

Lexington LWV Essay Contest Now Open to Fayette County High School Students

This year the LWV essay contest focuses on the format of national elections in the U.S. The question posed to Fayette County high school teens is: "What proposal(s) would you make for improving or replacing the Electoral College system for electing the President and Vice President?"

Student writers have until October 27 to submit their researched ideas related to the Electoral College system.

Monetary prizes of **\$250** for first place, **\$150** for second place and **\$100** for third place will be awarded in December. An honorarium of **\$100** will be awarded to the teacher of the first place winner and the teacher/sponsor of the second and third place winners will each receive **\$50**.

More information is available at lwv.essaycontest@insightbb.com or the League's website at www.lwvlexington.com.

REMINDER

- ◆ Contributions to the LWV Education Fund support efforts like the Essay Contest.
- ◆ Any contribution you care to make is tax deductible.
- ◆ Just write "Education Fund" in the memo section of your check and send to Lexington LWV at P.O. Box 22045, Lexington, KY 40522.

Work of LWV Members Coleman and Story Continues 20 Years Later

In the July 26 edition of the *Lexington Herald-Leader* Merlene Davis wrote about the work and needs of Virginia Place, a Lexington program which helps families attain self-sufficiency. Virginia Place is a continuing memorial to the civic work of long time League members **Alberta Coleman**, now deceased, and **Rita Story**.

Virginia Place traces its roots back to 1983 when Coleman and Story first shared a dream of a place where single parent families could get an education and develop family life skills. They secured financial backing from local, state and federal governments and enlisted the help of the University of Kentucky and other organizations. In 1986 they opened the Single Parent Housing Program which has evolved into Virginia Place/One Parent Family Facility. Its current location is 1156 Horsemans Lane, just off Red Mile Road.

The Lexington LWV is proud of these women and the deep commitment to their community that they shared..

*Important
DATE!*

TUES.—OCT. 13

6:00 p.m.

at Faith Lutheran Church

1000 Tates Creek Road

"Dinner and Democracy"

Topic: Energy Efficiency

with reps from KY Utilities and East KY Power

Dinner of sandwiches, fruit, dessert

followed by discussion

(\$10—cost + donation)

AUG. 19th Release from National LWV Regarding Health Care Reform

PUBLIC OPTION IS ESSENTIAL TO HEALTH REFORM

League Urges Congress and President to Continue Support for Public Option

Washington, DC – "The public option in health care reform may not be essential to bureaucrats or insurance companies but it absolutely is essential to the almost 47 million uninsured Americans who live day to day without health care coverage," said League of Women Voters National President Mary G. Wilson. Calling on Congress and the President not to succumb to the bullying tactics being used by special interest groups, Wilson urged Congress and the President not to waver in their support of the public option included in H.R. 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009, recently passed by three House committees.

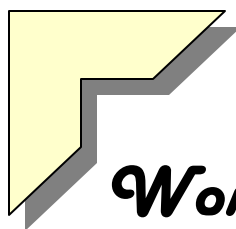
America is facing a health care crisis caused by a combination of skyrocketing costs and an insurance system that leaves millions of Americans without any coverage. "The current health care system is endangering our economy, our health, and our national security," Wilson said. "Last fall, voters elected a Congress and President that promised to reform our health care system. Voters made it clear that they want a change in our health care system, a change that puts the brakes on the excesses created by a system dominated by large insurance companies," she continued.

"It is universal coverage that will determine the humanity of our system and a public option will make that possible for Americans who cannot obtain coverage through the traditional employer-sponsored plans," noted Wilson. "We believe that health care reform legislation must guarantee access to comprehensive and essential benefits to all U.S. residents."

"But the possibility of universal coverage is not the only advantage of the public option," warned Wilson. "We must control costs and the public option is the best chance to bring costs into line with reality. As a nation, we are spending \$1 out of every \$6 we earn on health care. Over the last three decades, increases in the amount we spend on health care have consistently risen faster than wages and inflation. Health care reform must provide effective

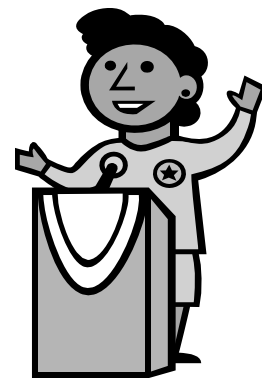
cost controls, equitable distribution of services and allow for efficient and economical delivery of care. Offering everyone the choice of a government administered health insurance plan like Medicare that would compete with private health insurance plans is key to lowering costs."

"The public option is critical to health care reform," Wilson concluded. "Now is not the time for politicians to get cold feet just because a handful of special-interest-backed protesters spread lies and make noise at public forums. Congress and the President need to demonstrate real leadership and move forward with true health care reform."



Women

Trailblazers



1872—Victoria Woodhull.....first woman to run for president.

1887—Susanna Medora Salter...first woman elected mayor of a U.S. city

1916—Jeanette Rankin.....first woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives

1932—Hattie Wyatt Caraway.....first woman elected to the U. S. Senate

1933—Frances Perkins.....first woman to serve in presidential cabinet

1964—Margaret Chase Smith.....first woman to be nominated for president by a major party

The League of Women Voters of Lexington is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed, active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy

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

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

Saturday, September 12	10:00 a.m.	Board meeting at Faith House, Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Rd.
Saturday, October 2	10:00 a.m.	Board meeting at Faith House, Faith Lutheran Church
Tuesday, October 13	6:00 p.m.	Dinner and Democracy at Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Tates Creek Rd.

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