



MESSAGE FROM THE LEXINGTON LWV CO-PRESIDENTS



It's hard to believe it is September already and the November General Election is less than two months away! August was a busy month for the League, and September and October will be the same.

You won't want to miss our first program for the 2020-2021 League year, "Voting in the Pandemic - Navigating the November General Election" on Wednesday, Sept. 9th from 7:00-8:15 p.m. via Zoom. Be sure to invite a friend to watch. Attendees will need to register; see more details in this issue of the Voter!

In October, we will have a second program featuring two League members from Louisville - Dot Ridings, former state and national president of the League; and Marsha Weinstein, President of the National Women's Collaborative for Women's History Sites. Dot will discuss some of the major issues in which she was involved during her tenure. Marsha will share her extensive knowledge regarding Kentucky suffragists. It should be an exciting program!

The voter registration deadline is getting close - you must be registered 4:00 p.m. October 5th. We recommend that everyone makes sure their mailing address is correct. It is easy to do by going to [GoVoteKy.com](https://www.GoVoteKy.com). You can also request your mail-in absentee ballot at the same time. Anyone who has reason to be concerned about contracting the Coronavirus (i.e. everyone) is eligible to request a mail-in absentee ballot. However, don't worry if you don't get one right away, the ballots will be mailed out mid to late September.

Before you fill out your ballot or go to the polls, check League resources to research the candidates running for office. The League will be hosting candidate forums via Zoom this fall and will be posted on the website. Check the website Events page for updates on dates. In addition to our state [Vote411.org](https://www.Vote411.org) voter guide, we are continuing with the LexVote coalition led by CivicLex and Fayette Alliance, that we joined for the Primary election. This collaboration will result in a more robust local voter guide, as candidates recognize the value of answering the questions from a group with broad reach.

On other fronts, our voter registration efforts continue, including helping the 175,000 Kentuckians who have had their voting rights restored by the Governor's Executive Order. Since the Coronavirus pandemic limits our in-person registration drives, we are expanding our social media messaging and also planning to have a sandwich board with voting info that can be displayed at the Gardenside Farmer's Market on Wednesdays. We are looking for other GOTV ideas that are "COVID-safe".

Wouldn't it be wonderful if a majority of registered voters voted in the November election? Having a big turnout for the upcoming election is up to each of us and part of the League's mission! Do your part by talking with neighbors, friends and family members, reminding them to register and vote. Also follow us on social media for up to date election info. See you at our upcoming Zoom events!

Sincerely,
Mary Hughes and Jennifer Jackson



Register by: October 5, 2020 4PM EST

Three options to Vote:

1. Request Mail-In Absentee Ballot by Oct 9, 11:59 PM (if concerned about COVID)
2. Vote Early Starting October 13 (no excuse needed)
3. Vote In-person on November 3

Visit LWVLexington.com for details

GENERAL ELECTION CHANGES DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

REGISTER TO VOTE

- You can register to vote at GoVoteKY.com.
- The voter registration deadline is October 5 at 4PM EST.
- Everyone is encouraged to check their voter registration to ensure all information is accurate, including your mailing address You can check at GoVoteKY.com.
- Citizens with prior nonviolent felony convictions may learn more about restoring their civil rights and registering to vote at CivilRightsRestoration.ky.gov or by calling 502-782-9731.

ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL

- Kentuckians concerned with contracting or spreading COVID-19 can request a ballot by mail (absentee ballot).
- Kentuckians can request a mail-in (absentee) ballot at GoVoteKY.com. Ballots can be requested through the portal through Oct. 9 at 11:59 PM EST. After Oct. 9 mail-in (absentee) ballots may only be requested from the County Clerk for medical emergencies.
- If you request a mail-in (absentee) ballot by contacting the county clerk, they will either register you through the portal (at their discretion) or will send you an APPLICATION for a mail-in (absentee ballot). You would then need to send in a photocopy of your ID with your application. Requesting with your county clerk could lead to delays and a more complicated

process for voters. We strongly recommend voters use the online portal to request mail-in absentee ballots: [GoVoteKY.com](https://www.GoVoteKY.com).

- Although you may request your mail-in (absentee) ballot now, be aware that the ballots will not be printed and mailed out until mid to late September.
- Mail (absentee) ballots must be postmarked by Election Day, Nov. 3, and received by Nov. 6.
- Drop boxes will be available for Kentuckians to return their mail (absentee) ballots if they are concerned about postal delays. County clerks will determine these locations.

EARLY VOTING

- Beginning Oct. 13, three weeks before the election, every Monday-Friday between Oct. 13 and Election Day, and every Saturday for at least four hours, every county clerk will provide a location for safe in-person voting.
- Early voting is not absentee voting – anyone can vote early for any reason.

ELECTION DAY VOTING

- Voting on Election Day will be from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM.
- County election officials will decide election sites on Election Day. The State Board of Elections, Secretary of State and Governor will approve each plan.
- Every county will have at least one voting super-center, where everyone from the county can go to vote, regardless of his or her precinct.

VOTER IDENTIFICATION

- Kentuckians who were unable to get a driver's licenses or photo ID due to the pandemic because their clerk's office was closed, or because they were afraid of exposing themselves to COVID-19, can sign a document explaining this concern and cast their ballot.

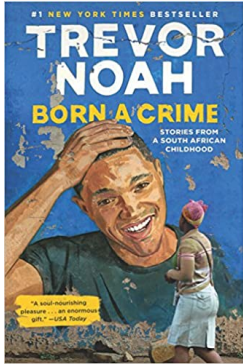
BREAKING THE BRONZE CEILING DEDICATION OF THE STAND



Breaking the Bronze Ceiling (BTBC) dedicated “Stand”, a monument by Barbara Grygutis that honors women’s suffrage on Aug 19, 2020 to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment which occurred on Aug 18, 1920. (The ceremony was postponed by one day for weather). The ceremony was emceed’d by Renee Shaw. Speakers included Gov Andy Beshear, Lt. Gov Jaqueline Coleman, Representative Andy Barr, Mayor Linda Gorton, Council members Jennifer Mossotti, Kathy Plomin, Lisa Higgins-Hord; Fayette District Judge Melissa Moore Murphy among others. The LWVUS President, Dr. Deborah Turner provided a virtual address that touched on many of the important issues facing the League in 2020, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, redistricting, the 2020 Census.

It is important to recognize that not all women were given the right to vote in 1920. It wasn’t until 1965 when the Voting Rights Amendment (VRA) was passed that Black women were also allowed to vote. This year marks the 55th anniversary of the VRA.

The League of Women Voters of Lexington was proud to be a part of the BTBC steering committee. If you missed the dedication ceremony, you can watch it here: <https://bit.ly/3kZhZ8s> (Renee Shaw introduces Dr. Turner starting around minute 41) Since the scale of the ceremony was quite limited due to the Coronavirus pandemic, a larger celebration will be planned next year. More info about BTBC can be found here: <https://breakingthebronzeceiling.com/>



Lexington League of Women Voters Book Club - Wednesday, September 16, 7 PM - Zoom
Our new evening group will now meet the third Wednesday of every month. All are welcome!

To become a LWV Book Club member, please email Maureen Murphy at murphymo1@msn.com and she will add you to our member list. Your email and phone number are needed because the meeting will be on Zoom and we want to send you the link to join us for the video meeting.

Please let Maureen know if you will be attending on September 16th. We will check to see if you are having any technical difficulty if you have not logged on for the meeting.

Our first meeting is Wednesday, September 16th at 7 PM on Zoom. Our book for September is *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah published in 2016.

Future book: October 21st - *Lincoln on the Verge* by Ted Widmer published in 2020.

COMMUNITY FORUM OCTOBER 13 7:00 – 8:15 PM

Make plans to join us for an engaging community forum that will include presentations and discussion featuring former LWVKY and LWVUS President Dot Ridings and National Collaborative for Women's History Sites President Marsha Weinstein.



Ridings will speak on the top issues during her tenure as state and national president. Weinstein will speak on women suffragist history.

Ridings served as president of LWVUS from 1982-1986 and has since served in a number of philanthropic leadership positions across the country and in Kentucky, including President and CEO for the

ESSAY CONTEST TOPICS WANTED

The Lexington League of Women Voter's Jay Ogden Essay Contest Committee is accepting suggestions for this year's high school essay contest prompt. Each year, the Jay Ogden essay contest honors the late Jay Ogden, a longtime LWV member who believed students should be prepared to be informed citizens. The contest aims to further Jay Ogden's mission by prompting Fayette County high school students to write a three-page or less essay responding to a prompt and analyzing an issue concerning democratic values and voter participation. Last year's prompt asked students to present an explanation, supported by researched and personally-collected evidence, for why young voters, aged 18-29, are significantly less likely to vote as compared to their older counterparts. The committee received several well-written, thoughtful submissions and presented a number of awards to students whose essays stood out above the rest. The committee hopes to further increase high school student participation this year, and in an effort to do so, the essay contest has been rescheduled for spring, coinciding with Fayette County Public High Schools' curriculum on essay writing. At present, the Essay Contest Committee is seeking League member input on this year's prompt.

Council on Foundations and was an original member of the Prichard Committee and served as the Committee Chair after Richard Prichard's death.

In addition to serving as the current president of the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites, Weinstein is Founder and Vice-President of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Trust and Founder and Past President of the Patty and Mildred Hill Happy Birthday Park. She also served on the national Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts of the USA and chaired the Nominating Committee of the LWVUS.



This event will be a virtual event via Zoom. Watch for more information about how to participate on our website.

This year has been full of major events, both local and national, that could be incorporated into a thought-provoking prompt: the 19th Amendment's centennial, voting procedural changes due to Covid-19, Kentucky's new Voter ID law, and the 2020 presidential election each raise interesting questions as to the future of democracy in America. So, give us your best shot and submit an idea for the committee to consider! Due to the updated timeframe, the essay prompt will need to be decided and advertised by mid-November. If you have suggestions for a voting topic you would like to see local students address, or if you are interested in serving on the Essay Contest Committee, please contact the Essay Contest Chair, Megan George, at atmgeorge@stites.com.

HELP WANTED



We are looking for a **VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**. Email lexingtonlww@gmail.com if interested!

Our candidate forums are coming up soon. If you have **suggested questions** you would like to submit, please email them to lwwlexcandidateforums@gmail.com



WE'VE TEAMED UP TO BRING YOU A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE COUNCIL PRIMARIES.

PRESENTED BY: CivicLex PAYETTE ALLIANCE

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS:





Upcoming Events

Sept 9: Voting During the 2020 Pandemic, 7:00-8:15PM, on Zoom. Register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84451220000>

Sept 16: LWV of Lexington Book Club meeting, 7:00PM. Email murphymo1@msn.com to join zoom meeting.

Sept 23: LWV of Lexington Board Meeting, 7:30PM, open to all members and potential members. Details under events at www.lwvlexington.com

Sept 26: Christian Muslim Dialogue, Dr. Mark Medley - "When Did God Become a White Christian? Race, Pluralism, and an Ethics of Encounter.", 9:30-12:30PM, details at <https://cmdlex.org/>

Oct 5: voter registration deadline at 4PM. Go to govoteky.com

Oct 9: last day to request an absentee ballot at govoteky.com

Oct 13: LWV Community Forum, 7:00-8:15PM, on zoom, see www.lwvlexington.com for details.

Other events can be found on our website and social media!

League of Women Voters
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED