



# The Voter

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

## PRIMARY CANDIDATE FORUMS TO BE JULY 12 & 14



The August 2nd Primary Election will be here soon. Come to our July 12th forum and hear from all the Boone County Southern District Commissioner candidates. There will be six Democratic candidates: Ted Farnen, Gene Rhorer, Brianna Lennon, Trevor Fowler, Ann Peters and Sid Sullivan; and three Republican candidates: Fred Parry, James Pounds and Matt Cavanaugh. Candidates for Northern District Commissioner will not speak because there is only one candidate for each party — Brenndan Riddles (R) and Janet Thompson (D) — so there is no primary race for this office.

Then, join us July 14th for the candidates in the other primary races, including Democratic candidates for the 13th Judicial Circuit, Division 2: Jeff Harris and Deborah Daniels; State Representative District 46 Democratic candidates: Martha Stevens and Cathy Richards; and Boone County Public Administrator Democratic candidates: Chimene Schwach and Sonja Boone.

On July 14th we will also have speakers on the two Columbia ballot issues. On Prop. 1, the proposed Increase in the Columbia Hotel Tax, Matt McCormick, President of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce will speak in favor and Glyn Laverick, President of the Columbia Hotel Association, will speak against. Finally, Columbia City Manager Mike Matthes will present information on Prop. 2, the proposed Continuation of Sales Tax on Sales of Out of State Vehicle Purchases. There will be time for audience questions.

Both forums will be in the Friends Room at the Columbia Public Library at 6:30 p.m. with refreshments at 6:00 p.m. KFRU radio will air both forums live, with Renee Hulshof will moderate on July 12th and David Lile on July 14th. The Columbia Public Library is co-sponsoring both forums.

— Carol Schreiber

## CAT TV JULY 13: NEW READINESS GOALS FOR KINDERGARTEN IN BOONE COUNTY



Dr. Pam Conway of the Cradle to Career Alliance and Karen Jimerson, principal, Hallsville Elementary School will be our guests at the LWV July 13th CAT TV show. The topic will be the new kindergarten readiness goals for Columbia and Boone County children.

The “Wise” Collaborative Action Network convened in January 2015 and began a long and thorough process of determining what constitutes readiness for children entering kindergarten in Boone County. Two groups were formed — one for Columbia and one for Boone County — to develop a common knowledge base, review pertinent local data, identify best practices as well as detractors from success, and consider how childcare facilities and kindergarten teachers could work more closely and consistently to support kindergarten readiness.

Tune in to our CAT TV show to learn the results of this collaborative work by schools, preschools and daycare representatives. As we all know, the better prepared children are for school, the better their educational outcomes. We owe the members of this alliance a big “thank you” for their work on this project.

The show airs live at 7:00 p.m. on July 13. The program will be available on our website or at [www.columbiaaccess.tv](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 can be found on Mediacom Channel 85, Charter Communications 983, and CenturyTel Prism 98.

— Carol Schreiber

## BOARD MEETING REPORT

In June much of our energy went into the successful fundraiser, Music Man. The committee once again pulled off a fun event that replenished our coffers. In addition, Peggy and Diane (and State President Elaine Blodgett) went to the National LWV Convention in Washington DC. Look for reports on both events in this Voter.

At the play Peggy overheard one member ask another, "Are there any Republicans in this group?" The answer was, "We never ask." The question of our "nonpartisan" stance surfaced in a comment on Bill Clark's recent column on LWV. Bill noted that LWV is "nonpartisan," but the commenter scoffed at that, calling us "part of the demlib establishment." We heard at the National Convention that the LWVUS office is being pressed for comments about the first woman to emerge as a major party presidential candidate. LWVUS has staunchly replied that "we do not endorse either political parties or candidates."

Some people think "nonpartisan" means not having positions on political issues. How could that be, when we began as an advocacy group for women's suffrage? Outgoing LWVUS President Elizabeth McNamara urged us to stop using the term and to simply say, "We do not endorse either political parties or candidates." A few more words -- much more clarity.

At the June 27 meeting the Board:

- Discussed our participation in the coalition working to defeat the Voter ID ballot issue (a constitutional amendment – see the June Voter for a full rundown). The coalition is still getting organized. Marilyn McLeod had researched ad

costs. We cannot cover the full cost without help from the coalition partners or an appeal to our members. But we decided to devote \$2000 for now (\$1000 from LWVUS via our State LWV and \$1000 from our treasury) to get some slots reserved.

- Discussed other ways of supporting the effort to defeat Voter ID. A speaker's bureau will be organizing to reach out to local groups. If you are a member of a group who would like a speaker to come, please let us know. You can send your e-mail to [lwwcbc@gmail.com](mailto:lwwcbc@gmail.com).
- Heard about voter registration plans for fall at local colleges. We will call for volunteers.
- Approved funding requests for a Constitution Day program and October election forums. We will collaborate with AAUW for a Constitution Day session in memory of Holly Burgess, longtime valued AAUW and LWV member.
- Set an August 25 date for our Fall Picnic, on the eve of the anniversary of the ratification of the women's suffrage amendment.

— Peggy Placier and Diane Suhler  
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 25, 2016. For July 2016 we recognize:

- The **Columbia Daily Tribune** for working with us on the Kettering Foundation project, extensive coverage of our forums, providing free ads, livestreaming a candidate forum, and highlighting our events in the Sunday Pulse Shots.
- **Jim Robertson** for serving as a moderator for our CAT TV shows.
- **Bob Roper, Dave Nichols and Randy White** for being on our CAT TV show entitled "Capital Improvements Sales Tax" on July 8, 2015.
- **Peggy Placier and Diane Suhler** for their presentation on "Money in Politics" at our September 15, 2015 Lunch and Learn.

Thanks for being a Friend of the LWV!

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## NATIONAL CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Board members Diane Suhler, Peggy Placier and Elaine Blodgett (representing the State Board) attended the National LWV Convention in Washington DC on June 16-19. The theme was "Making Democracy Work for All." As always the schedule was packed from 7:15am until 9:30pm with workshops, speakers, and decisions. We elected a new LWVUS President, Chris Carson of California, as well as a new national board, and heard from new CEO Wylecia Wiggs Harris.

We came home with lots of notes and ideas from smaller breakout sessions and will be glad to share those when we can, but here are the highlights of the plenary sessions:

**Speakers:** Many of these were excellent but very brief – if anything we might have had fewer speakers and given them more time.

- Jennifer Lawless, Women & Politics Institute at American University: "Engaging Millennials in Our Elections." Younger people tend to have a negative view of government and political offices, many saying they would never run for office. Why? They think that government change is futile and politics attracts selfish egomaniacs. College women are more turned off than men.
- Amanda Taub, *Vox News* & *New York Times*: "American Authoritarianism." Authoritarians seek order, control, and protection from the threat of "outside groups." They are attracted to strong leaders. Interestingly, the best predictor of this political attitude is parenting practices.
- Panel discussion: "Protecting the Right to Vote." This was a complex discussion and difficult to summarize. But the key point was that low engagement in voting is not "apathy." Policies and lack of faith in the system discourage voting, especially among minority voters. A key point made was to engage voters who are 'turned off' by the climate of the presidential election is to focus on the importance of state and local races to the issues that people care about—e.g., sheriff and district attorneys impact criminal justice system; state legislature impacts educational funding, Medicaid, etc. This group also advocated for registering newly naturalized citizens immediately after citizenship ceremonies.
- Peter Overby, National Public Radio: "Money in Politics." This was a basic summary of things we discussed in the study.
- Joe Goldman, Democracy Fund (created by E-Bay Founder): "Major Forces at Play in 2016." In a context of a loss of faith in public institutions, he advised LWV to stay in a "neutral" nonpartisan space.
- Celinda Lake, Consultant & Researcher for political groups: "Messaging for Impact." She was one of the most informative and entertaining speakers. Among other points, she emphasized that voter registration is only one step. Many people do not know how to vote. Talk with voters at each step, about their plans to vote, identity as a voter, and how to convert registration to voting.
- Keesha Gaskins, Rockefeller Brothers Fund: "Telling a Story of Impact." Foundations receive many competing proposals for funding from membership organizations like LWV. The most compelling ones tell a story (including data) of how you made a difference.
- Ari Berman, Author of the award-winning book *Give Us the Ballot*. He outlined the history of voting rights in the U.S. after the 1965 passage of the Voting Rights Act (very much weakened by Supreme Court decisions).

**LWV Messaging:** "LWV does not endorse any political candidate or support any political party."

- Erase "non-partisan" from our vocabulary because audiences do not know what it means. "Definition of Non-Partisan = constitutionally incapable of having an opinion about anything." (joke)
- Reframe the conversation to avoid getting trapped into political quagmires, such as backing the first woman candidate for president or responding to Trump's negatives.

**The delegates made the following decisions:**

**Program:** We have documents to go with these.

- We adopted the Key Structures of Democracy (the ones we discussed at our local program meeting) as the focus for 2016-2018.

(Continued on page 6)



## MUSIC MAN FUNDRAISER IS A HIT!!

What a great year for a play about a con man! Thanks to the committee who organized the event, our generous donors and underwriters, and the talented people at the Columbia Entertainment Company, our annual fundraiser was a big success. We made a profit of \$4,243 after the known bills have been paid.

The food and wine were donated by 44 Stone Public House, ABC Chinese Cuisine, Bleu Restaurant and Wine Bar, Broadway Brewery, House of Chow, Jack's Gourmet Restaurant, Les Bourgeois Vineyards, Room 38 Restaurant & Lounge, and World Harvest Foods. Please thank them in person when you visit their establishments. LWV members also donated food, tea, ice, etc.

We also thank the many underwriters who chipped in \$100 or more: Bill and Kathryn Allen, Elaine Blodgett, Rachel and Wayne Brekhus, Zona Burk, Gordon and Alice Christensen, Jack and Win Colwill, Nancy Copenhaver, Meredith Donaldson, Pat Etienne, Gloria Gesztesy, Marge Hicks, Leigh Huesgen, David Leuthold, Lynn Maloney Acupuncture, Marilyn McLeod, Steve and Joan Mudrick, John and Joni O'Connor, Peggy Placier, Liz Schmidt, Sharon Schneeberger, Carol Schreiber, Mike and Sarah Seat, Diane and Gregg Suhler, Janet and Marjorie Thompson, Margaret Tyler, and Marcia Walker.

As usual, we drew names for door prizes after intermission. The prizes were a bottle of wine, tickets to a CEC play, lunch at the new Upper Crust, a gift from World Harvest Foods, and a flower arrangement from Gerbes on Broadway. Winners were Trish Carlton, Bob Schreiber, Peggy Placier, Nancy Jackson, Stan Clay, Joe Donaldson, and Valerie Wedel.

Member Bill Clark gave the play a good review in the *Tribune*. As Elaine Blodgett said, "I hadn't smiled so much and tapped my toes so much in a long time. It was delightful."

— Liz Schmidt



Bartenders Jack Colwill and John O'Connor



Frank Schmidt, Brenda Peculis and Ken Hutchinson



Joni O'Connor, Co-President Diane Suhler and Barbara Schneider



Marion Mace Dickerson  
and Diana Townsend



President of League of Women Voters of  
Missouri Elaine Blodgett, Ruth Thompson,  
Marge Hicks and Dee Dee Schlicting

## PHOTO VOTER ID

As you may know, there will be a constitutional amendment ballot issue on the November 2 election that would allow for the requirement of a specific photo voter ID. The sanctity of the right to vote is what's at stake in Missouri and would weaken the constitutionally protected right to vote in Missouri. This election is the first in 50 years without the full protections of the national Voting Rights Act.

Missouri is one of the few states in the country that actually has a constitutionally protected right to vote, unlike the US constitution.

In response to previous attempts by the Missouri Legislature to require photo ID, the state Supreme Court found that the right to vote cannot be infringed upon without the most compelling of reasons and ruled them unconstitutional. Passage of this Constitutional amendment would add a section that would carve out an exception to allow law makers to mandate photo ID. Because it is a resolution, it did not go to the Governor's desk—it goes straight to the ballot.

A subgroup of our local Voter Service Committee is working on the Photo Voter ID ballot issue.

Several members attended a statewide Voter Protection Coalition meeting in early June to map out strategies about the amendment.

Our local members then met and have decided to partner locally with the Missouri Rural Crisis Center, Race Matters, college student group representative, AARP, interfaith organization and Centro Latino. From this group, we hope to expand our efforts throughout the community.

We will be asking our members to participate in various ways: to volunteer to be part of a speaker's bureau; to participate in phone banks; to help design radio ads; and to help us with fundraising. Think about way(s) you may be able to help. Do you know of any groups that would welcome a speaker on the subject prior to the election? Let us know. Send to:

[lwvcbc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcbc@gmail.com).

And please watch for future articles and emails on the subject.

— Marilyn McLeod





## Upcoming League Events!



JULY 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	<b>JULY 1</b> LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50 a.m.	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	<b>12 Ballot &amp; Candidate Forum</b> Library 6:30 p.m.	<b>13 CAT-TV</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>14 Ballot &amp; Candidate Forum</b> Library 6:30 p.m.	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	<b>25 Board Meeting</b> Boone Cty Family Resource Center 1209 E Walnut 6:30 p.m.	26	27	28	29	30
31	<b>AUGUST 1</b>	27	3	4	5	6
7	<b>8 LWV on Paul Pepper</b> KBIA 8:50 a.m.	9	<b>10 CAT-TV</b> 7:00 p.m.	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	<b>22 Board Meeting</b> Boone Cty Family Resource Center 1209 E Walnut 6:30 p.m.	23	24	25	26	27



Axie Hindman, Barbara Schneider, Cindy Mustard, Margie Sable & Mahree Skala at *The Music Man*

**LWV Officers:**

Co-Presidents: Diane Suhler (443-0549)  
and Peggy Placier (442-2996)  
1st VP: Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)  
2nd VP: Ava Fajen (424-6683)  
Secretary: Carol Schreiber (657-1467)  
Treasurer: David Leuthold (449-1358)

**Elected Directors:**

Rachel Brekhus (875-4295)  
Joni O'Connor (234-1012)  
Meredith Donaldson (289-3015)  
Barbara Hoppe (443-5107)  
Marilyn McLeod (445-3500)  
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)  
Lael Von Holt (443-7747)

**Committee Chairs:**

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

**Voter Editor:** Ava Fajen

Local Website: [lwcabc.org](http://lwcabc.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"

**THANKS FOR SUPPORTING YOUR LEAGUE!**

As you know, 2016 is a busy election year!! We are preparing forums for the upcoming primary and general county, state and national elections, plus our educational forums on a wide array of important topics. Thanks for your support!

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 email \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 2016 VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES

**Primary Election on August 2**  
**Voter Registration Deadline: July 6**

**General Election on November 8**  
**Voter Registration Deadline: October 12**

Our voter registration and assistance website is now available at [lwvcolumbiamo.turbovote.org](http://lwvcolumbiamo.turbovote.org). It allows individuals to register to vote; request absentee ballots; update addresses; request alerts about upcoming elections via text messages and email reminders; and learn about issues, candidates, etc., through data provided by the non-partisan Voter Information Project. LWV has partnered with Mizzou students and TurboVote to create this website. Mizzou students have their own TurboVote site. Our portal is available to Columbia College, Stephens and Moberly Area CCC students, as well other Boone County citizens.



**League of Women Voters**

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<http://lwvcba.org>

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### **NATIONAL CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS** (Continued from page 3)

**Program:** (continued)

- After much heated debate, we adopted Redistricting as another program focus.
- We voted to concur with Colorado's position on Behavioral Health, which will complement our local and state positions well.

**By-Laws:** We will receive the final wording from LWVUS.

- Two important amendments to the national by-laws passed, and we will need to bring our by-laws into compliance with them. Both were under Article III, Membership. The first changes the term "citizens" to "persons" with respect to membership. This means that people who are noncitizens can join. The second amendment provoked a long, tense debate. The final decision was that the age for voting membership is reduced from 18 to 16, in order to engage high school students as members.

**Budget:** We can provide copies.

- The budget presented by the Board was adopted, again after some critical commentary from the floor. LWVUS lost money on recommended investments over the past two years, but there has been a course correction. PMP remained the same at \$32, but cuts in other areas may affect the level of local support for technology.

The major speeches from the national convention are available on YouTube. Use this link and scroll down to the bottom row to find the convention videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/LeagueofWomenVoters>

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