



The Lexington Voter Winter 2019

LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

Don't Miss League Day at the Capitol!



Mark Thursday, Feb. 7, on your calendar as the day you are invited to join with League friends exploring the Capitol, learning about bills and issues of interest and observe the legislature at work.

We will gather in Room 160 (part of the Secretary of State's office) at **9:15 a.m.** (Not the Annex, our usual meeting place.) The Capitol will be crowded so plan to arrive early in order to clear security. Usually there are parking spaces in the garage which can easily be accessed from Rte 420. See Directions in the box below. Be sure to have your ID with you and wear your League button and comfortable shoes.

First, we will go through an overview of bills and what to expect from this session. At **10:30 a.m.** you can choose committee meetings to attend or legislative offices to visit.

To actually talk with a legislator in such a busy week an appointment needs to be made ahead of time. Call **502-564-8100** and the operator will connect you with the office(s) you want. If you prefer, you can always write notes at home and deliver to their offices at this time.

Committees that will be meeting later in the morning are as follows:

Senate

11:30 a.m. Education—Room 149
On Adjournment A and R—Room 149

House

Noon Health and Family Services—Room 169
Noon State Government—Room 171

We will gather for lunch in the Annex Cafeteria at **11:30 a.m.** followed by committee meetings at **noon**. If you want to observe one of the **2:00 p.m.** legislative sessions you will need a pass. We can help with that during morning registration.

This day has always proven to be a living civics lesson! Don't miss it. If you want to carpool or have additional questions, contact Cindy Heine at cynthia.heine@gmail.com or Judy Johnson at judylex@twc.com.

DIRECTIONS FROM LEXINGTON:

Take either I-64 or US 60 toward Frankfort. Where they intersect, continue north on US 60 to the East-West Connector (Rte. 676).

Turn left and go to the first stoplight past the river. This will be Rte. 420. Turn right and continue to Capitol parking garage on your left.

Check out More Opportunities to Get Involved

Whether you are a long time member or a fresh new face in the group, there are plenty of opportunities to become more involved in the work of the League. Step up, meet new friends, add your perspective to one of the following:

- **Voter Registration**—To be successful, this outreach takes a lot of member participation. There are so many opportunities to have a visible presence in the community! And the first step is to participate in a one time training. To participate in the first training you must sign up on the website at lwvlexington.com/newevents/2019/3/4voter-registration-training. The training is scheduled for **7:30 p.m. on Mon., March 4, at the Beaumont Library.**
- **Observer Corps**—This is one of the easiest assignments, which asks individuals to monitor meetings of local government and agencies for issues that might be relevant to the League. Any interested member can choose a local entity—school board, library board, urban-county council—and check its schedule for meetings. These can be followed either in person or by viewing broadcast of meeting. A brief summary is then submitted to the LWV board. If this sounds appealing, call the LWV number **859-494-3202** or contact **Richard Heine** at rheine@twc.com.
- **Essay Contest**—This is a fun project that invites high school students to write about a different topic each year. Work includes devising the prompt, contacting schools, judging writings and awarding prizes. If you are interested, contact **Judy Johnson** at [judylex@twc.com](mailto:judydex@twc.com).
- **Voter Services**—This group works to educate and support voters in ways too numerous to list here. This is the heart of our work. More information can be provided by **Jennifer Jackson** at lexlwvservices@gmail.com.
- **Publicity and Media**—This work is getting the word out, maintaining website and social media contacts, updating Blue Sheets, etc. Contact **Jennifer Jackson** or **Donna Blue** for more information.
- **Nominate**—yourself (or another) for a Board position! The best way to make the League your own is to join the decision-making process. Contact **Donna Blue** at donnablue@twc.com.

Winter Holiday Party brought together old and new members!



Above: Dick Shore, Jennifer Jackson, Lynne Flynn, Toni Reis, Richard Heine. (Dec.)



Above: Lynne Flynn chats with new member Ed Monahan.



Above: Nothing like a miserably wet and cold day to bring out voting advocates for the Women's March! Still smiling—Cindy Heine, Heather McMahon, Marlena Sanchez and Jenn Jackson. (Jan.)

Left: Judy Johnson, Cindy Heine, and Jenn Jackson join Nicole Porter (center) of Sentencing Project at KCEP Conference. (Jan.)

Release of LWV 2019 Felony Disenfranchisement Report

The newly updated *Felony Disenfranchisement in the Commonwealth of Kentucky: A Report of the League of Women Voters of Kentucky January 2019* is now available for download on the state League website <https://lwvky.org>.



This document contains new data, including polling results for question to voters about support for automatic restoration of rights. It lays out findings and recommendations.

This document clearly identifies why Kentucky is on its way to being the only state that permanently disenfranchises persons with felony convictions. It also will be a guide for future League action. All members are asked to read the report and share the information with others. We must move Kentucky forward!

Major Points of HR1

It is easy to be overwhelmed by an omnibus bill like the first bill proposed by the U.S. Congress House of Representatives in the 116th session. Yet this bill contains so much that the League has worked years to support. It is important that we all understand at least the four key elements.

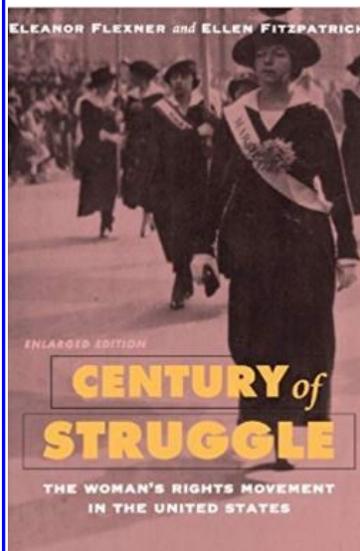
Measures to Expand Voter Registration—These address complicated registration and deadlines that vary by state and county, wrongfully purged voters, recounting processes and audits.

Measures That Implement Fair Redistricting—Here are clear rules around state redistricting processes so that fair maps can be drawn.

Measures That Outlaw Voter Purging—This section would ensure that voters' rights will not be stripped away because politicians have illegally removed their names from the voter rolls.

Measures That Restore the VRA—Since the Supreme Court's decision in 2013 that rolled back key provisions of the Voting Rights Act the process has become more challenging, especially for women and communities of color. Restoring the VRA will cut back on the obstructive laws that have kept eligible voters from exercising their rights at the ballot box.

LWV Book Club to Meet Feb. 19



Century of Struggle: The Woman's Rights Movement in the United States by Eleanor Flexner and Ellen Fitzpatrick will provide much food for thought at the LWV Book Club meeting, **Tuesday, Feb. 19 at 1:30 p.m.**

“The struggle for women's voting rights was one of the longest, most successful, and in some respects most radical challenges ever posed to the American system of electoral politics. It is difficult now to imagine a time when women were largely removed by custom, practice, and law from the formal political rights and responsibilities that supported and sustained the nation's young democracy.” A quote from the prologue to the book.

Terry Naydan will host the discussion group at her home, **3013 Charleston Gardens Blvd.** If you have not participated previously, please contact her at terrynaydan@aol.com.

We Are Not Alone

When progress on League initiatives seems like lonely work and is difficult to measure, remember these numbers:

700+ state and local Leagues

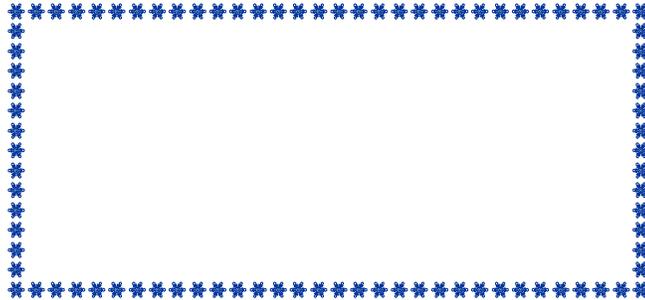
300,000+ members and supporters

10 million voters reached in 2018

100s of voting rights victories

We will create a more perfect democracy!

VOTER editor is Judy Johnson. If you have a question about or information for the newsletter please contact her at lwvlex-voter@gmail.com.



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
P.O. Box 22045, Lexington, 40522 Facebook: League of Women Voters of Lexington, KY

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

- Thurs. Feb. 7 9:15 a.m. LWV DAY AT THE LEGISATURE—We meet in Room 160 of the Capitol
- Tues. Feb. 19 1:30 p.m. LWV Book Club meets at Terry Naydan’s house, 3013 Charleston Gardens Blvd.
- Thurs. Feb. 28 6:00 p.m. LWV Board meeting, Faith House, Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Rd.
- Mon. Mar. 4 7:30 p.m. Voter registration training at the Beaumont Library; preregistration required.
<https://www.lwvlexington.com/new-events/2019/3/4/voter-registration-training>

Vol. 18-19 Issue 6 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.