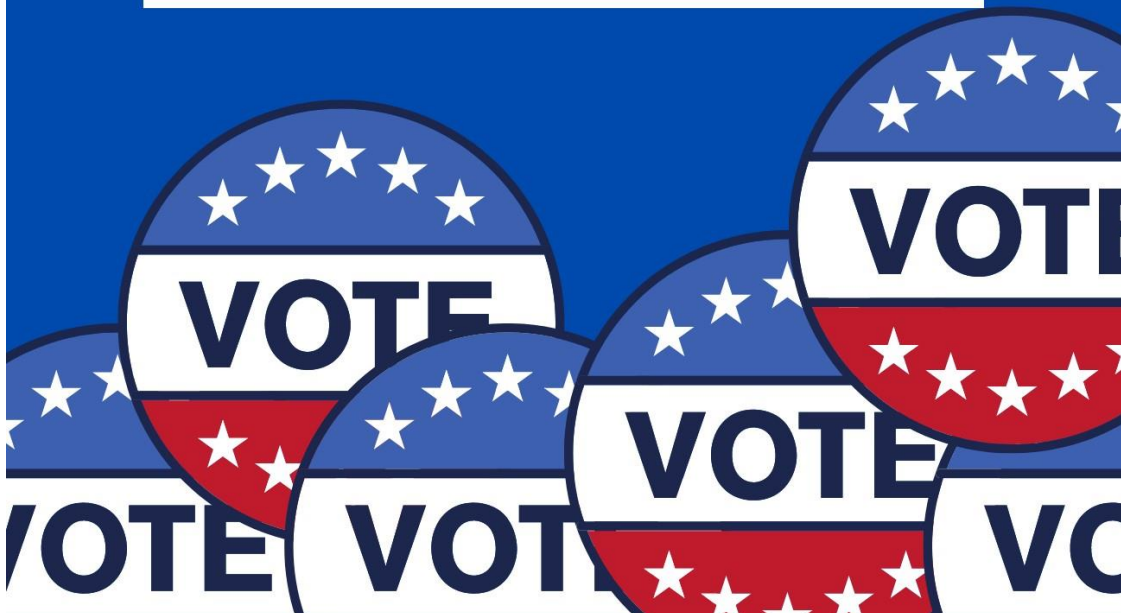


VOTER GUIDE

Local Election
April 2, 2024

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF COLUMBIA-BOONE COUNTY
EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.



VOTER GUIDE – APRIL 2, 2024 Municipal Election

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Candidate for Columbia City Council Ward 2 – April 2, 2024 – LISA MEYER

Name: Lisa Meyer

Education/Qualifications:

I am the first person in my family to earn a college degree.

University of Missouri — Columbia Graduate Coursework, Personal Financial Planning 2013 — ongoing; Fontbonne University Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) 2001-2003; Endorsed by the Columbia Police Officers Association

Career experience: I worked in healthcare for 10 years, in the arts, and as a licensed series 7 and 66 financial advisor. Now, for over a decade, I have been a small business owner and real estate professional.

Website/Facebook page for candidate: <https://lisameyerward2.com/>

Questions and Answers:

In your opinion, what are the 3 most critical issues currently facing Columbia and your Ward?

Safety; Infrastructure; Health and Well-Being

There are many Columbia City Boards and Commissions. Have you served on any of them? If yes, which one(s)? How can the City Council better use the information produced by these groups?

I have participated in several City of Columbia Affordable Housing symposiums and have been part of an affordable housing task force.

What motivated you to run for office?

I love living in Ward 2, and I have been actively promoting its many benefits as a neighbor, friend, and real estate professional for over a decade. I will bring a unique and balanced perspective on the issues facing Columbia. As a small business owner, the daughter and wife of a veteran, an avid parks and recreation fan, and a caring citizen, it would be an honor to serve the citizens of our community.

What do you see as the most important responsibility of a City Council member?

To be of service! This is a nonpartisan position. If duly elected, I will take an oath of office to support the Constitution and the laws of the United States and State of Missouri, and the charter and ordinances of the City of Columbia. It would be an honor to be of service.

Candidate for Columbia City Council Ward 2 – April 2, 2024

ROBERT SCHREIBER III

Name: Robert Schreiber III

Education/Qualifications for this office: Graduated from Southern Boone County R-1, Home Builder 20 years, Democratic Central committee man 1st ward 7 years.

Website for candidate: robertschreiber4como.com; **Facebook page:** @schreiber4citycouncil

X page: @schreiber4como

Questions and Answers:

In your opinion, what are the 3 most critical issues currently facing Columbia and your Ward?

Let's start with a fundamental issue that many of our neighbors are facing – affordable housing. It's time to address the challenges of finding a home that is not only safe and comfortable but also affordable. I will work with the Columbia Community Land Trust, developers, the County, and the Housing Authority to explore and promote affordable housing across this City, while strengthening the rights of tenants. I believe that everyone deserves a place they can call home without sacrificing their financial stability.

Infrastructure is something that must always be considered. We must continue the important work of updating old infrastructure while building new infrastructure to meet the needs of future generations. Our roads, bridges, and utilities are the lifeblood of our community.

Public transportation since the pandemic has been extremely reduced and no longer serves the communities that need it. A robust and efficient public transportation system is not just a convenience; it's a lifeline for many in our community. I will work to bring back and expand public transportation options, making it more accessible and convenient for residents. This not only improves mobility but also contributes to our broader goals of sustainability and reducing traffic congestion.

There are many Columbia City Boards and Commissions. Have you served on any of them? If yes, which one(s)? How can the City Council better use the information produced by these groups?

No, but if elected I will look to them for advice and guidance. The commissions are an invaluable source of people with experience and new ideas to help guide future decision making.

What motivated you to run for office?

For me it's having that most precious commodity of time and a sense of civic duty. Not working two jobs and being exhausted at the end of the day has allowed me to engage with the community and realize I can do some good for my ward and the city.

What do you see as the most important responsibility of a City Council member?

To represent the needs of the second ward while keeping in mind the needs of the city as a whole so we can move forward in creating a Columbia that works for all people.

Candidate for Columbia City Council Ward 2 – April 2, 2024
LUCIO MARTINO BITOY IV (Write in Candidate)

Name: Lucio Martino Bitoy IV

Education/Qualifications for this office: I majored in political science at Lincoln University and interned with the Missouri House of Representatives and spent several years working in state and local government. Thanks to these experiences I am an expert in not only systematic study of governance by applying empirical and generally scientific methods of analysis. But also the societal, cultural, and psychological factors that mutually influence the operation of government and the body politic.

Website/Facebook page for candidate: BitoySecondWard.com

Questions and Answers:

In your opinion, what are the 3 most critical issues currently facing Columbia and your Ward?
The intersections of 1. Poverty, 2. Affordable housing, 3. Disparities.

There are many Columbia City Boards and Commissions. Have you served on any of them? If yes, which one(s)? How can the City Council better use the information produced by these groups?

No. I have not. City Council could better use the information produced by these groups by first developing the intellectual framework required to be able to have a firm understanding of the data, information, and policy recommendations produced by the Boards and Commissions.

What motivated you to run for office?

I am motivated by the material conditions of the people. Such as women earning 86 cents on the dollar paid to men in Columbia, and Black women earning even less. I'm motivated by the Black infant mortality rate being 3x that of white infants, & Black mothers are significantly less likely to receive prenatal care. I am motivated when I look at city leadership and the candidate field and see individuals who want to put themselves in power, not in service.

What do you see as the most important responsibility of a City Council member? The efficacious allocation of resources, to ensure that people can truly have life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Candidate for Columbia City Council Ward 6 – April 2, 2024 – BETSY PETERS UNOPPOSED CANDIDATE

Name: Betsy Peters

Education/Qualifications for this office:

My qualifications are that I have been on city council for 8 years, so I have some experience with the process. I grew up in Columbia, moved with my family to a farm in Calloway County for my last years of high school, then went off to college in Kirksville. My formal education included a doctorate in medicine from MU. I lived and practiced in Dallas, TX for 20 years, then moved back to Columbia in 2010 to be closer to family.

Website/Facebook page for candidate: [betsypetersforcouncil.com](https://www.betsypetersforcouncil.com)

Questions and Answers:

In your opinion, what are the 3 most critical issues currently facing Columbia and your Ward?
Infrastructure, public safety, and public transportation.

There are many Columbia City Boards and Commissions. Have you served on any of them? If yes, which one(s)? How can the City Council better use the information produced by these groups?

I served on the Board of Adjustment before moving on to the city council. We can use the boards more efficiently, by talking with them either individually or as a group and improving communication.

What motivated you to run for office again? I enjoy the work of the council and hope that my experience will help. I know how the city works and hopefully, how to move issues forward.

What do you see as the most important responsibility of a City Council member? To ask questions of the professionals that run the day-to-day workings of the city and to provide communication between the citizens and the city.

Ward 1 Recall Vote on Nick Knoth

Statement from Sarah Medcalf from the Committee to Recall Nick Knoth

Nick Knoth created a conflict of interest between his duties to First Ward Residents as a councilperson, and his duties to Missouri Realtors when he took a job advocating for Realtors' special interests. Neighborhood interests can, and do conflict with the Realtor Party's interests, and we deserve unbiased representation.

The Committee to Recall Nick Knoth recognizes his job with Missouri Realtors violates the public's trust. Government officials are elected to put public welfare above private concerns. A conflict of interest exists between Knoth's primary source of income and his official responsibilities as a person in a position of trust.

Simply put, Knoth is receiving a paycheck from the state's largest advocacy organization for the real estate industry while making tangible decisions about Columbia's land use through his position on City Council. Knoth's objective decision-making on the many real estate issues that come before Council is severely compromised by his decision to take a position advocating for Realtors.

Rebuttal from Nick Knoth

It's important to reiterate that my employment does not pose any conflict of interest with my responsibilities as a councilman; this has been confirmed by both the City's Legal Counsel as well as the Missouri Ethics Commission, and it does not affect my ability or my commitment to serving the First Ward. I value and respect the rights of my constituents to voice their concerns on any subject, including this.

I want to make it clear that this recall effort is not rooted in any votes, actions or decisions I have made in my capacity as a councilman, but rather focused on what I do in my personal time to provide for my family. I have always worked diligently to represent the interests of the First Ward to the best of my ability. This has been demonstrated by my votes in support of regulations on short-term rentals (Airbnbs) that disproportionately impact the First Ward, as well as my support for the LGBTQ+ sanctuary city ordinance and my successful efforts to increase funding for Neighborhood Services.

I am committed to serving the First Ward and our community with integrity and transparency, and I will continue to do so.

Candidate for Columbia School Board – April 2, 2024 – JEANNE SNODGRASS

Name: Jeanne Snodgrass

Qualifications for office: I have School Board experience (current VP), am a parent of one CPS graduate and two children still attending school in the district, and have extensive work experience in educational settings.

Educational Background: MFA from University of New Mexico, MA from Hebrew College

Website/Facebook page for candidate: www.snodgrass4cpsboard.com

Questions and Answers:

What are your goals if elected to the Columbia School Board?

I hope to continue the work of improving student achievement by providing support to programs and initiatives which address disparities in opportunities and support for our students and families.

Public schools are required to accept all students with whatever challenges they bring. What are your plans for making Columbia public schools successful for all students?

By continuing to look at the student achievement data, we can target additional help and resources to the buildings and students where it is most needed. We can also continue to listen to and enlist the support of our community in lifting up all our schools.

Missouri now allows public taxes to be used for private schools, and proposals in the Missouri Legislature are calling for open enrollment. What do you propose in order to help Columbia Public Schools respond to these changes?

I think that the size of Columbia Public schools allows us to stay competitive as we can offer more opportunities and diversity of programs; we continue to expand these with specialized tracks of study. I also believe we should continue to advocate for additional funding for our public schools and the removal of public tax funding to private schools, especially as they are not held to the same standards of accountability.

What do you see as the role of parents in the School Board's policy decision process?

The voices of diverse parents and all our community members are a valued part of the decision-making process as they bring new perspectives and experiences to the attention of the board. This doesn't mean that every suggestion from every parent is going to be implemented exactly as proposed, but it does mean that it is important to consider how policies affect different students now and in the future.

Candidate for Columbia School Board – April 2, 2024 – ALVIN COBBINS

Name: Alvin Cobbins

Qualifications for office: 1. I am a resident of Columbia & a graduate of Hickman High School; 2. I received the UN foreign seminar scholarship as a senior at Hickman High School; 3. I was selected by classmates to represent the black student body in protest over the lack of black cheerleaders on the cheer squad; 4. My school counselor was the late great Elliot Battle; and 5. All five of my children were afforded their education opportunities through the public school system.

Educational Background: 1. Hayti Negro School grades 1 thru 9 Hayti, MO; 2. Hickman High School graduate 1969; 3. Columbia College graduate 1971 A.A. degree; 4. University of Missouri graduate 1974 B.A degree; 5. Graduate course in conflict resolution and public policy Duquesne University. Completed May 1998.

Website/Facebook page for candidate:

Questions and Answers:

What are your goals if elected to the Columbia School Board?

I would like to be that voice to represent those parents who are unable to participate due to mitigating circumstances to help bridge the gap so that we may all sit down and discuss matters, issues and concerns for the betterment of the Columbia Public School District and The Community.

Public schools are required to accept all students with whatever challenges they bring. What are your plans for making Columbia public schools successful for all students?

Early grade literacy is the key to providing a solid foundation for success. This prepares them for their future. Their future as Business Leaders, Congressman, Presidents, etc.

Missouri now allows public taxes to be used for private schools, and proposals in the Missouri Legislature are calling for open enrollment. What do you propose in order to help Columbia Public Schools respond to these changes?

The Missouri Legislature should not be allowed to have the final decision to make these laws. They can present the information to the public; however the public should be the one to decide how the money should be used. If the public-school dollars are used for private schools that will:

Create a hardship for public school from the loss of funds.

Loss of teachers which means loss of students.

It will create an extensive overcrowding of schools without proper leadership in the schools.

It will eliminate true education that the students desperately need.

What do you see as the role of parents in the School Board's policy decision process?

I would like to see more parents involved in the education process and volunteering their time to assist the school board in policies and revitalization as well as being a part of the decision making, i.e. going to a four-day school week.

Candidate for Columbia School Board – April 2, 2024 – JOHN POTTER

Name: John Potter

Qualifications for office: I have been heavily involved in our district for the past four years. I've been a champion for the concerns of parents, students, teachers, and community members. I have attended almost every district BOE meeting within the past four years, where I've made public comments to represent voices who feel they are not being heard nor represented in our district. I've helped create a platform to bring more community involvement into Columbia Public Schools. The Facebook group I have co-founded (CoMo Parents for In-Seat School and Citizens for Accountability and Transparency at CPS) have helped to address and bring awareness to multiple issues in our district. I understand the good qualities of our district, along with the problems in the district we are facing.

Educational Background: CPS Hickman High School Alumnus, GED, and self-educated

Website/Facebook page for candidate: www.facebook.com/Potter4BOE

Questions and Answers:

What are your goals if elected to the Columbia School Board? Provide an educational environment for all students; provide a safe workplace for teachers; represent voices in the community who don't feel represented; improve behavior policies, procedures, and practices to be more supportive of teachers and foster healthier student-teacher relationships.

Public schools are required to accept all students with whatever challenges they bring. What are your plans for making Columbia public schools successful for all students? In regard to special needs students, I support providing inclusive and fully accessible environments on playgrounds and inside buildings. As well as the promotion of consistent social and interactive activities for all student populations to come together. In regard to students with behavioral issues, I will promote alternative schools which specialize in dealing with students with high behavioral issues. Overall, I will support and advocate for policies, procedures and practices which raise the bar for all students.

Missouri now allows public taxes to be used for private schools, and proposals in the Missouri Legislature are calling for open enrollment. What do you propose in order to help Columbia Public Schools respond to these changes? I will embrace an attitude which prioritizes students first and supports students' best interests, on an individual basis.

What do you see as the role of parents in the School Board's policy decision process? Parents need to have input in our district-wide policies. Our district needs to facilitate and implement a parent advisory committee.

Boone County Proposition 1 Information

On the April 2, 2024 General Municipal Election ballot, Boone County voters will have the opportunity to decide whether the County Commission should implement a property tax exemption for senior citizens. Voters will see the following language in Proposition 1: “Shall the County of Boone exempt senior citizens from certain increases in the property tax liability due on such senior citizens’ primary residences?”

The impetus for Proposition 1 was the passage of Senate Bill 190, which became law on August 28, 2023. Senate Bill 190 was touted as providing property tax relief for senior citizens. However, shortly after it was signed into law, concerns about its language and drafting errors were raised across the State, including from the Missouri Association of Counties (MAC). In November 2023, the Boone County Commission issued a resolution recognizing the value of tax relief to lower and moderate-income senior citizens while also making clean-up legislation a top priority. The County Commission also became aware in late 2023 that the sponsor of Senate Bill 190 had pre-filed Senate Bill 576, which proposed statutory language that would alleviate some of the issues identified by the Missouri Association of Counties. That Bill is now moving through the Missouri General Assembly.

If voters approve Proposition 1, the Commission will begin the public process of drafting the policy and addressing the key elements of the program. Those elements may include, but not be limited to, eligibility parameters, the application and administrative process, and safeguards to minimize the potential for abuse of the program. For example, the Commission may explore a proposed policy that would apply to homesteads with an appraised value of \$300,000 or less as shown by the Boone County Assessment File. Currently, 86% of homes in Boone County fall at or below that threshold. The Commission may also consider a renewal provision in order to better understand the impact of the policy on seniors, taxing jurisdictions, and the general public before renewing the policy for subsequent years.

Because it is anticipated that substantial work will be necessary, particularly in the Offices of the Assessor and Collector, to create and test the administrative process, any implementation date will likely not occur before 2025.

(Information provided by the Boone County Commission.)

Statement regarding Boone County Proposition 1 from Rep. Cheri Toalson-Reisch

The Commission's Property Tax Freeze on the ballot was unnecessary. They could have voted on it without the cost of an election. The vague term 'certain' taxes is to be determined. If it passes, then they will decide what they may or may not do. Even if the April ballot passes, my Initiative Petition that will be on the ballot later this year will freeze 'all' taxes (real estate per SB 190) and is clear on what it will do.

Voter Information

Election Day Voting – April 2 from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. at polling locations and the Boone County Clerk's Office. See graphic below for information on No-Excuse Absentee Voting.

Missouri Voter ID Requirements

To vote in person, you need to present one of the following forms of ID:

- A Missouri Driver license that is not expired;
- A Missouri Nondriver's license that is not expired or does not have an expiration date;
- A U.S. Passport that is not expired;
- A Military ID that is not expired or does not have an expiration date; or,
- A document issued by the United States or state of Missouri that includes your photograph and name that matches your voter registration record. (This document must not be expired or, if it is expired, it expired after the date of the most recent general election).

If you do not have one of the IDs above, **you can still vote** by casting a blue provisional ballot, which will be counted if you come back to your polling location before the close of polls on Election Day with your ID or if your signature matches the signature on file on the voter registration record.

No-Excuse Absentee Voting Days for April 2nd, General Municipal Election

March 23
11 am–4pm, Columbia Mall

March 24
11 am–4pm, Douglass High School



March 30
10 am–3pm, So. Bo. County Public Library & Centralia Library

March 19–April 1
Monday–Friday, 8am–5pm, Boone County Clerk's Office

Make A Voting Plan

- 1) Check Your Registration and/or Register to Vote
- 2) Learn About Voting Options
- 3) Find Your Polling Location
- 4) Research Candidates/Issues
- 5) Share Your Plans! Let Others Know You Are Voting

More Voting Information Here



League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County has produced this Voter Guide. Contact at lwvcbc@mail.com or visit our website at lwv.org.