

The Voter

League of Women Voters of Columbia/Boone County

VOLUME 77, No. 11

November, 2012

League November Ballot Recommendations

The LWV of Columbia-Boone County and the LWV of Missouri have taken the following positions on the November ballot: issues:

- Proposition B (Tobacco Tax Increase): Support
- Proposition E (State-Based Health Care Exchanges): Oppose
- Constitutional Amendment 3 Judicial Amendment: Oppose
- Boone County Proposition 1 (Putting Kids First): Support



League Presents—November



Columbia Public School Core Standards and Curriculum Wednesday, November 14th at 7:00 p.m.

David Lile, KFRU, will be our host and our guest is Nick Kremer, Coordinator of Language Arts 6-12 and Coordinator of Social Studies K-12 for the Columbia Public Schools

The program airs on Charter Communications 983, Mediacom Channel 85 and CenturyTel Prism 601. The program will be re-shown on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday at 7:00 a.m. and Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday at 7:30 p.m. You can also view the program at www.columbiaaccess.tv/watch or on YouTube by searching for the League in Columbia.

Climate Change and Our Health

On December 6, the Energy Matters Committee will sponsor a forum in conjunction with the Columbia Public Library. It will be in the Friends Room, Library, at 7:00 p.m. with light refreshments available at 6:30 p.m.



A preview: Recent information from NOAA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, on what global warming is doing to Missouri weather will be presented. Health experts will discuss some of the consequences of these changes and what we can do to prevent related health problems.

Come find out more information and get your ques-

tions answered.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

November

- Board Mtg., Mon, Nov. 12, 6:45 pm., Boone Electric
- Civil Liberties Com. Mtg. Thurs., Nov. 8, Library
- League Presents, on CPS & Core Standards CAT-TV, Wed., Nov. 14, 7 pm, Stephens College Studio
- Education Com. Mtg., Mon., Nov. 19, 6:30 pm, Library

December

- Forum: Climate Change and Your Health, Thurs., Dec. 6, 7 pm, Library
- Board Mtg., Mon, Dec. 10, 6:45 pm., Boone Electric
- Civil Liberties Com. Mtg. Thurs., Dec. 13, Library
- Founder's Day Luncheon,
 Sat., Dec. 15, 11:30 am,
 Jack's Gourmet Restaurant
- Bill of Rights Day, Sat. Dec.
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January

- Civil Liberties Com. Mtg. Thurs., Jan 10 Library
- Board Mtg., Mon, Jan. 14, 6:45 pm., Boone Electric
- Education Com. Mtg., Mon., Jan. 21, 6:30 pm, Library

Fact Checking
Want to check the accuracy of
allegations or emails? Go to ...
www.politifact.com or
www.factcheck.org
Www.flackcheck.org

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October Board Report

Lael Von Holt reported that Stephens College President Diane Lynch has accepted our invitation to speak at the December 15th Founders Day Luncheon. President Lynch is the 24th president of Stephens College.

A selection was made for the Outstanding Citizen of the Year. She will be invited to the luncheon on December 15th for the presentation.

LWV Members who will be attending the November 10th LWVMO Fall Conference in Sedalia are: Marilyn McLeod, Joni O'Connor, Elaine Blodgett, Rachel Brekhus, Maydell Senn, Linda Kaiser, and Liz Schmidt or Dick Parker. If any other League members are interested in attending, the cost is only \$15 (includes snacks and lunch) and there will be car -pooling. Contact Marilyn at Marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com.

The board decided against having a happy hour in November. Instead, we decided to promote the December 15th luncheon. We need to invite new members to the luncheon.

The board approved funding for the December Energy Committee forum and the February Legislative Town Hall.

Two board members were appointed to the nominating committee: Ava Fajen and Liz Schmidt. They join elected members Chair Linda Brown, Sarah Wolcott Twaddle and Marie Scruggs.

The board decided our fundraiser with CEC for 2013 should be the "spectacular musical" to be performed in September. Joni O'Connor will follow up with CEC.

The board decided that Marilyn McLeod and Ava Fajen will be given the membership list for sending out important email announcements, in case Maydell Senn is out of town.

The board voted to support Proposition 1-Putting Kids First.

The board decided to send individual letters to the editor on each of the ballot issues we are taking positions on, even if that increases the cost. The local League is supporting Prop 1. The state League, LWVMO, is supporting Proposition B-tobacco tax increase; LWVMO is opposing Constitutional Amendment 3-changing the nonpartisan court plan and Proposition E-healthcare exchanges limits.

The board approved adding a "limited income" category to our membership. Liz Schmidt, Elaine Blodgett and Ava Fajen will work out wording and the membership fee. This would be a subsidized membership. If we find that it is costing the League too much, we would have to add additional fundraising.

Elaine Blodgett suggested that we include in our request for funds in memory of Jo Sapp an advocacy contribution that would not be education funds. Jo was a very strong and passionate advocate for issues she was concerned about.

The next board meeting will be on Monday, November 12th at 6:45 p.m. with social time at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is at Boone Electric Cooperative.

Carol Schreiber Co-President

Note: "The House I Live In," a documentary on prisons and the drug war made by Eugene Jarecki is now out. It relates to the new League position on mandatory sentence reform. Information about it is easily found on Google.

The Earth Day Coalition recognized the League of Women Voters for its display at the 2012 Earth Day Fair. The \$25 prize money was used to update and print 200 copies of the League's popular "Recycling in Columbia" brochure. Unusual formatting allows the information to be posted on a household bulletin board for easy reference. The green brochures were handed out from the League's booth at the recent Sustainable Living Fair and will be available to the public at meetings of the LWV throughout the coming year.

New Health Committee!



The new Health Committee for our League met last week. The main agenda topics were what the committee should explore and when it should meet. If you are interested in learning more about this new committee—and be on the ground floor in helping determine its direction—contact Linda Kaiser (474-1407, lindaskaiser@gmail.com) for the minutes of this meeting and the date and time of the next committee

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Founding Day Luncheon

On Saturday, December 15th, the League of Women Voters will welcome Dr. Dianne Lynch, President of Stephens College, to our 93rd anniversary luncheon at Jack's Restaurant.

Dr. Lynch will be our luncheon speaker, and will bring us up-to-date on the activities, programs and opportunities at Stephens College. We expect that she will also up-date us on the importance of her signature Red Shoes.

Dr. Lynch succeeds Dr. Wendy Libby at the helm of the second oldest woman's college in the country. She became the 24th President of Stephens College on June 2, 2009. As she begins her fourth year here in Columbia, we look forward to her reflections and her visions for Stephens College.

Dr. Lynch was born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with both bachelors and masters degrees, specializing in feminist history and journalism. She graduated from McGill University in Montreal, Canada with a Ph.D. in Art History and Communications, with studies in feminist theory and social identity development.

She is a former Fulbright Senior Specialist in news media, the Founding Executive Director of the national On-Line News Association, and former writer and journalist for ABC News and the Christian Science Monitor. Dr. Lynch has served as Chairman of the Department of Journalism at St. Michael's College in Burlington, Vermont, and as Dean of the School of Communications at Ithaca College in New York.

Since coming to Columbia as President of Stephens College, she has served on numerous boards and task forces for the city of Columbia, the Chamber of Commerce and United Way. She is President of the American Mid-West Conference of Athletics, and is a member of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities' Executive Committee on Accountability.

This year's event will be at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, December 15th at Jack's Restaurant. This promises to be a very special League of Women Voters anniversary luncheon. Secure your reservation with Liz at 445-0655 or at lizschmidt@centurytel.net

Lael Von Holt

A BIG Thanks to LWV Volunteers

On October 11th, 45 LWV Volunteers presided over the Columbia Public School teachers collective bargaining vote. Volunteers served as election judges, ballot box delivery persons and ballot counters. Our volunteers served at 27 polling locations during both a morning and afternoon shift and delivered the ballot boxes from these locations after each shift to the Columbia Public School administration building. Then the ballot counters counted and certified the vote. The teachers voted 520 in favor of having MNEA represent them in collective bargaining and 413 voted to keep the current system.

A BIG thanks to: Barb Allen, Nancy and David Bedan, Elaine Blodgett, Sue Breyfogle, Juli Bunting, Holly Burgess, Kay Callison, Scott Christianson, Win Colwill, Betsy Dawkins, Ava Fajen, Trudy Fasel, Harry Feirman, Marge Hicks, Vicki Hobbs, Marj Hunt, Linda Kaiser, Aline Kultgen, Carol Lane, Nancy Langworthy, Pat Leistner, Mary Lottes, Steve Mudrick, Joni and John O'Connor, Dinah Pearson, Peggy Placier, Margie Sable, Liz Schmidt, Carol Schreiber, Marie Scruggs, Sarah and Mike Seat, Jeanne Sebaugh, Maydell Senn, Mahree Skala, Pam Springsteel, Diane Suhler, Jan Swaney, Shirley Troth, Sue Tillema, Joan Watson, Annette Webb, and Annice Wetzel. Three of the sites, and are members, are pictured below.



Sue Tillema on far left at Oakland Junior High



Pat Leistner on far right at Parkade Elementary



Joni O'Connor on right at Ridgeway Elementary

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Our Diet and Climate - A Member's Perspective

There is much talk about the well-documented effects industrial meat production has on energy, water usage, and public health. We hear plenty about what treating animals like widgets does to our souls. But one thing that's underplayed is the effect of industrial meat on climate change.

The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization has estimated almost 20 percent of greenhouse gases are attributable to the raising of animals for food. Some researchers claim the real number is more like 50 percent. But the exact percentage doesn't matter. What does is that we don't take the role of livestock in climate change seriously. Most proposed solutions focus on developing new forms of energy -- even though they can't be brought on line fast enough to avert much of the change that is coming.

Adjusting our eating habits is a much easier and much faster fix. Although Americans are eating somewhat less meat, it still amounts to near 200 pounds a person every year. It's seldom that enormous problems have such simple solutions, but this is one that does. Yes, we want cleaner forms of energy and transportation. But don't look for those next year.

In the meantime, we can begin eating less meat. That's something each of us can do, with no technological advances. You've already changed your light bulbs; now, start eating more vegetables and a salad, thus reducing your greenhouse footprint substantially?

Dick Parker

Major Companies Quietly Cutting Emissions and Saving Money

"With climate policy paralyzed in Washington, a number of leading U.S. corporations are going it alone, squeezing big reductions of climate-changing emissions from their operation and supply chains", says an Inside Climate News.org article posted online last month by Bloomberg News.

IBM, the world's biggest computer services provider, expects to cut its electricity use 20% below 2008 levels by year's end and also to reduce its energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by 16% from 2005 levels. IBM's vice-president of corporate environmental affairs, Wayne Balta, said that the key to those reductions were efficiency upgrades in 360+ buildings and data centers. He emphasized that this action is nothing new. "We do it because it makes good business sense". Between 1990 and 2010 IBM cut its energy bills by nearly half a billion dollars, preventing the release of 3.8 million tons of carbon dioxide. The firm was awarded one of the EPA's first Climate Leadership Awards earlier this year.

IBM is not alone in recognizing the business potential of climate action. The article states that last year, 214 of the largest public companies in the U.S. set emissions targets, nearly a third more than in 2010. FedEx, for instance, plans to cut its aircraft emissions 30% below 2005 levels by 2020.

According to Inside Climate News, firms are stepping up climate efforts for three main reasons. "The first is the sagging economy, which prompted businesses to rigorously track spending on fuel and electricity use – and to dramatically reduce it."

The second reason is concern about the increase in extreme weather events and other climate impacts on their operations and assets. "In the past there was skepticism about the existence of climate change" said Doug Kangos, a partner of a global services firm, "but now more companies are acknowledging its impact on their business." He noted that this year's record-breaking heat and drought hampered cargo-carrying river traffic, stalled construction of bridges and roads and reduced power and water for manufacturers.

A third factor is pressure from investors. This year, nearly half of all shareholder resolutions dealt with environmental and sustainability issues, mainly targeting oil and gas companies and electric utilities. Forty percent of 110 sustainability resolutions tracked by Ceres, a large investor coalition, resulted in firms committing to address climate and other environmental risks. A Ceres manager said that investors believe aiming toward a low-carbon future will help protect the economy in the long run.

In addition, companies feel pressure to document and disclose the risks that climate change might pose to their businesses. In 2009 the U. S. Security Exchange Commission began requiring companies to consider climate risks on their annual 10-K financial forms. Some companies are also providing emissions data and global warming risks in their annual reports to stockholders and hiring consultants to audit their emissions and verify the findings. Many also require their suppliers to sign contracts pledging emissions reductions.

Despite these developments, U.S. firms reporting and reducing GHG emissions remain the exception. "Nothing would help more to encourage climate action than federal carbon regulations", said Doug Kangos.

(Note: Use Google to most easily locate the above article.)

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The Golden Lane

1916 was a Presidential election year.

By this time, a number of states had already passed suffrage legislation in their state, granting full suffrage in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Washington, California, Kansas, Oregon, Arizona, Montana, Nevada and the Territory of Alaska. But there was still no universal suffrage for women across the country. Some people felt it would be best to have a national amendment to the Constitution that would cover everyone; some believed it best to leave it to the individual states to decide.

Missouri Congressman Champ Clark was Speaker of the House and was in full support of a Constitutional Amendment, stating that it is "the best way, but the longest way to get it in Missouri".

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt emphasized that it was imperative to be organized for, should the Federal Amendment pass Congress, it would still have to be ratified by two-thirds of the State Legislatures; therefore, working at the state level "is vital no matter what way it would turn."

The Democratic Convention was to be held in St. Louis.

"The parade or demonstration had become an established part of suffrage work that "no state feels itself really in the great fight until its women have stood up for their convictions in some such manner...Now, for the first time Missouri is to have a similar demonstration." (article in "the Missouri Woman". May 1916. by Florence Updegraff.)

There was a parade at the National Republican Party Convention in Chicago. Although it poured down rain that day, the women still held their parade and were respected for their tenacity. On June 8, the National Republican Convention adopted a Woman Suffrage Plank in its Party Platform, although it limited support for women's suffrage only by individual states.

Plans for the demonstration on June 14 at the National Democratic Party Convention in St. Louis were unusual because they called for a "walkless parade, a formation of two silent lines of

women which will stand on either side of the street from the Jefferson Hotel, where the delegates will be staying, to the Coliseum, where the convention will be held, for the two hours during which the delegates will be passing. Women from every state in the Union are coming to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Missouri women in a silent testimony that women do want to vote. All will be dressed in white and carry yellow parasols and wear yellow sashes indicating the congressional district from which each woman comes...the two-lines will present the appearance of a veritable "Golden Lane" and so we call it 'the Golden Lane to Victory'...we must answer the Missouri slogan, 'Show Me' with such a line of women that the delegates cannot fail to feel the force of the argument to numbers". (continued from the article by Florence Updegraff, "The Missouri Woman", May 1916.)

Who was there that day from Columbia? There was no mention in any of the local papers except to note that Mrs. Walter McNab Miller (Helen Guthrie) was there with a delegation of about 70 people. She had been the president of the Missouri Equal Suffrage Association, so it is possible this was a group of 70 Missourians not just Columbians.

In the words of Agnes H. Leighty, "the Golden Lane was a great success and was an unusual plan designed to impress the public. The tableau on the steps of the Fine Arts Institute excited such interest and as the delegations passed on their way to the convention, with band playing and pennants flying, the hat of every man was raised in recognition of the effort made. Cheers and shouts of 'We're for you' revealed many friends in the ranks."

"The Democratic Convention ... would have gone down in history as one of the tamest, made-to-order affairs had it not been for the exciting battle fought over one of the planks in the party platform, the suffrage plank." There was an all-night debate by the platform committee. In the end, on June 16, The National Democratic Convention adopted a Woman Suffrage Plank in its Party Platform, similar to the Republican plank: "We favor the extension of the franchise to the women of this country, state by state, on the same terms as men." (article by Bertha K. Passmore in "The Missouri Woman", July 1916),

Although this was not as far-reaching as a support for a Constitutional Amendment, it demonstrated how far the movement had come in moving people toward universal suffrage.

Marilyn McLeod, Historian



The League of Women Voters at all levels lost an important member recently. **Jo Sapp** lost a valiant battle to canbut is remembered most as a staunch supporter of the rights of citizens to know what happens behind the closed of government and to have the right and power to influence that government. She will be missed.

Note: Both the state and local leagues are exploring ways in which to best support her activities and beliefs. Donations to the Education Fund to aid this effort have been appreciated.

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Statewide Ballot Issues—Part 2

Note: The full listing of the ballot issues is also on our website (lwvcbc.org) and were compiled by the LWV of St. Louis. Also on the website is a Voters Guide for all offices filled by a statewide ballot.

Proposition A Local Control of St. Louis Police, Missouri Municipal Police Amendment: During the Civil War when Missouri Governor Claiborne Jackson was secretly plotting with the Confederacy and wanted to control the U.S. Arsenal in St. Louis, legislation was passed giving the State of Missouri control over the St. Louis police department. Voters must decide whether control of the SLMPD back to the City of St. Louis by voting on the following ballot measure:

"Shall Missouri law be amended to:

- allow any city not within a county (the City of St. Louis) the option of transferring certain obligations and control of the city's police force from the board of police commissioners currently appointed by the governor to the city and establishing a municipal police force;
- establish certain procedures and requirements for governing such a municipal police force including residency, rank, salary, benefits, insurance, and pension; and
- prohibit retaliation against any employee of such municipal police force who reports conduct believed to be illegal to a superior, government agency, or the press?"

State governmental entities estimated savings will eventually be up to \$500,000 annually. Local governmental entities estimated annual potential savings of \$3.5 million; however, consolidation decisions with an unknown outcome may result in the savings being more or less than estimated.

If passed, Missouri law will be amended to allow the transfer of control of the city's police force from the board of commissioners currently appointed by the governor to the city. The measure also establishes procedures for governing the police force and prohibits retaliation against any employee of the municipal police force who reports conduct believed to be illegal to a superior, government agency, or the press.

Proponents say that local taxes are used to the pay the cost of the St. Louis Police Department. They believe that the wording of the measure allows the creation of a Civilian Review Board while providing police officers adequate protection. Mayor Slay and the St. Louis Police Offers' Association, and other community groups support the measure. Opponents say that local control would bring politics into the police department, encourage corruption, and jeopardize the pension system.

Proposition E State-Based Health Care Exchanges: A health care insurance exchange is a set of standardized and state-regulated health care from which consumers can purchase health insurance eligible for federal subsidies. All exchanges must be fully certified and operational by January1, 2014 under federal law.

The proposition prohibits the Governor or any Missouri state agency from setting up these insurance exchanges without approval of the people or the legislature. The ballot language is as follows:

"Shall Missouri Law be amended to prohibit the Governor or any state agency, from establishing or operating state based health insurance exchanges unless authorized by a vote of the people or by the legislature? No direct costs or savings for state and local governmental entities are expected from this proposal. Indirect costs or savings related to enforcement actions, missed federal funding, avoided implementation costs, and other issues are unknown."

If passed, the governor and/or state agencies cannot set up health care exchanges, required by the Affordable Care Act, unless they are created by a legislative act, ballot initiative, or veto referendum.

Proponents say that the governor or Missouri state agencies should not be able to enact this program without legislative or voter action. They say that the free market is the best way to provide consumers with health care insurance options and that the exchange program will cost consumers more than present policies. In addition, they argue that federal assistance to set up and maintain health care insurance exchanges would not produce programs that would improve medical care for Missourians.

Opponents say that Missouri must follow federal law and that the Supreme Court upheld the Affordable Care Act in June 2012. They also say that if this ballot measure passes, Missouri will lose federal funds targeted to help states set up and maintain health care exchanges. They also say that health care exchanges will provide consumers with a variety of high quality, economical insurance policies and that more people will get the care they need, lowering the cost of Missouri Medicaid programs. The League of Women Voters of Missouri opposes the proposition.

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Officers

Co-Presidents: Carol Schreiber (657-1467) and Marilyn McLeod (445-3500)

1st Vice President:

2nd Vice President: Ava Fajen (442-0803)

Secretary: Joni O'Connor (234-1012) Treasurer: Liz Schmidt (445-0655)

Board Members & Committee Chairs

CAT TV: Carol Schreiber Civil Liberties: Linda Kaiser & Aline Kultgen (449-2149) Communications: Maydell Senn

(445-7844)

Discussion Groups/Unit Meetings:

Midge Pinkerton (445-2052)

Education: Ava Fajen (above)

Energy Matters: Carla Klein (417-631 9633) & Dick Parker (below)

Historian: Marilyn McLeod Hospitality: Pam Springsteel

(445-0642)

Membership: Linda Lenau Brown (447-3939) & Liz Schmidt

Mental Health: Lael Von Holt (443-7747)

Nominating: Linda Brown (above)
Other: Peggy Placier (442-2996) &

Diane Suhler (443-0549)

Peace: Dick Parker (256-4397)

Voter Editors: Joni O'Connor &

Linda Kaiser (474-1407)

Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

Web & Social Media: Rachel Brekhus

(875-4295)

Meetings

Board: 2nd Monday, 6:30 pm,

Boone Electric Cooperative

Civil Liberties: 2nd Thurs., 1:15 pm* Education: 3rd Mon., 6:30 pm* Energy Matters: Varies

Fundraising: Varies
Peace: Varies

Voter Service: Varies*

*Meetings at Library

Membership

If you have an "12" after your name, your membership is current. Our membership year runs January 1-December 31 (and a "13) means you've paid through next year).

To join the League or renew your membership, fill in the information below and mail it, with your check, to Membership Chair, League of Women Voters, PO Box 239, Columbia, MO 65205.

Dues are \$55 for individuals, \$80 for a household and \$15 for local students.

If you are a member and wish to receive a membership list, please contact Liz Schmidt at 445-0655 or email at lizschmidt@centurytel.net.

Name		
Email Address		
Street		
City	State	Zip Code
Telephone		
I am particularly interested in		

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

For more information, contact Liz Schmidt at 445-0655 or Linda Brown at 447-3939.

Would you like to see the <u>Voter</u> in color? Save the League printing and mailing costs? You can now get the <u>Voter</u> direct to your computer early by contacting co-editor Linda Kaiser at lindaskaiser@gmail.com. Let her know you would like to receive your Voter via email and the email address you would like used.

Websites of Interest

lwvcbc.org (local)
lwvmissouri.org (state)
lwv.org (national)

www.covermissouri.org (Missouri Foundation for Health)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Columbia - Boone County MO

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LWV: Where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u> </u>		,	,	1	2	3
4	5	6 Election Day	7	8 Civil Lib. Com., 1:15 pm, Library	9	10 LWVMO Fall Conf., Sedalia
11	12 Board Mtg., 6:45 pm, Boone Electric	13	14 CAT-TV—League Presents (Core Standards), 7 pm	15	16	17
18	19 Education Com., 6:30 pm, Library A	20	21	22 Thanksgiving	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	Dec. 1
Dec. 2	Dec. 3	Dec. 4	Dec. 5	Dec. 6 Forum: Climate Change & Our Health	Dec. 7	Dec. 8