



BULLETIN, May, 2022

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON

### LWV MAY FIRST FRIDAY FORUM, MAY 6, 2022: Emergency Preparedness in Times of Climate Change

The League of Women Voters of Lexington invites you to join us at our First Friday on May 6, 2022 at 9:30AM by Zoom. More severe weather over recent years has resulted in more damage to persons and property than has been seen in the past. An up-to-date emergency warning system has become more important than ever. Increasing reliance on digital communication requires the Town to keep ahead of technology changes which support emergency alerts to both first responders and citizens. **Fire Chief Derek Sencabaugh** and **IT Director Dorinda Goodman** will update us on emergency preparedness in Lexington in times of climate change.

Chief Derek Sencabaugh has been a member of the Lexington Fire Department since 1995 and was appointed Fire Chief in 2019. The Fire Department's mission is to protect the lives and property of the community from emergencies involving fire, medical issues, hazardous materials and environmental causes. This is achieved through public information and education, fire code management and emergency response.

IT Director Dorinda Goodman manages municipal technology operations, including cybersecurity. She oversees core town-wide applications and services such as the town financial systems, document management systems and core network infrastructure. Her first career of 10 years in medical research resulted in original research publications in the field of cardiovascular medicine and clinical trials. Over the next 20 plus years, she worked in the technology field in academics, corporate and government organizations. In each organization she also served on chemical, biological, radiological and medical response corps.

This program is the eighth in the 2021-2022 First Friday Forum series hosted by the League of Women Voters to promote awareness and understanding of public policy issues. As always, the program is open to the public, and there will be time for questions after the presentation.

\*The link to join the Zoom session can be found on Page 7.

**LWV LEXINGTON ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 2, 2022:**  
**Debate on the Massachusetts Income Tax for Education and**  
**Transportation Amendment\***

\*This item has been corrected and updated from the version of the League Bulletin which was published earlier today. The Editor apologizes for the inaccuracies in the previous edition.

We are delighted to announce that the Lexington League's Annual Meeting will be held on **Thursday, June 2, at 7:00 pm, IN PERSON AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER**. A program and budget for the coming year will be reviewed and approved and officers elected to the Lexington League Board.

Following the business portion of the meeting, at 7:30 pm, we will be pleased to welcome former **State Representative Jay Kaufman** and **Eileen McAnney, President of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation**, to debate the merits of the proposed **Massachusetts Income Tax for Education and Transportation Amendment** to the State Constitution which is being presented to voters in a referendum this fall. The Petition for the Amendment was first introduced in January, 2019 by 45 petitioners, including our own Senators Mike Barrett and Cindy Friedman. It was favorably reported out of the Revenue Committee by both House and Senate in April, 2019, and in June, 2021, the legislature's Constitutional Convention voted 159 to 41 to place the amendment on the November, 2022 ballot.

The text of the Amendment is simple. It amends the Massachusetts Constitution to impose an additional 4% state income tax on that portion of a taxpayer's annual income which exceeds one million dollars, and specifies that the new revenue, approximately \$2 billion a year, would be spent on "quality public education and affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges and public transportation."

***Proposal for Constitutional Amendment S.16***

Article 44 of the Massachusetts Constitution is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph at the end thereof:

To provide the resources for quality public education and affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges and public transportation, all revenues received in accordance with this paragraph shall be expended, subject to appropriation, only for these purposes. In addition to the taxes on income otherwise authorized under this Article, there shall be an additional tax of 4 percent on that portion of annual taxable income in excess of \$1,000,000 (one million dollars) reported on any return related to those taxes. To ensure that this additional tax continues to apply only to the commonwealth's highest income taxpayers, this \$1,000,000 (one million dollars) income level shall be adjusted annually to reflect any increases in the cost of living by the same method used for federal income tax brackets. This paragraph shall apply to all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2023.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS  
LWVMA EVENTS



**LWVMA COUNCIL**

**JUNE 11 | 9-10:30 AM | ZOOM**



ELLEN CLEGG



DAN KENNEDY

CO-AUTHORS, *WHAT WORKS: THE FUTURE OF LOCAL NEWS* (BEACON PRESS, 2023.)

The state League's biennial Council will feature **Ellen Clegg**, former Editor of *The Boston Globe's* Editorial Page and **Professor Dan Kennedy** of Northeastern University. They will discuss the collapse of community journalism, its causes and the alternative paths that entrepreneurial journalists are creating to keep providing the news and information that citizens need to govern themselves in a democracy.

There's no limit to the number of members who can register; the leadership of each local League will designate their voting delegates, which correspond to membership numbers as of February 1, 2022. Please join us for this important discussion by registering at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkfuqqrzMoH9XAVVLuIG6kvnPuaJtTV82c>

## LWVMA WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

[Susan d. Garvey, Director of Development](#), is the newest member of the LWVMA staff: This is a new position for LWVMA and Susan has begun to implement a fundraising strategic plan that will grow resources for LWVMA and the 45 local Leagues throughout the state. Susan has 30 years of experience in senior-level nonprofit management, supporting under-resourced communities in health and human services, the arts, hospitals, health care and advocacy. Her approach is based on building equity and inclusion through communication, education and volunteerism. We are thrilled to have Susan as the newest member of the LWVMA team!

## LWVMA ADVOCACY

### MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

#### LWVMA bills that were reported favorably out of committee in March:

- S.898 An Act codifying the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program/An Act relative to the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program
- H.1808/S.921 An Act promoting housing opportunity and mobility through eviction sealing (HOMES)
- S.1558 An Act improving juvenile justice data collection
- S.365 An Act relative to anti-racism, equity and justice in education
- H.824 An Act Relative to voting overseas (LWVMA Opposes)
- S.530 An Act relative to maintaining adequate water supplies through effective drought management
- S.527/S.505 An Act improving municipal water infrastructure
- H.2437/S.1562 An Act relative to crime gun data analysis and reporting
- S.1899 An Act relative to regional transportation ballot initiatives
- H.897/S.529 An Act protecting water systems through the labeling of flushable wipes
- S.1196 An Act relative to transparency in the workplace

#### LWVMA Bills that passed the Senate in March

- S.1445 An Act to access disposable menstrual products in prisons, homeless shelters and public schools

## **Tell Your Legislators It's Time for Election Day Voter Registration in Massachusetts**

The conference committee reconciling the Massachusetts Senate and House versions of the VOTES Act met for the first time on April 7. The Committee needs to know that the people of Massachusetts want them to include Election Day Registration (EDR) in the final version of the bill.

Please contact your own Representative and Senator and ask them to tell members of the Conference Committee and the House and Senate leadership to **adopt the Election Day Registration compromise and include it in the final version of the VOTES Act**. The town clerks' association is in favor of this compromise. The more the conference committee members hear from their colleagues about how popular this reform is, the better our chances of getting it in the final bill.

## **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES**

### **LWVUS EVENTS**

### **REMINDER: LWVUS 55<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION SHERATON, DOWNTOWN DENVER JUNE 23-26, 2022**

**REGISTRATION** is now open at [convention.lwv.org](https://convention.lwv.org) for the LWV biennial convention, to be held in Denver, CO and online in June. Voting delegates will participate in plenary sessions dealing with the League budget, proposed biennial program, and election of officers. In addition, there will be opportunities to network with fellow League members from all areas of the country, attend large and small group training and education sessions, and be informed and inspired by League and invited speakers. The sessions will be fully hybrid with combined in-person and virtual experiences.

**LWV PROGRAM for 2022-24** is the education and advocacy platform that we adopt every national Convention to move our mission forward. The LWVUS board is recommending to the Convention the readoption of the **Campaign for Making Democracy Work®** as the LWV Program for 2022–2024. More than 300 Leagues participated in the LWVUS program planning process, and 100% of Leagues voted that LWVUS should continue prioritizing this Campaign in the next biennium. The LWVUS staff will use other policy and program recommendations from local Leagues to inform “watch dog” issues for LWVUS action during the next two years. The Program Planning Committee will host a **webinar on May 5, at 4pm ET**, to explain the proposed program and board recommended concurrences in detail. This recorded webinar is open to registered

Convention delegates only, and invitations will be sent to them by email upon completion of the Convention registration. Additionally, [a new platform—Groups.io](#), has been created for Leagues proposing studies and concurrences to post information on their proposals so League members may review and discuss them.

**RESOLUTIONS** express the will of the Convention body during the time it is convened. Resolutions may be submitted on line by any League up to the deadline of May 26 through the Resolutions Page of the **League Management site at LWV.org**.

**THE POWERING DEMOCRACY AWARDS** will be presented at the Convention in recognition of Leagues for their exemplary work over the past biennium. All winners will receive a cash prize from LWVUS in recognition of their work. Finalists will be selected by LWVUS staff, and winners will be selected by the public poll.

## THE LEAGUE WELCOMES THE APPOINTMENT OF JUSTICE KETANJI BROWN JACKSON TO THE US SUPREME COURT

The League of Women Voters welcomes Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to her historic confirmation as the next United States Supreme Court Justice. As the first Black woman and only Supreme Court Justice with experience as a public defender, she brings to the Court a long-needed perspective encompassing all aspects of the legal process.

Judge Jackson's appointment is historic. We hope this will be a turning point in America and will set a precedent for the appointment of more diverse courts and therefore a more equitable judicial system. We look forward to seeing the impact Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's perspective will have on voting rights and democracy as the next Supreme Court Justice of the United States. **We believe that women hold the power to create a more perfect democracy and Judge Jackson's appointment is a defining moment in this fight.**

## THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT LIVES

A new resolution, H. Res. 891, has been introduced in the US House affirming that the Equal Rights Amendment has met all of the requirements needed to be added to the US Constitution. Introduced by Congresswomen Jackie Speier (CA) and Carolyn Maloney (NY), the resolution will reflect the sentiment of the House that under the terms of Article V, the ERA is already part of the Constitution and should be considered effective as of January 27, 2022. The League applauds the reassertion of the ERA and urges you to contact your representative today in support of the resolution. (See contact information at the end of this Bulletin.)

## SCOTUS REVIEW

For a timely update on the work of the US Supreme Court and its upcoming docket: Sign up for a Zoom Session, May 18, at 3:00 pm Eastern Time: [https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZAlfuyurDkiHtaFE7f\\_M0435ZcHsV4Ti4AH](https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZAlfuyurDkiHtaFE7f_M0435ZcHsV4Ti4AH)

## Massachusetts League Member Becomes LWVUS Communications Specialist

**Mary Roche** is the new communications specialist at LWVUS. She coordinates with staff to support the League's field communications efforts and supports the organization's messaging goals. Determined to increase the number of women in elective office, Mary has worked closely with local political candidates and organizations to amplify women's voices and increase political participation. Prior to joining the League, Mary worked with a sexual and domestic violence agency in Massachusetts, cultivating relationships with local educators, students, and community leaders to develop prevention education campaigns and support survivors of intimate partner violence. Originally from Massachusetts, Mary graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2020.

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\* You are invited to a Zoom webinar: **May First Friday.**

When: May 6, 2022 09:30 Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: First Friday: Emergency Preparedness in a Time of Climate Change

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82049379099>

WeOr One tap mobile :

US: +16465588656,,82049379099# or +13017158592,,82049379099#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592

Webinar ID: 820 4937 9099

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82049379099>

*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](mailto:mecoppe@gmail.com).*



## SAVE THE DATE

|                  |                                                                |                     |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| May 6, 2022      | First Friday Forum: Emergency Preparedness                     | Zoom                |
| May 18, 2022     | SCOTUS Review, 3:00 pm ET                                      | Zoom                |
| June 2, 2022     | LWVLexington Annual Meeting,<br>Debate on Fair Share Amendment | Community Center.   |
| June 11, 2022    | LWVMA Council, 9:00-10:30 am                                   | Zoom                |
| June 23-26, 2022 | LWVUS Biennial Convention                                      | Zoom and Denver, CO |

Commented [WM1]:

## Contact Information for Legislators

|                                     |                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren       | 309 Hart Senate Office Building<br>Washington, D.C. 20510<br>202 244-4543    |
| U.S. Senator Edward Markey          | 255 Dirksen Senate Office Building<br>Washington, D.C. 20510<br>202 224-2742 |
| U.S. Representative Katherine Clark | 2448 Rayburn House Office Building<br>Washington, D.C. 20515<br>202 225-2836 |
| MA Senator Michael Barrett          | Mike.Barrett@masenate.gov<br>617 722-1572                                    |
| MA Senator Cindy Friedman           | Cindy.Friedman@masenate.gov<br>617 722-1432                                  |
| MA Representative Michelle Ciccolo  | Michelle.Ciccolo@mahouse.gov<br>617 722-2210                                 |

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## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEXINGTON BOARD MEMBERS 2021-2022

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We welcome Bulletin articles from members. If you'd like to submit an article for the September, 2022 LWV LEXINGTON Bulletin, please send it to Wendy Manz at [wendy\\_manz@yahoo.com](mailto:wendy_manz@yahoo.com) prior to March 26, 2022.

