



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

# The Lexington Voter October 2016

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

## LWV Candidate Forums Prove Educational



*Velma Grant, president of the Lexington/Frankfort Chapter of LINKS, Inc., and Richard Heine of the Lexington LWV board moderated the first forum of the Fall 2016 series. Other moderators were: Tammy Fagley, Cindy Heine and Lauren Wallace.*



*Incumbent State Rep. Kelly Flood (D) and her challenger Gary McCollum (R) opened the Fall 2016 candidate forums.*



*The organizations represented by Lexington LWV President Tammy Fagley (left) and LINKS, Inc., President Velma Green (right) joined with the Lexington Public Library to co-sponsor the candidate forums. These forums can now be accessed through <https://www.youtube.com/user/lexlibrary>.*

The LWV candidate forums began on Saturday, Oct. 1, with the candidates for the Kentucky House District 75 seat answering questions posed by League members and members of the audience.

On Sunday, Oct. 2, candidates for the 5th District Kentucky Supreme Court (Glenn Acree and Larry VanMeter) and candidates for Districts 1 (Melissa Bacon and Samantha Rodarte) and 5 (Sharon Mofield-Boswell and Daryl Love) on the Fayette County School Board participated in forums. Questions for the judicial candidates focused on qualifications, experience, judges they admire, public financing of judicial races, the new ruling allowing judicial candidates to support or oppose political candidates in other partisan races and whether they could put aside their own preferences when ruling on issues about which they had personal opinions. School board candidates answered questions about recent school accountability scores, learning gaps, early childhood programs and many other school issues.

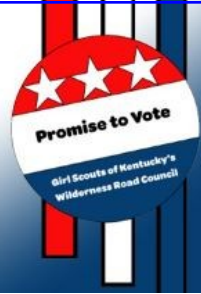
Special thanks to all the volunteers including members of the Lexington/Frankfort (KY) Chapter of LINKS, Inc., and the Lexington Public Library as co-sponsors. Members of LINKS helped moderate, prepare questions, time and take questions from the audience. Library staff set up, taped, prepped the videos and set up the youtube links. The forums will also be scheduled for viewing on the Library's TWC Cable Channel 20.

The forums are available on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/lexlibrary>. Check the LWV website [lexingtonlww.com](http://lexingtonlww.com) for the Channel 20 viewing schedule.

Also, be sure to check [VOTE411.ORG](http://VOTE411.ORG) for more information about the candidates.

**REMEMBER—TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8th IS ELECTION DAY!**

**Promise to Vote 2016**  
**"I Can Make a Difference!"**



The Lexington LWV joined the Girls Scouts of America's Wilderness Road in their fall *Promise to Vote* campaign. Scout troops across Eastern Kentucky set up tables at local business and community settings to register voters on the weekend of September 23-25. On Saturday, November 5, they will set up again in an effort to get citizens to "Promise to vote" in the November 8 general election. The scouts will earn

the *Promise to Vote Program* badge for their work on this project.

In Lexington, LWV member Diana Clewett worked with Scout Troop 880 at the Village Branch Library. She reported that the girls brought red, white and blue balloon bouquets and many parents joined the effort to raise voter awareness. LWV board member Cindy Heine joined Troop 854 at the entrance to the Leestown Kroger on a busy Monday evening as the girls asked passing shoppers if they were registered to vote.

The scouts were pleased to learn many shoppers were already registered and they received compliments from citizens who liked the fact that the scouts were asking them if they were registered. The LWV supplied the girls with registration cards and they helped several people complete the registration process, referring others to [GOVOTEKY.org](http://GOVOTEKY.org) to register online. They also sent blank registration cards home with several citizens who said they had family members needing them.

Both troops had already had conversations about voting and the women's suffrage movement and were excited about voting when they themselves turn 18. Diana and Cindy agreed the girls were not shy about asking people if they were registered. All are looking forward to the November 5 date when the tactic is to ask people to actually promise to show up to vote on the following Tuesday!

## Voters Learn about Issues When Candidates Show Up

While scheduling candidate forums this fall, members of the Lexington League discovered a disturbing trend that has been reported by locals in other cities. In increasing numbers, incumbent candidates are becoming less willing to face their challengers in a public debate setting. (Recently, the Lexington Herald-Leader devoted space to this apparent reluctance to discuss issues in an open forum which gives relatively unknown opponents equal air time with better known incumbents.) The Lexington LWV rules do not allow a forum to be held when only one candidate agrees to participate, therefore, the number of forums this month was very limited.



As League members we understand the importance of public debate. We work to educate voters on issues and one of the most effective ways we have to accomplish this is through non-partisan candidate forums where **all** persons seeking public office can present their positions fairly and equally. We should commend our elected representatives who participated in the recent candidate forums and make clear to those who did not participate that we expected to see and hear them. Below is the list of scheduled forums and the responses of candidates:

**6th Congressional District**

Andy Barr (R) **DECLINED**  
 Nancy Jo Kemper (D) **ACCEPTED**

**Supreme Court Justice**

Glenn Acree **ACCEPTED**  
 Larry VanMeter **ACCEPTED**

**School Board**

**District 1**  
 Melissa Bacon **ACCEPTED**  
 Samantha Rodarte **ACCEPTED**

**State House of Representatives**

**District 45**  
 Stan Lee (R) **NO RESPONSE**  
 Pam Sigler (D) **ACCEPTED**

**District 56**  
 Daniel A. Fister (R) **DECLINED**  
 James Kay (D) **ACCEPTED**

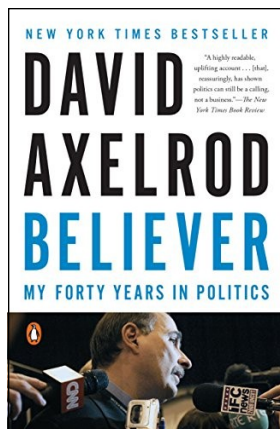
**District 5**  
 Daryl K. Love **ACCEPTED**  
 Sharon Mofield-Boswell **ACCEPTED**

**District 75**  
 Kelly M. Flood (D) **ACCEPTED**  
 Gary McCollum (R) **ACCEPTED**

**District 79**  
 Ken Kearns (R) **NO RESPONSE**  
 Susan Westrom (D) **ACCEPTED**

**LFUC Council**  
**District 2**  
 Shevawn Akers **DECLINED**  
 Sasha Love Higgins **ACCEPTED**

## LWV Book Discussion to Focus on Meaning of Public Service



On **Tuesday, October 18**, at 1:30 p.m. League members will gather at Terry Naydan's house to discuss the book "*Believer: My Forty Years in Politics*" by David Axelrod. This book is the story of a legendary strategist dedicated to democratic change aimed at transforming society. The New York Times calls it "the tale of a political life well-lived."

Cindy Heine will lead a discussion of the book. The location is 3013 Charleston Gardens Blvd. New participants are always welcome.

The November selection is "*Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*" by J. D. Vance.

## Christian-Muslim Dialogue Speaker to Address Separation of Religion and Politics

On **Saturday, October 29**, at Hunter Presbyterian Church, the Christian-Muslim Dialogue will present Dr. Rob Bosco whose topic will be the complications that emerge when political powers attempt to co-opt religious leaders. Dr. Bosco has written a book on the subject entitled "*Securing Sacred Religion National Configurations*."



Dr. Bosco is Associate Professor of International Studies and Chair of the International Studies Program at Centre College. His talk will be at 10:00 a.m. at Hunter Presbyterian Church, 109 Rosemont Garden Drive.

A noon potluck lunch follows the presentation. All are welcome to bring a dish and participate in this opportunity for fellowship.

This semester's programming will conclude on November 19. Details about that session can be found on the website [cmdlex.org](http://cmdlex.org) and will be covered in the next issue of the Voter.

## Voters and the LWV Win Major Civil Rights Challenge

By Maggie Bush, National LWV

**Washington, DC, September 9:** The League of Women Voters has just won a major federal voting rights case. A federal appeals court blocked the illegal action of Brian Newby, U.S. Election Assistance Commission executive director, who earlier this year unilaterally allowed Alabama, Georgia and Kansas to require voters to produce difficult-to-obtain proof of citizenship documentation when completing the federal mail voter registration form. Newby's action has illegally kept voters from the polls, caused confusion, and threatened the lawful voter registration efforts of the League and other groups.

"With just weeks to go before a critical presidential election, we are grateful to the court of appeals for stopping this thinly veiled discrimination in its tracks," said Chris Carson, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

"We should be making voting easier, not harder. All eligible Americans deserve the opportunity to register and vote without obstacles."

"With this ruling, League volunteers will be able to get back to what we do best: helping voters get registered and ready for Election Day," concluded Carson.



**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](mailto:judydex@twc.com). The paper copies will remain black and white due to printing costs.**



Return Service Requested

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## Calendar

LWV of Lexington Website: [www.lwvlexington.com](http://www.lwvlexington.com)

Phone: 859-494-3203      Email: [lexingtonlwv@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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|--------|---------|------------|--|
| Tues.  | Oct. 18 | 1:30 p.m.  | LWV Book Club at Terry Naydan's house, 3013 Charleston Gardens Blvd.             |
| Thurs. | Oct. 20 | 6:30 p.m.  | LWV Board meeting at Faith House, Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Road   |
| Sat.   | Oct. 29 | 10:00 a.m. | Christian-Muslim Dialogue at Hunter Presbyterian Church, 109 Rosemont Garden Dr. |

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8 — 2016 GENERAL ELECTION

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