



The Voter

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

FEBRUARY 2 MEMBERSHIP MEETING TO DISCUSS TWO LOCAL STUDIES, 5:30 P.M. ON ZOOM

Our LWVCBC has been working on two local studies: State Preemption of Local Control and Legalization of Marijuana. These will be presented for member discussion on Feb. 2nd at 5:30 on Zoom. A link for the Zoom meeting will be sent to all members in advance.

A separate article about each of the two local studies, authored by the committee chairs, can be found on page 3 of this issue of *The Voter*.

Here is a short summary of the process the LWVUS uses when establishing a new position on a new issue. First, one or more local League members make a request to their Board that a position be established on an issue for which neither LWVUS nor LWVMO have a position. If the local Board is interested, a Local Study committee of members is appointed to study the issue.

Most studies begin with a proposed objective on a subject, but all sides of the subject must be examined and evaluated. The committee

members divide the work and meet regularly for several months to share their research and have discussions. Sometimes a new or unexpected aspect emerges, or an area thought to be a positive turns out to be negative, or vice versa.



When the study group is ready, they make a recommendation to the Board. If the Board approves, the study is presented to the membership for discussion and questions. Thereafter, the study position is submitted for consensus to the membership. If approved, it is then presented to the membership at the annual April meeting for approval and thus a new local position is obtained and our local League has another issue to work on.

— Barbara Hoppe, President
& Elaine Blodgett, LWVCBC Board

FEBRUARY 8 LUNCH & LEARN LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION LEADERS



Our Lunch & Learn program at noon on Zoom on February 8 will feature Carolyn Amparan and two other local Climate Action leaders. They will explain why the City of Columbia should commit to attaining 100% of our electricity from renewable energy sources by 2030 and how you can help. A question and answer session will follow the presentation. Please join us.

At our January Lunch & Learn Program, it was a pleasure to listen to and talk with Dr. Fred Williams from the Men's Minority Network and learn more about their goals and accomplishments in our community. We encourage donations to their scholarship program, which provides \$2,000 college or trade

school scholarships to two students from each local high school every year. If you missed seeing this program, you can watch it on our website (lwvcbc.org).

Thank you to Lauren Williams and the Columbia Public Library for co-sponsoring these programs. You will need to register in advance for our Zoom Lunch & Learn Programs on the library's website: events.dbri.org. Lunch & Learn Programs are also recorded and can be viewed on our website and our Facebook page.

— Barbara Hoppe, Chair
Lunch & Learn Committee

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Although 2022 has only just begun, your LWVCBC is going strong. Our in-person Jan. 6 Vigil for Democracy was canceled because of cold weather here and in the other locations throughout the state, except for St. Louis. So we quickly helped organize and participated in a statewide Zoom Vigil for Democracy. We had several excellent speakers, including State Rep. David Tyson Smith, representing the Mid-Mo region.

On Jan. 24 we held our biennial meeting on LWVUS Program Planning for 2022-2024 via Zoom. Thanks to all of you who attended, provided valuable input, and got a deeper dive into LWVUS Program Planning. We will have more details on this in our March *Voter*.

We will hold a special Zoom program at 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 2 to present our two recently completed local studies on (1) State Preemption of Local Control and (2) Legalization of Marijuana in Missouri. Be sure to join us and ask questions by chat. Thanks to Chairs Mahree Skala and Dan Viets for their work and leadership on these studies, which will be voted on by the Membership later.

Our redistricting committee, chaired by Sharon Schneeberger, has worked diligently on this important issue and is pleased to report that the Missouri House Redistricting bipartisan Committee reached an agreement on the redistricting maps, and they appear to be drawn in a fair and impartial manner. Much thanks to everyone who testified, wrote, called, and lobbied. This is in contrast to the Senate Redistricting Committee, which did not reach a bipartisan agreement. A decision on those maps will be done by a judicial panel.

Looking ahead, we have a lot of hard and important work to do this year, and we will need "all hands on deck." Marilyn Mcleod, LWVMO President and local Board Member, informed us that there are at least 14 bills filed in the Missouri House that will make the initiative petition process more difficult. This would make it harder for Missourians to circumvent partisan

divides in Jefferson City and directly get things done for the people. Among the most onerous is HJR 79, which would dramatically increase the number of verified voter signatures needed for state constitutional amendments to qualify for the ballot. It would rise from eight percent of the voters in six of the state's eight congressional districts to ten percent statewide. It would also increase the votes required for initiative petition passage from a simple majority to 67 percent.

Missouri's initiative petition system has been in place for 115 years. Two-thirds approval would not only be the highest requirement in the country, it would be virtually impossible to reach. A large majority of Missouri voters recently approved a higher minimum wage, Medicaid Expansion, and medical marijuana, but none passed with more than 65 percent of the vote.

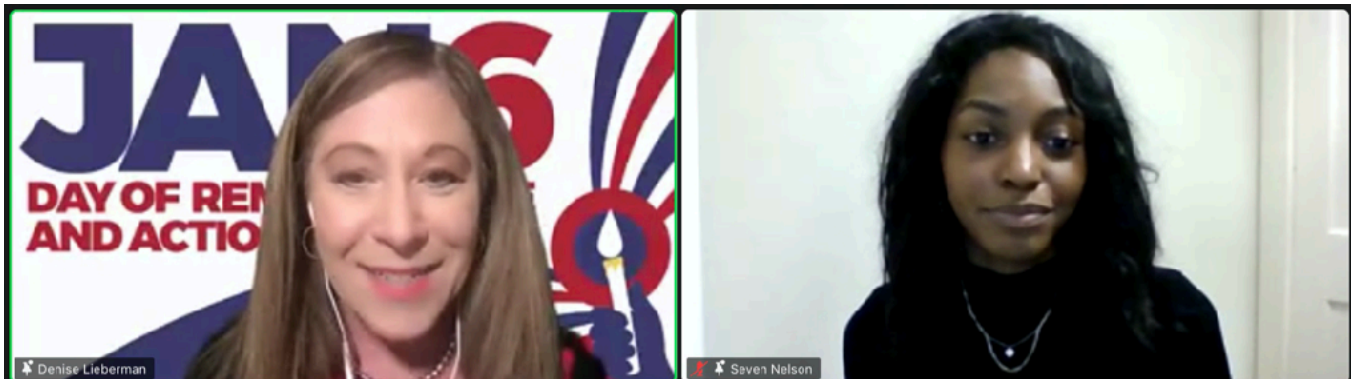
Many thanks, as always, to our Board Members, Committee Chairs, and committee members, who are so dedicated and working so thoughtfully and diligently, and to our regular Members also for all your work and support. Only by working together will we be successful in "creating a more perfect Union" and "Making Democracy Work."



— Barbara Hoppe, President
573-424-9668
yesforparks@hotmail.com

REMINDER: PLEASE PAY 2022 DUES NOW!!

MARIJUANA POLICY	LOCAL CONTROL
<p>A group of nine LWVCBC members met many times to study adult-use legalization of marijuana. We recommended support of the issue to the board, which approved sending the issue to the membership. An initiative campaign is already underway to put this question on the November Missouri ballot. Eighteen states and the District of Columbia have taken similar steps since 2012, when Colorado and Washington legalized regulated and taxed marijuana use and commerce in their states. The result has been a boon in tax revenue. Notably, there has been no increase in use of marijuana by young people in states that have legalized adult use.</p> <p>The Legal Missouri 2022 Initiative would allow those over 21 to legally possess, use, and grow limited amounts of cannabis. It would also expunge the criminal records of those with marijuana convictions that did not involve violence or distribution to those under 18. Driving while impaired by marijuana would remain illegal. Resulting tax revenue would support drug treatment, veterans' benefits, and the Public Defender system.</p> <p>At least 144 new "equity" microbusiness licenses would also be mandated, and awarded by a lottery, with preference to those who have been arrested for marijuana or had an immediate family member arrested; those of limited financial means; and those who have suffered military service-related disabilities. More information about this proposal is available at legalmo22.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">— Dan Viets, Chair Marijuana Policy Committee</p>	<p>The distribution of power between the federal, state, and local levels of government has long been a subject of tension and evolving legal action. In recent years, the Missouri state government has enacted several laws restricting powers that previously had been granted to governmental bodies at the local level. This process is known as preemption of local control.</p> <p>Some of these restrictive new state laws contradict policy positions held by the League of Women Voters of Missouri. The LWVCBC has studied this issue and developed a local policy position on preemption to guide our issue advocacy efforts.</p> <p>This study will be reviewed and discussed on Zoom February 2 at 5:30 p.m., along with the Marijuana Policy Study. Members will have an opportunity to ask questions about each of the studies. A Zoom link will be sent to all members by email.</p> <p>The report of our committee will be distributed to all members in advance, and we look forward to this discussion.</p> <p>The next step after that will be a meeting in early March to develop a consensus on whether to adopt the report for local advocacy purposes and recommend it to the League of Women Voters of Missouri as a state policy position.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">— Mahree Skala, Chair Local Control Committee</p>



Photos from the January 6 Vigil for Democracy/ Day of Remembrance on Zoom, picturing Denise Lieberman, state organizer from Missouri Voter Protection to the left, and Seven Nelson, a speaker and Springfield teen and local activist to the right.

FEBRUARY 23 EVENT: FOUNDING MOTHERS ESTABLISHING LIBRARY SERVICES IN COLUMBIA

In honor of the Columbia Public Library's 100th anniversary, join us to learn about the creation of the first public library in our community. Genealogist and amateur historian Tim Dollens will discuss how the efforts of the Tuesday Club, a women's social group, were key to the library's formation and how the League of Women Voters later helped pass a tax levy to improve and expand library services.

This event will be held on Wednesday, February 23, from 7-8:15 p.m. via Zoom. This event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County. Be sure to request a Zoom link for the event on the library's events page.

— Barbara Hoppe
LWVCBC President

CANDIDATE AND BALLOT ISSUES FORUMS IN MARCH

The LWVCBC forum for ballot issues and the Columbia School Board candidates will be Tuesday, March 15, at 6:30 p.m. LWVCBC president Barbara Hoppe will moderate. The candidates for two seats on the school board are Suzette Waters, Blake Willoughby, Andrea Lisenby, and Adam Burks. Ballot issues include Columbia and Boone County internet sales tax proposals and the Columbia Public Schools bond issue. Dr. Brian Yearwood, CPS superintendent, will make a presentation on the school bond issue and answer questions.

The contests for Columbia mayor and two city council races will be featured on Wednesday, March 23 at 6:30 p.m. Mayoral candidates are

Barbara Buffaloe, Tanya Heath, Randy Minchew, Maria Oropallo, and David Seamon. Candidates for Ward 3 are Roy Lovelady and Karl Skala. Candidates for Ward 4 are Nick Foster and Erica Pefferman. David Lile, KFRU host, will moderate the forum.

Both forums are scheduled to be at the Columbia Public Library and will air on KFRU and KOPN. Current plans are to have limited in-person seating, probably requiring pre-registration, and the forums will also be available on Zoom. We will update our members as needed.

— Carol Schreiber, Chair
Voter Service Committee

MEDICAID EXPANSION UPDATE

According to the January 7 *Missouri Independent*, over 51,000 people have enrolled in expanded Medicaid, and another 69,000 applications are being processed. Processing is slow due to staff shortages and inadequate computer systems, putting Missouri far behind Oklahoma and other states that are expanding Medicaid.

The legislature has begun consideration of a Supplemental Appropriations bill, HB 3014, to fund Medicaid through fiscal year 2021, which ends 6/30/22. This same process has been used every year for a long time. But this year, the funding for the Medicaid Expansion population is included, so there is more controversy than usual even though the Governor has not requested any state general revenue funds to cover

the cost. It's important to inform our elected officials that we support continued Medicaid funding.

The Missouri Supreme Court ruled that the current Constitutional language means the expansion population cannot be separated from the rest of the Medicaid population for appropriations purposes. A bill (HJR 117) has been filed to modify the constitution to impose work requirements and sever the expansion population from the rest of the program in the budget, which would likely end Medicaid expansion. This would require another vote of the people before the changes could be implemented.

— Mahree Skala, Chair
Health Committee



CITY WARD REAPPORTIONMENT UPDATE

The Reapportionment committee appointed by the City Council to determine the new boundary lines for city wards has finished its review. It has issued three proposed maps and held four meetings in late January for public input into the process.

The City has also created a survey through which the public can provide input on the process. The survey will be open through February 6 and can be found using the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wardreapportionment>. When taking the survey,

participants will be shown the three proposed maps and the population changes and can choose their preferred configuration. The Committee will present its final report to City Council by February 15, 2022.

The LWV has asked the Reapportionment Committee for a verbal explanation to accompany these maps so citizens can understand which neighborhoods are affected.

— Diane Suhler
LWVCBC 2nd Vice President

REDISTRICTING IN MISSOURI UPDATE

What have we learned :

- Redistricting is a very political process.
- Redistricting is disorganized.
- Redistricting is frustrating.
- Redistricting is challenging, especially drawing a fair map.
- Redistricting is tedious.

But :

- Redistricting is required every ten years, with each new census count.
- Redistricting is essential to give a voice to the citizens of the state.
- Redistricting and drawing fair maps is possible.
- Redistricting has changed with the new tools available.
- Redistricting should be conducted differently in the future.

Missouri House Map

The House Bipartisan Independent Commission members approved a map on January 19. Their approved map will be sent to the Secretary of State's office and used for the next ten years. Here is a link to the map: <https://bit.ly/3s9QoGf>

Missouri Senate Map

The Senate Bipartisan Independent Commission members met on December 23 and agreed to disagree. In other words, they decided their work was over because they could not agree on their next step. So they ceased trying to reach an agreement on the Senate map and disbanded. The map for Missouri Senate seats will now be decided by a judicial panel of six people.

MO US Congressional Map

The Congressional District map is created using a process similar to the enacting of a Missouri state bill. A redrawn U.S. Congressional map cleared the Missouri House by a vote of 86 to 67, but without an emergency clause needed for it to go into effect before the August 2 primary. The House map maintains the current partisan balance of the state's Congressional delegation: six Republican seats and two Democratic seats.

The Senate Select Committee on Redistricting voted to approve the bill January 25 and sent it to the Senate for action.

The decennial (once per decade) redistricting process is on a tight timeline after delays in U.S. Census data due to the pandemic, as well as Gov. Parson's decision not to call a special session last year devoted to redrawing Congressional maps. Without an emergency clause, the map will take effect on August 28. (Congressional Map info taken from <https://bit.ly/3KHTnxY>)

Future

The LWVMO Fair Redistricting Committee will follow the drawing of the Senate map and the Congressional District maps and conclude their work with a debriefing and documentation for future use.

— Sharon Schneeberger, Chair
Redistricting Committee



Upcoming League Events!



FEBRUARY 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		FEB 1	2 Local Studies Presentations 5:30 P.M. Zoom	3 LWV on Paul Pepper Show, KBIA 8:50 am	4	5
6	7	8 Lunch & Learn Climate Action Zoom at Noon	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 LWVCBC Board Meeting 7pm Zoom	22	23 Founding Mothers Library event 7p.m. Zoom	24	25	26
27	28	MARCH 1	3	3	4 LWV on Paul Pepper Show, KBIA 8:50 am	5
6	7	8 Lunch & Learn Zoom at Noon	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Candidate & Issue Forum 6:30 p.m. Library	16	17	18	19
20	21 LWVCBC Board Meeting 7pm Zoom	22	23 Candidate Forum 6:30 p.m. Library	24	25	56
27	28	29	30	31	April 1	2

UPDATE ON COLUMBIA'S ELECTRIC UTILITY PLANS

A small group of us are working on showing the City Council that there is a lot of support for 100% renewable energy for Columbia's utility by 2030, which is one of the scenarios proposed by Siemens in their report. One aspect of our effort is to obtain supportive statements from businesses and organizations. We have a simple form letter for them to sign. I would appreciate it if you let me know of groups that might make such a statement, and then you or I could contact them. The League approved a related statement in November.

— Dick Parker, Chair
Energy & Climate Committee
573-256-4397; rbparker111@gmail.com

LWV Officers:

President: Barbara Hoppe
(424-9668)
1st VP: Mahree Skala (474-2195)
2nd VP: Diane Suhler (443-0549)
Secretary: Carol Schreiber
(657-0639)
Treasurer: Ruth Milledge
(268-9591)

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Kate Canterbury (214-536-1300)
Meredith Donaldson (289-3018)
Marilyn McLeod (239-3708)
Rene Powell (864-4087)
Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)
Pam Springsteel (445-0642)

Appointed Directors:

Dick Parker (256-4397)

Committee Chairs:

Budget: David Leuthold
Civil Liberties: Pam Springsteel
Education: Zona Burk
Energy & Climate: Dick Parker
ERA: Susan Koenig
Fundraising: Open
Health: Mahree Skala
Hospitality: Pam Springsteel
Lunch & Learn: Barbara Hoppe
Membership: Meredith Donaldson
Mental Health: Mahree Skala
Redistricting Committee: Sharon
Schneeberger
Speakers Bureau: Open
Voter Registration: Linda Smith
Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

The Voter Editor: Ava Fajen

Local Website: lwvcbc.org
State: lwvmisouri.org
National: lwv.org

Like us on Facebook: "League of
Women Voters - Columbia, MO"

MEMBER NEWS**In Memoriam**

Emma Jean McKinin, 96, of Columbia,
an LWVCBC Life Member, died on December 9, 2021.

Welcome to New Members

Bede Clark, Marybeth Champion-Garthe,
Valerie Holly, Anne Jacobson, and Lea Langdon

2022 MEMBERSHIP FORM**League of Women Voters Columbia-Boone County****COME AND JOIN US!**

Simply fill out the form and mail to the address below

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____

Phone _____

Email _____

First Time Member _____ Renewal _____

Membership dues include local, state and national
membership. ***We invite you to add an additional \$22 for 2022
to support the work of our League.**

Individual Dues \$65 _____ ***\$87** _____

Household Dues \$100 _____ ***\$122** _____

New member 30 years of age and under. \$30 _____

Student Dues (Ages 16 to 25) Enrolled FT/PT \$FREE _____

Subsidized Dues (for members on limited income) \$25 _____

Donation to subsidize dues for \$ _____

members who cannot afford membership rates.

General Donation \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to LWV and mail to:

League of Women Voters
PO Box 239
Columbia, MO 65205

Newsletters are sent via email. If you need a paper copy,
please check here _____

**Donation to LWVCBC Education Fund \$ _____

**Donations to Education Fund are tax-deductible. Please
include a separate check payable to LWVEF-MO704



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

League of Women Voters

PO Box 239

Columbia MO 65205

<http://lwvcbc.org>

Our Niche

- Community Calendar
- Social Justice Group Round Table
- Summit for Black Men
- Network of marginalized professionals/groups



Live Transcription (Closed Captioning) has been enabled
Who can see this transcript? Recording On

Another concept we've been put forward with perhaps working for a summit for black men to try to give.



Dr. Fred Williams (he/him)

Dr. Fred Williams of the Men's Minority Network, seen in the inset photo on lower right, spoke for the January Lunch & Learn program via Zoom. Here he displayed a slide showing some information about the group and some of their members.