



Lexington Voter

President's Letter

In February, the League of Women Voters celebrated its 100th anniversary at the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort. Songs of the suffrage movement filled the air, female Legislators were honored with suffrage sashes, and Governor Beshear joined the celebration, with a proclamation. I was honored to be able to share an update about the Voter Photo ID Bill (SB2). This bill creates barriers to voting, when we need to be making it easier for people to vote since only about 1 in 3 people vote. The good news is that this will not affect the primary election in May.

Another issue that is in the news is voter disenfranchisement. As one of only 3 states that permanently disenfranchises people that have committed a felony, the League has been addressing restoration of civil rights to persons who have a prior felony conviction. With the Governor's partial pardon that restores voting rights to over 140,000 Kentuckians, the League has much work to do to share this information and help these citizens register to vote. The website: CivilRightsRestoration.ky.gov has lots of great information, including how to look up who is included in this partial pardon. Check it out and spread the word!

Cheers,
Jennifer Jackson, M.D.
Acting President, LWV of Lexington

We Vote!

Join "We Vote!" the LWV's first annual High School Voter Registration Campaign. This city-wide campaign includes all of Fayette County Public High Schools and many private schools. Social media will help drive this campaign, as well as a Student Democracy Team, comprised of several students from each high school. We will also provide classroom education to equip students with the information they need to be engaged and informed voters as well as maintain their voter registration status throughout their lifetime! To get involved or nominate a high school student (any grade) to our Student Democracy Team email LWVLexweVote@gmail.com or text 859-494-3403.



COVID19 Update: Due to public health concerns, we are suspending voter registrations and either suspending or moving online our programs until further notice. Please watch our website for updated information. If you need to register to vote or change your registration, please go to govoteky.com. We urge everyone to take care of themselves and follow the recommendations of the state and local government officials.

For the upcoming week: The Book Club on March 17th will be held through a zoom web conference (see calendar below for contact info) and the UK Library Archives Tour on March 19th will be postponed.



Upcoming Events

Want to support the work of LWV of Lexington, KY? Go to our website (lwvlexington.com) to become a member or to sign up as a volunteer for one of our events!

Civil Rights Restoration

The Governor's office has released a new website devoted to civil rights restoration after signing an executive order in December to automatically restore civil rights (including voting) to people who were convicted of a non-violent felony. On the website, you can check your status and get more information: <https://civilrightsrestoration.ky.gov>

March 17: LWV of Lexington Book Club meeting, 1:30PM, Book: *The River of Doubt* by Candice Millard, contact Terry Naydan for more information at TerryNayden@aol.com

March 19: Tour the Special Collections/digital archiving area of the UK Library on Thursday, March 19th at 1 PM. Special Collections is located in the Margaret I. King Library on UK's campus (179 Funkhouser Dr, Lexington, KY 40508). You can find directions and information on parking here - http://libraries.uky.edu/libpage.php?lweb_id=395&lilib_id=13 The surface lot at Young Library or the Student Center would be the most convenient to the library. Sign up: <https://signup.com/go/UqSfZzX>

March 20: Naturalization Ceremony. Make sure that you have received Voter Registration Training prior to this event. Email Jenn at LexLWVvoterservices@gmail.com for details.

March 28: Christian Muslim Dia-

logue, Speaker: Tom Eblen, 10:00AM, Hunter Presbyterian Church, 109 Rosemont Garden

April 1: LWV of Lexington Board Meeting (Open to all Members), 6:30-8:30PM, location TBD - see www.lwvlexington.com for updates

April 9: Kentucky Woman Suffrage Project 19th Amendment Event at University of Kentucky. If you would like to volunteer for the LWV table, you can sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/rGikdcV>

April 25: LWV Annual Meeting, Details TBD - see www.lwvlexington.com for updates

April 30: OLLI Programming (Donovan Forum Series)- Thursdays 2:00-3:00PM, Stories of the Struggles for the Voting Rights Act- Karen Cotton McDaniel Ph.D., KSU. If you would like to volunteer for the LWV table, you can sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/jzikFPd>



Nominate for Board Positions

It's time to put forward our 2020-21 slate of Officers and Board members to be voted on at the April 25 Annual meeting. The Nominating Committee wants to hear from you. Maybe you would like to serve on the Board. Or you may know of a LWV member who would be a great addition to the Board. Our slate will include the Officers who make up the Executive Committee (President, Vice President 1 or 2, Treasurer and Secretary) and 8 Members of the Board. Let the nominating committee know who you would suggest for our slate. For more details about any of these positions, email Toni Reiss, Chair of the Nominating Committee, at tonisue2u@aol.com

Students Win Essay Contest,

Ever wonder why 18 to 29-year-olds have lower voting rates than all other age groups? The U.S. Election Project, which analyzes census data, found that voters ages 18-29 consistently have a voting rate that is at least 20 percentage points lower than all older voting age groups. To determine the reasons, almost 50 Lexington high school students researched and interviewed potential voters ages 18-29 for the students' essays in this year's League of Women Voters of Lexington's annual Essay Contest.

Contest winners are:

- 1st Place--Lafayette High School's Isabella Mullins
- 2nd Place-- Henry Clay High School's Roumiana Mihaylova
- 3rd Place--Henry Clay High School's Zoe Schaeffer
- Special Recognition for ESL Writing--Lafayette High School's Bing Zhang
- Special Recognition for Outstanding Insight--Martin Luther King Academy's Kristi-Ahyna Washington

The students found that young people often don't vote because they don't know how to register, they feel uninformed about the candidates, and/or they can't get to the polls for work or transit reasons. One young voter commented, "It's such a tedious process to get registered." Another young voter, when asked why she hadn't voted, stated it was because she "was in college." Based on the findings from the students' essays, the LWV of Lexington is kicking off a city-wide high school voter registration campaign, called **We Vote!** See below for details on how you can get involved.

Thank you to Theresa McCarty (Chair of Essay Contest Committee) and the other Committee Members for their work on this program! We would also like to thank **Sites**



Jenn Jackson, LWV; and Victoria Meyer at WFRFL for Trivial Thursdays to chat about Breaking the Bronze Ceiling, a project to build a statue honoring women's suffrage at the base of the 5/3 Bank building (the big blue building) downtown Lexington.



Governor Andy Beshear presents a Proclamation proclaiming League Day to LWV State President, Fran Wagner, as Vice President, Dee Pregliasco, looks on. February 13th, 2020, Capitol Rotunda, Frankfort.

League of Women Voters

PO Box 22045
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