



The Voter

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

JAN. 9 NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Please join us when the New Member Welcome is offered via Zoom January 9 at 10 a.m. for new members and others who want to learn more about how the LWV operates. A Zoom link will be sent to all members, or you can contact mjdonlsn@gmail.com if you want to join.

Just by being a member you make a difference. Your membership supports actions at national, state and local level to educate voters, monitor legislation and address important public policy issues. That is important and should reassure all members they are part of the action.

The Member Welcome can help you learn how you can find your niche to make more impact. If you want to be more involved you can sign up to receive action legislative alerts on your computer. Many of our members have a particular issue for which they have passion and

use the League of Women Voters US resources to

do research, monitor legislative action on national or state levels and find ways to make an impact. Others have time to serve on committees to help plan programs and action and conduct the work of our local League.

For 100 years, members have found that involvement in the League has led them to a better understanding of public policy issues and helped them be more active citizens. Many have found personal growth in working with others interested in public policy, and sharpened their skills in leadership, management, communication and public speaking.

— Meredith Donaldson, Membership Chair



JAN. 12 LUNCH & LEARN: THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT OF COVID IN COLUMBIA

On Tuesday, Jan. 12, our noon Lunch and Learn Program will address "The Economic and Social Impact of Covid in Columbia." Guest Speakers will be Steve Hollis, Human Services Manager for the Columbia/Boone County Health Department and Alan Spell, MU Assistant Extension Professor in the Division of Applied Social Sciences. We hope you will tune in and encourage your friends and neighbors to join us.

Our December 8 program celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Disabilities Act. Columbia Disabilities Commission members Rene Powell, John Bowders and Lydia Olmsted described the history and current state of the ADA, and shared their personal experiences. If you missed this or want to share it with others the recording is on YouTube and on the LWVCBC website. If you haven't seen the movie "Crip Camp," an informative & entertaining documentary on the

ADA movement, you can view it free on Netflix's YouTube channel at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFS8SpwioZ4>.

Looking ahead, our Feb. 9 program will feature the "United Way Equity Challenge."

We are pleased that the Columbia Public Library is cosponsoring these events and hosting the programs on Zoom. Viewers are encouraged to ask questions during the programs using the Zoom Chat feature. You will need to register for these events on the library's website: events.dbri.org. Lunch & Learn Programs are also recorded and can be viewed on our website and Facebook page.

— Barbara Hoppe, Lunch & Learn Chair



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all! I think that the overriding message this month is that we hope the new year will bring better tidings than the previous one! Now that vaccines are on the way, there is certainly great hope in the land.

Since the pandemic really didn't slow us down last year, we don't expect to slow down this year either.

There will be efforts in the area of legislation at both the national and local levels to make voting free, fair and accessible to citizens. We will also be closely watching the redistricting process in Missouri. Please take note of Sharon Schneeberger's article on the process on page 4. We are very proud that Sharon will be taking a leadership role in the state LWV on this issue.

Here are two ways you can take action right now!

(1) For the People Act (HR 1)

The national League is calling on President-Elect Joe Biden and the next Congress to act on democracy reforms early in 2021. LWVUS has called for national advocacy on HR1 and HR4, both of which relate to free, fair and accessible elections and voters' rights.

The House passed the For the People Act (HR 1) in March 2019. This comprehensive bill would transform our political system into one that is more inclusive, responsive, and representative of the American people. Its reforms would:

- Expand and protect voting rights and access to the ballot;
- Put ordinary Americans ahead of Big Money donors;
- End gerrymandering so that electoral districts are fairly drawn; and
- Clean up government and hold elected officials to the highest ethical standards.

The Voting Rights Advancement Act (HR 4) passed the U.S. House on Dec. 6, 2019. The bill would restore parts of the 1965 Voting Rights Act that the Supreme Court eliminated in *Shelby County vs. Holder* (2013). States would again have to receive pre-approval from the Department of Justice or the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia before making legal changes to their voting practices.

You can contact Congresswoman Hartzler and Senators Blunt and Hawley about these bills.

(2) Seeking Safe Voting in Missouri

Voters should be able to cast a ballot in 2021 without fear of getting or spreading COVID-19. Provisions to allow absentee voting for those who have or are at high risk of COVID-19 and provide remote voting options for Missouri voters expired on Dec. 31, 2020.

If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to urge Governor Mike Parson to extend safe voting provisions to ensure that all Missourians can safely cast ballots during the 2021 municipal elections. Sign the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition's petition [Tell Gov. Parson to Extend COVID Voting Provisions - Action Network](#)

State Program Planning

Every two years the state LWV holds its biennial Convention, and this year's convention is planned for Saturday, May 15, 2020 on Zoom. In preparation for this event, local members are asked to review the state policy positions and to suggest changes, updates or new positions. We will hold our local event to discuss this on January 27 at 7:00 p.m. on zoom. Take a look at the information in this issue of "The Voter" (see page 3) and plan to attend our local "State Program Planning" meeting.

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ISSUES AND ACTION: LWVMO PROGRAM PLANNING ON JAN. 27

In preparation for the May 15, 2021 LWVMO State Convention, local Leagues will participate in LWVMO Program Planning. This process is an important League tool for identifying issues of concern and for evaluating the current positions in the Guide to State Action 2019-2021.

The Guide contains the public policy positions adopted by LWVMO that pertain to statewide issues. The Guide also includes the "Statement of Principles of the League of Women Voters" adopted by the national convention. The Principles and positions are used by the state and local Leagues when they take action on issues in local communities, the state legislature and other advocacy activities.

A local League is not allowed to take action as a League entity on issues that are not addressed by a position either at the local, state or national level. So, this process is the life blood of the League!

The Columbia League will hold our LWVMO State



Program Planning meeting on Wednesday, January 27 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Please, plan on participating and learning the "nuts and bolts" of our grass roots work!

— Carol Schreiber

FORUM ON MINORITY YOUTH AND THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Planning is underway for a two-part forum about Minority Youth and the Juvenile Justice System which will be held on two Wednesdays, Feb. 3 and Feb. 17, at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.

A subcommittee of the LWV Civil Liberties Committee and several cosponsors, including the Columbia Public Library, the NAACP, the Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. - Delta Tau Chapter Sorority, the Boone County Children Services Board, the Minority Men's Network, and the Mid-Missouri Civil Liberties Association are working on arranging the forums.

The national LWV supported a position at the 2020 Convention to advocate against systemic racism in the justice system and asked members to advocate within every level of government to eradicate systemic racism.

In response, Janet Thompson proposed the idea for this public forum. Many people have heard the term "School to Prison Pipeline" but may not be sure what that really means. The first forum will provide background for the subject. We are

asking experts to present data to clarify the



problem and to discuss the nature of systemic racism and implicit bias.

The second session will address what has been working and how to make individual and collective impact to reach the goal of every child succeeding. A number of important local organizations will be highlighted at this event.

A related learning opportunity will be the Lunch & Learn program on Tuesday, February 9, which will encourage viewers to participate in the United Way "Equity Challenge." The Challenge is a seven-week series with exercises and resources to help citizens learn how to transition from being an ally to being a leader in the fight for equity. (See more information on pg. 8)

— Marilyn McLeod

APRIL LOCAL ELECTION CANDIDATE FORUM ON MARCH 16

The April 6th Local Election will include races for Columbia City Council Wards 2 and 6, and the Columbia School Board. Candidate filing for these offices ends in mid-January.

The candidates will be invited to participate in the LWV and Columbia Public Library Candidate

forum which will be held on March 16 at 7 p.m. Barbara Hoppe will be our moderator. So, mark your calendar!

— Carol Schreiber

REDISTRICTING IN MISSOURI

What is redistricting?

By federal law, redistricting — the process of redrawing district boundaries to guarantee equal voter representation — occurs following the census (every 10 years). New districts must be drawn on the basis of the population in the state and governments must redraw districts so districts have equal populations. It is not expected that Missouri will have gained population, but the population may be distributed differently than it has been in the past. We will know the census numbers when they are delivered to the state, as close as possible to April 1.

Why do we care about redistricting?

We all expect representation from our elected officials; we want all citizens to vote because every vote matters. When maps are unfairly drawn, citizens do not have fair representation. When maps are not fairly drawn it is called gerrymandering (<https://tinyurl.com/ycxlvwmw2>) and it does happen. Gerrymandering is the practice of drawing district boundaries to achieve political advantage for certain legislators and/or for a particular political party. It involves the manipulation of district boundaries to either leave out or include specific populations in a particular district in an effort to ensure a legislator's reelection or to advantage one party. In relation to gerrymandering you may hear words like "packing" and "cracking" used. Both political parties do gerrymandering.

What do we know about redistricting in Missouri?

Currently the state has 8 US Congressional districts, 163 Missouri House districts, and 34 Missouri Senate districts. (US Congressional districts may also change, depending on the population numbers from the 2020 census data.)

With the passage of Amendment 3 (see complete bill, Senate joint resolution 38, (<https://www.senate.mo.gov/20info/pdf-bill/tat/SJR38.pdf>) here is what we know.

Under Amendment 3:

- The nonpartisan state demographer was eliminated. A bipartisan commission appointed by the governor will draw the

maps. The Amendment creates two commissions:

- A House Independent Bipartisan Citizens Commission of 20 people consisting of an equal number of Republicans and Democrats nominated by party officials, and
- A Senate Independent Bipartisan Citizens Commission of 20 people consisting of an equal number of Republicans and Democrats nominated by party officials.
- Approving the new map will require a 70% commission vote (14 out of the 20 members must agree on a final redistricting plan) by each of the commissions.
- If a commission cannot agree on a map, this activates a back-up redistricting panel of 6 Missouri Court of Appeals judges who take over establishing the maps for redistricting in the state.
- The criteria of population, voter rights abridgment, contiguous districts, simple shapes, and the rules for county boundaries must be considered with a higher priority than the criteria of competitiveness and partisan fairness.
- The population criterion make it possible to NOT count children and non-citizens in the redistricting plan. (We do not know how the redistricting commissions will implement this criterion, nor if it will stand up to a court challenge.)

What can LWV members do?

We know that defining fair maps may not only be extremely difficult, but, also, simply unrealistic. But League members can urge their political leaders to establish a PACT.

P-people over politics in carrying out the redistricting process.

A-accountability of those involved in making the maps.

C-compromise in making decisions about the goals.

T-transparency in each step of the process.

(Cont'd on pg. 5)

REDISTRICTING IN MISSOURI

(Cont'd from pg. 4)

We will continue to partner with other groups seeking fair and transparent redistricting in MO.

You will receive more information as we better understand how the redistricting process will happen. Please be aware and seek information regarding redistricting. Write letters to your state

elected officials (house, senate and governor) and news and social media expressing your desire that the redistricting process be transparent.

Your voice as a citizen in regard to redistricting in our state is important. Please use it!

— Sharon Schneeberger

2021 LEGISLATIVE ALERTS

The Missouri State Legislature will convene on January 6 and the 117th Session of the U.S. Congress will convene on January 3rd. LWVMO will be sending out weekly legislative alerts on legislation of interest to League members. And our local League will send out alerts when we get them from LWVUS. Calling, writing emails and setting up in person meetings is a way to educate legislators on the consequences of legislation and to encourage them to introduce or support legislation. LWVMO does not have the finances to afford a lobbyist, so we rely on partners (e.g. Missouri National Education Association) to help us with analysis of legislative activities. Nancy Copenhaver, a former state rep, and Marilyn McLeod have been preparing the weekly state legislative updates. If you are interested in a specific topic or legislation and would like to help with the weekly updates, contact Marilyn at marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com.

Legislator Contacts:

MO State Rep., Dist. 44: Cheri Toalson-Reisch, Email cheri.toalson-reisch@house.mo.gov; 573-751-1169

MO State Rep., District 46: Martha Stevens, Email – martha.stevens@house.mo.gov; 573-751-9753

MO State Rep., District 47: Chuck Basye, Email – chuck.basye@house.mo.gov; 573-751-1501

MO State Rep., District 50: Sara Walsh, Email – sara.walsh@house.mo.gov; 573-751-2134

MO State Rep. District 45 is vacant. Office number is 573-751-4189

MO State Sen., District 19: Caleb Rowden, Email – caleb.rowden@senate.mo.gov; 573-751-4320

U.S. Congress, District 4: Vicky Hartzler, Webpage – www.Hartzler.house.gov; 573-442-9309

U.S. Senator: Roy Blunt, Webpage – www.blunt.senate.gov; 573-442-8151

U.S. Senator: Josh Hawley, Webpage – www.hawley.senate.gov; 202-224-6154

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Cont'd from pg.2)

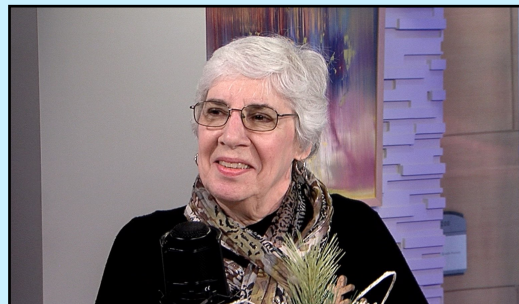
New Member Special Meeting

Are you a new member of the LWV?
Want to learn more about what we do
and what you might like to participate in?
Then plan to attend the New Member
Meeting on Saturday, January 9 at 10:00
a.m. on Zoom. Meredith Donaldson, our
membership chair, will share her
enthusiasm for the LWV with you!

Watch for Zoom event invitations in your
email and on our website (lwwcbc.org).

Please continue to stay safe and stay
well.

— Marilyn McLeod, President





Upcoming League Events!



JANUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	JAN 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Member Welcome Event 10am Zoom
10	11	12 Lunch & Learn: Economic Impact of Covid in COMO Zoom at Noon	13	14	15	16
17	18 LWV Board Mtg. 7 p.m. Zoom	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Program Planning 7pm Zoom	28	29	30
31	FEB 1	2	3 Minority Youth Forum 7pm Zoom	4	5	6
7	8	9 Lunch & Learn: United Way Equity Challenge Zoom at Noon	10	11	12	13
14	15 LWV Board Mtg. 7 p.m. Zoom	16	17 Minority Youth Forum 7pm Zoom	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27

TIME TO RENEW YOUR LWVCBC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2021

LWV Officers:

President: Marilyn McLeod
(239-3708)
1st VP: Barbara Hoppe (424-9668)
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)
Susan Clark (446-1678)
Meredith Donaldson (289-3018)
Rene Powell (864-4087)
Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)
Mahree Skala (474-2195)
Pam Springsteel (445-0642)

Appointed Director:

Dick Parker (256-4397)

Committee Chairs:

100th Anniversary: Pam Springsteel
Budget:
Census: Carol Schreiber
Civil Liberties: Marilyn McLeod
Clean Missouri: Sharon
Schneeberger
Education: Open
Energy & Climate: Dick Parker
ERA: Susan Koenig
Fundraising: Pam Springsteel
Health: Mahree Skala
Hospitality: Pam Springsteel
Membership: Meredith Donaldson
Mental Health: Mahree Skala
Speakers Bureau: Open
Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

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

Welcome to new members:

**Janet Hammen, Ellen Horwitz, Janet Lindstrom,
Marcella McGuire; and Diane Vitello of Wardsville, MO**

In Memoriam:

We regret to report the recent passing of members
Elda Kurzejeski and Andrew Twaddle

2021 MEMBERSHIP FORM**League of Women Voters Columbia-Boone
County**

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Membership dues include local, state and national membership.

NEW _____ **RENEWAL** _____

Individual Dues \$65 _____ **\$100*** _____

Household Dues \$100 _____ **\$135*** _____

First time member 30 years of age and under. **\$30** _____

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

Student Dues in honor of our 100th Anniversary! \$0 _____

(Ages 16 to 23)

Additional contribution to subsidize dues for members unable to afford membership rates. \$ _____

General Donation \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Donation to LWV Education Fund \$ _____

(Please include a separate check for donations to the LWV Education Fund. Donations to Education Fund are tax-deductible)

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 _____

***We invite you to help celebrate our 100th Anniversary by joining or renewing at the Suffragist Level!**



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

League of Women Voters

PO Box 239

Columbia MO 65205

<http://lwvcbc.org>

JOIN THE EQUITY CHALLENGE!

The Heart of Missouri United Way has launched a free educational program called the Equity Challenge, and you're invited to join. Sign up to learn more about the inequities in our society, especially those in education, health, housing and workplaces. With the League's commitment to fight for racial equity, we are reaching out to invite you to join the Equity Challenge and promote it within your network of friends, family and coworkers.

Sign-up remains open and each person can start at the beginning of the series of seven weekly emails. The goal of the Equity Challenge is to educate the community on the racial disparities in our society and provide the tools to transition from being an ally to becoming a leader in the fight for equity.

- During this seven-week challenge we examine areas in society where racial disparities exist.
- Each email contains data, resources, reflection questions and action steps to help educate ourselves and work toward equity in our community.
- We encourage coworkers, friends and families to work through these challenges together to start the conversation and advance equity in all areas of life.
- The Equity Challenge Activity Guide provides a space to track your personal progress and record reflections throughout the journey.
- Sign up for the Equity Challenge on the Heart of Missouri United Way website and commit to utilizing the resources and taking action.
- The Equity Challenge is made possible by your participation, Inclusive Impact Institute and Heart of Missouri United Way.

We hope you will join this exciting opportunity to create change within our community!

Join the Equity Challenge now and become a leader in the fight to end racism!

— Mahree Skala
