



The Voter

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

VIGIL ON JANUARY 6 AT 5 P.M. BOONE COUNTY COURTHOUSE PLAZA

Mark your calendar!

The League is working with the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition and other partners to commemorate the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol and its aftermath. Vigils in Kansas City, Columbia, and St. Louis will focus on our support for the Freedom to Vote Act, which includes important protections against election sabotage.

Many states passed legislation to erode our democratic process in 2021. As Missouri legislators return to work in Jefferson City on Jan. 5, we want to make sure they know our concerns about efforts to make it harder for citizens to vote or to put an initiative on the ballot.

The local vigil will be held at the Boone County Courthouse Plaza. We expect to have other local organizations and their members, as well as the general public, join us at this vigil. We will have signs and battery-operated candles available (although handmade signs are fine too). We encourage you to register for the Vigil. Please go to our website for the link: lwvcbc.org. Watch for details!

— Marilyn McLeod
LWVMO President



Ruth O'Neill received the Outstanding Citizen Award at the Founder's Day celebration December 11.

JANUARY 11 LUNCH & LEARN: MEN'S MINORITY NETWORK



Our Lunch and Learn program at noon on Zoom on January 11 will feature the Men's Minority Network. Fred Williams III, board member and vice president of the organization, will give us an "Update of the Men's Minority Network Recent and Current Work in our Community," and he will take questions. Please join us.

Also, a big Thank You to retired University of Missouri professor Jeanne Mihail who spoke in December. She did a detailed analysis of publicly available data from the Boone County Jail to find patterns in the data regarding people charged, types of charges, etc., to see what equities/inequities might be revealed. She used 2010 census data to examine arrests, jailed

populations, and more, looking at Boone County populations of various ethnic groups and minorities. She will be doing a similar analysis with 2020 census data in the future. 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

REMINDER: PLEASE PAY 2022 DUES NOW!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We hope that 2022 will be a much better year than 2021. For now, we will continue to hold our monthly Board Meetings, Lunch and Learn Programs, and other programs virtually on Zoom. However, we look forward to having in-person forums and programs down the road when it is safe to do so.

We invite you to participate in an outdoor, in-person Vigil for Democracy at the Boone County Courthouse Square on January 6 @ 5 p.m. More details will be sent by email to all members. Around the country, voting advocates are marking the one-year anniversary of January 6 with Vigils for Democracy. In Missouri, Vigils will be held in Columbia, Kansas City, and St. Louis. The LWVCBC, with other local organizations, will meet at the Boone County Courthouse Square in the early evening for a January 6 Vigil for Democracy. We encourage you to attend and invite friends and neighbors. Masks will be mandatory. See Vigil article on page 1 for more information. We look forward to seeing you there.

Other important work coming up soon will be our biennial LWVUS program planning on Zoom on Monday, January 10. We invite members to attend and participate. More information about this can be found on page 4.

We will also hold an informational program in late January or early February on the two local studies we conducted last fall. One study was on "State Preemption of Local Control" and the second on the "Legalization of Marijuana." Both will be voted on at our annual membership meeting in April. In addition, we will be considering adopting the Family Paid Leave Study, done by the Kansas City League of Women Voters.

We will also hold candidate and issue forums for the April elections. These may be both in-

person and on Zoom. We will also want you to weigh in and speak up on the City Climate Adaptation Goals, which will come up for a Council Vote sometime this spring.

We must also stay diligent this year and continue to oppose any state or national legislation that stifles, restricts, and suppresses voting and voters' rights or makes the right to vote more difficult and cumbersome. We will keep you informed so that you can speak up to legislators, friends, and neighbors.

We will continue to stay engaged as the state redistricting process proceeds, keeping you involved and informed. In addition, we will keep you informed and ask you to weigh in on the current redrawing of Columbia City Wards based on the 2020 census.

We appreciate and need your participation and involvement. Democracy is hard work, and we must remain vigilant. We are stronger and more effective when we all speak up and stay engaged. Please feel free to communicate with your Board if you have questions or information to share. The email is lwwcbc.org.



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

STUDY OF STATE PREEMPTION OF LOCAL CONTROL COMPLETED

The LWVCBC study of state preemption of local control has been completed and approved by the board. Stay tuned for details of upcoming opportunities for membership review and discussion.

— Mahree Skala, Chair
State Preemption of Local Control Committee

FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION

We celebrated our Founder's Day on Saturday, December 11 on Zoom.

Violet Vander Haar provided our entertainment by singing songs of democracy. She sang three beautiful and timely songs, two of which she was the composer.

We presented 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. (See photo on page 1.)

The Liz Schmidt Community Service Award was presented to the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri, and was accepted by the

president and CEO, Lindsey Lopez. (See photo below.)

Our guest speaker Mike Szydlowski, science coordinator of Columbia Public Schools, was enthusiastic and inspiring, telling us about the new Boone County Nature School. What an amazing opportunity and game changer for our kids and community!

If you were unable to watch, you can find the recording at this link: <https://youtu.be/y1DgnFCHw4w>. Make sure you don't miss it. It was inspiring and thought-provoking!

— Pam Springsteel, Chair
Hospitality Committee



Lindsey Lopez accepted the Liz Schmidt Community Service Award on behalf of the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri at the Founder's Day event on December 11.

NATIONAL PROGRAM PLANNING ON JANUARY 10

Every other year, in preparation for the national LWVUS Convention, local Leagues are asked to review the policy positions in the national program. League program is the education and advocacy platform that we adopt to move our mission forward. Each League determines whether it supports the current program, supports the LWVUS Board-recommended program, or has changes or additions to suggest. We will hold our local meeting on Zoom on January 10 at 6:30 p.m. A Zoom link will be sent to LWV members.

The LWVUS Board Recommended Program: The Campaign for Making Democracy Work®

The LWVUS Board recommends that Program 2022-2024 continue the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® with Leagues throughout the country working on:

- Voting Rights
- Improving Elections
- Money in Politics
- Redistricting

In addition, Leagues share information on how their work will impact the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® and identify LWVUS

positions that they will use in education and lobbying. This process is a hallmark of the League of Women Voters grassroots role in study and action.

At the LWV Convention in 2020, delegates voted to support a program that would fully use core League positions on Voting Rights and Election Reform. The campaign for Making Democracy Work® includes ensuring a free, fair, and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters. Leagues at every level continue to work to protect and advance voting rights and election reform at this critical time for our democracy, and fight efforts in Washington, D.C. and state legislatures to suppress voters.

At the same time, the League of Women Voters continues our transformational journey to strengthen the organization and engage new and future activists around the League's core issues. As we look to achieve our transformational goals around relevance, impact, focus and culture, we also look to the priority issues at the heart of the League's mission.

— Carol Schreiber, Chair
Voter Service Committee

MEDICAID EXPANSION UPDATE

Enrollment continues for people newly eligible under Medicaid expansion. The process is moving slowly, with fewer than 20,000 new adults enrolled. Missouri's situation contrasts with Oklahoma, which has a similar political makeup and adopted expansion in 2020 but has already enrolled over 210,000 people. See <https://missouriindependent.com/2021/12/03/a-tale-of-two-medicaid-expansions-oklahoma-jumps-in-while-missouri-lags/>.

There are many barriers to enrollment, including unwieldy computer systems and the lack of additional state staff to process applications. On the positive side, Central Missouri Community Action has hired two Health Care Advocates to assist people in applying. If you know someone who might qualify (e.g., a single person making less than \$1,482 per month or a family of four making less than \$3,048), please let them know

they can get help through CMCA by calling 573-777-5028. And if you know anyone who has applied and would be willing to share their story to inspire others, please email us at lwcbbc@gmail.com. An informative flyer is available. It is pictured on the next page (p.5).

Legislation has been pre-filed to allow the state to impose work requirements and other restrictions on the expansion population, so we'll keep you informed as the 2022 session proceeds. Please stand ready to (again) defend Missourians' access to health care.

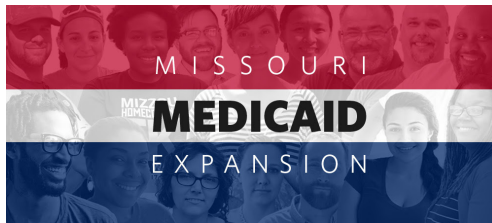
— Mahree Skala, Chair
Health Committee





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).

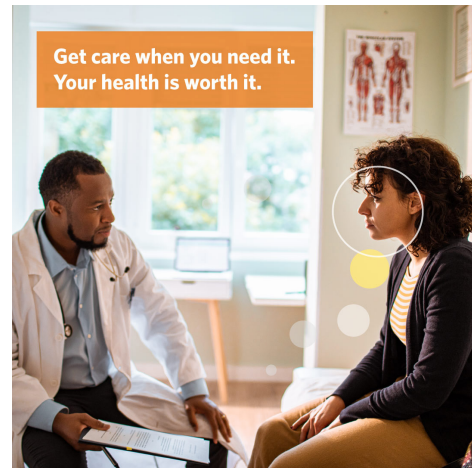
Medicaid through MO HealthNet may be an option for you.

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.

VOTER REGISTRATION HAS A NEW CHAIR!

Linda Smith is the new Chair for our League's voter registration efforts! Linda is a relatively new member who moved to Columbia from Ft. Worth, TX. She is working on her plans for the big election year 2022.

If you are interested in volunteering a few hours of your time for this critical LWV work, please send Linda an email at linda.k.smith1954@gmail.com.

— Carol Schreiber, Chair
Voter Service Committee



Upcoming League Events!



JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JAN 2	3	4 LWV on Paul Pepper Show, KBIA 8:50 am	5	6 Vigil for Voter Protection BOCO Courthouse Plaza 5pm	7	8
9	10 LWVCBC Program Planning & Review of LWVUS Positions 6:30 pm via Zoom	11 Lunch & Learn Men's Minority Network 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	29 Education Committee 1pm Zoom
		FEB 1	2	3 LWV on Paul Pepper Show, KBIA 8:50 am	4	5
6	7	8 Lunch & Learn Zoom at Noon	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 LWVCBC Board Meeting 7pm Zoom	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	MARCH 1	3	3	4	5

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 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"

LWVCBC Membership Report December 2021 By Meredith Donaldson, Membership Chair

**130 Single Members (2 are students).
62 Household Members (31x2)
5 Life members**

217 Total December 2021 Members

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>

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Education Committee members are preparing for conversations with students in four Columbia Public Schools starting in January 2022.

Two beta sessions were held at Douglass High School and Rock Bridge High School in November and December. We used feedback from these sessions to revise the Focus Group Discussion Topics and develop a set of protocols. Student responses to the test questions have been interesting and helpful.

While not part of our focus group script, the removal of the mask mandate starting in January is causing much concern to some students. They worry about their health and the quality of their education if the schools again shutter. The mask decision was made without input from students. Our committee members will probably continue to wear masks when we meet with students. One student indicated that she would begin serving on the new Superintendent's Student Advisory Group.

Most of the students involved so far have expressed an interest in meeting with League members to help with voting issues and

becoming activists for issues that excite them. Our committee and other LWV Committees stand ready to help.

Our next steps are to:

- Create packages of materials for students about voting, League involvement, and possible memberships in our League (posters, pamphlets, website menu, stickers, and more).
- Complete sessions at all four high schools in Columbia Public Schools to test the topics.
- Compile student reactions and responses and discuss where they will lead our Education Committee.
- Determine longer-term plans for activities to address what we learn from these young people.

The Education Committee will meet on January 29 and March 12 at 1 pm.

— Zona Burk, Chair
Education Committee