



Missouri Voter

Volume 79, Issue 1

The League of Women Voters of Missouri

January/February 2018



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear members,

I hope this finds all of you well as I have heard that Missouri is the epicenter of the flu epidemic, and that none of you have taken a tumble on the ice that seems to be so invasive lately. I got home from a week in Hawaii last night just ahead of the most recent ice storm and am very thankful that we made it in.

We had a fabulous trip but the highlight was a personal tour we got of Hickam Air Force Base and how it ties in to our Sedalia hero George Whiteman (who is the namesake of Whiteman AFB). Pearl Harbor was also very emotional for me even though I do not personally know anyone who was stationed there in 1941. Seeing Eisenhower's words about how we must remember the attack made me realize how little of WWII is covered in schools now.

For today's kids it is ancient history, just like the suffragists' struggles to get the right to vote!

Please make plans to attend the spring conference in Kansas City; that committee is planning a great event in a very comfortable venue. And don't forget to nominate someone for the Rachel Farr Fitch Health Care Award; you still have time to submit your nomination.

Hope to see you soon,

Kathleen Boswell



Missouri General Election Statewide Forums - 2018

On January 17, 2018, the LWVMO Board approved LWV KCJCP's request to conduct *general election* forums for the 2018 Missouri statewide races, i.e., Auditor and U.S. Senator.

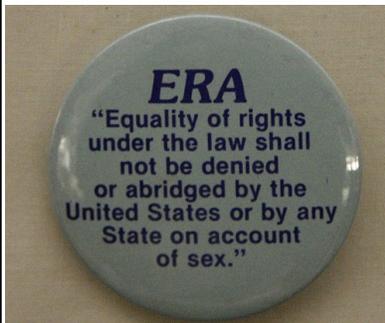
The request was approved with the following conditions:

A) Kansas City is to coordinate its work with the LWV's of St. Louis and Springfield, if either or both Leagues decide to also conduct forums, and all coordination is to occur prior to any contact with candidates. Note: the LWV's of St. Louis and Springfield voted to conduct forums.

B) All forums by any LWV are to be publicized as LWVMO forums and contacts made with candidates are to be represented as contacts from the LWVMO.

C) Amenities, i.e., a green room or courtesies to the candidate and/or the family of a candidate, should be consistent among the host Leagues.

Columbia/Boone County LWV recommended considering using Community Access Television to tape or broadcast a forum.



The Equal Rights Amendment: Unfinished Business for the Constitution

The proposed Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) states that the rights guaranteed by the Constitution apply equally to all persons regardless of their sex. After the 19th Amendment affirming women's right to vote was ratified in 1920, suffragist leader Alice Paul introduced the ERA in 1923 as the next step in bringing "equal justice under law" to all citizens.

In 1972, the ERA was finally passed by Congress and sent to the states for ratification. The original seven-year time limit was extended by Congress to June 30, 1982, but at that deadline, the ERA had been ratified by only 35 states, three states short of the 38 required to put it into the Constitution. The ERA has been introduced into every Congress since the deadline, and beginning in 1994, ERA advocates have been pursuing two different routes to ratification: the traditional process described in Article V of the Constitution (passage by a two-thirds majority in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, followed by ratification by three-quarters of the states), and the innovative "*three-state strategy*" (ratification in three more of the 15 state legislatures that did not ratify the ERA in 1972-82, based on legal analysis that when three more states vote yes, this process could withstand legal challenge and accomplish ratification of the ERA).

The State of Nevada passed the ERA in March 2017! Only two more states are needed. Missouri is among the states that did not ratify the Amendment.



**SAVE THE DATE!
LWVMO
SPRING CONFERENCE
MAY 5, 2018**

HOSTED BY KANSAS CITY LWV

GOOD SHEPHERD COMMUNITY OF CHRIST CHURCH
4341 BLUE RIDGE BLVD, KANSAS CITY

Easy Access from I-70 - Door Side Parking - Lunch Onsite
30 Minutes East of Downtown Kansas City

*For more information, contact: Evelyn Maddox, 913-634-3976
or emaddox64111@gmail.com*

RACHEL FARR FITCH—HEALTH CARE AWARD

The Rachel Farr Fitch Health Care Award is given to an individual or group that has done outstanding work in the field of health care. The nominee does not have to be a member of the League of Women Voters. The service or activity does not have to be a League project, but it must be compatible with LWV ideals and not in conflict in any way with our program positions.

Each local League may submit one nominee. Written nominations should follow the format set up and available from LWVMO office.

Criteria:

1. The number of people served or impacted.
2. The project was health care service that impacted the community or world.
3. The number of people involved in carrying out the activity.
4. The project should have taken place in the last two (2) years.
5. Special consideration will be given to other groups that were networked during the project.

Nomination information required includes description, time frame, and outcome of the project; number of people involved; and, resources and other groups used to carry out the project. The winner will be selected by a committee appointed by the LWVMO President. Nomination forms are available from the LWVMO office (league@lwvmissouri.org or phone 314-961-6869). Nominations are due April 1, 2018, and nominees must be able to attend the presentation at the State Conference on May 5.

Pass the Dream Act

Statement from LWWUS:

The Dream Act has broad bipartisan support and sponsorship. 87% of Americans are in favor of it. It's time for Congress to resolve this crisis by passing the Dream Act to ensure that 800,000 dreamers are protected. Dreamers are Americans and they belong in America. Congress must step up and take immediate action to protect them.

It's time for our leaders in Congress to choose the values and ideals that this country holds dear. They must stand for those that are working hard, paying taxes and contributing to our society on their path to American citizenship.

Stand with the League of Women Voters and contact our Senator and Representatives. They must pass a clean DREAM Act to protect, not turn away, the 800,000 young people who were brought to the United States as children. We can and we must do better to be vigilant about speaking out against racism. We must stand up as a nation and say this is unacceptable.

Watching Missouri Legislation About Charter Schools and Vouchers

House Committee passes Charter School Expansion

The House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee approved a House Committee Substitute (HCS) version of HB 2247 (Roerber) on February 5 by a vote of 7-6. League opposes the bill and appreciates the support of the members who voted against the bill: Representatives Anders, Bangert, Burnett, Morgan, Swan and Wood, notice that this was bi-partisan opposition. The bill would allow charter schools to be sponsored by outside entities (other than the local school board) and operate in many districts around the state.

Charter schools should be sponsored by and accountable to the local community through the elected school board and approved only after an impact study is conducted by the district to consider the proposal. Charter schools should be subject to the same standards of accountability, transparency and respect for the rights of students, parents and staff as are applicable to traditional public schools. HB 2247 does not enact these reforms, and *we urge you to communicate with your legislator to oppose this bill.*

TAX CREDIT-STYLE VOUCHERS

The House Ways and Means Committee heard HB 2188 (Matthiesen) on February 6. The bill creates a new 100% state tax credit capped at \$50 million per year for taxpayer contributions to third-party organizations that will use some of the proceeds to fund accounts that parents can use to pay private school tuition and other expenses for their students.

League opposes this and similar proposals to divert public funds to private schools not subject to the same standards of accountability, transparency and respect for the rights of students, staff and parents as apply to public schools. Additionally, Missouri is in a severe budget crisis and doesn't need more tax credits reducing state funding for the needs of the state.

Local League Reports

LWV of KC/Jackson, Clay, Cass and Platte Counties

<http://www.lwvkc.org/>

Everything's Up to Date in Kansas City!

The Kansas City League has enjoyed an active year which has helped us to retain a 34% increase since the last election. We look forward to celebrating our 98th birthday in February with invitations to likeminded friends to join us to view the documentary, *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy*.

Our focus continues on Voter Protection and on work with the Missouri Coalition to Protect the Vote. Our members and our coalition partners have visited 15 Motor Vehicle Offices and have reported their compliance with the National Voter Registration Act to Denise Lieberman in the Advancement Project. Results of our work, along with the work of other leagues, will be used in the Missouri Coalition's efforts to bring DMV's throughout the state into compliance with NVRA. Meanwhile, we are working on a variety of voter education, voter registration, and community involvement. On March 16th our Vote411.org will go live for local municipal and school board elections. At this time, we have Candidate Forums scheduled for Center and Hickman Mills School Districts. A new Observer Corp is organizing and has already started observing our four local Election Boards and the Jackson County Legislature.

We have developed a robust speaker's bureau with speakers trained to deliver presentations relating to voter registration and voter protection. We have successfully incorporated presentations about *Photo ID*, *Why Vote*, and *Women's Suffrage* with voter registration events in retirement communities and high schools.

—Evelyn Maddox

LWV of Southwest Missouri

<http://www.lwvswmo.org/>

The Greene County Clerk's Office requested participation by this League on the Greene County Election Advisory Board. Two League members attended the first meeting where Board members conducted a review of three possible voting machines. Shane Schoeller, Greene County Clerk, recently announced a decision has been made about which company and system will be purchased. At the next meeting the focus will be on physical voting locations issues.

A committee has been pulled together to put together the Voters Guide focusing on the November mid-term election. The guide currently covers Greene and Christian counties. We hope to add election information for Webster county this year.

(continued on page 6)

Local League Reports (Continued from page 5)

LWV of Southwest Missouri

<http://www.lwvswmo.org/>

We have begun planning our April General Meeting. The title of the event is *Walk in Their Shoes – The Simulation Experience*. This is a poverty simulation facilitated by OACAC, Ozark Area Community Action Corporation. The purpose of the event is to sensitize people to the realities faced by low-income people. The simulation will be the kick-off for an action group on poverty to study the issue and find out how the League can help.

—Kelly Wood and Lorraine Sandstrom
Co-presidents



ELECTIONS AHEAD

First Day of Filing

House, Senate, Statewide Offices
Tuesday, February 27, 2018

The LWVMO will have a table at the Secretary of State building to greet candidates.

If you are interested in participating, contact Kathleen Boswell, at league@lwvmissouri.org.

Tributes, Memorials and Contributions

Tribute from Kathleen Farrell in honor of Linda McDaniel's work on voter protection to LWVMO

Two "Peggy Piggy" banks for a total of \$14.79 for LWVMO

Two member contributions for \$135 for LWVMO Education Fund, designated for LWV-Columbia-Boone County Education Fund

One non-member contribution for \$50 for LWVMO Education Fund

Contributions are always welcome! You can send a donation to: LWVMO, 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144. It will be greatly appreciated!

Officers**President:** Kathleen Boswell (Sedalia)**Vice President:** Marilyn McLeod
(Columbia)**Secretary:** Louise Wilkerson (St. Louis)**Treasurer:** Becky Clausen (St. Louis)**Directors**

Marge Bramer (Springfield)

Nancy Copenhaver (Moberly)

Debby Howard (St. Louis)

Evelyn Maddox (KC)

Carol Schreiber (Columbia)

Linda Smith (KC)

Sharon Swon (Mexico)

Nominating Committee

Peggy Placier, Chair (Columbia)

Pauline Testerman (KC)

Elaine Blodgett (Columbia)

Executive Director: Currently Vacant

Voter Protection Coalition Liaison:

Linda McDaniel

LWVUS Board Liaison: Karen Nicholson

LWVUS MLD Coach: Donna Lauffer

**CALENDAR****2018**

February 27—First Day of Filing—Jefferson City

March 16 –LWVMO Board meeting -
Jefferson City

May 4—LWVMO Board meeting

May 5—LWVMO Spring Conference
Kansas CityJune 28-July 1—2018—LWVUS
Chicago**“Like” us on Facebook!**<https://www.facebook.com/lwvmo/>**REGISTER
TO VOTE!****Voter Registration Deadlines**

The deadline to register to vote in an election is the fourth Wednesday prior to the election. If registering by mail, your voter registration must be postmarked on the fourth Wednesday prior to the election. The voter registration qualifications in Missouri are as follows:

- 17 ½ years of age to register, 18 years of age to vote
- US Citizen
- Missouri Resident

April 3 Election—Last day to register is March 7

August 7 Election—Last day to register is July 11

November 6 Election—Last day to register is October 10



MISSOURI VOTER
League of Women Voters of Missouri
8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104
St. Louis MO 63144-2733

**PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
at St. Louis, Mo**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Mark your calendar!
LWVMO Spring Conference
May 5, 2018
Kansas City

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Voice: 314-961-6869

Email: league@lwvmissouri.org