



The Voter

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

DECEMBER 11 FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION



We will celebrate our Founder's Day on Saturday, December 11, at 2 pm on Zoom.

Violet Vander Haar will provide our entertainment by singing songs of democracy. We will present our Outstanding Citizen Award to Ruth O'Neill of the Catholic Worker Community, orchestrator of the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen, and attorney with the Department of Social Services. The Liz Schmidt Community Service Award will go to the Food Bank for Central and Northeast

Missouri, and will be accepted by the president and CEO Lindsey Lopez.

Our speaker will be Mike Szydlowski, science coordinator of Columbia Public Schools, who will tell us about the Boone County Nature School.

Members will receive the Zoom link by email. Those who wish to join by phone can dial in (1-312-626- 6799; Meeting ID: 827 3285 2114; passcode: LWV).

— Pam Springsteel, Chair
Hospitality Committee

LWVMO CALENDARS AVAILABLE

LWVMO Calendars for 2022 are available for \$7. Makes a good stocking stuffer. Call Marilyn McLeod at (573) 445-3500 if you want one in time for Xmas or the New Year!

DEC. 14 LUNCH & LEARN: BOONE COUNTY JAIL



Our Lunch and Learn program at noon on Zoom on Dec. 14 will feature guest speaker Jeanne Mihail, who has analyzed publicly available data from the Boone County Jail. She looked for patterns in the data — people charged, types of charges, etc. — to see what equities/inequities might be revealed. We are looking forward to learning more about this.

Our November Lunch and Learn Program was on Paid Family Leave. The United States is one of very few countries in the world that does not have national Paid Family Leave. Alice Kitchen and Judy Ancel from the Kansas City LWV did an excellent job covering this important topic. Their K.C League completed an extensive study on Paid Family Leave and adopted a position on

this in June 2021. Our LWVCBC will consider adopting their study and vote on this at our annual meeting in April of 2022. 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 and 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

I can't believe it is December already! Our League was very active in November. Here is a brief update!

Local Studies Completed

We will be sending each of you two Local Studies, completed in November, for you to review and vote on at our Annual Membership meeting in April. The first Local Study is on the crucial topic of "State Preemption of Local Control." The second study is on the timely topic of Legalization of Marijuana. An initiative petition has been filed to put this second issue on the November 2022 ballot in Missouri. We will have two Zoom programs early next year for our Membership to learn more about these studies and ask questions. Much thanks to Mahree Skala, Chair of the State Preemption of Local Control Study Group, and Dan Viets, Chair of the Legalization of Marijuana Study Group.

LWVCBC in the News: Redistricting and Medicare

The LWVCBC has also been in the news a lot recently, and, surprisingly, throughout the State, for our work testifying at the House Redistricting Committee in Jefferson City and our efforts to publicize and help people sign up for Medicaid expansion. We were on the front page with a photo in the *St. Louis Dispatch* on Monday, Nov. 22 (see attached photo)

regarding our testimony on redistricting in Jefferson City. Note: We were not part of the flaring tensions mentioned in the headline, that referred to the committee members. We were clearly non-partisan.

We were also on Channel 6, KPVI, KY3, and in the *Columbia Missourian*, the *Southeast Missourian*, the *News Tribune*, *The Lexington Herald Leader*, *The Registered Citizen*, and *The Derrick* in Jefferson City all on our testimony at the Redistricting hearing in Jefferson City. Also testifying were Marilyn McLeod and Sharon Schneeberger. KOMU also did an excellent and extended story that included our work on Medicaid Expansion and our efforts to get the word out so more people can sign up.

Here are a few links if you are interested in reading more:

- https://bit.ly/LWV_Red_1
- https://bit.ly/LWV_Red_2
- https://bit.ly/LWV_Red_3
- https://bit.ly/LWV_Red_4

LWVMO Fall Conference

Finally, I want to mention that it was a pleasure to attend the LWVMO fall (cont'd on pg. 10)



MISSOURI REDISTRICTING CONTINUES — AN UPDATE

The LWVMO Fair Redistricting Committee continues to attend redistricting commission hearings. Nancy Copenhaver, Marilyn McLeod, and Sharon Schneeberger drove to the last House hearing in Kirksville to hear citizens state how they would like to have their communities represented in state government. Several League members from Columbia attended the House Hearing in Jefferson City. Thank you for being attentive to redistricting. You can see citizen comments here: <https://missouri-redistricting-commission-portal-redistrictmo.hub.arcgis.com/>

We have placed the Senate maps, drawn by the Institute for Computational Redistricting (ICOR), in the MO Office of Administration portal. You can view the maps entered into the portal by going to <https://redistrictmo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=07713ebb3a55442f9ced0a966f0daaea>.

Currently, you can only view three plans, and all are labeled Montee. Maps 1 and 2 are Democratic maps, and Map 3 is a GOP map. We expect the LWVMO maps to be available on this same website soon.

Also, you can view the report ICOR created for LWVMO by going here: <http://redistricting.cs.illinois.edu/#proposedmaps>

Scroll down the page to find the complete MO report.

We expect the House and Senate Commissions to have a draft of their map for the governor by December 23. Watch for the two state maps.

The special Congressional redistricting committees will return to their map-drawing task in January with the 2022 session. We will watch and keep you informed about their actions. Their goal is to be finished by February 22, 2022.

— Sharon Schneeberger, Chair
Redistricting Committee



On November 4, League members testified before a House Redistricting Commission hearing in Jefferson City. Above left, Sharon Schneeberger testified before the group. Marilyn McLeod, above center, testified as President of the LWVMO. Barbara Hoppe, above right, testified as the President of LWVCBC. Below, the House Redistricting Commission.



REDRAWING THE CITY WARD MAPS PROGRAM

The results of the 2020 census had implications for how City of Columbia Wards are configured. The 2020 census determined that the population of Columbia is 126,254, up from approximately 108,000 in 2010. Based on Columbia's population change from 2010 to 2020, each ward will need approximately 21,042 people.

Based on this number, three wards (as currently drawn) will need to give up population. It is expected that two wards will mainly be affected, Ward 2 and Ward 4. To see the current map of Columbia wards, visit: <https://www.como.gov/>

[boards/city-council/wards-map/](#). The goal of reapportionment will be to redraw the ward boundaries to adjust the populations in an impartial, fair, consistent, and transparent manner. The City Council named individuals who will serve on a committee to redraw ward boundaries. The committee will submit its recommendation no later than Feb. 15.

The LWVCBC will communicate with the Chair of the Reapportionment Committee to determine how we can assist with informing and involving the public.

— Diane Suhler

LWVCBC BOARD REVIEWS MARIJUANA STUDY FINAL REPORT

The LWV Marijuana Legalization Study Committee presented its final report to the Columbia/Boone County League of Women Voters Board of Directors on Monday, November 15. The report endorses the passage of legislation in Missouri which would regulate, tax, and legalize responsible adult use of marijuana. The Board unanimously recommended that the Study be presented to our members for their consideration and approval.

The report of the Committee examines several questions of concern to voters considering whether to support adult-use marijuana legalization. A copy of the Study will be emailed to members for their review soon, and we will also hold a Zoom informational meeting in the near future to discuss the Study and answer questions.

Nineteen other states and Washington, D.C., and two U.S. territories, have passed taxed, regulated adult use of marijuana in just the past few years. Multiple initiatives have been filed with the Missouri Secretary of State, which would legalize adult use, cultivation, and regulated manufacturing and sales of marijuana products here. The initiative that has the greatest chance of actually appearing on the ballot in November of 2022 has been filed by the campaign known as "Legal Missouri 2022." The full text of that proposal is available at sos.mo.gov/petitions/2022ipcirculation#2022059.

This measure would allow presently licensed medical marijuana facilities to expand into

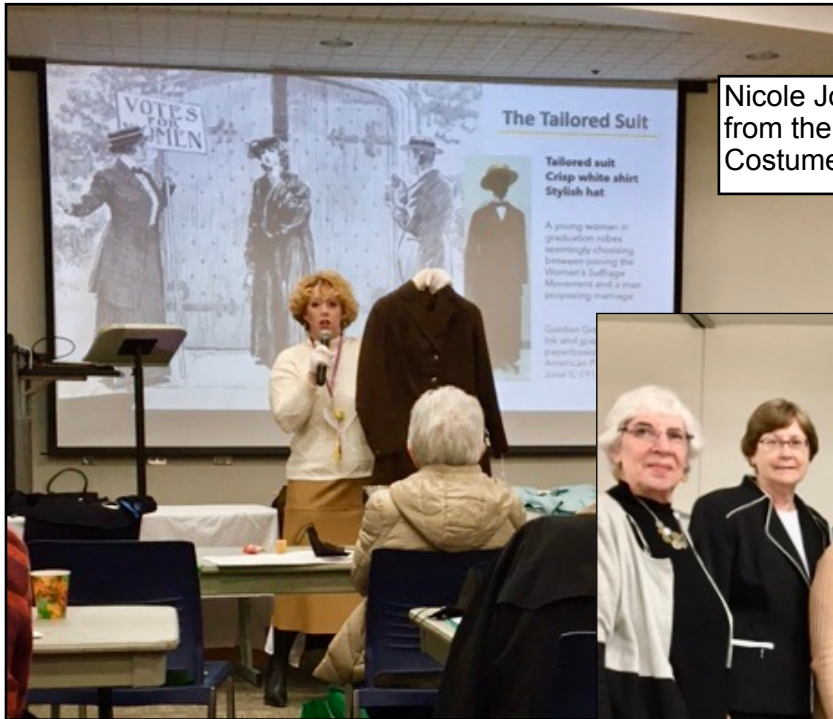
general adult-use sales as well. It would also create at least 144 new commercial marijuana licenses intended to go to persons of limited income, disabled military veterans, and those whose families have been directly impacted by marijuana prohibition. The measure would also require automatic expungement of marijuana criminal convictions for all misdemeanors and most felony offenses. Persons convicted of larger amount felonies would be able to petition the court for expungement.

The measure would impose a 6% retail sales tax on marijuana. That sales tax would be used to help fund the Missouri Public Defender System, fund drug treatment, and assist U.S. military veterans. Driving while impaired by marijuana use would remain illegal. The proposal would also make some changes to the medical marijuana law passed by voters in November of 2018. It would extend the duration of a medical marijuana patient license from one year to three years, reduce the cost for patients to obtain a license to cultivate cannabis for themselves, and provide protection from employment discrimination for patients who use their medicine off the job.

The campaign will need to gather 175,000 valid voter signatures by the first week of May 2022. Petitioning has already begun and will continue through next spring.

— Dan Viets, Chair
Legalization of Marijuana Local Study Group

FALL LWVMO CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 13



Nicole Johnston, Curator, displays items from the University of Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection.



LWVCBC members posed for a photo at the Fall LWVMO Conference on November 13 in Sedalia. From left to right, Marilyn McLeod, LWVMO President, Carol Schreiber, Zainab Jasim, Joni O'Connor, and Elaine Blodgett.



In-person participants listen to a conference presentation. Some participants also joined via Zoom.

UPDATE ON COLUMBIA'S ELECTRIC UTILITY PLANS

On Nov. 15, the task force supervising Siemens wrote their final report to the City Council, and it will be delivered to the Council on Dec. 6, along with Siemens' two-volume report. The Council will not vote on the recommendations that evening. I will let you know when they plan to vote.

Here is the task force's final statement regarding moving to 100% renewable energy: *The Task Force recommends that the City Council pursue a revision or replacement of the Renewable Energy Ordinance, setting a date for the utility to achieve 100% Renewable Energy by the earliest achievable date while considering affordability, which should provide staff with needed direction for future programming and power supply acquisitions.*

This statement was made despite 87% of attendees at the Oct. 28 public hearing standing in support of achieving 100% renewables by the year 2030.

When Columbia achieves 100% renewable energy, that will mean that Columbia Water & Light (W&L) will be purchasing sufficient renewable energy annually to equal the annual total amount of electricity sold to Columbia customers. Most of Columbia's electricity comes from the Mid-continent Independent System Operator (MISO) grid. Grids take in electricity from many producers and deliver it to many distribution electric providers like Columbia W&L. I think of the grid sort of like a lake with many streams running into it and many individuals taking water out of the lake. The water coming out of the lake can not be identified as coming from a specific stream and most likely comes from the stream closest to the individual taking it out. The largest electricity producer near Columbia is the

Callaway nuclear plant; therefore, the electricity provided to a house in Columbia mostly comes from that plant.

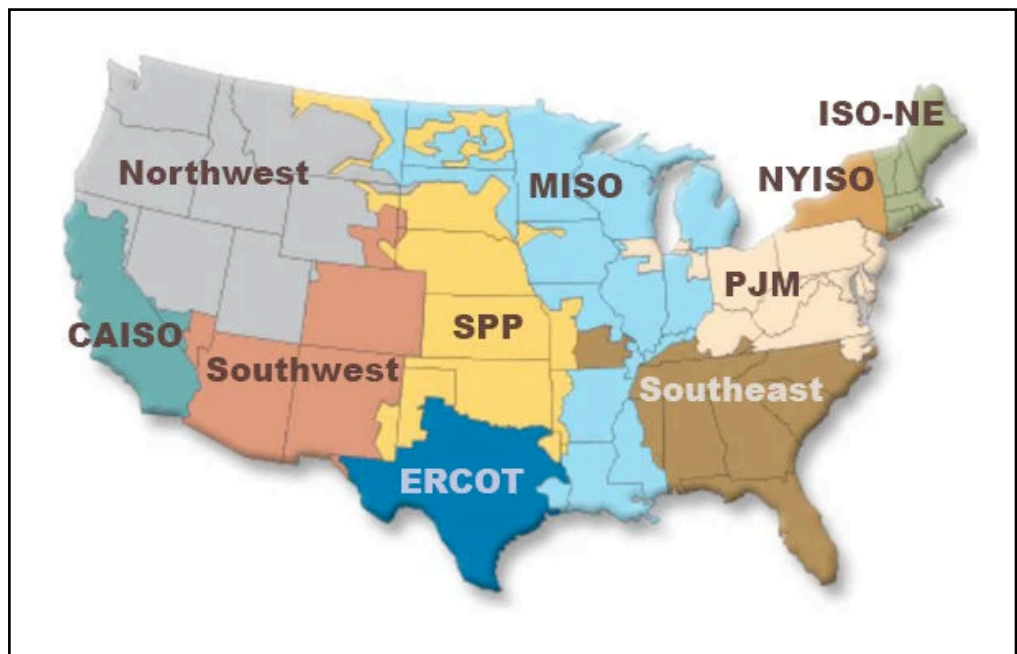
MISO regulates and coordinates electricity input to our grid from producers to ensure stable and reliable power. This regulation includes frequency control to make sure that our electronic devices and motors operate correctly. If needed, MISO can instruct electricity producers to increase or decrease production in as little time as five minutes in order to maintain the correct frequency.

The MISO market can be a bit complicated to understand. There is a system of bidding to provide and use electricity from a variety of sources and users. For an educational video on how the electric grid works, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhxo2oXRiio>

This control of the grid by Independent System Operators in the US has resulted in the average price of electricity being lower than it would have been otherwise, primarily because natural gas is less expensive than coal. Renewables are still a small but growing portion of the total.

It will be many years before all energy in the MISO market comes from renewable energy.

— Dick Parker, Chair
Energy & Climate Committee



Power Grid Operators in the United States. Source: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (<https://www.ferc.gov/electric-power-markets>)

PLEASE RENEW YOUR 2022 LWVCBC MEMBERSHIP...NOW!

We currently have only 103 renewed for 2022! If you have not renewed, please renew online or by mail ASAP. We will be recording our members into the LWVUS database, and we want to be sure to include you.

Please be sure to renew through the LWVCBC. We have discovered several friends who joined LWV but have not received our

newsletter or announcements. That is because they joined through LWVMO or LWVUS.

If you must delay sending your membership, please contact our Membership Chair, Meredith at mjdonlson@gmail.com or 573-289-3018

— Meredith Donaldson, Chair
Membership Committee

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Education Committee aims to encourage strong citizenship development and youth participation in voting while also gaining new and younger members for the League and promoting our League to the community.

The Committee is gathering information about social studies learning in high schools and looking at its effectiveness in encouraging students to register and vote. Ene Chippendale has been interviewing teachers for their ideas and suggestions. We realized we need more information from students directly before landing on a bigger project or two. Linda Headrick developed a spreadsheet to help catalog activities suggested by committee members. Meredith Donaldson has been searching out activities from other states.

At our next meeting, we will design a short questionnaire, or survey, or dialogue points to use when meeting with students. Zona Burk has met with Columbia Public Schools officials, and we will be able to begin to meet with students in January – March, before the next election. The Committee will meet with students at Battle (Susie Adams) and Douglass (Terryonna

Samuels). Since that time, two additional students at Hickman and Rock Bridge have approached the League wanting to participate.

We hope to visit each of these high schools in January-March for small focus groups to learn how young people view voting, how they are learning civic responsibility, how we can better reach and partner with youth, generally. The League also wants to register young people before the April election; Linda Smith chairs the League's Voter Registration efforts, and we will be coordinating that with her. Once we have collected ideas via interviews, small focus groups, and brief surveys, we will use the data to inform our activities for the coming year.

We aim to use formal and informal education to gain and expand youth involvement – more students registered and voting - and engage their families to register and vote. Our longer-term plan is to deliver what the students request. This might involve the creation of a Youth Advisory Group to advise the League, youth seminars and Lunch/Learn sessions at the schools (or churches or clubs), a youth speakers bureau, a youth mini-conference, or something else.

Our League has options for membership by young people, including support for their dues. Meredith Donaldson, who chairs the League's Membership Committee, is also a member of the Education Committee and facilitates that.

— Zona Burk, Chair
Education Committee





Upcoming League Events!



DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	Dec 1	2	3	4 Education Committee
5	6 LWV on Paul Pepper Show, KBIA 8:50 am	7	8	9	10	11 Founder's Day Zoom at 2pm
12	13	14 Lunch & Learn Boone County Jail Data Zoom at noon	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1
2	3	4 LWV on Paul Pepper Show, KBIA 8:50 am	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Lunch & Learn Zoom at Noon	12	13	14	15
16	17 LWVCBC Board Meeting 7pm Zoom	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Education Committee 1pm Zoom	29

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)

Elected Directors:

Elaine Blodgett (256-2803)
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 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

Membership October 2021: 213 Members!

**Welcome to New Member:
Jodette Lenser**

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>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

cont'd from pg. 2) State League meeting in Sedalia on Nov. 13, in person after a year of mostly Zoom meetings and events. The meeting was well attended - in person and on Zoom - by League members from throughout the State and our LWVCBC. Thank you to all who attended. It was valuable to me to meet League Members from throughout the State and hear about the activities and key issues for each League in Missouri.

Two newly formed Leagues in Missouri - one in Joplin and the other in Tri-Lakes in the Branson area - attended for the first time. It is important and encouraging to see new Leagues forming in rural Missouri, and we need more!

Thanks to Sharon Schneeberger, who did an excellent presentation via Zoom, educating us on redistricting; and Boone County Clerk Brianna Lennon, who updated us on the election system and voter integrity via Zoom. Thanks also to Nicole Johnston, Curator of the Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection, who

gave a fascinating talk on "A Closer Look At Dress of the Missouri Suffragettes and Trailblazing Stateswomen." She displayed outfits worn by Jean Carnahan, Claire McCaskill, Vicky Riback Wilson, the Honorable Anne Covington, and others. Thanks also to Marilyn Mcleod and Carol Schreiber, who put together such a helpful and informative program.

Have a safe and Happy New Year. Thanks for your support. Please encourage a friend or two to join our League this year, so we can continue to grow and be even more effective Making Democracy Work!



— Barbara Hoppe, President

yesforparks@hotmail.com