



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

The Lexington Voter November 2016

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

IMPORTANT—TUESDAY, NOV. 8th IS ELECTION DAY!

In 1916 National American Woman Suffrage Association president Carrie Chapman Cat unveiled what she called a “Winning Plan” to get the right to vote for women. This would be a blitz campaign that mobilized state and local efforts all over the country. The goal would be achieved with the ratification of the 19th amendment to the Constitution in August of 1920.

VOTE
**IT'S YOUR
RIGHT!**

Although African-American citizens were given the right to vote with the 15th Amendment's ratification in 1870, state and local barriers prohibited their exercising this right until the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. This legislation has been amended to include protection of voting rights for non-English speaking Americans.

WE SHOULD NEVER TAKE OUR VOTING RIGHTS FOR GRANTED!

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT CANDIDATES—

- Check the LWV site www.VOTE411.org for voter guide specific to your ballot. If there is a problem with this web address, go directly to your information through onyourballot.vote411.org/build.do. Look up every candidate on your ballot.
- To view the Lexington LWV candidate forums, use the links on our website lwvlexington.com.

Saturday, Nov. 12th Join the Discussion on Immigration Issues



The *Breakfast and Democracy* meeting of the Lexington LWV will take place on **Saturday, Nov. 12 from 10:00 a.m. to noon** at The Bronte Bistro in Joseph-Beth Booksellers (Lexington Green). The featured guest will be **Isabel Gereda Taylor**, the Multicultural Affairs Coordinator for the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government. She recently opened the Lexington Global Engagement Center (GLOBAL LEX) for the city, is a community liaison on multicultural and international affairs, and is part of the Mayor's International Affairs Advisory Commission.

We are honored to have Ms. Taylor join us to share her multicultural experiences and guide us through a discussion of the issues facing our increasingly diverse community.

We will order and pay individually for our breakfast items and then join in the discussion. Space is limited so please RSVP to **Donna Blue** at donnablue@twc.com or to the League phone (859-494-3203) as soon as possible. Deadline for reservations is **Tuesday, Nov. 8.**

LWV Candidate Forums Draw Media Attention This Fall

The League has received more media attention than usual this year related to our candidate forums and vote411.org. In particular, several media sources sought interviews and comments related to the number of candidates who chose not to participate in our fall candidate forums. We were quoted or interviewed in several stories including:

- *Lexington Herald-Leader*: Forums were listed in our paid ad; the Education Notes section; an editorial, “*Why should voters trust no-show candidates*”; a story by John Cheves, “*No-show politicians mean fewer debates, but voters might not care*,” The LWV was also mentioned in an op-ed by Congressman Andy Barr, explaining why he didn’t participate and Dan Desrocher’s story about KY LWV cancelling the U.S. Senate debate.
- TV coverage—our forums were mentioned in a story on WLEX-TV Channel 18 and we were interviewed in a story for CBS CW2 News.
- Radio coverage—we were interviewed for WUKY 91.3 FM; WEKU 88.9 FM; and UK’s student-run radio station WRFL 88.1 FM.
- We have also been told by editorial writers that they used our candidate forums in their review process as they decided potential endorsement of candidates.

We regret that the cause of more than usual attention to our forums was the increased reluctance by incumbent candidates to participate in forums. Such a lack of willingness to participate denies opponents the chance to be heard on an equal basis with incumbents and possibly gives the incumbents an unequal edge in voter awareness. We sincerely hope that candidates realize the importance for voters to hear from all candidates before they make their choices.

LWV Essay Contest Focuses on Unusual Campaign Season

The 2016-17 LWV Essay Contest for high school students in Fayette County has opened, presenting young writers with what we hope is a challenging topic:

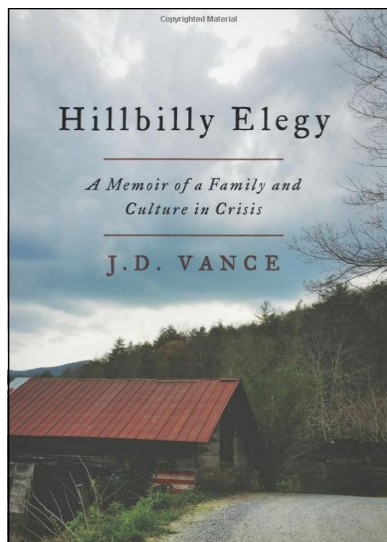
No matter what the outcome, the 2016 presidential election campaign has been, by all accounts, brutally divisive. With all of the noise it has been difficult to discern truth. This year we are asking you, as a voter or a potential voter, to tell your story as a citizen who has lived this experience and learned from it. Examples of questions to answer in your essay—although you may choose to address other ones—are: Which candidate did you find compelling and why? What standards did you use to judge candidate competency to fulfill the office of president, if elected? What sources of information did you rely upon and how did they shape your thinking? What lessons for the future did you learn?



Information has been distributed to the schools and the deadline for submitting essays is **Friday, Dec. 9th**. The invitational flyer is attached to the email delivering electronic copies of this newsletter. Please share with students among your families and friends and encourage them to accept the challenge. We are very interested in hearing what students think as young citizens, voters, and future civic leaders of our communities.

NOTE: We have received a note of appreciation and support from former winner of the contest **Amir Abou-Jaoude**, now a freshman at Stanford University in CA. He writes: “I am so glad that I participated in the League of Women Voters essay contest....I feel that the essays I wrote on campaign finance, immigration, and racism in America have allowed me to develop a better understanding of the issues that matter. I have developed better research skills as a result of finding strong sources for my essays. I am grateful for all the LWV has done for me.” We wish Amir success in his academic pursuits, knowing his writing skill will be an asset.

LWV Book Club to Discuss J. D. Vance's Memoirs



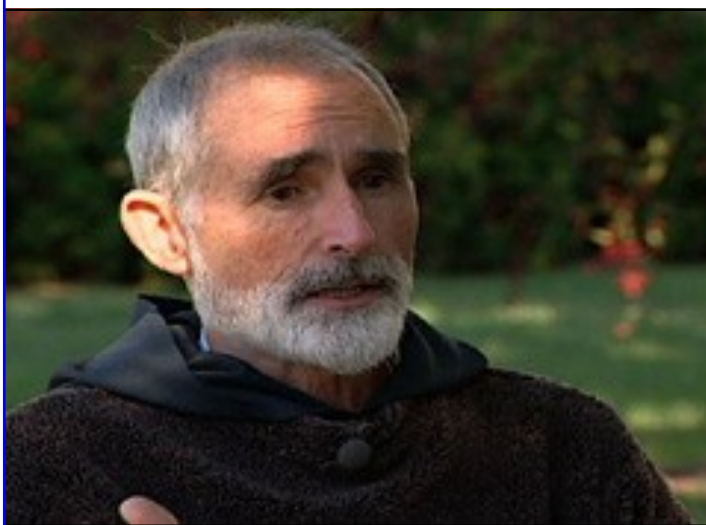
The Lexington LWV will meet **Tuesday, Nov. 22** at 1:30 p.m. at **Terry Naydan's house**, 3013 Charleston Gardens Blvd. **Maureen Tarpey** will lead the discussion of J. D. Vance's remarkable "*Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and a Culture in Crisis.*"

The National Review calls it "a harrowing portrait of much that has gone wrong in America over the past two generations." In this volume Vance, a former Marine, graduate of Ohio State University and Yale Law School, critically examines the community into which he was born—white, Kentucky working-class transplanted to Ohio—and tells the story of the struggles of his family and friends. Throughout this memoir he is clear about his love and admiration for the people as well as his understanding of the dysfunction of the society within which they tried to survive.

New members are always welcome in the discussion group. Come and join in the conversation!

Looking ahead—the book for the Dec. 13 meeting will be "*Climate Change: What Everyone Needs to Know*" by Joseph Romm.

Christian-Muslim Dialogue Speaker Is Brother Paul Quenon, O.S.C.O.



On **Saturday, Nov. 19 from 10:00 a.m. to noon**, the guest speaker for the Christian-Muslim Dialogue will be **Brother Paul Quenon**, a Trappist monk from the Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani near New Haven, KY. His topic is: "*How Islam Has Influenced My Life.*" Brother Paul was a novice in the years 1958-61 during Thomas Merton's days as Novice Master. Fifty-six years later he leads a monthly discussion of Merton writings.

The location of the gathering is the Masjid (Mosque), 1545 Russell Cave Rd. After the program and discussion there will be a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Turkey will be provided. Participants are asked to bring a potluck dish to accompany the meal.

All are invited and welcome to participate.

For additional information call **Carolyn Holmes** at **859-277-3004** or go to www.cmd.org.

VOTER SERVICES

This fall the League held four candidate forums and, for the first time, participated in VOTE411.ORG. Cindy Heine and Lauren Wallace were the organizers but they needed help. Many thanks to the members who stepped up to share the load.



**Mark
Your
Calendar**

LWV Holiday Party at Nita Smith's house at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 8th! Details next month.

The VOTER is now in electronic format. If you also receive a paper copy and want only the electronic copy, please contact Judy Johnson at judydex@twc.com. The paper copies will remain black and white due to printing costs.



Return Service Requested

*Lexington League of Women Voters
PO Box 22045
Lexington KY 40522*



Calendar

LWV of Lexington Website: www.lwvlexington.com
Phone: 859-494-3203 Email: lexingtonlwv@gmail.com
Facebook: League of Women Voters of Lexington, KY

NOTE: Board meetings are open to all MEMBERS; programs are open to the public.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8 — 2016 GENERAL ELECTION

Sat.	Nov. 12	10:00 a.m.	<i>Breakfast and Democracy meeting at Bronte Bistro, Speaker: Isabel Gereda Taylor</i>
Thurs.	Nov. 17	6:30 p.m.	LWV Board meeting at Faith House, Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Road
Sat.	Nov. 19	10:00 a.m.	Christian-Muslim Dialogue, Masjid (Mosque), 1545 Russell Cave Rd.
Tues.	Nov. 22	1:30 p.m.	LWV Book Club at Terry Naydan's house, 3013 Charleston Gardens Blvd.

[Vol. 16-17 Issue 4] The Lexington VOTER is published nine times a year (Summer, September, October, November, December, Winter, March, April, and May) by the League of Women Voters of Lexington.