



The Voter

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

SEPTEMBER 10 ANNUAL FALL KICKOFF PICNIC

We will celebrate the return of our members and welcome prospective members at our annual kickoff picnic. This is always a great, fun, informal opportunity to connect with other League members (and potential members). Bring a friend, neighbor or colleague to the picnic and introduce them to the League!

It will be Thursday, September 10 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Stephens Lake Park in the Gordon

Shelter. The entrance to get to the shelter is on Broadway.



We will provide sub sandwiches, drinks and tableware. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. This is also a good time to pay your LWV dues. We hope to see you there!

— Marilyn McLeod

SEPT. 15 LUNCH & LEARN: MONEY IN POLITICS

Everyone is encouraged to attend the Sept. 15 Lunch and Learn, at noon in the Providence and Nifong Hy-Vee meeting room. Diane Suhler and Peggy Placier will give a presentation created by the national LWV as a kickoff for this year's consensus process on the controversial issue of "Money in Politics." In addition to learning about the topic, attendees will be invited to provide feedback on the presentation for the newly-formed LWV Speakers' Bureau. We hope to take this

Powerpoint presentation "on the road" to community groups this fall. This outreach effort is a different model from our usual public forums (although we will still have those, of course). We hope the program will inform the community about our organization and also attract new members. Bring your lunch or buy lunch in the deli – and learn!



— Peggy Placier, Co-President

CONSTITUTION DAY SEPT. 16 – AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION: DEMOCRATIC OPPORTUNITY OR UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES?

Please come to our annual Constitution Day event on Sept. 16 at 7:00 (6:30 refreshments) at the Boone County Government Center Commission Chambers. This year's program fits perfectly with the LWV study on Amending the Constitution (see materials in this Voter).

We have invited Dr. Justin Dyer of the MU Political Science Department to speak to us on the possibilities and problems of the amendment process. He comes highly recommended and is one of our community's experts on the



Dr. Justin Dyer

U.S. Constitution. We hope for an excellent turnout.



Dr. Dyer has also invited our members to the September 17 MU campus Constitution Day event sponsored by the Kinder Forum on Constitutional Democracy. For details about that event, go to: <https://democracy.missouri.edu/constitution-day-lecture-with-boston-university-professors-of-law-james-e-fleming-and-linda-c-mcclain/>

— Peggy Placier, Co-President

AUGUST BOARD REPORT

Fourteen board members were present for our August 24th Board Meeting.

The Board approved:

- An Ed Fund request for the Nov. 9 Money in Politics forum which pays for newspaper ads and audio services and any printed material
- Purchase of 500 business cards with LWV info – the cards will be available for members to give out to potential members. A business card will be included in an upcoming Voter mailing.
- Named the November luncheon “LWV Annual Recognition Luncheon” as we will be presenting the Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award.

The Board heard reports on:

- LWVMO is putting together a St. Louis 100th anniversary march to commemorate the Golden Lane march at the 1916 St. Louis Democratic Convention. The date will be September 3, 1916.
- The LWV Ex-Felon Voting Rights flyer was enthusiastically received by parole officers and others involved with ex-felons. The flyer will be attached to a voter registration card and will be put in many locations throughout Columbia. The Board approved printing the flyers. The Board thanked Barbara Hoppe and Dick Parker for their dedicated work on this project.

- The Board is considering how to fundraise for the LWVMO. A committee was appointed to consider our options. Committee members are Marilyn McLeod, Liz Schmidt and Joni O'Connor.
- The Board was informed that we have enough LWV volunteers for the September 15th Tribune event to qualify as a co-sponsor.
- Mature Living LWV booth volunteers will be Marcia Walker, Marilyn McLeod and Sharon Schneeberger.
- Dick Parker updated the Board on the new city solar panels near the Westlake's store on Bernadette. He also updated the Board on the shut-down of city coal-fired boilers.
- Lael Von Holt read a Thank You letter for our \$2000 contribution (from Ed Funds) for training Columbia teachers on mental health first-aid. The Thank You letter will be printed in the October Voter.

Carol Schreiber and Peggy Placier
Co-Presidents



FRIENDS OF THE LWV OF COLUMBIA-BOONE COUNTY

The LWV of Columbia-Boone County recognizes the many organizations and individuals who have helped us educate the public, provided meeting space and given of their time, talent and treasure to the LWV. Each month we are recognizing a group of our Friends of the LWV as voted on by the LWV of Columbia-Boone County membership at our Annual Meeting on April 21, 2015. For August 2015 we recognize:

- **Columbia Entertainment Company** for hosting our annual fundraiser.
- **Paul Pepper** for including the LWV in his KBIA program.
- **Wendy Noren, Elaine Blodgett** and **Brianna Lennon** for being on our CAT TV panel entitled “What are the Real Problems with Voting?” in September 2014.
- **Dr. Kathy Thornburg, Dr. Stacey Preis, Belinda Masters** and moderator **Dr. Vena Long** for being part of our forum entitled “Hot Topics in Education: Early Childhood – One Answer to the Achievement Gap in November 2014.”

Thanks for being a Friend of the LWV!

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT STUDY

The members of this year's study committee (Peggy Placier, Carol Schreiber, Marilyn McLeod, Sharon Schneeberger, Mahree Skala, David Leuthold) hope that you will participate in the first of this year's studies, on Amending the Constitution. Nationally some LWV members have called for consideration of a Constitutional Convention to deal with the issue of campaign finance. But would this be a good idea? If so, how should the convention process be handled? Those are our questions.

In this issue of The Voter you will find a Discussion and Reading Guide on this topic, as well as the Consensus Questions we will consider in October. Our task until then is to inform ourselves through the Constitution Day program and readings. If you have never participated in a LWV study, this is the process through which LWVUS determines its positions – from the grassroots level.

Your participation matters!

Constitutional Amendment Study: Discussion and Reading Guide

Background Information on Amending the Constitution

Article V of the U.S. Constitution provides **two ways of proposing amendments**. Amendments proposed by either method must be ratified by three-fourths of the states, 38 at present.

1. **Congress**, by a two-thirds vote of both chambers, may propose constitutional amendments to the states for ratification.
2. **Legislatures of two-thirds of the states** (34 at present) may ask Congress to call a **convention** to propose amendments; this is commonly called an Article V Convention.

The first method has been used to submit 33 amendments to the states, beginning with the Bill of Rights. Of these, 27 were approved, 26 are currently in effect, and one – the 18th Amendment (Prohibition) — was repealed. The second method, an Article V Convention, has **never** been successfully invoked, although states have submitted numerous petitions to Congress to call a convention.

In the 1970s the American Bar Association studied the convention process and made the following recommendations:

- Congress should establish **clear guidelines and timelines** for a convention through legislation consistent with Article V, rather than waiting until a “crisis.” This should include provision for independent judiciary review of the process and outcomes.
- Any convention should be **limited to the single topic** stated in the petition. This would avoid a general or what some fear would be a “runaway” convention.
- **Delegates to the convention should be elected by the people** and should be **proportional** to each state's population (similar to the House of Representatives). (John D. Feerick, *Amending the Constitution Through a Convention*. *American Bar Association Journal* March, 1974, Volume 60, pp. 285-288)

However, Congress has not adopted such recommendations, and the process remains very vague. Experts hold very different views on the possibility of a convention.

The study will explore the process for proposing an Article V Convention in order to determine whether LWVUS would support such a convention and if so, under what circumstances.

Questions to Consider

As you listen and read, consider the following to prepare for the consensus meeting. How would the convention process work? How *should* it work?

- What is or should be the role of Congress in the process? (Continued on next page)

Constitutional Amendment Study Discussion and Reading Guide (Continued from previous page)

- How can/should delegates be selected by the states? By the legislature? Appointed, and if so by whom? Election? Can states have different selection systems? Different numbers of delegates?
- How should delegates be apportioned? By state population? By state, with each state having the same number of representatives?
- Convention action
 - Should the convention be limited to considering a single topic?
 - Does each state have one vote or is voting based on population?
 - Who sets the rules of procedure, including voting by state or by individual delegates –majority or super majority vote?
 - Can the convention hold secret sessions?
 - When does the convention end?
- Ratification
 - Is Congress required to send any amendments proposed by an Article V Convention to the states for ratification?
 - If the Convention proposes multiple amendments, can the states ratify selectively?
 - Who pays? Can the President block an Article V Convention by vetoing any appropriation for the Convention's work?
- Court review: What, if anything, should be reviewed by federal or state courts?

Before the October consensus meeting, you can inform yourself by:

- Attending the Constitution Day program on this topic: Sept. 16, 7:00, Boone County Government Center (Commission Chambers). Speaker will be Dr. Justin Dyer of the MU Political Science Department.
- Looking at the following video and readings. Each one has a link for easy access.

James Madison Montpelier Center. Amending the Constitution. Brief (7 min.) video on the history of the amendment provisions. <https://vimeo.com/125476244>

Synopsis of “Constitutional Amendments and the Constitutional Common Law.” A summary of a longer article (link is provided in the synopsis) *favoring* the possibility of a Constitutional convention. <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/synopsis-%E2%80%9Cconstitutional-amendments-and-constitutional-common-law%E2%80%9D>

Synopsis of “Constitutional Amendmentitis.” A summary of a longer article (link provided in the synopsis) *opposing* the movement toward a Constitutional convention. <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/synopsis-%E2%80%9Cconstitutional-amendmentitis>

For more extensive information:

Constitutional Amendment Study Guide. LWVUS has posted an extensive (24 pages plus links to documents) to accompany the consensus questions. <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/constitutional-amendment-study-guide>

The Article V Convention to Propose Constitutional Amendments: Contemporary Issues for Congress. Thomas H. Neale, Specialist in American National Government Congressional Research Service April 11, 2014 (43 pages). This article, prepared by the Congressional Research Service, focuses on the procedural issues that Congress might face invoking an Article V convention. It covers recent developments, including the balanced budget amendment. <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42589.pdf>

The Article V Convention for Proposing Constitutional Amendments: Historical Perspectives for Congress. Thomas H. Neale, Specialist in American National Government Congressional Research Service, October 12, 2012 (22 pages) This article, prepared by the Congressional Research Service, places the Article V convention in historical perspective. It addresses historical and current efforts to invoke a convention, as well as the role of the states in the process. <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42592.pdf>

| |
|---|
| Constitutional Amendment Consensus Questions |
|---|

The questions are grouped into three Parts. For each question we will decide
1) Should/Agree, 2) Should Not/Disagree, or 3) No Consensus.

Part I - Considerations for Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals**1. Which of these should or should not be a consideration in identifying an appropriate and well-crafted amendment?**

- a) Whether the public policy objective addresses matters of such acute and abiding importance that the fundamental charter of our nation must be changed.

PRO: *Amendments are changes to a document that provides stability to our system and should be undertaken to address extreme problems or long-term needs.*

CON: *When public sentiment is overwhelmingly in favor of change, restraint based on veneration of the document is misplaced.*

- b) Whether the amendment as written would be effective in achieving its policy objective.

PRO: *Amendments that may be unenforceable, miss the objective or have unintended consequences will not work to achieve the policy objective.*

CON: *It's all right to deliberately put something in the Constitution that will need to be interpreted by courts and legislatures over time.*

- c) Whether the amendment would either make our political system more democratic or protect individual rights.

PRO: *Most amendments have sought to make our system more democratic by extending voting rights, for example, or to protect the rights of minorities from powerful interests.*

CON: *What has been typical in the past is not a good measure of what's appropriate or necessary today or in the future, especially since there have been relatively few amendments.*

- d) Whether the policy objective can be achieved by a legislative or political approach that is less difficult than a constitutional amendment.

PRO: *Due to the difficulty of amending the Constitution, it is important to consider whether legislation or political action is more likely to succeed than an amendment, in order to achieve the objective and to expend resources wisely.*

CON: *Important policy objectives should sometimes be pursued through a constitutional amendment even though it may be difficult for it to be enacted and even when other options are available.*

- e) Whether the public policy objective is more suited to a constitutional and general approach than to a statutory and detailed approach.

PRO: *It is important to consider whether the goal can best be achieved by an overall value statement, which will be interpreted by the courts, or with specific statutory detail to resolve important issues and reduce ambiguity.*

CON: *Getting action on an issue is more important than how a policy objective can best be achieved.*

Part II - Aspects of an Article V Constitutional Convention**2. What conditions should or should not be in place for an Article V Constitutional Convention initiated by the states?**

a) The Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret.

PRO: *The public has a right to know what is being debated and voted on.*

CON: *The lack of public scrutiny and the ability to negotiate in private may enable delegates to more easily reach agreement.*

b) Representation at the Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote.

PRO: *The delegates represent citizens and should be distributed by U.S. population.*

CON: *The U.S. is really a federation of states that must agree by state to any change in the Constitution.*

c) State delegates must be elected rather than appointed.

PRO: *Delegates represent citizens and therefore need to be elected by them.*

CON: *Appointment allows for experts who wouldn't run in an election.*

d) Voting at the Convention must be by delegate, not by state.

PRO: *As at the Articles of Confederation Convention, delegates from one state can have varying views and should be able to express them by individual votes.*

CON: *Because any amendment proposal will go to the states for ratification, voting by state blocs—however the delegates are originally chosen—reflects the probability of eventual ratification.*

e) The Convention must be limited to a specific topic.

PRO: *It is important to guard against a “runaway convention”.*

CON: *The convention alternative was provided for a time when Congress was not listening, so the delegates should not be constrained.*

f) Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Convention must be called. ___

PRO: *Counting state requests by topic ensures that there is sufficient interest in a particular subject to call a convention, and enhances citizen interest and participation in the process.*

CON: *There is no requirement for Congress to count state requests by topic and when enough states are unhappy enough to ask for a convention, it should happen.*

g) The validity of state “calls” for an Article V Constitutional Convention must be determined by the most recent action of the state. If a state has enacted a rescission of its call, that rescission should be respected by Congress.

PRO: *A state legislature should be free to determine its position in regard to an Article V Constitutional Convention. A rescission should be equally acceptable to Congress as a state's call for a convention.*

CON: *A state legislature's call for a Convention cannot be overturned because the process may never end.*

3. Should the League oppose an Article V Constitutional Convention to propose amendments to the Constitution because of unresolved questions about the powers and processes of such a convention?

PRO: *The Constitution is too important to trust an unknown or uncontrollable process. It is unclear whether conditions or safeguards regarding powers and processes for a convention can be successfully put in place.*

CON: *A convention is intended to be an unrestrained process to propose amendments to the Constitution.*

Part III – Balancing Questions

4. Should the League consider supporting a Constitutional amendment that will advance a League position even if:

a) There are significant problems with the actual amendment as proposed?

PRO: *Our positions have been studied and agreed to. If other organizations are supporting an amendment in a policy area we also support, we might participate even though it is inconsistent with the evaluation guidelines we support under Part I.*

CON: *If the League has a consensus on the evaluation guidelines outlined in Part I, then the League should not campaign on an amendment when it is inconsistent with those standards, even though the League supports the policy outcome.*

b. It is being put forward by a procedural process the League would otherwise oppose?

PRO: *Our positions have been studied and agreed to. If other organizations are supporting an amendment in a policy area we also support, we might participate even though it is inconsistent with the process criteria we support under Part II.*

CON: *If the League has a consensus on the process criteria outlined in Part II, then the League should not campaign for an amendment when the process being proposed is inconsistent with those standards, even though the League supports the policy outcome.*

Comment Section (max. 500 words)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LIVE TRIB TALK EVENT

The Columbia Daily Tribune will host a "live" Trib Talk on Sept. 15 at 6:30-8:30 at the ARC. This is part of a Kettering Foundation funded project to increase community participation in civic dialogues. They need volunteers to facilitate discussion tables and greet people at the door. Training will be provided. If we provide volunteers LWV will be listed as a co-sponsor of the event, which would be good visibility for us as a service to the community in line with our mission. We may even attract some new members! Contact Peggy Placier (pplacier@centurylink.net) if you can help.



ENERGY MATTERS COMMITTEE WILL HAVE BOOTH AT OCT 17 SUSTAINABLE LIVING FAIR

The Sustainable Living Fair is Saturday October 17 at City Hall, Broadway and 8th St. The Energy Matters Committee will again have a booth. The Fair is a great place to educate yourself on efficient home improvements, energy efficient transportation, local and organic food and other ideas. Our booth looks at how much CO2 we can afford to produce. The basic problem is us (U.S.) because the rest of the world is moving toward living like us. We can afford only about 10% of the CO2 we currently produce here per person. We should lead by GOOD example rather than our current example.



— Dick Parker, Energy Matters Chair



Upcoming League Events!



| SEPTEMBER 2015 | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|--|--|---|----------------------------|----------|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 30 | 31 | SEPT 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 CAT TV: The State of the American Worker 7:00 p.m. | 10 Fall Picnic 5:00 p.m. Gordon Shelter Stephens Lake Park | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 Lunch & Learn: Money in Politics South HyVee Mtg Room, Noon ***** Trib Talks: Community Conversations ARC, 6:30p.m. | 16 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50 a.m. ***** Constitution Day Forum Boone County Govt Bldg 7:00 p.m. | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 LWV Board Mtg 6:30 p.m. Broadway Christian Church | 29 | 30 | OCT 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50 a.m. | 7 | 8 | 9 Mature Living Fair | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 CAT TV: 7:00 p.m. | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 Lunch & Learn: South HyVee Mtg Room, Noon ***** Forum: Health Effects of GMOs Library, 6:30p.m. | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 LWV Board Mtg 6:30 p.m. Broadway Christian Church | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

LWV Officers:

Co-Presidents:
 Carol Schreiber (657-1467)
 and Peggy Placier (442-2996)
 1st VP: Marilyn McLeod (445-3500)
 2nd VP: Ava Fajen (424-6683)
 Secretary: Marcia Walker
 (443-8666)
 Treasurer: David Leuthold
 (449-1358)

Elected Directors:

Rachel Brekhus (875-4295)
 Joni O'Connor (234-1012)
 Barbara Hoppe (443-5107)
 Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)
 Mahree Skala (474-2195)
 Pam Springsteel (445-0642)
 Shirley Troth (443-7033)

Appointed Directors:

Elaine Blodgett (256-2803)
 Dick Parker (256-4397)
 Diane Suhler (443-0549)
 Lael Von Holt (443-7747)

Committee Chairs:

Budget: Shirley Troth
 Civil Liberties: Open position
 Education: Open position
 Energy Matters: Dick Parker
 Fundraising: Open position
 Health: Mahree Skala
 Hospitality: Pam Springsteel
 Membership: Liz Schmidt
 Mental Health: Lael Von Holt
 Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

Voter Editor: Ava Fajen

Board Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the 4th Monday of the month at Broadway Christian Church. All members are welcome to attend.

Websites:

Local: lwwcbc.org
 State: lwwmissouri.org
 National: lww.org
 Like us on Facebook: "League of Women Voters - Columbia, MO"



The Sept 10 picnic is a great time to pay dues and help cover our 2016 events. Or send dues to Membership Chair, League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 239, Columbia, MO 65205.

Dues are \$55 for individuals, \$80 for a household and \$25 for local students. Individual and household memberships also include state (LWVMO) and national (LWVUS) membership.

Name _____

Email Address _____

Street _____

City _____

State and Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

I am particularly interested in _____.

I would like to receive my Voter by email _____

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

ANNUAL LUNCHEON WILL BE NOV. 14

Please mark your calendar for the **Saturday, November 14 Annual Recognition Luncheon**, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This year we will have our luncheon at Jack's Gourmet Restaurant (on the Business Loop). Details will be included in the next "Voter".



SEPTEMBER 9 CAT TV: THE STATE OF THE AMERICAN WORKER

In honor of Labor Day, the LWV will look at the topic of "The State of the American Worker." Panel members will be Regina Guevara, a union specialist, and Professor Matt Pezold, a Labor Education Specialist from MU Labor Studies. We will also have a business representative. The program airs live at 7 p.m. on CAT TV. Jim Robertson, managing editor, Columbia Daily Tribune will moderate the show.





League of Women Voters

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Columbia MO 65205

<http://lwvcbc.org>

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN

Each year we recognize a member of the Columbia/Boone County community as Outstanding Citizen of the Year. The LWV Board is looking for an individual who has had a significant impact on individuals, groups or the community as a volunteer or as part of their job. Some people are well known and others are not. If you know such an individual, please nominate them for this honor. Previous recipients have included Dr. Anne Deaton, Judge Ann Covington and Rep. Chris Kelly. The award will be presented at our November 14th luncheon at Jack's Restaurant.

Nominations are due by October 10th. Please provide the following: name, contact information, description of activities and qualifications. Also include your own name and contact information. Send your nominations to lwvcbc@gmail.com or mail to LWV, P. O. Box 239, Columbia, MO 65205. The LWV Board will select the winner at our October 26th Board Meeting.

— Carol Schreiber, Co-President

DO GMOS AFFECT HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT?

Mark your calendars now for our October 20 forum on GMOS and Health at 6:30-8:30 pm in the Columbia Public Library Friends Room. Interest in Genetically Modified Organisms is growing as they become increasingly important in our food system. Several experts will present information about what GMOs are, how they are produced, and varying views on their effects.

David Lile will moderate, and speakers will include Alan Wessler, DVM; Dan Kuebler, physical therapist and organic farmer; Robert Kremer, PhD; and others not yet confirmed.



— Mahree Skala, Health Committee
