



# The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County, MO

## FOUNDER'S DAY LUNCHEON NOVEMBER 12

Our annual Founders Day Luncheon will be at the Holiday Inn Executive Center (by the Columbia Mall) on Monday, November 12 at noon (gather at 11:30 a.m.). This celebration of our chapter of the League of Women Voters will commemorate our 99 years as an active and integral part of our community.

We will have three League members present information on our founding, our 75th anniversary, and activities for the next year. Our guest speaker will be "Luella St. Clair Moss" portrayed by Mary Shaw, a local resident. Luella St. Clair Moss served as president of the Columbia Equal Suffrage Association, which was established in 1912, (predecessor of our LWV), and later served as president of the League of Women Voters of Columbia.



We will also have the presentation of the Liz Schmidt Community Service Award. This year our award will be presented to the Central Missouri Stop Human Trafficking Coalition (see article on page 4).



**Please make your reservation for this special event by Tuesday, November 6, so that we can be sure that there will be a place for you.**

You can email your reservation to: [lwvcbc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcbc@gmail.com) or call Marilyn McLeod at (573) 445-3500. Please mention whether you want the meat or the vegetarian option. You can also send your check for \$25 to LWV, PO Box 239, Columbia, MO 65205.

Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate our past and our continuing work to support voting rights and to encourage educated and informed voters.

— Marilyn McLeod, [marilyn\\_mcleod@yahoo.com](mailto:marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com)

## STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR NOV. 10 LWVMO FALL CONFERENCE

The 2018 LWVMO Fall Conference will be on Saturday, November 10 in Sedalia at the State Fair Community College. The registration fee (includes lunch) is \$25 and our League will pay for registrations for six of our members.

Topics at the conference include:

- Update on voting from Lafayette County Clerk Linda Ninedick
- President and GM of KC Television Stations, Sarah Smith, will talk about her experiences

- History Project for our 2019 Centennial
- Update on LWVMO lawsuits
- National Popular Vote Information



There will be coffee, breakfast snacks, lunch and lots of LWV merchandise to buy! Join League members from around the state. If you would like to register, request a free registration fee, or carpool, send an email to [lwvcbc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcbc@gmail.com).

— Carol Schreiber, [carolschrei@gmail.com](mailto:carolschrei@gmail.com)

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## OCTOBER BOARD MEETING REPORT

Election issues dominated the discussion at the October 15th board meeting. Our League has worked tirelessly over the past months to register voters, to educate voters on issues and candidates, and to insure the integrity of the voting process. Voter registration activities have been held at an assortment of locations including schools, public places, and the Islamic Center. Once the voter registration deadline passed, our focus shifted to educating voters on issues and candidates. Three forums were held during October—two involved legislative and local candidates, the third concerned ballot initiatives and amendments. In addition, our organization has published and distributed a Voter Guide to help inform citizens of candidates and issues to be voted on November 6th. Our Voter Guide has been a 'best seller' and we have had a hard time meeting demand for the publication. Hats off to Carol Schreiber for all of her hard work in pulling all of the information together for this guide.

Related to voting issues, our League voted to endorse Amendment One—Clean Missouri—and to send a 'Letter to the Editor' to both Columbia newspapers. Both our local and state Leagues strongly support the initiatives included in this Amendment.

A final topic of discussion at the board meeting was the current state of the Voter ID law. In its latest legal interpretation, a photo ID is not

necessary to vote on November 6th. Our League is hoping to have watchers at key polling places throughout the City to answer questions concerning the Voter ID law if the need arises.

While the election was the dominant topic at the board meeting, there were many other items discussed. The November Lunch and Learn program will feature Mid-MO Legal Services; the November CAT-TV program will feature Refugee and Immigrant Resettlement; on November 3rd, we are co-sponsoring a program on the Innocence Project with AAUW. All of these will provide excellent learning opportunities for our members and the community. We hope many will be able to participate in these programs.

Two other important topics were discussed. First, the board voted to present the Liz Schmidt Community Service Award to the Central Missouri Stop Human Trafficking Coalition. In addition, the Founders' Day luncheon was scheduled for Monday, November 12th. Mary Shaw will be the featured speaker. The Founders' Day luncheon is a nice opportunity to remember and celebrate those women whose dedication and hard work was instrumental in establishing the League of Women Voters. We owe a great deal to their vision. It is what has inspired our members to work hard over the past months to insure that all who are eligible have a right to vote. See you at the polls . . .

— Diane Suhler, drsuhler@ccis.edu

## FRIENDS OF THE LWV OF COLUMBIA-BOONE COUNTY

The LWV of Columbia-Boone County recognizes the many organizations and individuals who have helped us educate the public, provided meeting space, and given of their time, talent and treasure to the LWV. Each month we recognize a group of our Friends of the LWV as voted on by the LWV of Columbia-Boone County membership at our Annual Meeting on April 25, 2018. For November and December 2018 we recognize:

- **Kenneth Brooks** and **J. David Robertson** were our guests for the CAT TV Show entitled "Little Known GEM at MU" on November 8, 2017.
- **Christina Wells** was our guest for the CAT TV Show entitled "What Does the First Amendment Tell us in these Troubled Times?" on January 10, 2018.
- **Unitarian Universalist Church** provided the LWV with meeting space.

**Thanks for being a Friend of the LWV!**

## NOVEMBER 3: THE MIDWEST INNOCENCE PROJECT

The Midwest Innocence Project will be the topic of a program on Saturday, November 3, at 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, 1600 W. Rollins Road. Steve Weinberg, Professor Emeritus of Journalism at the University of Missouri, will be the guest speaker. The Midwest Innocence Project is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to the investigation, litigation, and exoneration of wrongfully convicted men and women in the five-state region, including Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, and Arkansas. Recent studies conservatively estimate that between 2% and 5% of all inmates in America are innocent of the crimes for which they were convicted, with some estimates reaching as high as 7%. This means that somewhere between 2,000 and 7,000

moms, dads, sons, and daughters in these five states are locked behind bars this very moment for crimes they did not commit. This program is cosponsored by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) - Columbia Branch and our LWV chapter.



The AAUW would appreciate knowing how many people will be attending, so please RSVP to [lwvcbc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcbc@gmail.com) to let us know you are planning to attend. Be sure to note the location of this event will be at the Trinity Presbyterian Church on Rollins Road.

— Marilyn McLeod, [marilyn\\_mcleod@yahoo.com](mailto:marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com)

## NOVEMBER 14 CAT TV: REFUGEE AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

Our program for November 14 at 7:00 p.m. will feature Dan Lester, Executive Director, Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri. This organization provides a variety of services to refugees and immigrants. Refugees are individuals who have fled their countries of origin and who meet the United Nations' criteria of having a "well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion."

Refugees, having suffered great loss, including loss of their homes, livelihoods, possessions and oftentimes families, need assistance starting over in a new country. Their initial needs are many: food, clothing, shelter, employment, English language training, and orientation to a new community and

culture. This program will share the work that this organization does to assist refugees and immigrants. Randy Picht, Executive Director, Reynolds Journalism Institute, will moderate.

This program will be live on CAT TV at 7:00 p.m. on November 14 and will be available on our website a few days later, or at <http://www.columbiaaccess.tv>. The



show replays on CAT TV at 7:00 a.m. on Tues., Thurs. and Sat. and 7:30 p.m. on Mon., Wed., Fri. and Sun. CAT TV is found on Mediacom Channel 85, Charter Communications 983, and CenturyTel Prism 98. A YouTube version will be sent to members.

— Marilyn McLeod, [marilyn\\_mcleod@yahoo.com](mailto:marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com)

## NOVEMBER 27 LUNCH & LEARN: MID-MISSOURI LEGAL SERVICES

The Tuesday, November 27th, Lunch and Learn program, held from noon to 1 p.m. at the Columbia Public Library, will feature Susan Lutton, Executive Director of Mid-Missouri Legal Services. She will speak about the legal services they provide, locally and for surrounding counties, to low income residents.

Mid-Missouri Legal Services (MMLS) provides free civil legal services to low income individuals in many situations. Individuals wishing to obtain services must complete an over the phone application and be accepted before MMLS will provide

representation. MMLS seeks to assist as many low-income individuals as possible, but they are not able to assist every applicant.



MMLS does not provide assistance in criminal issues. Cases that may be accepted include: divorces; orders of protection; unemployment compensation; temporary assistance / welfare; food stamp denial or termination; healthcare access; utility terminations, and many others.

— Barbara Hoppe, [yesforparks@hotmail.com](mailto:yesforparks@hotmail.com)

## EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER THE LAW?

The Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution may not be as “popular” or as well-known as some others which get regular attention in the media, but it is part of the Bill of Rights and addresses important protections of citizen rights in criminal prosecutions. It states, in part, “In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial.....and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence (sic).”

On October 8 the LWVCBC partnered with AAUW-Columbia Branch, DBRL (Columbia Public Library), and Mid-Missouri Civil Liberties Association to present “Equal Justice Under the Law?” for the Fourth Holly Burgess Public Policy Forum. As evidenced in the program, the “?” was indeed appropriate punctuation to include in the title.



Mr. Greg Mermelstein, Deputy Director for Special Practices

Mr. Greg Mermelstein, Deputy Director for Specialty Practices, told the story of Clarence Earl Gideon, the criminal defendant in the 1963 Supreme Court case of *Gideon v. Wainwright*, which ruled that counsel must be provided to indigent defendants in all felony cases. The case showed the validity of the claim that representation by an attorney is fundamental to Sixth Amendment protection.

Since that date, in Missouri, originally private attorneys were appointed, without pay, to represent indigent defendants. Since 1972 the state has had some blended system with state public defenders available first to defendants in urban areas and later statewide, together with

some private attorneys paid a set fee to represent defendants under certain circumstances.

The Missouri State Public Defender System is an independent department of the judicial branch. Ms. Melinda Pendergrath, Director of Training, described programs to prepare new attorneys who are paid by the state but represent the defendants. To qualify in Missouri, one of the strictest states, a single person must earn less than the federal poverty rate of \$12,140. Statewide, less than 400 Public Defender lawyers handled 74,000 cases in FY 2018. In the Columbia office, 15 attorneys received 2,528 new cases in 2018 in addition to their ongoing caseload. (Do the math – that is a heavy caseload!)

Despite some recent additional funding, Missouri ranks 49th in providing indigent care – only Mississippi ranks lower. A 2014 American Bar Association Project to study Missouri’s Public Defender System found that the state needs 306



The Fourth Annual Holly Burgess Public Policy Forum addressed the Sixth Amendment.

more lawyers to truly fulfill their Sixth Amendment obligation to provide adequate legal counsel to all defendants in need of support. Turnover is high for attorneys and other staff due to low salaries. Nevertheless, dedicated attorneys such as Mr. Mermelstein and Ms. Pendergrath continue their efforts to assure constitutional protections for Missouri citizens at all stages of the criminal justice system, and their efforts were shown appreciation by those in attendance.

— Barbara Schneider,  
[tigermom.barbara@gmail.com](mailto:tigermom.barbara@gmail.com)



## TWO IMPORTANT UPCOMING PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS

There are two meetings coming up in Columbia in November where you can have real influence on what the government does. It does not change the national or state picture but it does influence the world.

### Fair Water Rates

A public meeting on water rates will be held Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. The consultant has recommended that starting next year a third tier be added to the summer residential water rate to deal with “discretionary” summer water use. The City Council has not yet set the rates for next year partly because the recommended change would not start until the June water billing cycle.

The consultant has recommended that residential rates be Tier 1 \$2.78, Tier 2 \$3.91 starting at 3 CCF (hundred Cubic Feet). These are unchanged from last year. The change is adding a Tier 3 at \$7.82 starting at 8 CCF instead of Tier 2 having no cap. For most residential customers the use in the summer, and the rest of the year, is 5 CCF or less. Commercial rate increases are similar.

In the summer some customers increase their water use substantially and it is mainly used for lawn watering often with “irrigation” meters. The consultants approach was to have the customers causing the summer high demand pay for the additional infrastructure required. In the past that infrastructure cost has been covered by everyone in the Tier 2 rate.

Summer peak day demand is about a 40% more than during the rest of the year. That requires that the water treatment plant and well field be a 40% larger since they must be built to supply the maximum day’s needs. At present this 40% is about \$2,000,000.

The recent water bond discussion and the past couple of reviews by consultants have noted this high summer use but the utility and the City Council have not addressed the inequity of all customers covering the costs produced by about 20% of the customers. Columbia’s goal of fairness and not overburdening citizens with limited income, about a third of Columbia’s, has not been met in the past.

The bond just passed obtained sufficient funds to bring the existing water treatment plant back up to the designed 32 Million Gallons per Day from the current 24 MGD possible. A significant reason that the Water & Light Advisory Board supported this rate change is that they hoped a strong price signal would encourage efficiency in summer water use and bring the peak day demand down some before the next proposed bond in the 2020s to expand the size of the water treatment plant. It often takes a few years for behavior to respond to price changes. In addition summer rain is quite variable so the WLAB wished several years of data to see if the higher rates had significant impact on behavior thus permitting a smaller or delayed future bond.

Public hearings on rates usually get comments from customers whose rates are increasing but customers whose rates are not immediately increasing often do not show up even though if rate structure is not changed it would mean that customers “not immediately affected” would see rate increases and continue to subsidize the group directly impacted by the increase. We need all kinds of customers to show up for a balanced discussion.

### Climate Action

A public input meeting on the Columbia Climate Action and Adaptation Plan will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 28 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. A 14 member committee (Mayor’s Task Force on Climate Action and Adaptation Planning) has been working for a few months to develop actions for reducing greenhouse gas generation in Columbia and actions that would make living with climate change easier.

This meeting is to get public feedback on the earliest draft of proposed actions. Information about the action items will be presented. The Task Force, staff and Consultant will be present for feedback from the public who are invited to rotate through various rooms covering Energy Generation, Transportation, Built Environment, Water, Waste, Natural Systems, and Health-Safety-Well-being.

Public comments at this stage will have considerable influence in developing the next draft of the report by the Task Force and Consultant. In late spring there will be another public meeting on the updated draft but citizen voices will be much more effective at this meeting. After the spring meeting the Task Force will do a final review of proposed actions before it goes to the City Council next summer for implementation.

In addition, an input survey is currently available through Nov. 12. The survey can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/CoMoCAAP> Please, fill it out.

### PETITION INITIATIVES

#### AMENDMENT 1: Clean up Missouri Politics

CLEAN Missouri's initiative increases fairness, accountability, integrity and transparency in Missouri politics.

Amendment 1 would do the following:

- ★ Lower campaign contribution limits to \$2,500 for state Senate candidates and \$2,000 for state House candidates
- ★ Eliminate almost all lobbyist gifts to members of the General Assembly
- ★ Require that all legislative records be open to the public, including committee reports, correspondence and electronic communication, and allow taping of all meetings open to the public
- ★ Require politicians to wait two years after leaving office before becoming lobbyists
- ★ Ensure that neither political party is given an unfair advantage when new legislative district maps are drawn after each census. An independent demographer would draw maps that would then be reviewed by a citizen commission that must hold public hearings. Currently, politicians draw the maps to protect incumbents and their parties.
- Districts must be drawn using the following criteria, in order of priority:
  - make districts as **equal in population** as practicable;
  - **comply with U.S. Constitution, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, other federal laws;**
  - promote **partisan fairness** and **competitiveness**
  - **be composed of contiguous territory, coincide with the boundaries of political subdivisions** and be **compact** in form.

The League has been advocating for redistricting reform for decades and supports Amendment 1.

#### AMENDMENT 2: MEDICAL MARIJUANA – Care of Veterans

Amends the Missouri Constitution to allow the use of marijuana for medical purposes with a 4% tax on its retail sale at dispensaries. Funds estimated at \$18 million would go toward veterans' health programs, including Veterans' Homes, state operating costs and \$6 million to local governments for their costs if they have a retail marijuana facility or a marijuana growing facility. The Missouri Department of Revenue would oversee the taxation and revenue regulations. Local governments may not refuse to allow a facility within their jurisdiction. The Department of Health and Senior Services would license and regulate marijuana and marijuana facilities. It creates the Missouri Veterans Health Commission for Health and Care of Veterans to oversee use of the license fee and tax. Approximately \$7 million will be spent on state operating costs. The 30-day allowed prescription amount is 4 oz.

#### AMENDMENT 3: MEDICAL MARIJUANA – Biomedical Research Institute

Similar to Amendment 2, but it imposes a 15% tax on the retail sale of marijuana that would be used for a "Biomedical Research and Drug Development Institute." The purpose of the Institute is to conduct research and develop cures for cancer and other incurable diseases or medical conditions. Submitted and financed by Brad Bradshaw, who will be the Chairman of the Board of the Institute and select all of the Board members. Implementation cost would be \$186,000 with an increased annual operating cost of \$500,000. They anticipate an annual income of approximately \$66 million. The 30-day allowed prescription amount is 3 oz.

The League is concerned that Amendment 3 stipulates that the Institute's board members be chosen by one individual (Brad Bradshaw) who is also the chairman of the Board and administrator of the Institute. The revenue from the enterprise will be overseen by a private, non-elected individual.

**PROPOSITION B: MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE**

This initiative by Raise Up Missouri increases the state minimum wage by 85 cents an hour each year until it reaches \$12 per hour in 2023. It would account for changes in the Consumer Price Index after 2023 and penalize employers who do not pay their workers minimum wage. Government employers and businesses with annual gross income less than \$500,000 are not required to pay the state minimum wage.

[The League supports Prop B because a higher minimum wage will advance self-sufficiency for individuals](#)

**PROPOSITION C: MEDICAL MARIJUANA – Health and Senior Services**

Removes state prohibitions on personal use and possession of medical marijuana by anyone diagnosed with a qualifying medical condition and allow growth, possession, production, and sale of medical marijuana by licensed and regulated facilities. One-half of 1% of a 2% tax on the retail sale of medical marijuana would be used for veterans' services, drug treatment, early childhood education overseen by the Department of Health and Senior Services and the State Treasurer. Funds also go to public safety in cities with a medical marijuana facility. Annual revenues are estimated to cover annual costs of \$10 million. The Division of Liquor Control would administer the program to license and regulate marijuana and marijuana facilities. The 14-day allowed prescription amount is 3 oz. Financed by Missourians for Patient Care, donors' names not available.

[The League is concerned that 2% of \\$10 million in revenue is \\$200,000 total for the four listed beneficiaries: veterans' services, drug treatment, early childhood education and public safety in cities with medical marijuana facilities. Also, as a statute, this proposal can be changed in any way or not implemented by the Legislature.](#)

**BALLOT ISSUES FROM THE STATE LEGISLATURE****AMENDMENT 4: BINGO**

The Missouri Management and Advertisement of Bingo Games amendment was submitted by the General Assembly to lower the time required for someone to belong to a group before he/she can manage a bingo game for the organization from two years to six months, and to remove the constitutional ban on advertising for bingo games. A constitutional amendment is necessary because the original authorization approving Bingo in the state was passed as a constitutional amendment.

**PROPOSITION D: GAS TAX INCREASE**

This initiative was submitted by the legislature to increase the state motor fuel tax by 10 cents a gallon by 2.5 cents per year until it reaches the full amount in 2022. The current tax is 17 cents per gallon for both gasoline and diesel fuel, compared to Iowa's 31 cents for gasoline and 32.5 cents for diesel fuel. The higher tax is estimated to generate at least \$288 million annually for the Highway Patrol and \$123 million annually to local governments for road construction. Subject to appropriation by the General Assembly, the state portion of the revenue generated by the increase shall be used for the actual cost of the Missouri Highway Patrol in administering and enforcing state motor vehicle laws and traffic regulations. Money originally budgeted for the Highway Patrol could then go for road and bridge projects. Prop D establishes an "Emergency State Freight Bottleneck Fund" that will select and oversee appropriate projects to be funded by the State Treasurer at the will of the Legislature. Those projects must meet freight route and cost requirements. The measure also exempts Special Olympic, Paralympic and Olympic prizes from state taxes.

[The League is concerned that this is a regressive tax, putting more burden on lower socioeconomic individuals.](#)



## Upcoming League Events!



### NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30 <b>Ballot Issue Forum</b> Columbia Public Library, 6:30 p.m.	31	NOV. 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 <b>LWV on Paul Pepper</b> KBIA 8:50 a.m.	10 <b>LWVMO Fall Conference</b> in Sedalia
	12 <b>Founder's Day Luncheon</b> Holiday Inn Executive Center 11:30 am to 1 pm	13	14 <b>CAT-TV</b> 7:00 p.m.	15	16	17
18	19 <b>Board Meeting</b> UU Church 2615 Shepard Blvd, 6:30 p.m.	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 <b>Lunch &amp; Learn</b> <b>Mid-MO Legal Services</b> Public Library Noon	28	29	30	DEC. 1  No scheduled events in December

## LIZ SCHMIDT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FOR 2018

The Central Missouri Stop Human Trafficking Coalition will be recognized as the recipient of our Liz Schmidt Community Service Award for 2018 at our Founders Day Luncheon on November 12.

The Coalition, which has been in action for 10 years, has three key areas of service: presenting free human trafficking education and prevention programs, raising funds to assist survivors with critical needs, and uplifting survivors with caring support on their journey to healing and wholeness.

Their work with survivors, offering compassion and needed resources, is life-changing, even life-saving. Their outreach and education help identify victims and prevent potential victimization.

Exploitation of children, women, and men exists right in our backyard. Sadly, both trafficking awareness and help are limited. CMSHTC is dedicated to education and giving needed aid and trauma-informed care to survivors in our community.

The Coalition does an outstanding job at providing information about the issue in every way they can throughout our part of the state, through presentations, education materials, radio spots; offers direct assistance to victims and works in every way to "stop human trafficking".

— Marilyn McLeod [marilyn\\_mcleod@yahoo.com](mailto:marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com)



**LWV Officers:**

President: Open  
 1st VP: Barbara Hoppe (424-9668)  
 2nd VP: Diane Suhler (443-0549)  
 Secretary: Carol Schreiber  
 (657-1467)  
 Treasurer: Marilyn McLeod  
 (445-3500)

**Elected Directors:**

Meredith Donaldson (289-3018)  
 Elaine Blodgett (256-2803)  
 Ruth Milledge (268-9591)  
 Gayla Neumeyer (882-8366)  
 Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)  
 Mahree Skala (474-2195)  
 Pam Springsteel (445-0642)  
 Shirley Troth (443-7033)

**Appointed Directors:**

Dick Parker (256-4397)  
 Lael Von Holt (443-7747)

**Committee Chairs:**

100th Anniversary: Pam Springsteel  
 Budget: Shirley Troth  
 Civil Liberties: Marilyn McLeod  
 Clean Missouri: Sharon  
 Schneeberger  
 Education: Open  
 Energy Matters: Dick Parker  
 Fundraising: Pam Springsteel  
 Health: Mahree Skala  
 Hospitality: Pam Springsteel  
 Membership: Meredith Donaldson  
 Mental Health: Lael Von Holt  
 Speakers Bureau: Open  
 Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

**Voter Editor:** Ava Fajen

Local Website: [lwvcbc.org](http://lwvcbc.org)  
 State: [lwvmisouri.org](http://lwvmisouri.org)  
 National: [lwv.org](http://lwv.org)  
 Local Voter Information Portal:  
[lwvcolumbiamo.turbovote.org](http://lwvcolumbiamo.turbovote.org)  
 Like us on Facebook: "League of  
 Women Voters - Columbia, MO"

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Time to renew your LWV membership! Thank you for past support and for renewing today so we can continue to have the impact you've come to expect from the League! As a member, you are a crucial part of our non-partisan, hands-on work to safeguard democracy and create lasting change.

— Meredith Donaldson

**REMINDER - MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE****MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Membership dues are \$65 for individuals, \$100 for a household, and \$25 for local students. Individual and household memberships also include state (LWVMO) and national (LWVUS) membership.

Send to PO Box 239, Columbia, MO. 65205

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

I am particularly interested in \_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to receive my Voter by postal mail \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: Tax deductible donations to the Education Fund should be a separate check payable to LWVMO Education Fund.)

**2019 LWV CALENDARS**

The perennial calendar, favorite of LWV members for years, is now available for 2019. We have copies available locally for \$6 each. If you would like to order a calendar, you can email us at: [lwvcbc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcbc@gmail.com) or call Marilyn McLeod at (573) 445-3500.





**League of Women Voters**

PO Box 239

Columbia MO 65205

<http://lwvcba.org>

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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## **MISSOURI BUDGET PROJECT**

Our Lunch and Learn Program on October 16 was on "Taxation Fairness" with feature guest speaker, Lindsey Baker, Outreach and Policy Specialist, from the Missouri Budget Project. (The speaker who was originally scheduled was unable to attend). The mission of the Missouri Budget Project is to improve the quality of life for all Missourians by informing public policy decisions through objective research and analysis of state budget, tax and economic issues. The Missouri Budget Project provides independent, objective research and analysis of state budget and tax issues.

Ms. Baker gave an excellent presentation clarifying a lot of information about the state budget which is difficult for most people to follow. One third of the current state budget of \$28.3 billion is actually a flow-through of federal funds designated for specific purposes, (e.g., Medicaid); a third is earmarked (e.g., gas tax) and only a third is general revenue. 37% of general revenue is designated for K-12 education; 17% social services; 9% mental health services; etc.

The sources of general revenue include 70% from personal income tax (which also includes small business taxes if they are filed as personal income taxes), 25% sales tax, and 4% corporate tax (generally large multinational corporations). The proportions have changed over the years and are now less on corporations.

The tax brackets haven't changed since the 1930's. Everyone who earns over \$9000 pays the same rate, which means people with the lowest income pay the highest proportion of their income. This is a flat tax, essentially. It is important to reverse that trend. There has been slow erosion of income for state government, with tax credits and tax cuts. It is difficult to reverse tax cuts. Most were for corporations, not individuals.

The Missouri Budget Project works on tax bills before the Legislature. You can follow their work at this website: [www.mobudget.org](http://www.mobudget.org)

— Marilyn McLeod [marilyn\\_mcleod@yahoo.com](mailto:marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com)

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