



The Voter

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

NOV. 9 LUNCH & LEARN: PAID FAMILY LEAVE



Our October program on "Mental Health and Substance Use—Making the Connection With Our Kids" was interesting, informative, and useful. Many thanks to the guest presenters: Kim Dude, Laura Powell, and Heather Harlan.

Our next Zoom Lunch and Learn Program at noon on Tuesday, November 9th, will be on Paid Family Leave. Alice Kitchen from the Kansas City League of Women Voters will present a program on Paid Family Leave. Their League completed a study on Paid Family Leave and adopted a position on this in June 2021. This is a great opportunity to learn why Paid Family Leave is important, and why the Kansas City League adopted a position on this. Our LWVCBC Board may be interested in adopting the Kansas City

study. If so, our membership would then vote on it at our annual meeting in April 2022.

Our Lunch and Learn program 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.

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

— Barbara Hoppe, Chair
Lunch & Learn Committee

HOMECOMING PARADE!



Marilyn McLeod, Donna Checkett, Barbie Skinner, Meredith Donaldson, Anne Jacobson, Janet Thompson (Janet's Truck) and Barbara Hoppe were in the MU Homecoming Parade on Oct. 8th. Barbara Hoppe said, "It was so much fun and we had loud enthusiastic cheers from many groups of students, young people and others."

REMINDER: DEADLINE FOR 2022 DUES IS NOVEMBER 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I spoke on behalf of the LWVCBC on Oct. 28th at the Integrated Electric Resource and Master Plan Hearing at City Hall. Thanks to all members who attended that meeting in rainy weather.

I informed the Taskforce that the LWVCBC Board voted in October to support the goal of obtaining 100% renewable energy for the City of Columbia Utility by 2030. The Taskforce's recommendation to the City, which was voted on prior to the Public Hearing, was to achieve 100% renewable energy "by the earliest practical date." We believe this is too vague and doesn't give sufficient direction to the City. It does not convey the urgency of addressing climate change now. Unless a specific goal is set, it will not ensure the City of Columbia makes every effort to reach 100% renewable energy as soon as possible. I challenged the Taskforce to **"make your reach exceed your grasp,"** for it is only then that the City can accomplish all that we can as soon as we can.

I am happy to report the seats, spread out in rows, were filled, and a few people were standing in the back. Most everyone wore masks too. It was encouraging that almost all of them stood and/or raised their hands to support the goal of 100% renewable energy 2030.

Hopefully the public comment and the excellent turnout at the Public Hearing will move the Taskforce to recommend to the City Council 100% renewable energy for the City Utility by 2030. The Taskforce will discuss this further in future meetings, and a minority report against more transmission lines has yet to be reviewed by the committee and hasn't been shared with the public.

This issue should come before the Council sometime before April, we hope. We will need all hands on deck to be at that hearing and to also write to the City Council and Mayor. I felt like a "voice in the wilderness" back when we were in the old City Council Chambers and I was the sole vote on City Council against a 40-year Peabody Coal Contract that we have been stuck with. I spoke out then to say that a 40-year contract was an extremely unwise decision, that it would tie our hands and be detrimental to addressing climate change. **Let's make sure we turn out and**

speak this time when this new decision comes before the City Council, so we can look back and say the City Council made the right decision - aiming to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2030!

Of course we believe this goal must also be paired with substantial energy efficiency measures to wisely conserve energy. The cheapest and most environmentally friendly energy has always been the energy we don't waste. (I have been hanging up laundry outside in good weather and inside during bad weather for most of my life, including when I was both a full time attorney and on the City Council. It is a great time to relax, be outside, breathe the fresh air and reflect on each day's joys and challenges. Insulating my 1950's home and getting a new energy star furnace and water heater has greatly reduced my energy use in the summer and winter.) **Let's do everything we can, both in big and small ways, to address climate change now!**

— Barbara Hoppe, President
yesforparks@hotmail.com



October 28 public hearing in the Columbia City Council chamber on renewable energy and the future of the Columbia electric utility. The seats were filled and almost all who attended showed support for the goal of 100% renewable energy for Columbia's electric utility by the year 2030.

SAVE THE DATE! DECEMBER 11 FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION



Join us for a celebration!

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

There will be a speaker, musical entertainment, and the presenting of Outstanding Citizen and Community Service awards. More details will follow in the next issue of *The Voter*. See the article on pg.10 for more about the Liz Schmidt Community Service Award.

A Zoom link will be emailed to all members prior to the event.

— Pam Springsteel, Chair
Hospitality Committee

REDISTRICTING IN MISSOURI: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Redistricting is an important process that will affect our democracy for the next ten years. Recognizing the importance and challenges of creating fair districts, the LWV believes that redistricting should be done by an independent citizen committee in the future.

First, U.S. Congressional Redistricting is currently in the hands of the House special committee appointed by Governor Parsons. The committee officially returns to work with the 2022 session in January. So, no public action has occurred while the legislature is on break. We urge League members to watch to see what the special committee does as soon as the legislature reconvenes. We will provide updates as we gain information.

The Missouri Senate Independent Bipartisan Citizen Commission held hearings in St. Louis, Springfield, and Kansas City. They will meet on November 11 in Jefferson City to continue their work, drawing new political districts using the 2020 Census data.

The Missouri House Independent Bipartisan Citizen Commission has held hearings in Saint Louis, Springfield, and Kansas City. They will hold three more hearings:

- November 4 at 10:00 a.m. in Jefferson City

- November 9 at 10:00 a.m. in Cape Girardeau
- November 10 at 10:00 a.m. in Kirksville

You can view the hearings online and obtain information via the Office of Administration at <https://missouri-redistricting-commission-portal-redistrictmo.hub.arcgis.com/>. Testimonies will be accepted through November 11. Anyone who wants to submit testimony and would like assistance can contact sharon@schneeberger.net.

The Best and Most Exciting Part

Many League members have participated in all the hearings by attending, giving testimonies, submitting testimonies electronically, and watching the hearings online. Their testimonies have focused on education, health, racial fairness, partisan fairness, etc. They have answered questions from commissioners. But, absolutely the best part is that every League member's testimony has been respectful, heartfelt, caring, and honest, and grounded in a knowledge of the MO redistricting process, their home communities, and our democracy. What more could we ask for??

— Sharon Schneeberger, Chair
Redistricting Committee

MISSOURI STATE PREEMPTION OF LOCAL CONTROL

The Preemption/Local Control study group has finished its work and will provide a report to the Board for its November meeting. If approved, the report, including a proposed position statement, will be distributed to LWVCBC members, and an

opportunity for discussion will be provided early in 2022. Please plan to participate and provide your feedback.

— Mahree Skala, Chair
Local Control Study Group

MARIJUANA STUDY UPDATE

The LWVCBC Voters Marijuana Policy Study Committee is finalizing its report and expects to complete its work in November. The report will focus on the effects of the legalization of responsible Adult Use of marijuana in other states. It will include impacts on use by young people, driving and traffic accidents, economic factors, and racial discrimination.

The Secretary of State's office has approved the initiative petition to legalize use by all adults over the age of 21, and very soon the six congressional districts will be selected where the petitions will be circulated for signatures. If enough signatures can be gathered, this measure can be placed on the November 2022 ballot.

— Dan Viets, Chair
Marijuana Study Committee

UPDATE ON COLUMBIA'S ELECTRIC UTILITY PLANS

Our LWVCBC Board voted to support 100% renewable energy by 2030 for our Columbia electric utility. The Sierra Club and the city Climate and Environment Commission have also done so.

In its recent report, Siemens, the engineering firm studying the utility, developed seven scenarios regarding energy sources. The scenarios had the utility reaching 100% renewable energy by 2030 or 2040, or 2050.

The task force working with Siemens will make recommendations to the City Council. Their draft recommendation says Columbia should “achieve 100% renewable energy as soon as practical.” On October 28, the task force had a public meeting regarding their recommendations to the City Council on Siemens study. At the public hearing, 35 of 40 individuals in the council chambers stood up for 100% renewable energy by 2030.

100% renewable energy means sufficient renewable energy to equal the quantity of electricity sold annually to customers. Given how the transmission system operates, this results in renewable energy replacing fossil fuel-generated electricity.

The task force has also reviewed Siemens' recommendations regarding the utility's transmission and distribution system. Siemens says the utility does not need an additional transmission substation, as was recommended several years ago. They developed seven options for addressing transmission issues. The option receiving the most support, ten votes, was option W - Adding a 161kV line from Perche Creek Substation to Hinson substation onto Grindstone substation. The task force was voting on options they considered appropriate, not best. Two options obtained nine votes each. The first of these was “do nothing at this time,” based upon the probability that there was a less than 1% chance in any year of having two problems simultaneously causing a loss of power from the major transmission lines for a limited period to part of the city. The second was option F - connecting to the Ameren line going around the west and north of Columbia. All options other than doing nothing would cost \$20 to \$40 million.

The City Council will likely make a decision on renewable energy goals early next year, and the League will let you know when that is on the agenda.

— Dick Parker, Chair
Energy & Climate Committee

HOMECOMING PARADE 2021



At top left, Donna Checkett and Barbara Hoppe carry the LWV banner in the parade. Top right, Anne Jacobson marches in the parade. On the left, Barbie Skinner shows her enthusiasm for the vote. Right, Janet Thompson's truck was decorated with lots of signs and posters.



HELP BUILD OUR LEAGUE OF TOMORROW

"What a moment to invite people into our trusted organization and engage a new generation in leadership for our democracy. This is an opportunity we must take together to increase our ranks of active volunteers and members that is more reflective of the diversity in our communities." From Building the League of Tomorrow: Growing our ranks with Younger Members https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/yp_toolkit_final.pdf.

As Membership Chair, it has been my goal to build a membership that reflects the diversity in our community. I could use your help!! Would you

think about the women of color you know, especially young women, and reach out to them with information about the work of the league and a membership form? If you have more time, would you read the document cited above and share with me what you think we might be able to implement? And, if you really have an interest, would you be willing to serve on the Membership Committee? We will use your talents and not abuse your time. Contact: Meredith 573-289-3018.

— Meredith Donaldson
Membership Chairperson

NEW LEAGUE MEMBER TERRYONNA SAMUELS-NUNNELLY OFFERS INSIGHTS ON REACHING YOUNG NEW VOTERS

One of the League's newest and youngest members is Terryonna Samuels-Nunnelly, a part-time College of Education Senior at Columbia College and full-time staff at Douglas High School. Terryonna joined last Spring and is a member of the Education Committee.

In middle school, as a member of the Stand By Me program, Terryonna began her voter-career, working with the first Obama campaign: door-knocking, handing out flyers, and helping at headquarters. When she turned 18, soon to graduate from Douglass High School, principal Dr.

Eryca Neville wished her happy birthday and helped her register to vote before receiving her diploma. And our League member Joan Watson was Terryonna's Stand By Me mentor!

Terryonna has already earned her stripes by helping Education Committee members develop, plan and implement activities to excite and register more high school students to vote.



Terryonna Samuels-Nunnelly

For the Education Committee, Terryonna offered these suggestions for reaching and teaching young new voters:

1. The best way to reach young people is via social media, which young people see most often, more often than in-person. Each student attending public school has an email account, and they read the school webpage also. Use this media to inform, deliver information, and promote other League activities around schools, like a League Lunch and Learn.
2. Ballot Basics! A ballot is intimidating when you see it for the first time at the polls. Close to the time they will vote, new young voters need to see it, understand it, and know things like you don't have to vote for every item on the ballot. (Just-in-time training)
3. Use the ballot to lead towards exploring other topics like weighing candidates and issues, when students and young adults want information. (As LWV members, we often want to start young people with issues. This works best with students who are already involved in the issues or aspects of government. Then use that as a lead-in to registering to vote, ballots, polling places, etc.)
4. Young people are at different levels of awareness and participation. No single activity or training approach helps all. We need a variety of programs based on what students want and where they are.

— Zona Burke, Chair
Education Committee

PAID LEAVE STATEWIDE LWVMO STUDY

At the state LWV Convention this past May, members voted to do a statewide study of "Paid Leave in Missouri" to bring to the next convention, which will be in 2023. The Kansas City area LWV had already done an extensive study of the subject. They hope that the other local Leagues around the state will keep things moving forward and consider the topic for a concurrence of their local chapters at their next local Annual Meetings, in advance of the 2023 state convention.

This will be discussed at our Local Program Planning Meeting in early 2022, so we can vote

on it at our LWVCBC Annual Meeting in April 2022.

To begin the process of the study for our League, this month's Lunch & Learn will feature members of the KC League who will present the topic to our members and the general public. Details about the program are on page 1.

I hope that our members will take the opportunity to "attend" (via Zoom) the presentation or watch the recording later to become familiar with the subject.

— Marilyn McLeod
LWVMO President

EXPANDED MEDICAID BROCHURES AVAILABLE NOW



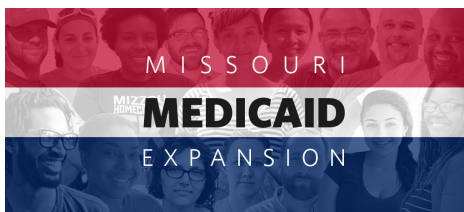
We have 250 flyers available for distribution now, and we can print more as needed (see flyer below). Many people who are newly eligible for Medicaid coverage don't know it yet, so we need to get the word out about how to apply. Many thanks to Barbara Hoppe, Donna Checkett, and Mike Sleadd for the lovely design and LWVMO for distributing them statewide. If you have a connection to a group that can help distribute them, or if you'd like an electronic version to share, please get in touch with Barbara Hoppe at yesforparks@hotmail.com.

— Mahree Skala, Chair
Health Committee



**Missouri Medicaid has expanded
to cover MORE people.**

The rules have changed!



Now, more adults can get low-cost or FREE health insurance through Missouri Medicaid (called MO HealthNet).

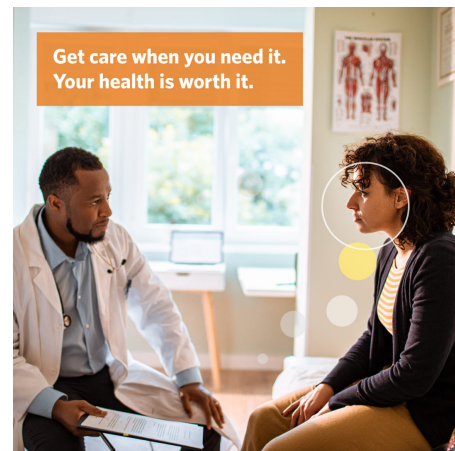
Medicaid through MO HealthNet may be an option for you.

This includes parents who have not qualified before, as well as childless adults.

For example, a single adult making up to \$17,774 a year, or a family of 4 making up to \$36,750 a year, may qualify for Medicaid through MO HealthNet.

*Even if you tried to get
Medicaid before and did not
qualify, **check again!***

**Call 1-855-373-4636, or
visit mydssapp.mo.gov
to sign up now!**



Expanded Medicaid provides more than preventive screenings. It includes medical exams, doctor visits, prescription medication, cancer screenings, dental care, well-woman visits, mental health services, routine shots and more.

See if you qualify for low-cost or free health insurance. Call 855-373-4636, or visit online at mydssapp.mo.gov.

IMPORTANT!

**If you or your family member
received healthcare service
on or after July 1, 2021
MO HealthNet may cover some
of those costs.**

***Make sure you include this
information in your application.***



Upcoming League Events!



NOVEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	NOV 1	2 VOTE Parks Tax Renewal	3	4 MO House Redistricting Hearing Jeff City 10am (Contact Sharon Schneeberger if planning to attend) Marijuana Study Group 5pm Zoom	5	6
7	8 LWV on Paul Pepper Show, KBIA 8:50 am	9 Lunch & Learn Paid Family Leave Zoom at noon	10	11	12	13 LWVMO Fall Conference Sedalia and by Zoom
14	15 LWVCBC Board Meeting 7pm Zoom	16	17	18	19	20 Education Committee 1:00-2:00 pm Zoom
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	Dec 1	2	3	4
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

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: 214 Members!

**Welcome to New Member:
Jessica Hardesty**

Reminder: Deadline for 2022 dues is November 1

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>

2021 LIZ SCHMIDT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD GOES TO THE FOOD BANK OF CENTRAL AND NORTHEAST MISSOURI

We are pleased to announce that the Liz Schmidt Community Service Award this year will go to The Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri. The Food Bank is celebrating its 40th year in 2021 and it seems a very fitting time for the League to present our Liz Schmidt Community Service Award to honor its many years of outstanding service to the people of Boone County and surrounding counties.

Beginning in 1981, the Central Missouri Food Bank Network was charged with helping food-insecure neighbors. It grew in size and scope over the next 40 years into the organization it is today — The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri.

The Food Bank works with 145 partner agencies across a 32-county service area to provide food assistance to any person who needs it. These partner agencies include local food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, senior

centers, and more. Functioning like a distribution center, The Food Bank provides these partners with food at no cost so they can distribute it to their communities.

The Food Bank uses bulk-purchasing power, community partnerships, and its association with Feeding America to obtain more than 30 million pounds of food a year. That food is distributed through The Food Bank's network of partner agencies, reaching an average of 100,000 Missourians on a monthly basis. In 2020, more than 24 million meals were provided by The Food Bank through its partner agencies.

How fortunate we are to have such a successful and well-run organization serving the people in our area of the state. The impact on the people they serve could not be more immediate and more necessary.

— Marilyn McLeod