



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

The Lexington Voter November 2018

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

The Final Mayoral Forum

The final meeting of the two candidates competing for the office of Lexington mayor was held in Transylvania’s Carrick Theater on Monday, October 29. The League’s cosponsors for the event were WKYT, the Lexington *Herald-Leader*, WLAP and Transylvania University.

Candidates Ronnie Bastin and Linda Gorton answered questions touching on issues of infill development, government budgets, a possible new city center for the government offices, homelessness, public transportation and many more topics. They were asked to explain how their backgrounds and careers prepared them for the job of mayor and they were questioned about their relationship with various segments of the Lexington community.

With this last forum, the Lexington League closed the 2018 series of primary and general election forums, providing voters with many opportunities to learn about candidates and issues important to them. For any voters who want to review particular forums, there are links to videos of the forums partnered with the Lexington Public Library and the Frankfort/Lexington Chapter of the LINKS, Incorporated at lwwlexington.com. The October 29 debate can be found at: <https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/WATCH-LIVE-Lexington-mayoral-candidates-participate-in-forum-498937461.html>. Also check out VOTE411.ORG for the LWV Voter Guide.

Many thanks to **Cindy Heine**, **Liza Holland**, and **Jennifer Jackson** for all of their hours organizing these events. And kudos to the many volunteers who contacted candidates (and hounded those who did not respond), publicized the events through Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, explained the process to candidates and moderated the forums, greeted the public, provided voter information and registration opportunities, timed responses, managed supplies and stage decorations, and, in general, were the “public face” of the League of Women Voters.

As we cross off the last days on our calendars before November 6, the message is...

TO HAVE A VOICE YOU MUST VOTE!

LWV board member Richard Heine welcomes speakers and guests to the theater.

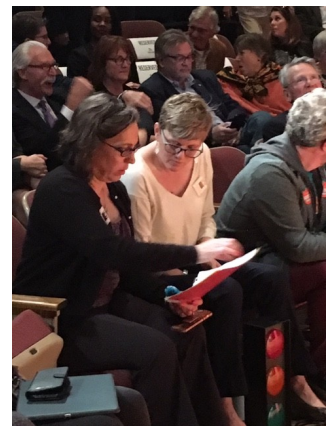


Emcee Bill Bryant waits as Transylvania University president Seamus Casey welcomes participants.



Candidates Linda Gorton and Ronnie Bastin answer questions that define their respective platforms.

LWV president Tammy Fagley and board member Jennifer Jackson prepare to time candidate responses.



Obstacles to Voting Across the States

It is good to see one significant barrier to voting knocked down. In August Massachusetts became the 14th state to institute automatic voter registration. Automatic registration causes a shift in thinking, voters are not forced to register but must make an active decision to avoid doing so, to opt out. However, it is difficult to ignore the obstacles other states are creating to prevent voters from exercising their basic right to vote. Here are a few examples:

GEORGIA—State election officials have been accused of holding up more than 50,000 voter registrations because the voters' names do not exactly match their names on other state documents like drivers' licenses or Social Security cards. An Associated Press investigation has determined that 70% of these pending registrations are minorities. The Secretary of State Brian Kemp, who is running for governor, has refused to step down from the office that oversees elections.

KANSAS—Dodge City's 13,000 registered voters (who are mostly Hispanic) saw their one and only polling station moved 1/2 mile outside the city limits where there is no public transportation. A suit was filed against the Ford County Clerk asking for a second polling site to be opened at the old location. The county clerk said this would cause massive confusion and refused to do so. In the same state the Secretary of State Kris Kobach, who is a candidate for governor, has said he will not recuse himself if there is a recount of the results in the race.

MISSOURI—State GOP sent 10,000 voters across the state incorrect voting information saying that absentee ballots had to be returned by 5 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 30. In reality the deadline is Tuesday, Nov. 6.

NORTH DAKOTA—On Tuesday, Oct. 30, the Spirit Lake Sioux tribe sued the state of North Dakota over its requirement that voters in the state need identification with a provable street address—something difficult to find on reservations. North Dakota's four large American Indian tribes have been scrambling to ensure that no tribe member is turned away at the polls, using measures that include tribal leaders sitting at polling locations, finding street identifications for those who need it, and certifying them with an official letter.

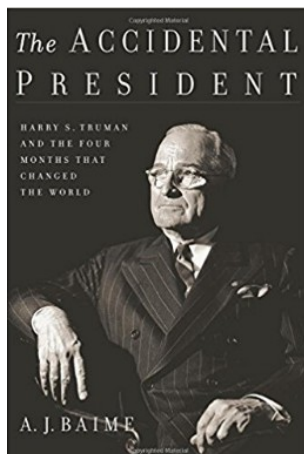
TEXAS—The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund filed a lawsuit on behalf of a group of students from the historically black Prairie View A&M University on Oct. 22. The suit alleges that Waller County election officials are violating students' civil rights by not providing any early voting locations on campus or anywhere in the city during the first week of early voting. In the second week, five days were provided in Prairie View but two of them were not on campus and not easily accessible to students. By contrast, in the nearby majority white city of Waller, voters had two locations in the first week and 11 days overall for early voting.



Long lines waiting to vote are not uncommon in many areas across the country.

LOOKING FOR AN EXPERIENCE YOU WILL REMEMBER?—On Friday, Nov. 16, at 11:00 a.m., the last naturalization ceremony of 2018 will be held at U.S. District Court, 101 Barr St. in Lexington. New citizens will have the opportunity to register as new voters at the LWV table after the ceremony. If you have never volunteered to help with one of these events, consider doing so now. You will not regret it. Watching the ceremony and talking with newly sworn citizens just might be the most memorable experience of your whole year. Go to <https://www.lwvlexington.com/new-events/2018/11/16/naturalization-ceremony> to sign up.

Lexington LWV Book Club Looks at the Truman Presidency



On **Tuesday, November 13**, the LWV Book Club is taking up A. J. Baime's *The Accidental President: Harry S. Truman and the Four Months That Changed the World*. This story of a very ordinary man thrust into extraordinary circumstances makes for a memorable read. The 120 days covered by this book saw the founding of the United Nations, the fall of Berlin, victory at Okinawa, the first atomic explosion, the Nazi surrender, the liberation of concentrations camps, the surrender of Imperial Japan, the end of World War II and the rise of the Cold War.

The book club will meet at **1:30 p.m.** at Terry Naydan's house, 3013 Charleston Gardens Blvd. If you would like to join this lively discussion, just let Terry know. Contact her at terrinnaydan@aol.com.

What Exactly Is "Fake News"?

By Cindy Heine

There is a lot of talk about "fake news" but what is it, really? How is it affecting political discourse? How can you distinguish reliable news from disinformation and propaganda?



Journalists **Elizabeth Hansen**, EKU Professor emeritus in communications, **Tom Eblen**, columnist for the Lexington *Herald-Leader* and **Ryan Craig**, advisor for UK's Kentucky Kernel, will give their perspectives on this topic on **Thursday, November 15** at **7 p.m.** at the League of Women Voters' general meeting. The event will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington, 3564 Clays Mill Road. This evening is free and open to the public.

Before

You

Vote



Register



Identify your polling station



Be sure your voting registration matches ID



Bring an ID even if you do not need it

Know Your Ballot Before You Vote

Before you vote, gather information on the candidates.

- Check the League's website www.lwvlexington.com for the videos of candidate forums that were held at the Lexington Public Library.
- The debate between candidates for the Sixth District House of Representatives seat, cosponsored by the League can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BYVnZZihec>.
- Candidate answers to League questionnaires can be found at VOTE411.ORG.
- Then mark your ballot. You can find a sample ballot on the Fayette County Clerk website: <https://www.fayettecountyclerk.com>. Click on Elections.
- On Tuesday, November 6, take your sample ballot (with your choices marked) to the polls for reference.

VOTER editor is Judy Johnson. If you have a question about or information for the newsletter please contact her at judylex@twc.com.



Return Service Requested

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Calendar

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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.

Tues., Sept. 4 6 a.m.—6 p.m. VOTE

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| Tues., Nov. 13 | 1:30 p.m. | LWV Book Club at Terry Naydan’s house, 3013 Charleston Gardens Blvd. |
| Thurs., Nov. 15 | 7:30 p.m. | LWV general meeting—Panel discussion on “Fake News” at Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington, 3564 Clays Mill Rd. |
| Fri., Nov 16 | 11:00 a.m. | Naturalization ceremony at U. S. District Court, 101 Barr St. LWV registers voters at this ceremony. |

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