

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF MISSOURI

8706 Manchester Rd., Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144
314-961-6869 ★ league@lwvmissouri.org ★ www.lwvmissouri.org

LWV Legislative Bulletin **January 20, 2020**

LWV members are encouraged to personally communicate, as individual voters (not as LWV members), with their legislators on the various legislative bills. Previous issues of the Legislative Bulletin can be found at this link: <https://lwvmissouri.org/legislative-bulletin/>

SJR38 – Challenge to Clean Missouri

Several LWV members from St. Louis and Columbia attended the hearing on Tuesday, January 14 in the Missouri Senate Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions and Ethics Committee. The purpose of the bill is to introduce a change to Amendment 1-Clean Missouri which was passed by 62% of the electorate in the election of November 2018, which will cause gerrymandering of legislative districts.

Citizens spoke for and against the bill. A representative of the Farm Bureau made a short comment in favor of the bill and stated that the Farm Bureau supported the bill. Four people spoke against the bill, including Angie Dunlap from LWV of Metro St. Louis, a representative from the Sierra Club, and Otto Fajen, legislative director of MNEA.

Several of the Senators on the committee spoke in favor of the bill and none spoke against it.

This issue will continue to require everyone's vigilant efforts for this entire legislative term.

The bill was not voted out of the committee as of this date. If you haven't already contacted the members of this committee, here is the list and the counties they represent.

- Caleb Rowden
Caleb.Rowden@senate.mo.gov
Majority Floor Leader – Republican
District 19 – Boone and Cooper
- Dave Schatz
Dave.Shatz@senate.mo.gov
President Pro Tem – Republican
District 26 – Franklin and West St. Louis County
- Mike Bernskoetter
Mike.Bernskoetter@senate.mo.gov
Republican
District 06 – Cole, Gasconade, Maries, Miller, Moniteau, Morgan, and Osage
- Dan Hegeman
Dan.Hegeman@senate.mo.gov

Majority Caucus Chairman – Republican

District 12 – Andrew, Atchison, Clinton, Daviess, Dekalb, Gentry, Grundy, Harrison, Holt, Mercer, Nodaway, Putnam, Sullivan, Worth, and Part of Clay County

- Jason Holsman
Jason.Holsman@senate.mo.gov
Democrat
District 7 – Part of Jackson County
- Tony Luetkemeyer
Tony.Luetkemeyer@senate.mo.gov
Republican
District 34 – Buchanan and Platte
- Karla May
Karla.May@senate.mo.gov
Minority Caucus Chairwoman – Democrat
District 04 – Parts of St. Louis City & St. Louis County

For more information on the proposed bill, see <https://legiscan.com/MO/text/SJR38/id/2073846>

VOTER ID – Missouri Supreme Court Judgement – Good News!

The Missouri Supreme Court in January permanently struck down a portion of Missouri’s voter ID law. Election officials will not be allowed to require a photo ID to vote or represent in advertising and materials that a photo ID is required to vote.

In *Priorities USA v. Missouri*, the court agreed with the trial court’s conclusion that the affidavit portion of Missouri’s voter ID law was “misleading and contradictory” by inferring that a photo ID is required to vote when the law in fact allows voters to vote with non-photo ID. The court also acknowledged the fundamental nature of the right to vote under the Missouri Constitution, noting that the right to vote and right to equal protection under the Missouri constitution are “even more extensive than those provided by the federal constitution.”

The injunction that was issued just before the 2018 midterm elections is now permanent. Voters who present a non-photo ID cannot be asked to sign an affidavit and cast a regular ballot. And, election officials cannot represent to voters that a photo ID is required to vote.

The League expects a decision soon in its lawsuit against the Secretary of State on implementation of the voter ID law.

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT – Virginia is 38th State to Ratify!

Last week, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment – crossing the three-fourths threshold of support required from the states.

What is the Equal Rights Amendment? For a document that carries so much political weight and history, the Equal Rights Amendment is surprisingly short. As passed by Congress in 1972, the amendment said:

SECTION 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

SECTION 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

SECTION 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

Now we need Congress to remove the deadline so the ERA can become a permanent part of the U.S. Constitution.

When the ERA passed Congress in 1972, lawmakers attached a 1977 ratification deadline to it, which they later extended to 1982. Earlier this month, the League of Women Voters of the United States [sent a letter to the United States Congress](#) urging them to remove the ratification deadline on the ERA. The link (above) contains the LWV letter and details for your information.

You may want to contact your Congressperson and the two U.S. Senators from Missouri about the need to remove the deadline.

Here is a link where you can find their contact information:

[Contact Elected Officials](#)