



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

The Lexington Voter Summer 2014

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

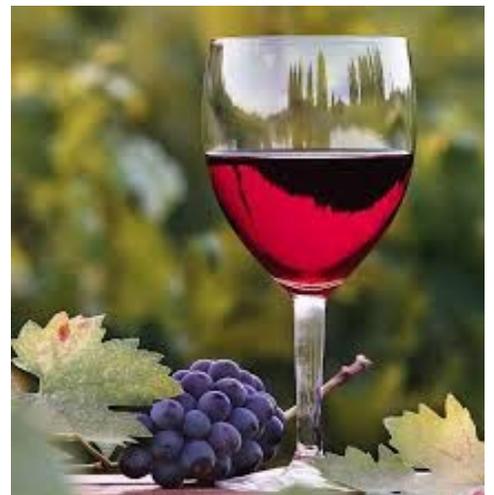
Lexington LWV To Hold August 9th Membership Event

On Saturday, **August 9**, from **3:00 to 6:00 p.m.** the Lexington League of Women Voters will host a membership event at Talon Winery. The winery, which is located at 7086 Tates Creek Road, is a favorite of visitors to the Lexington area.



This will be a great opportunity to connect with other League members and to invite potential members to learn a little about our work. In addition to socializing and discussing this year's program, the winery will provide opportunities for us to enjoy three of their products with hor d'oeuvres and take a self-guided tour of the grounds.

Guests are welcome but space is limited so RSVP quickly to League phone **(859-494-3203)** or use the League email address **lexingtonlww@gmail.com**. Carpooling can be arranged through the League email also. Don't miss this opportunity to network and to enjoy the winery!



News from Other State Leagues

FLORIDA

Early in July a Florida Circuit Court threw out the Congressional maps in Florida that were drawn by the state legislature and adopted in 2012. Judge Terry P. Lewis called the maps “a mockery to the rules of transparency.”

This decision is a huge victory for those fighting partisan gerrymandering and seeking to amend the redistricting process. The League of Women Voters of Florida was the lead organizational plaintiff in the lawsuit, as well as a driving force behind the Fair Districts Amendments coalition.

The state has announced the court’s decision will not be appealed. Instead, the state is seeking to delay redrawing the maps until after the 2014 elections. The Florida League continues to push for new maps. Ultimately, the judge will make the final ruling.

CALIFORNIA

The League of Women Voters of California was instrumental in forming a citizen-led independent redistricting commission in 2011. Last year, a report found that the maps drawn by this commission were more nonpartisan and democratic than in previous redistricting cycles.

ARIZONA

The League of Women Voters of Arizona also helped usher in an independent commission via ballot initiative and then later successfully protected it from partisan attacks.

NEW YORK

Currently, the League of Women Voters of New York is advocating for a ballot initiative that would establish an independent commission to draw districts in the future.

GEORGIA, ILLINOIS, PENNSYLVANIA, OHIO

Leagues have pushed for increased transparency and public participation in the redistricting process with varied results. As Leagues continue this work, they are seeking to ensure that our Congressional districts reflect our communities, so that the voters are choosing their elected officials instead of the elected officials choosing their voters.

Actions of LWV National Conference

The 51st LWV National Conference, held in Austin, Texas, in June provided many opportunities for members from across the country to hear interesting speakers, learn more about important topics, elect officers and propose actions to be taken. When discussions were over and votes taken, two actions were agreed upon and one was defeated.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Representatives of state and local Leagues called upon the LWVUS Board to “quickly appoint the committees to review our campaign finance position and to study the process of amending the Constitution, in order to arrive at a comprehensive national action program that will support the aspirations and content of our position and mobilize our members. We call upon those committees, as well as the newly-formed committee on redistricting to move quickly, deliberately and collaboratively to produce results that will allow the League, unified and strong, to participate fully in local, state and national efforts to reclaim our democracy.”

VOTING RIGHTS FOR EX-FELONS

Delegates called upon the LWVUS Board to “strongly advocate for passage of legislation that restores voting rights in federal elections to citizens with felony convictions who have been released from prison or who have been paroled or placed on probation and to use the resources of the LWVUS to provide support to Leagues who are working to repeal state felon disenfranchisement laws.”

LIVING WAGE

Delegates defeated a motion proposed by the LWV of Kansas to adopt a position on the living wage which, in brief, said, “Encourage establishment of a living wage policy by government and for-profit businesses that receive tax incentives and other public funds.”

In Memory of....

Charles Homes, who died May 20th. Charles and his wife Carolyn shared a long history as active members of the League of Women Voters.

HELP WANTED

Campaign season means many LWV candidate forums to sponsor and facilitate during the months of September and October. Your help is needed! Please email Cindy Heine at cynthia.heine@gmail.com to offer your services for at least one forum. Needs include moderators, timekeepers, and greeters to collect questions from audience participants. This is one of the most important voter services we offer!

LWVUS Continues Push to Move Action on the Voting Rights Amendment Act

Earlier in July the LWVUS joined the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, the NAACP, the ACLU, and the Asian American Alliance for Justice for a special meeting on Capitol Hill conducted by Senators Mark Begich and Harry Reid concerning voting rights. The meeting focused on the need to move more quickly on the Voting Rights Amendment Act.

During the course of the meeting, 16 senators heard from the voting rights community that fixing the VRAA was a top priority especially in advance of the upcoming federal elections. The message was clear: **the Voting Rights Act is critical to American democracy and must be repaired and restored.**

Call your Representatives and tell them to follow the Senate lead and move this legislation forward!



A REMINDER—to those who have not yet paid their annual dues. The fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30th so **dues are currently needed for the 2014-2015 year.** Dues are **\$60.00** for an individual, **\$90.00** for a household and **\$30.00** for students. Paying your dues promptly helps the League determine its resources for the fiscal year.

- Please print the membership form attached to the electronic copy or enclosed with the print copy of this newsletter and send your dues as soon as possible.
- If you have already paid your dues, thank you for continuing your membership!
- You may also want to make a contribution (not tax deductible) to help the Lexington League achieve its goals of informing and engaging citizens through voter registration, candidate forums, etc. Or you may want to make a contribution (tax deductible) to the Lexington League education fund. If you choose to contribute, these contributions can be sent in at the same time you pay your dues.

Thank you for continuing to support the League!

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 judylex@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.

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| Thurs. August 6 | 6:30 p.m. | LWV Board meeting at Faith House, Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Road |
| Sat. August 9 | 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. | Membership Event at Talon Winery, 7086 Tates Creek Road, (RSVP to League phone or email). |

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER CANDIDATE FORUMS—Watch for announcements.

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