



# The Lexington Voter

## May 2011

The League of Women Voters of Lexington

## May Is Membership Month

May is the month the League works hard to provide clear information about membership dues for the 2011-2012 year; solicit donations from members interested in providing additional support for such endeavors as the Education Fund; and recruit new members to join in our work.

Often when members are active in several community organizations it is difficult to remember when each group's "year" begins/ends. This understandable confusion can lead to LWV members sending checks late, sometimes by months. Then it is quite probable that they might greet the new year's membership appeal with the thought, "But I just paid my dues." A major emphasis on May as "Membership Month," we hope, will make it easier to remember when dues should be paid.

Therefore, in this mailing you will find:

- your copy of the Voter

- a letter explaining LWV accomplishments of the year now ending
- the annual membership form sent to identify changes in contact information and/or areas of interest
- an addressed envelope for your convenience.

**Please remit as soon as possible.**

Members who have already paid their 2011-2012 dues will find the word PAID stamped across the membership form in their mailing.

Finally, share the word about our work. In these highly partisan times, it is so important to provide non-partisan voter registration opportunities and voter education resources. Ask a friend to participate in an activity—help register new voters, hear a speaker, or attend a candidate forum. Invite that friend to join the LWV!



### Next Naturalization Ceremonies

Friday, June 17

11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

at the Federal Court House



Anyone interested in helping to register new voters afterwards should contact **Betty Higgins** at [e.higgins@insightbb.com](mailto:e.higgins@insightbb.com) or call 278-1898.

### Resources Now Available

- The **Blue Sheet** (which lists the contact information for government officials/offices) has been updated and copies printed.
- The **Members' Handbook** for the Lexington LWV has been reviewed, edited, and copies printed.

Members who would like copies of either or both can contact **Judy Johnson** at [judylex@insightbb.com](mailto:judylex@insightbb.com) or call 859-806-1309.



# Candidates on Ballot for May 17th Primary Election Polls Open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## *Democrats*

### Governor

Steven L. Beshear [www.stevebeshear.com](http://www.stevebeshear.com)

### Lt. Governor

Jerry E. Abramson [www.stevebeshear.com](http://www.stevebeshear.com)

### Secretary of State

Alison Lundergan Grimes [www.alison2011.com](http://www.alison2011.com)

Elaine N. Walker [www.elaineforky.com](http://www.elaineforky.com)

### Attorney General

Jack Conway [www.jackconway.org](http://www.jackconway.org)

### Auditor

Adam H. Edelen [www.adamedelen.com](http://www.adamedelen.com)

### State Treasurer

Steve Hamrick [www.4hamrick.com](http://www.4hamrick.com)

L. J. "Todd" Hollenbach

### Commissioner of Agriculture

Robert "Bob" Farmer [www.farmerforkentucky.com](http://www.farmerforkentucky.com)

Stewart Gritton [www.stewartgritton.com](http://www.stewartgritton.com)

John Faris Lacky [www.lacky2011.com](http://www.lacky2011.com)

David Williams 106 Short St., Glasgow, KY 42141

B. D. Wilson [www.bdwilsonagky.com](http://www.bdwilsonagky.com)

## *Republicans*

### Governor

Senate Pres. David Williams [www.williamsfarmer.com](http://www.williamsfarmer.com)

Phil Moffet [www.Philmoffett.com](http://www.Philmoffett.com)

Bobbie Holsclaw [www.holsclawforgovernor.com](http://www.holsclawforgovernor.com)

### Lt. Governor

Richie Farmer [www.williamsfarmer.com](http://www.williamsfarmer.com)

Mike Harmon [www/Philmoffett.com](http://www/Philmoffett.com)

Bill Vermillion [www.holsclawforgovernor.com](http://www.holsclawforgovernor.com)

### Secretary of State

Bill Johnson [www.Kentuckybill.com](http://www.Kentuckybill.com)

Hilda Legg [www.hildalegg.com](http://www.hildalegg.com)

### Attorney General

Todd P'Pool [www.Toddppool.com](http://www.Toddppool.com)

### Auditor

John Kemper [www.Johnkemper.com](http://www.Johnkemper.com)

State Rep. Addia Wuchner [www.addiawuchner.com](http://www.addiawuchner.com)

### State Treasurer

K. C. Crosbie [www.facebook.com/KCCrosbie-for-State-Treasurer](http://www.facebook.com/KCCrosbie-for-State-Treasurer)

### Commissioner of Agriculture

State Rep. James Comer [www.Jamesrcomer.com](http://www.Jamesrcomer.com)

Robert Rothenburger [www.Robrothenburger.com](http://www.Robrothenburger.com)

KET reported only 15 percent of state's eligible voters are predicted to vote in this primary election. Let's help improve this number. **Vote. Remind others to vote. Give someone a ride to the polls.**

## Results of LWV Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held at Faith Lutheran Church on Saturday, April 16. Actions taken included:

- Election of officers for 2011-12—**Tammy Fagley**, President; **Cindy Heine**, First Vice President; **Karen Anderson**, Secretary. The position of Second Vice President remains vacant.
- **Cindy Heine** will serve as Chairperson of the Nominating Committee. **Diana Clewett** volunteered to fill one of the two non-board positions on that committee.
- Reports were accepted from all committees.
- Budget was accepted for 2011-12.
- The League's policy regarding candidate forums was amended to clarify expectations for participating candidates.
- *Civics education* and *juvenile drug court effectiveness* were announced as proposed state studies for 2011-12.
- *The role of the federal government in public education* is a national study undertaken for 2011-12. (Members have already inquired about participating in this study. If you, too, are interested in participating in this study, please contact Judy Johnson at [judylex@insightbb.com](mailto:judylex@insightbb.com) or 859-806-1309.)

## Highlights of Linda Gorton's Speech

Vice Mayor Linda Gorton joined League members at the Annual Meeting to share her thoughts about the future of Lexington. She discussed many issues the Mayor and Council are working on—service to senior citizens, the underfunded fire fighters and police pension, urban service boundaries, “healthy Lexington” initiatives, traffic solutions, water quality improvements, and redistricting council boundaries. She said she is enthusiastic about progress being made and credits Mayor Jim Gray for his inclusive management style and the expanded transparency in city government.

Ms. Gorton noted that one of her assignments is to make all appointments to committees and encouraged LWV members to contact her if we have an interest in participating in any particular committee work. She cited as examples the group looking at potential rural bicycle route and the group identifying needs for fire and emergency services.

The Vice Mayor can be reached at 258-3211 or by email at [lgorton@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:lgorton@lexingtonky.gov).

## National League Working to Protect Voter Rights

The League of Women Voters is dismayed by the U.S. Department of Justice's recent decision to allow the state of Georgia to implement a discriminatory requirement that new voters provide a passport or other proof of citizenship, i.e. birth certificate, in order to register to vote. Consider how difficult this requirement would make voter registration efforts.

Such a requirement will disenfranchise thousands of citizens who do not have or cannot afford to acquire the needed documentation to prove their citizenship due to disability, age, illness, transportation, or financial issues. The greatest impact is expected to fall on the elderly and on racial and ethnic minorities.

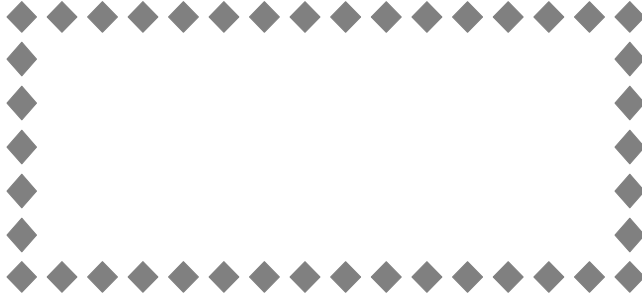
The Voting Rights Act (VRA) bans racial discrimination in voting practices. The U.S. Department of Justice persisted in approving the Georgia law, however, the LWV believes this decision undermines effective enforcement of the VRA.

The burden of the new law will be greatest for citizens for whom it is most cost prohibitive or inconvenient to take off work, get transportation, stand in line, and apply for documentation. Thus, this requirement would disenfranchise the very people who currently must work the hardest to vote. The vast majority of Americans do not have a passport and obtaining copies of birth certificates can be difficult and costly.

Evidence proves that illegal voting is extremely low. At the federal level only 24 people were convicted of voter fraud between 2002 and 2005. According to the LWV website, “Americans are twice as likely to get hit by lightning as they are to have their vote cancelled out by a fraudulently cast vote.” Current anti-fraud laws, it would seem, work so why this effort to establish barriers to voter registration and voting? Increasing efforts to pass this and similar legislation in other states demand our attention.

The LWV has fought for over 40 years to protect, strengthen and extend the provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. We will not abandon this effort. The League is currently working throughout the country to block restrictive legislation like the action taken in Georgia by writing op-ed pieces, contacting legislators, providing testimony at hearings, and educating the public. We have worked too hard too long to allow voting rights to be curtailed in any way. We must continue this effort.

*\*The Lexington League of Women Voters 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](http://www.lwvlexington.com)

Phone: 859-494-3203

Email: [lexingtonlwv@gmail.com](mailto:lexingtonlwv@gmail.com)

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

**\*\*\*\*\* TUESDAY, MAY 17 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. PRIMARY ELECTION \*\*\*\*\***

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|---|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Saturday, May 21</b>                   | <b>10:00 a.m.</b>     | <b>Board meeting at Faith House, Faith Lutheran Church, 1000<br/>Tates Creek Rd.</b> |
| <b>Friday, June 17</b>                    | <b>11:00 and 2:00</b> | <b>Registration of new voters after Naturalization Ceremony</b>                      |
| <b>Friday, June 17 to Monday, June 20</b> |                       | <b>Council 2011: <i>The Big Picture</i> in Leesburg, VA</b>                          |

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