



The Voter

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

ANNUAL STATE LEGISLATOR TOWN HALL TO BE HELD FEB. 4

Please join the LWV in meeting with our state legislators on Thursday, February 4 at 7 p.m. at the Columbia Public Library, with refreshments at 6:30.

Confirmed legislators are Rep. Caleb Rowden, Rep. Stephen Webber, Rep. Chuck Basye, and Rep. Kip Kendrick. Rep. Caleb Jones has not yet responded. Sen. Kurt Schaefer was invited but will not attend. The moderator will be LWV member J. Scott Christianson.

This year's Town Hall will include the traditional panel, but will also include time for small group meetings with the legislators. From 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

legislators will provide their priorities for the 2016 Legislative Session, followed by audience and moderator questions.

From 8:00 to 8:30 p.m. we will have each legislator at a table and audience members can meet with them in a small group. The audience will be provided with the legislator's district number and committee assignments. Let our legislators hear from you!

— Carol Schreiber



FEBRUARY 10 CAT TV WILL ADDRESS "WEATHER EXTREMES: PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE"

The February LWV CAT TV show will be on weather extremes. We plan to have an atmospheric scientist to discuss recent apparently unusual weather extremes throughout the U.S. Then Terry Cassil, the new Boone County Emergency Management Director, will discuss how Boone County prepares for and responds to extreme weather.

The program will be available on our website or at 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 can be found on Mediacom Channel 85, Charter Communications 983, and CenturyTel Prism 98.

— Carol Schreiber, Co-President



FEB. 16 LUNCH & LEARN TOPIC IS "OBAMACARE: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY"

Do you have questions about the Affordable Health Care Act? Is it meeting expectations and improving health care in our country?

On Tuesday, February 16, Jack Colwill MD, Professor Emeritus of Family & Community Medicine, Univ. of Missouri School of Medicine, will discuss the topic: "Obamacare - The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly".



Lunch & Learn programs are held from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Hy-Vee meeting room at Providence and Nifong, and are open to the public. Bring a friend! Bring your lunch or buy lunch in the deli - and learn!

— Win Colwill



JANUARY BOARD REPORT

Fifteen Board members were present for the January 25, 2016 Board Meeting. The Board heard reports on:

- Results of the Money in Politics consensus
- Updates on upcoming events:
 - Feb. 4 State Legislator Town Hall
 - March 21 and 23 Candidate/Ballot Issue Forums
 - Feb. 16 Lunch and Learn
 - Feb. 23 Candidate Filing Day at the Secretary of State's office
- Felon voting rights legislation
- Race Matters Friends activities
- State Board report

The Board discussed ideas for:

- Future Lunch and Learns
- April annual meeting ideas

The Board heard that we are expecting the Voter Photo ID bills to pass the state legislature and we need to begin preparing an education campaign for either August or November when a Constitutional Amendment that would enable the bill to be enacted might be on the ballot.

The Board agreed that we will work with AAUW on voter registrations this spring. Our TurboVote link for voter registration should be up and running very soon.

The next Board Meeting will be on Monday, February 22, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Broadway Christian Church. Members are welcome to attend the meeting.

—Carol Schreiber and Peggy Placier
Co-Presidents



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 21, 2015. For February 2016 we recognize:

- **Michelle Skikles** for her Lunch and Learn presentation entitled "Living Well in Boone County: Healthy Lifestyles" in March 2015.
- **Cande Iveson and Amanda Becker** for being on the CAT TV show "Implications of Income Inequality" in March 2015.
- **Sharon Thomas-Parks, David Thomas and Kelly Wallis** for being on the CAT TV show "Progress in Mental Health Services for Children and Youth."

Thanks for being a Friend of the LWV!

WE ARE THE REAL GRASSROOTS! PROGRAM PLANNING FEBRUARY 17



We are the Real Grassroots! The League of Women Voters is the real grassroots in terms of forming our state and national policies. We just completed our grassroots consensus meeting on Money in Politics on January 21 (see article below on this page), and on Wednesday, February 17 we will hold a National Program Planning meeting at the Friends Room at 7 p.m.

First, a brief description of how the consensus process works:

- Each question receives a 'consensus' or 'no consensus' response based on the positions of members who attend the local League consensus meeting.
- Then our local League sends our responses to the LWVUS.
- All Leagues throughout the country who participate in a study send in their responses and a national position is made from the responses.

An example of a topic that received national consensus was an update to the national agriculture policy; an example of a topic that did not receive consensus was immigration, so there was no immigration policy added to the list of LWVUS policy statements. This grassroots effort is also done on the state and local levels when we find an area that does not have a sufficient policy position. An example of this was the update to the LWVMO mental health position made at the 2015 LWVMO State Conference. Our policy positions come from our members!

These policy statements guide our actions in advocacy for and against legislation, ballot issues, etc. To locate the LWVUS positions go to <http://lww.org/content/impact-issues> ; to see LWVMO positions go to <http://lwwmissouri.org/publications/> (see the Guide to State Action), and for our local League policy positions go to lwwcbc.org. The state and local positions focus on state and local issues, and they are aligned with our national positions.

Here is your chance to participate in the grassroots process: **Our National Program Planning Meeting will be on Wednesday, February 17 at the Library Friends Room at 7 p.m.** We will consider any recommendations for studies to update the LWVUS policies. We will also consider possible concurrences with state or local positions that do not require our local League to go through the study process. An example of a concurrence at the national level with a local League was a concurrence with the Washington, D. C. League's drug sentencing policy in 2014.

So, please look at the LWVUS "Impact on Issues" document at the above website and see if any policies need to be updated, amended or removed. Various Leagues from throughout the country will be asking us to support possible studies, so we will look at those at this meeting, too. Please, join in on our Grassroots Meeting!

— Carol Schreiber, Co-President

CONSENSUS MEETING ON MONEY IN POLITICS

Our part in the grassroots process of developing a revised national LWV position on Money in Politics (campaign finance) is complete. On the evening of January 21 a small but engaged group of about a dozen members met at Broadway Christian Church to determine our local LWV responses to the consensus questions (see the questions in the December 2015 *Voter*).

In addition to our decisions on each item, we also generated comments to submit to LWVUS.

For some items we needed considerable discussion before deciding.

The next step will be to submit our responses to LWVUS. A group at that level will collate and analyze all local responses to develop a revised national position. This will be presented for a vote at this summer's national convention in Washington DC.

— Peggy Placier, Co-President

MISSOURI'S CLEAN POWER PLAN: A REPORT ON THE JANUARY LUNCH & LEARN PRESENTATION

January's Lunch and Learn program was a presentation on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan (CPP) given by Kyra Moore, Director for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Air Pollution Control Program (APCP). She outlined the carbon dioxide (CO₂) reduction goals in the Clean Power Plan and brought us up to date on Missouri's planning activity. While Kyra does not write the rules herself, her staff does, and she must sign off on it before it goes to the Missouri Air Conservation Commission and Governor.

The CPP applies to the 21 fossil-fueled steam based electric generators producing at least 25 MW operating in 2012. Almost all are coal-fired. Five of those are planning to close or have closed, including Columbia's coal-fired unit. Missouri along with 48 other states plans to ask for an extension of the final submission deadline to 2018.

One state has their final plan ready to submit this Sept. 6th.

States have two ways to measure the required CO₂ reductions. Missouri has chosen the Mass Based approach rather than the Rate Based approach because Kyra's staff concluded that it will be less stringent and more easily regulated. Missouri is required to reduce CO₂ emissions 28% by 2030, which will lower the annual output from 78 million tons (emitted in 2012) to 55 million tons. There are interim reduction goals beginning in 2022. The remaining 72% of permitted CO₂ will be allocated to the 16 remaining generators in the form of allowances.

How to distribute these is the main issue, as well as addressing the 28% reduction which must largely come from new renewable energy.

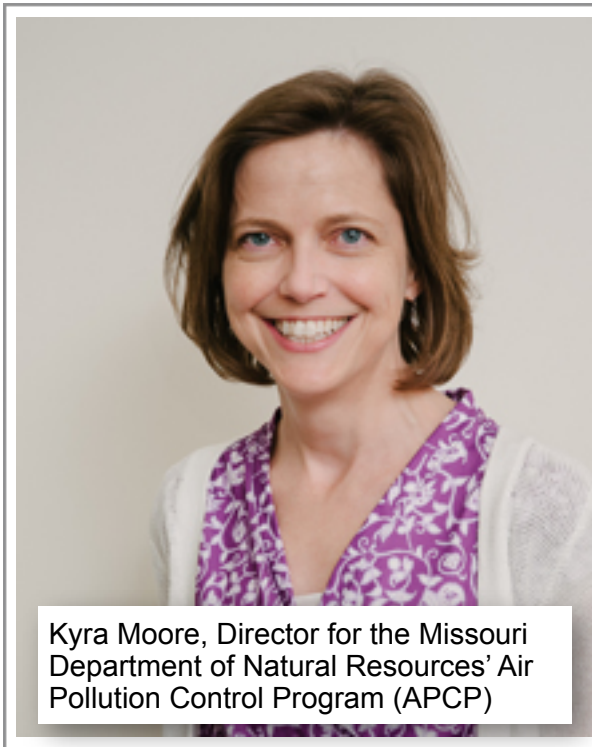
Kyra mentioned possible ways to achieve reductions which include strategies such as improving the operational efficiency of existing plants, switching to natural gas, trading CO₂ allowances with other states, and shifting to renewable sources. The APAC staff estimates that coal-fired electric generation will drop from 79% to 53% by 2030, renewable energy will increase from 2% to 21%, and natural gas electric generation from 5% to 13%. Nuclear will remain unchanged at 12% and other at 2%.

Developing a workable formula for doing so will require many meetings and much debate. New steam-based generators can add an additional 1% to the tons of CO₂ permitted. New generators fall under regulations requiring much less CO₂ production than current systems produce. Those regulations have been in place for a while. Columbia is studying whether to retool a closed

boiler to be biomass-fueled. Single Cycle natural gas generators are not regulated by the CPP, including Columbia's 144 MW Columbia Energy Center.

The Clean Power Plan will result in the largest reduction in CO₂ generation in the U.S.'s action so far to reduce greenhouse gas and global warming. Columbia will need to plan on much more renewable energy and should continue its push for energy conservation to reduce overall energy demand.

— Dick Parker



Kyra Moore, Director for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Air Pollution Control Program (APCP)

MARCH 21 & 23: CANDIDATE/BALLOT ISSUE FORUMS

The LWV has scheduled two Candidate/Ballot Issue forums for the April elections. The Monday, March 21st forum will feature Columbia School Board candidates and Columbia Public Schools ballot issues. There are five candidates competing for two seats on the Columbia School Board: Jim Whitt, Sarah Dubbert, Paul Rainsberger, Joseph Toepke and Jan Mees. Dr. Peter Stiepleman, superintendent of the Columbia Public Schools, will speak in favor of the ballot issues. We will look for an opposition speaker.

The Wednesday, March 23rd forum will feature Columbia City Council Wards 3 and 4 and Columbia

Mayoral candidates. If there are any Columbia ballot issues, we will feature those



at this forum. The candidates for Ward 3 are Karl Skala and Tom Leuther. Candidates for Ward 4 are Ian Thomas and Daryl Dudley. Candidates for mayor are Skip Walther and Brian Treece.

Both forums will begin at 6:30 p.m. (refreshments at 6:00 p.m.) in the Friends Room at the Columbia Public Library. KFRU will broadcast both forums live.

— Carol Schreiber

REDUCING THE CORRUPTING INFLUENCE OF MONEY IN POLITICS

Article from LWVUS blog, written by Jessica Jones, dated 01/21/2016:

In his [State of the Union speech](#) this year, President Obama mentioned that in order to make politics better, the American people alongside politicians from both sides of the aisle must “change the system to reflect our better selves.” As he expanded on this idea, he pointed to several of the League’s priority issues including calling for a bipartisan redistricting system and ensuring access to the vote by making it easier for everyone to vote.

President Obama also called for “reduc[ing] the influence of money in our politics, so that a handful of families or hidden interests can’t bankroll our elections.” As we mark the sixth anniversary of the decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*, the League would offer up the following four solutions for fighting the corrupting influence of money in politics.

- **Strengthen Regulations on Coordination:** The Federal Election Commission (FEC) is the federal agency in charge of our nation’s campaign finance laws, but so far they’ve done practically nothing to address the U.S. Supreme Court’s disappointing decision in *Citizens United*. Under existing law, the FEC can work to define “coordination” as a way of cutting back on the “independent” expenditures that really are coordinated with candidate campaigns, but thus far they have refused to do so. Last year, the League provided testimony and sent nearly 30,000 comments to the FEC encouraging them to redefine these two terms and end corruption in politics.
- **Improve Disclosure:** Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy said: “Disclosure permits citizens and shareholders to react to the speech of corporate entities in a proper way.” Citizens have a right to know who is trying to influence their vote,

and disclosure of donations and spending is necessary to shine a light on secret money. The League is a longtime supporter of the DISCLOSE Act and we will continue to push for passage of this important piece of legislation.

- **Establish a Public Financing System:** The League believes that public financing is the best long term solution to getting big money out of politics. States like Washington, Connecticut and Maine have had success in public financing with state house and statewide elections. The League continues to look for ways to limit the size and type of contributions from all sources as a means of combating undue influence in the election process.
- **Vote:** As the President alluded during his State of the Union address, if the American public wants to get money out of politics, it’s time to take our elections back. Voting is the most powerful form of expression that a single citizen has. When citizens vote, politicians have to listen. In fact, the only thing that can stop the flood of money is a flood of voters. Each voter who shows up diminishes the influence of every dollar spent trying to swing an election. We must improve voter turnout and engage with our communities to combat the undue influence of money in our political system. Get registered and participate in the upcoming presidential primaries and caucuses!

For decades, the League has worked to ensure that citizen participation in the political process is not drowned out by special interests and big money donors. But in order to end the influence of money in politics it’s going to take more than just the work the League does. We need Congress, the administration and citizens to come together and stand up to outside influences. Only together will we be able to stop the sale of our democracy.



Upcoming League Events!



FEBRUARY 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	FEB 1	2 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50 a.m.	3	4 State Legislator Town Hall Library 7:00 p.m.	5	6
7	8	9	10 CAT TV Weather Extremes 7:00 p.m.	11	12	13
14	15	16 Lunch & Learn Obamacare South HyVee Mtg Room, Noon	17 National Program Planning Library 7:00 p.m.	18	19	20
21	22 LWV Board Mtg Broadway Christian Church 6:30 p.m.	23 Filing Day MO Secretary of State's Office State Capitol	24	25	26	27
28	29	MAR 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 CAT TV 7:00 p.m.	10	11	12
13	14 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50 a.m.	15 Lunch & Learn South HyVee Mtg Room, Noon	16	17	18	19
20	21 Candidate/ Ballot Issues Forum Library 6:30 p.m.	22	23 Candidate/ Ballot Issues Forum Library 6:30 p.m.	24	25	26
27	28 LWV Board Mtg Broadway Christian Church 6:30 p.m.	29	30	31		

LWV Officers:

Co-Presidents:

Carol Schreiber (657-1467)
and Peggy Placier (442-2996)
1st VP: Marilyn McLeod (445-3500)
2nd VP: Ava Fajen (424-6683)
Secretary: Marcia Walker
(443-8666)
Treasurer: David Leuthold
(449-1358)

Elected Directors:

Rachel Brekhus (875-4295)
Joni O'Connor (234-1012)
Barbara Hoppe (443-5107)
Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)
Mahree Skala (474-2195)
Pam Springsteel (445-0642)
Shirley Troth (443-7033)

Appointed Directors:

Elaine Blodgett (256-2803)
Dick Parker (256-4397)
Liz Schmidt (445-0655)
Diane Suhler (443-0549)
Lael Von Holt (443-7747)

Committee Chairs:

Budget: Shirley Troth
Civil Liberties: Open position
Education: Open position
Energy Matters: Dick Parker
Fundraising: Open position
Health: Mahree Skala
Hospitality: Pam Springsteel
Membership: Liz Schmidt
Mental Health: Lael Von Holt
Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

Voter Editor: Ava Fajen

Board Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the 4th Monday of the month at Broadway Christian Church. All members are welcome to attend.

Websites:

Local: lwvcbc.org
State: lwvmisouri.org
National: lwv.org
Like us on Facebook: "League of Women Voters - Columbia, MO"

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING YOUR LEAGUE! PLEASE SEND 2016 DUES NOW!



Membership dues are now due for 2016. As you know, 2016 will be a busy election year!! We will have forums for the city council, hospital, school board, county, state and national elections (and primaries), plus our other educational forums on a wide array of important topics. Thanks for your support!

Dues are \$55 for individuals, \$80 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 email _____

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

The Impact on Issues booklet (right) includes the official LWV statements of position for each program area, briefly traces significant past actions and achievements, and indicates links among positions. The LWVUS public policy positions reflect the 2014-2016 program adopted by the 2014 convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States; the "positions in brief" listed there summarize the official statements of position included in this guide. View online or download a copy at: <http://lwv.org/content/impact-issues>





League of Women Voters

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2016 VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES

2016 will be a busy election year. Here are the voter registration deadlines for the 2016 elections:

Presidential Primary on March 15
Voter Registration Deadline: February 17

Local Election on April 5
Voter Registration Deadline: March 9

Primary Election on August 2
Voter Registration Deadline: July 6

General Election on November 8
Voter Registration Deadline: October 12

Go to the Boone County Clerk's website to update your address (www.showmeboone.com/Clerk/). We also expect our voter registration and assistance website through TurboVote to be active very soon at lwvcomo.turbovote.org. This site will provide a "one stop shop" web portal through which individuals can register to vote; request an absentee ballot; update voter addresses; request to be alerted to upcoming local, state, and national elections through text messages and email reminders; and learn about election issues, candidates, etc., through data provided by the non-partisan Voter Information Project. LWV is partnering with several student organizations at Mizzou and with TurboVote to create this website. Mizzou will have its own turbovote site for Mizzou students. Our League portal will be available to students at Columbia College, Stephens and Moberly Area Community College who wish to participate, as well other Boone County citizens.