

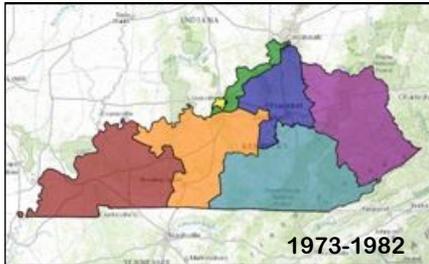


LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

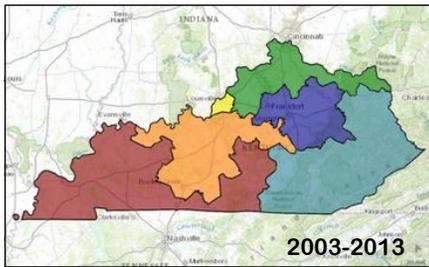
# The Lexington Voter September 2017

## The League of Women Voters of Lexington

### LWV to Tackle the Topic of Redistricting on Tuesday, Oct. 3



1973-1982



2003-2013

Please mark your calendars now for the Lexington League general meeting at **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 3**. The location will be the Farish Theater at the Lexington Public Library, 140 East Main Street.

The evening will focus on how to develop a redistricting process that allows voters to choose their representatives rather than legislators choosing their constituents. In other words, we will seek remedies for a situation where one political party or the other establishes an advantage by manipulating district boundaries. This practice is called gerrymandering and is evident in the difference between the two graphics on the left.

Susan Perkins Weston, League member who is writing a report for the state League's redistricting study, will present her findings. Two state representatives who have filed bills related to redistricting have also been invited.

More details will be finalized soon and you will be notified by email and the October issue of the newsletter. Because this is such an important topic, make arrangements to attend now!

### Looking for Volunteers to Staff LWV Table Sat., Sept. 16

The League of Women Voters will have a booth at the Festival Latino of Lexington, on **Saturday, Sept. 16, from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m.** to register voters. This festival is a celebration of authentic Latino music, dancing, art and cuisine sponsored by Lexington Parks and Recreation and the Foundation for Latin American and Latino Arts and Culture. It will be downtown at the Robert F. Stephens Courthouse Plaza. We are looking for volunteers to work at the booth, answering any questions that people have about the process of voter registration, registering people to vote and passing out the blue sheets which have contact information for national, state and local officials.



Members who volunteered to work the League booth at the Woodland Art Fair on **August 19 and 20** had a great time interacting with people in the community—answering questions, providing information and discussing ways to be active in the community. Volunteers were **Donna Blue, Nancy Chesser, Cindy and Richard Heine, Karen Guffey, Judy Johnson, Barbara Sterrett and Laura Zimmerman**. You, too, will find volunteering in this way a rewarding experience!

Contact **Jennifer Jackson** at **404-593-5397** or [xanthine88@gmail.com](mailto:xanthine88@gmail.com) or call the League number **859-494-3203** if you would like to experience Festival Latino and volunteer on Saturday, Sept. 16. When you come to the plaza, look for our table under the large tent with other informational booths!

**LEFT:** Lexington LWV president Tammy Fagley (in green) and her friends Donna Cornett and Sarah Brummett visit the League booth at the Woodland Arts and Crafts Fair on August 20.

## Also Looking for Members Interested in League Study

The growth of lobbying in Kentucky has paralleled the mushrooming of lobbying at the federal level. To give an idea of the Kentucky picture, here is a link to an article covering 22 years of lobbying (up to 2015)—<https://insiderlouisville.com/metro/what-22-years-of-lobbying-in-frankfort-looks-like/>. I suspect that, on the state level as well as the federal, there is an inequality of interests advanced by professional lobbyists hired by large corporate groups compared to the volunteer efforts of non-profit, public-interest groups like the League.

If you have some interest, time and energy, please consider joining the Money in Politics study group to enable our League of Women Voters of Kentucky to make this an outstanding example of how study groups can work for other Leagues across America. While most of our work can be done individually with coordination by conference phone calls, we will also gather information from elected officials, lobbyists and others using two-person teams to interview—one to ask the questions and the other to keep our record of the responses. Read the article and then think about participating in this study. If you are interested, contact:

George Schuhmann  
LWVKY Board Member  
Chair, Money In Politics Committee  
[g.s.schuh@gmail.com](mailto:g.s.schuh@gmail.com) or 502-802-5833



Photo Credit: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/58687716@N05/5384574071/>

## Why We Volunteer

Members who worked at the LWV booth at the Woodland Art Fair on Aug. 19 and 20 found that most passers by were already registered. However, there were some who did want to register on paper or online and many others who needed to make address or party changes or who simply had unanswered questions.

While working at the LWV table, I had an interesting conversation with a college student who asked what we in the League were doing about the problems ex-felons face getting rights restored. The young man explained he had been convicted of a felony that he said resulted from a “stupid mistake.” He had submitted an application for restoration of rights but is still waiting for the governor’s signature. We talked about how he could advocate with the governor’s office to get his request processed and the problem of regaining rights became personal for me. The issue now had another face.

This encounter inspires me to be more diligent in the work of addressing voter suppression. I hope we all become more determined to work in Frankfort for a constitutional amendment that will eliminate the unnecessary difficulties ex-felons face regaining their basic rights.

*Cindy Heine*

## Women’s Equality Day A Hit

The League of Women Voters of Louisville welcomed hundreds of women (and men) to *Women’s Equality Day* at the Frazier Museum on **Saturday, Aug. 26**. Guests included Lexington League members **Cindy** and **Richard Heine** and **Carol O’Reilly**.



*Susan B. Anthony (right) and friends.*

Participants were welcomed by famous regional suffragette re-enactors. Attendees also heard from guest speakers Alison Lundergan Grimes (Secretary of State), Bobbie Holsclaw (Jefferson County Clerk), and Greg Fisher (Mayor of Louisville). Current and past Louisville LWV presidents, Dee Pregliasco and Marsha Weinstein also spoke. The Lexington participants made the most of group discussions culminating in *A Call to Action*.

The event was an energizing and educational experience.



*KY Sec. of State Alison Lundergan Grimes.*

## Winery Membership Event a Success

Lexington LWV members **Tammy Fagley, Donna Blue, Barbara Sterrett, Richard and Cindy Heine, Jennifer Jackson, Mary Hughes, and Barbara Welsch**, along with eight guests, visited the Grimes Mill Winery on **Saturday, August 12**.

Prior to a tour of the winery, president **Tammy Fagley** welcomed attendees and provided a brief update on League activities and projects. The group enjoyed socializing and the opportunity to sample the winery's products.

**Information about the 2017-18 Essay Contest sponsored by the Lexington League and open to all high school students in Fayette County will be available in September. Information about the contest is sent to school staff, winners in previous contests and League members. Please promote this activity which gives students an opportunity to demonstrate their writing capabilities and to grow as well informed citizens. Plan now to share news of the contest with family and friends.**

## Former Diplomat to Address Christian Muslim Dialogue

On **Saturday, Sept. 23 at 10:00 a.m.** at Masjid Bilal (Mosque) Dr. Deborah Alexander, a former diplomatic envoy, will discuss her experiences in a talk entitled "A U.S. Diplomat's Decade in Afghanistan." She will focus on (1) her life as an American woman, often living with military troops, in the remote areas of Afghanistan; (2) her work with Afghans, both men and women, and (3) U.S. support of women and girls' assistance programs.

Her experiences ranged from being the first civilian embedded with U.S. Army Special Forces after 9/11 to supervising reconstruction projects like schools, hospitals radio stations and bridges to interning with Mother Teresa and the Missionaries of Charity. Dr. Alexander, now retired, splits her time between Washington, D.C., and Lexington.

The event, which will be followed by a pot luck meal for all who want to participate, will be held at the Mosque at 1545 Russell Cave Rd.

**Mosque guideline for visitors:**

- All women should dress modestly (no shorts or minis)
- Shoes should be removed before entering the meeting area

## An Update on Charter Schools

As of August 24 the Kentucky State Board of Education had reviewed four proposed regulations: related to charter schools: 1.) student application, lottery and enrollment; 2.) evaluation of authorized performance; 3.) revocation and nonrenewal process for authorizers; and 4.) conversion charter school creation and operation. These will be discussed and voted on October 3-4 with all regulations approved by early 2018.

As the state moves forward we need to ask ourselves if there is anything charter schools can do that our public schools cannot. Fayette County already has a method of addressing specific student needs through the adoption of magnet school programs, many of which are already doing what charter schools propose to do. However, the issue of poverty remains a basic obstacle to student learning as was noted by Boone County superintendent Randy Poe, The national LWV education blog notes that charter schools, to this point, have not provided effective remedies to address the learning problems associated with poverty.

We will continue to monitor charter regulations as they are presented to the state board.

*Carol O'Reilly*

**REMINDER:** The Lexington LWV book club meets **Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 1:30 p.m.** at Terry Naydan's house, 3013 Charleston Gardens Blvd. Two book will be discussed—the Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger work "Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates" and Wend Warnick's "This Is Where You Belong: The Art and Science of Loving the Place You Live." If anyone has a question or would like to participate, please contact Terry at [terrinnaydan@aol.com](mailto:terrinnaydan@aol.com).



**TUES., SEPT. 26  
IS  
NATIONAL  
VOTER  
REGISTRATION  
DAY**

The VOTER editor is Judy Johnson. If you have a question or concern about the newsletter please contact her at [judydex@twc.com](mailto:judydex@twc.com).



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.

- Sat.      Sept. 16 from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m.      LWV table at Festival Latino which will be held at the Robert F. Stephens Courthouse Plaza in downtown Lexington
- Tues.    Sept. 19 at 1:30 p.m.                      LWV book club meeting at Terry Naydan's house, 3013 Charleston Gardens Blvd.
- Sat.      Sept. 23 from 10:00 a.m. to noon      Dr. Deborah Alexander's presentation to Christian Muslim Dialogue at Masjid Bilal, 1545 Russell Cave Rd. Potluck meal to follow at noon. All invited.

### **TUES. SEPT. 26 IS NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY**

- Tues.    Oct. 3 at 6:30 p.m.                          LWV general membership meeting on redistricting. Location is Farish Theater, Lexington Public Library, 140 East. Main St. Details in Oct. VOTER

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