington. It was coordinated with the Boston Youth Climate Strike held on the Boston Common at the same time, for which the state League was an official sponsor, and forms a part of an international Climate Strike promoted by Bill McKibben's 350.org. 350.org is an international environmental organization addressing the climate crisis. Its goal is to end the use of fossil fuels and transition to renewable energy by building a global, grassroots movement. Safety and justice for people across the globe is a critical part of 350.org's mission.

The Lexington League was proud to add our support to the rally and to the global effort to spur action to preserving our planet.

LWV 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment

The 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the founding of the League of Women Voters of the United States and the Massachusetts League offers an opportunity for local Leagues to remember and learn from the past, showcase their accomplishments, increase appreciation for the mission of LWV, focus on current issues, and celebrate!

[100th Anniversary Local League Toolkit](#)

This toolkit suggests activities for local Leagues, presents projects by local Leagues, and provides resources.

[Calendar of Local League 100th Anniversary Events](#)

Planning for the LWV 100th Birthday

2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the national League of Women Voters on February 14 and the Massachusetts League of Women Voters on May 27. The 19th amendment, giving women the vote, was adopted on August 26, 1920.

Clearly, next year is an opportunity to present our proud history to the public and to celebrate 100 years of contributions to the civic life of our communities. Lexington is planning its own observances in addition to those at the state and national levels. The Lexington LWV Board is forming a task force to plan and carry out our anniversary activities. Please get involved! We particularly want to hear from long-time members who constitute our local memory bank. Please contact Wendy Manz – (781) 863-1733 to share your ideas and find out how you can help.

Senate President Spilka Keynotes LWVMA Day on the Hill

Senate President Karen Spilka will be the keynote speaker at the League's Day on the Hill Lobby day Thursday, Oct. 17.

Day on the Hill, *Time to Act*, will focus on legislation in four priority areas:

- Election Day Registration
- The climate crisis
- Education funding reform
- Women's reproductive rights

Day on the Hill is in Room 428 at the State House. Registration and coffee begins at 9:30 a.m. and the program runs from 10 a.m. to noon. Then League members will visit their own Senator and Representative.

Register for the lobby day [here](#). The LWVMA office will notify legislators to expect visits from their League constituents who register before Oct. 11 after the morning's program. League members can also make their own appointments with their legislators.

National League Action on Gerrymandering

LWVUS is launching a 49-state + DC campaign to end partisan gerrymandering: **The People-Powered Fair Maps Campaign**. Earlier this month the national League hosted an internet town hall forum which is accessible through the national website. The work will look different in each state. The national board has authorized half a million dollars to launch this campaign, and every state League will receive some of that funding through grants. If you are interested in participating in this initiative, contact Wendy Manz (781- 863-1733). We will set up a working group to watch the town hall program and to explore how we can help. Remember, to our embarrassment, “gerrymandering” is named after a Massachusetts legislator, Elbridge Gerry, who made the practice famous in the 1700s!)

LWVUS

NEW & IMPROVED VOTE411 HAS EVERYTHING VOTERS NEED AHEAD OF 2020

WASHINGTON 9/23/2019 – Tuesday was National Voter Registration Day (NVRD), a holiday established in 2012 to celebrate democracy and register hundreds of thousands of voters annually. The League of Women Voters, the largest on-the-ground NVRD partner organization for the eighth year in a row, will host more than 500 voter registration events in local communities tomorrow.

“In 2018 we reached ten million voters, and with such a pivotal election on the horizon, we want to make sure the public has everything they need to participate in 2020,” said **Chris Carson, president of the League of Women Voters board of directors**. “Don’t let a registration deadline prevent you from casting your ballot. You can get started right now and make sure your registration is up to date on VOTE411.”

The League of Women Voters Education Fund powers [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org), the newly redesigned election information site where voters can find everything they need to vote, starting with registration, seeing what is on their ballot, checking their polling place, voting hours, and much more.

“Voters are just months away from casting the first ballots in the 2020 elections,” said **Virginia Kase, CEO of the League of Women Voters**. “Now is the time to make sure your voter registration is up to date and the League will be hosting events around the country to help voters prepare for next year’s critical election cycle.”

Thousands of organizations, companies, and celebrities hit the ground in communities around the country to register tens of thousands of new voters on one single day.

“The League of Women Voters will celebrate its 100th Anniversary next year,” said **Jeanette Senecal, senior director of mission impact for the League.** “The best birthday gift we can imagine is that all voters check their voter registration status and encourage friends and families to do the same.” For more information about registering to vote, check out [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org).

Contact: Sarah Courtney | 202-263-1332 | scourtney@lww.org

We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the November 2019 LWV-LEXINGTON Bulletin, please send it to Nancy Corcoran Ronchetti at Nancor1106@gmail.com by October 24, 2019.

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2018-2019

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Dates to Save:

- October 7th LWVLexington Board Meeting, Lexington
Community Center, 39 Marrett Road, Room 217,
7:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.
- October 17th Senate President Karen Spilka will be the keynote
speaker at the League's Day on the Hill Lobby day
Thursday, Oct. 17.
- November 4th LWVLexington Board Meeting, Lexington
Community Center, 39 Marrett Road, Room 217,
7:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.



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