



The Voter

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

Town Hall Meeting with State Legislators



The annual Town Hall Meeting with State Legislators will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2013 at the Boone County Government Building, in the Commission Chambers. Refreshments and social time will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the Town Meeting will follow at 7:00 p.m..

The public is invited to hear directly from area legislators about the committees they serve on, key legislation, and their views on the priorities for this year's legislative session. A question and answer session will follow the legislators'

statements - a time to share your issues and concerns.

Legislators who have been invited include Senator Kurt Schaeffer (Dist. 19), Rep. Caleb Rowden (Dist. 44), Rep. Chris Kelly (Dist. 45), Rep. Stephen Webber (Dist. 46), Rep. John Wright (Dist. 47) and Rep. Caleb Jones (Dist. 50).

This event is free and open to the public and is co-sponsored by the Columbia Public Library.

Eleanor Goodge Award - Call for Nominations

In the spring, we look inward to honor a LWV member with the Eleanor Goodge Award for Exemplary Service to the League of Women Voters.

This award is presented to a member of the LWV of Columbia-Boone County who has demonstrated exemplary service and a long term commitment to the principles of the League. The primary service should be at the local level, but may also include service at the state and/or national level. This award does not need to be given each year and may be given posthumously. It will not be given solely in recognition of one's

performance in an elected or appointed League assignment.

Some previous recipients include Lorene Emmerson (2009), Carolyn Leuthold (2012), and Maydell Senn (2013).

If you would like to nominate someone to receive this award, please send their name and a brief description of their service activities to Marilyn_McLeod@yahoo.com by March 15, so that the board can make a selection at our March board meeting. The award will be presented at our Annual Meeting in April.

3-D Printing on CAT TV for February 12

What is 3-D printing? How will it change manufacturing and medicine? These are some of the topics we will cover in the February 12th LWV CAT TV Show at 7 p.m. We will have Columbia middle school teachers Allan Sharrock, Robert Ndessokia and Taylor Adams on our panel. Jim Robertson, managing editor of the Columbia Daily Tribune, will be the moderator.

CAT TV can be found on Mediacom Channel 85, Charter Communications 983, and CenturyTel Prism 601. The program will be available on our website a few days after February 12th or at www.columbiaaccess.tv. The replays on CAT TV are 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

January Board Report

The LWV Board finalized plans for many spring activities:

The Annual Meeting will be on April 10th with Vicki Russell speaking and a call for nominations for the Eleanor Goodge award was made. Ann Covington will be unable to attend due to a MU Curators Meeting, so we will find another way to get her the Outstanding Citizen Award.

Statewide candidate filing day is February 25th at the Secretary of State's office. Lael Von Holt will be part of the LWV team providing candidates with coffee and snacks. Other board members may also attend.

The Ag Study consensus meeting will be February 26th and the board was updated on information being provided in this Voter.

Ed Fund requests were approved for co-sponsoring an event with the Sunshine Coalition on March 12th and for an LWV Mental Health Forum on May 20th.

A grant application form was approved for persons or organizations looking for LWV scholarships to attend Mental Health First-Aid Training programs.

The LWV will have a booth at the annual Columbia Earth Day festival.

Win Colwill has volunteered to be our Fundraising Chair. Spamalot is our fundraising

play for June 11th and we would like to "fill the house" at CEC, as our show will be the first of this play anywhere in central Missouri. Win has also been appointed as an off-board member.

The board approved the recommendation from the program planning meeting that our recommendation to LWVUS for a study be a concurrence with the LWV of New Jersey for a position on human trafficking.

The board discussed how to avoid having to cancel the December luncheon due to weather. We are looking at changing our formal luncheon to earlier in the fall. The board is also looking at having quarterly meetings. A subcommittee was formed to look at these issues and report back to the board. The members are Marilyn McLeod, Joni O'Connor, Ava Fajen, Marcia Walker and Diane Suhler.

The board members thanked Marcia Walker for getting us a meeting room at the Broadway Christian Church for our board meetings. Our February board meeting will be on Monday, Feb. 24th at 6:30 p.m.



Carol Schreiber
Co-President

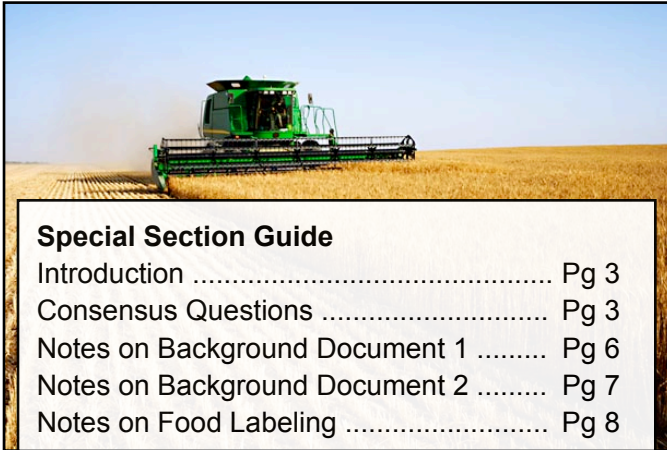
Friends of the LWV of Columbia-Boone County

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 11, 2013. For February we recognize:

- Mediacom and employees Sheila Kausler and Nick Thompson. Mediacom re-broadcasts our forums. Sheila provided the video services for all of our forums. Nick filled in for Sheila at a forum.
- Our panel for the CAT TV show in March 2013: Ene Chippendale, Chris Bouchard and Keith McLaughlin. The show was on Small Business in Today's Economy. Ene is the owner of Focus on Learning and a LWV member. Chris is with MU's Small Business and Technology Develop.m.ent and Keith McLaughlin is with Bank of Missouri.

Thanks for being a Friend of the LWV.

SPECIAL SECTION: AGRICULTURE UPDATE



Special Section Guide

Introduction	Pg 3
Consensus Questions	Pg 3
Notes on Background Document 1	Pg 6
Notes on Background Document 2	Pg 7
Notes on Food Labeling	Pg 8

Introduction

The League of Women Voters is currently working on an update of its 1988 policy positions related to agriculture. Our local group will meet Feb. 26 at 6:00 p.m. at the Boone Electric Coop Conference Room to consider a set of consensus questions. These questions and some educational resources are included in this special section. Please take a look at the resources here and online and plan to attend the Feb. 26 Consensus Meeting.

The Update addresses: 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified

organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and 2) current agriculture finance issues including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process.

To prepare for the consensus meeting, it will be helpful to do a little background reading. The Ag Update Committee has identified three documents that they believe provide a broad and relatively neutral overview of the complex issues addressed by U.S. agricultural policy, and three websites that provide related information. Excerpts from two of these documents are included in this newsletter. All of these resources can be found at <http://www.lwv.org/content/about-agriculture-update-and-committee>

The Ag Study website also provides a variety of additional resources on the topics of aquaculture, organic farming, genetically engineered food, nanotechnology, labeling, sustainable agriculture, crop insurance, and animal management (<http://www.lwv.org/content/agricultural-update-multimedia-resources-background-information>).

AGRICULTURE UPDATE CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

Economic Health of the Agricultural Sector

1. Should government financial support for agriculture be directed to:

- Subsidized agricultural credit (loans) (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Disaster assistance (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Crop insurance (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Farms that supply local and regional markets (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Subsidized implementation of best management practices (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Commodity crop programs, e.g., corn, soybeans, sugar, cotton, wheat (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Commodity livestock program (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Commodity dairy program (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Specialty crops, e.g. fruits, vegetables, nuts, etc. (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Other production methods, e.g. organic, hydroponic, urban, etc. farms (Yes, No, No Consensus)

2. What changes should government make regarding direct payment programs to farm operators?

Note: Farm operators can be anything between family farms to huge corporations.

- Eliminate direct payments to farm operators (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Update the rules for direct payments to farm operators to support sustainability (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Broaden the types of farms that are eligible (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Broaden the types of crops that are eligible (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- Effectively enforce existing rules (Yes, No, No Consensus)

(cont'd on next page)

(cont'd from page 3)

3. What changes to current crop insurance programs should government make?

- a) Extend to more types of crops (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) Link to the use of conservation practices (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- c) Limit insurance for the cultivation of marginal and environmentally sensitive land (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- d) Cap amount of premium subsidy to a single farm operator (see note in question 2) (Yes, No, No Consensus)

4. Should government act on any of the following?

- a) Revise anti-trust legislation to ensure competitive agricultural markets (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) Enforce anti-trust laws as they relate to agriculture (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- c) Promote alternative marketing systems, including regional hub markets, farmer cooperatives, farm markets, etc. (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Animal Management

5. Which of the following approaches to animal management should government achieve?

- a) Transparently collect and disclose data about regulated animal feeding operations (AFOs) or aquaculture operations and about the health of animals in such regulated operations (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) Apply and enforce existing clean air and clean water regulations to animal or seafood management facilities (Yes, No, No Consensus)

6. Which of the following approaches to animal waste management should government require or bring about?

- a) Treat animal waste with environmentally sound technologies for all regulated AFOs (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) Prioritize federal funds to mitigate existing environmental challenges (such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program, cost share, loans, etc.) rather than construction of new facilities (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Research and Development

7. Which of the following approaches to research and development (R&D) should government fund or accomplish?

Note: For the purpose of these questions and some questions below, “developed using any new technology” or “new technologies” refer to any of many scientific processes for developing new crops or animals with genetic engineering, nanotechnology or other new techniques, which are not the traditional breeding or hybridization techniques.

- a) Basic research (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) Independent third-party (such as an academic institution) risk assessment of products developed using any new technology (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- c) Research to assess the impacts of new technologies on human health and the environment, prior to their widespread adoption (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- d) Research that advances the continuation of diversified and sustainable agricultural systems (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- e) Seed banking, research, and other means that promote and preserve genetic diversity (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- f) Both transparency in the reporting of research studies related to approval of new products and respect for intellectual property rights of private enterprises engaged in research (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- g) Research on long-term effects of new crops, products and processes (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- h) Development of new practices and technologies to promote conservation for all types of farms (Yes, No, No Consensus) (cont'd on next page)

(cont'd from page 4)

Food Safety

8. Which of the following approaches to food safety should government perform or fund?

- a) Clarify and enforce pre-market testing requirements for new foods and food additives developed using any new technology (see note below question 7) (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) Require developers to monitor all food products developed using any new technology after releasing to the market (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- c) Withdraw marketing approval if products are shown to be unsafe (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- d) Require post-market monitoring of approved pharmaceutical applications in animal production for human health and environmental impacts (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- e) Require developers of new products to provide data and other materials to independent third-parties (such as academic institutions) for pre- and post-market safety assessment as appropriate (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- f) Limit use of antibiotics in animal production to treat and control disease (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- g) Fund independent third-party (such as academic institutions) risk assessment of long-term and multiple exposures from foods on human health and the environment (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- h) Promote crop management practices that decrease dependency on added chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, and synthetic fertilizers) (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- i) Fund, train and add personnel for assessment and compliance functions of regulatory agencies (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Food Labeling

9. How sufficient are the following regarding current food labeling?

- a) Nutrition Facts on food labels (Insufficient, Sufficient, Too much, No Consensus)
- b) Nutrition Facts on food labels as a means of consumer education (Insufficient, Sufficient, Too much, No Consensus)
- c) Common allergen labeling (Insufficient, Sufficient, Too much, No Consensus)
- d) Health and ingredient claims that consumers can understand (Insufficient, Sufficient, Too much, No Consensus)

10. Which of the following should government achieve regarding marketing and ingredient claims on food labels?

- a) Define (and approve for use) health and safety marketing terms (e.g. immunity support, humane, pasture-raised, natural, etc.) (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) Regulate the use of images or other sensory advertising (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- c) Require that ingredient marketing claims accurately represent what is in the required ingredient list (Yes, No, No Consensus)

11. Recognizing that each food developed using any new technology can be unique, and assuming that required food labeling should be useful to consumers, should the following generalized information relating to how products or components are developed be presented on food labels?

See note below question 7. All these questions also assume some percentage threshold of new technology ingredients, such as the 0.9% used in the European Union.

- a) Contains ingredients developed using any new technology stating which technologies are involved (Not Recommended, Voluntary, Mandatory, No consensus)
- b) Does not contain ingredients developed using any new technology (Not Recommended, Voluntary, Mandatory, No consensus)
- c) If meat, fish, eggs, or dairy products are from animals that have consumed feed developed using any new technology stating which technologies are involved (Not Recommended, Voluntary, Mandatory, No consensus)

Background Doc #1: Challenges and Opportunities in U.S. Agriculture

The LWV website describes the first recommended reading as “the administration’s perspective on the key agricultural policy issues that need to be addressed in 2013 as reported in *Challenges and Opportunities in U.S. Agriculture* (Chapter 8 of the *Economic Report of the President- 2013*). Although the content of this 28-page report goes beyond the specific topics in the Update Scope, the Committee considers it an excellent introductory document offering background on such topics as the role of agriculture in the U.S. economy, structural changes that have taken place since the 1920s, the development of new markets (e.g., organic, local), the contribution of research and development to productivity growth, agriculture in world trade, and the challenges of agricultural risk management.”

This paper has two parts and contains numerous figures. A few excerpts from each section are provided here. See the full paper for many more important topics (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/ERP-2013/ERP-2013-chapter8/content-detail.html>)

Part One -- The Agricultural Sector in 2012:

“The structure of farming continues to move toward fewer, but larger commercial operations producing the bulk of farm commodities, complemented by a growing number of smaller farms earning most of their income from off-farm sources. Small family farms—those with annual sales less than \$250,000—make up 90 percent of U.S. farms. They also hold about 62 percent of all farm assets, including 49 percent of the land owned by farms. However, commercial farms, which make up the other 10 percent of the sector, account for 83 percent of the value of U.S. production. While most of these large farms have a positive profit margin, average profit margins for small farms are negative because of high operating costs, low sales, and lower productivity.” (p.239)

“The average age of U.S. farmers and ranchers has been increasing over time.... By 2007, 30 percent of all farms were operated by producers over 65. In comparison, only 8 percent of self-employed workers in nonagricultural industries in 2007 were that old.... Another 32 percent of all farms are operated by farmers aged 55 to 64 years. Farmers under 35 contribute only 6 percent of the total value of production. This demographic transition has

implications for the future of the U.S. agricultural sector.” (p.242)

“Americans benefit from a highly efficient agricultural sector and have higher standards of living now than at any point in the past.... The share of American household budgets devoted to food fell from 15 percent in 1984 to 13 percent in 2009. However, a rise in per capita income since 1984 has counteracted the decrease in the share of household budgets devoted to food, as real per capita spending on food has increased from \$3,592 in 1985 to \$4,229 in 2011 (in 2011 dollars). As their real incomes rise, most Americans do not need larger quantities of food to satisfy their nutritional needs. They are, however, changing their food choices to include higher value foods, such as better cuts of meat, a variety of fruits and vegetables, and organic and specialty food items.” (p.245-246)

This first section of the paper describes how large farms of today need less labor to produce larger volumes of products. It also covers conservation practices and related federal programs.

Part Two: Growing Global Demand for Food and Agricultural Commodities.

“The U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) estimates that global agricultural production will need to increase by around 60 percent to meet the anticipated increase in demand in 2050, given an additional 2.3 billion people and current consumption patterns. Meeting this demand will depend largely on increases in agricultural productivity because input scarcity, particularly of natural resources and environmental services, will become more binding with population growth and climate change.” (p.254)

“The rising global population is also expected to be accompanied by falling poverty rates and increasing incomes for a large fraction of the world’s population.... Rising global food demand and the expected change in dietary patterns accompanying the growth in income throughout the world, particularly in China, will lead to opportunities for growth in the U.S. agricultural sector, most notably in meat export.” (p.255) (cont’d on page 7)

“Continuing increases in the demand for agricultural products, especially resource intensive foods such as meat, are expected to have a deleterious impact on agricultural land, soil, and water, and to create broader ecosystem-level pressures.” (p.256) The likely impacts of climate change are also discussed.

“It is estimated that, for the past 15 years, about half of all hired laborers working in crop agriculture have lacked the proper immigration designation to work in the United States. Immigration policy, which influences the supply of and demand for labor as well as food prices ultimately paid by the consumer, is an important issue in the agricultural sector.” (p. 260)

“Traditionally, every five years, Congress passes a bundle of legislation, commonly called the “Farm Bill” that sets national agriculture, nutrition, conservation, and forestry policy.... The coming expiration of the current Farm Bill represents an opportunity to make the most significant reforms in agricultural policy in decades. The Senate Agricultural Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2012 would end direct payments—fixed annual payments to farmers based on their farms’ historical crop

production, paid without regard to whether a crop is currently grown—and streamline and consolidate farm programs, as well as reduce the Federal deficit by as much as \$23.6 billion over 10 years (CBO 2012). It could also strengthen priorities, such as efficient risk management, that help farmers, ranchers, and small business owners protect their investments and ensure a stable supply of needed agricultural product, while continuing to help the U.S. agricultural sector grow the economy.

“Highly volatile agricultural commodity prices can create significant income risk for farmers. At the same time, the current farm safety net is inefficient and unfair, creating distortions in production and crowding out market-based risk management options. Because program commodity production is concentrated on larger farms, these farms receive the largest share of taxpayer-supported program payments, even though this group of farm households has incomes that are on average three times the average U.S. household.” (p.261)

This section of the paper also explains how the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act and the over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives market affect agribusiness.

Background Doc #2: The Healthy Farm, A Vision for US Agriculture

The second document is described on the LWV website as a “Union of Concerned Scientists policy brief entitled *The Healthy Farm: A Vision for U.S. Agriculture*. This is an 8-page position statement by the UCS and is, therefore, not entirely neutral. We selected it because it looks at farming from a variety of perspectives (production, economics, and environment) and a variety of farming systems (industrial, conventional, organic, etc.), offering examples of technologies and management practices able to contribute to the UCS vision of a healthy farm. The report contains many useful references and links. http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/food_and_agriculture/The-Healthy-Farm-A-Vision-for-US-Agriculture.pdf

“American agriculture is at a crossroads: a point where we can either apply our scientific knowledge to create a vibrant and healthful food and farming system for the future, or double down on an outdated model of agriculture that is rapidly undermining our environment and our health. This model, the “industrial” agriculture system developed by business and science working

together in the decades following World War II, had the goal of generating as much product as possible. It succeeded—by using approaches better suited to making jet fighters and refrigerators than working with living systems—but at a high cost.

“... The good news is that the science of living systems has not stood still, and we have learned that there are alternatives to industrial agriculture that—by recycling resources and working with, rather than against, biological systems—can be just as productive, while sustaining that productivity far into the future.”

The policy brief explains that “healthy farms” need to be productive, contribute to a vibrant rural economy, and use resources sustainably. Four Steps to Healthier Farms are described: (1) Take a landscape approach and realize that farms are not isolated from each other or the natural systems around them; (2) Grow and rotate more crops - rotating a variety of crops over time, including legumes, increases soil fertility and reduces pests and weeds; (3) Reintegrate livestock and crops; and (4) Use more cover crops. (cont’d on page 8)

(cont'd from page 7)

In describing the reintegration of livestock and crops, the article explains: "U.S. livestock production was once conducted on the same farms that grew feed crops, but over the past half-century, most livestock have been removed from that setting and consolidated into enormous CAFOs (confined animal feeding operations) that produce far too much manure to be distributed as fertilizer economically (since crop fields are often too far away). Instead, the manure spills from lagoons, runs off fields, or leaches into groundwater—transforming the nutrients in manure from the valuable resources they could be into dangerous pollutants. The current situation is deemed economically efficient only because livestock producers can ignore the societal costs of pollution and the lost value of manure in their calculations.

"Plant and animal agriculture can be reintegrated in several ways. Some livestock, especially beef cattle and dairy cows, could be raised partially or entirely on pastures, which (when well managed and not overstocked) would reduce soil erosion, increase soil fertility, store carbon, and provide habitat for beneficial organisms. Pasture-raised livestock also require fewer antibiotics than those raised in CAFOs, reducing their contribution to the spread of antibiotic-resistant disease. Furthermore, pasture-based and other integrated livestock operations offer midwestern farmers the opportunity to meet rising consumer demand for healthy, humane, grass-fed, and sustainably raised meats and milk (Winrock International 2012)."

The article concludes with recommendations for what farmers need in order to achieve these changes, including financial incentives, technical assistance, and research. A lengthy list of references is also provided.

NOTE: A respected local resource on sustainable farming can be found at <http://web.missouri.edu/~ikerdj/>

Ag Study Background: Food Labeling

Below are Carol Schreiber's Notes from an AAUW Presentation by Martha Draggich, MU Professor of Law on May 7, 2013.

Last major food labeling legislation is from 1938

- From 1938: Label requires common name of food; common name of each ingredient, place of manufacturer, packer or distributor; accurate statement of contents (weight, measure, etc.).
- From 1950s: Statement on artificial flavorings, coloring or preservatives; required warning statements; statement on major "food allergens"
- From 1980s and 90s: Nutrient content

Nutrient Terms Regulated

- FDA has defined 12 terms that cannot be used in misleading way: some are "free", "low fat", "reduced", "lean", "good source", "light", and "healthy."
- Examples of misleading: frozen broccoli as "low fat"

What is not required to be labeled:

- Processing aids that are not "added to" the product, i.e., ammonia in beef
- Substances generally recognized as safe: i.e., olestra (fat replacement), BPA in food packaging

- Substances that per FDA do not change the nutritional content of food: i.e., genetically modified engineering; artificial hormones in milk; mechanical tenderizing of meat
- Process of production facts: humane treatment of animals, fair labor practices, fair trade practices

Other Label Terms and Claims

- Certified Humane for dairy, eggs, meat: nutritious diet, no hormones or antibiotics, sufficient space, opportunity to engage in natural behaviors
- Fair Trade Certified for tea, rice, sugar, chocolate, coffee: fair wages, no child labor
- Food Alliance for meat, wheat, dairy products, vegetables, frozen fruits: safe and fair work conditions, good environmental practices, humane treatment of animals
- Grass-fed/pastured: animals have access to pasture, not fed grain; but hormones and antibiotics are OK

Beware of these claims:

- Antibiotic-free (banned) or Raised without antibiotics (allowed, but no certification system) (Cont'd on page 9)

SPECIAL SECTION: AGRICULTURE UPDATE

(cont'd from page 8)

- Free range – chickens qualify with only 5 minutes of fresh air access; no regs for eggs, beef
- Hormone-free – no regs for this
- Multi-grain – only requirement is more than one type of grain, but doesn't have to be whole grain
- Whole grain – no standards unless stamp Whole Grain Council

“Organic” Food Labels

- 100% Organic or Organic (95-99% ingredients) – may carry USDA Organic seal
- May have been produced with certain synthetic substances or ingredients but not fed growth hormones or antibiotics or subjected to irradiation or genetic engineering
- Compliance with requirements must be certified by an identified accredited certifying agents

“Natural” Food Labels

- FDA has declined to take any action to define “natural” since 2006
- USDA defines “natural” to mean: does not contain artificial flavor, color, chemical preservative, or other artificial or synthetic ingredient; product's ingredients are “not more than minimally processed”
- The National Advertising Division of the Council of BBBs adopted flexible rule: allows advertiser to define the scope of the term “natural” or holds the advertiser to the broadest meaning at that term.

Examples of practices that are acceptable in “natural” products but not “organic” products:

- Toxic solvents (such as hexane) to produce corn and soy oils
- Toxic fumigants to treat products in storage
- Toxic organophosphate pesticides in the field
- Genetically engineered ingredients

END SPECIAL SECTION: AGRICULTURE UPDATE

Raising City Renewable Energy Goals

In January, the LWVCBC sent a letter, drafted by Win Colwill and Dick Parker, to the Mayor and City Council, in support of raising renewable energy goals. Dick also attended the City Council meeting on Jan 14 to testify. The council voted to accept the goals. Below is a slightly abbreviated version of the letter:

The League of Women Voters strongly supports the proposed amendment to raise the renewable energy goals in Columbia's Renewable Energy Ordinance.

The League's national position on energy policy includes “predominant reliance on renewable resources.” Increasing the requirements for renewable energy will help Columbia meet future growth in electric demand with pollution-free green power instead of fossil fuels that harm health and degrade our environment.

In 2004, when Columbia citizens voted overwhelmingly to enact a Renewable Energy Standard, the city gained state and national recognition as a leader in clean energy. Columbia has shown it can meet and surpass current ordinance targets without exceeding the

3% cost limit. Renewable energy now is over 7% of Columbia's electric supply, well above the current 5% goal for 2012. The increasing availability of diverse renewable resources and their declining cost bodes well for Columbia's energy future. Water & Light's recent RFP for renewable energy elicited eleven bids for wind and solar sources. New sources of biomass energy are also being evaluated.

Wind energy is currently the city's lowest cost renewable source, but Columbia's solar potential has hardly been tapped. An informational campaign highlighting the 30% federal tax credit for residential solar systems, and Water & Light's solar rebates and loans could stimulate additional solar installations. Solar installations provide new jobs, strengthening the local economy. The Community Solar program now under study would offer Columbians the opportunity to invest in a solar project even when their residence is not an ideal site.

We respectfully request City Council members to vote in favor of the new renewable energy targets.



Upcoming League Events!



February 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 FEBRUARY
2	3 Play and Fundraising Committee Mtg 10:30 a.m. Library Room A	4	5	6 Legislative Town Hall 7 p.m., Boone County Comm Chambers	7	8
9	10	11	12 CAT TV 7 p.m. 3D Printing	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Paul Pepper 8:50 a.m. KBIA Board MTG, 6:45 p.m. Broadway Christian Church	25 Filing Day at Secretary of State's Office Contact Lael Von Holt for information	26 Ag Study Consensus 6:00 p.m., Boone Electric Cooperative	27	28	1 MARCH
2	3	4	5 CAT TV 7P.M.	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Sunshine Coalition Event Library	13	14	15
16	17	18 Forum: Candidate/ Ballot Issues	19	20	21	22
23	24 Board MTG, 6:45 p.m. Broadway Christian Church	25 Paul Pepper 8:50 a.m. KBIA	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Contact Information

LWV Officers:

Co-Presidents:
 Marilyn McLeod (445-3500) and
 Carol Schreiber (657- 1467)
 1st VP: Liz Schmidt (445- 0655)
 2nd VP: Ava Fajen (424- 6683)
 Secretary: Marcia Walker
 (443-8666)
 Treasurer: Susie Liu (442-0313)

LWV Board Members:

Elaine Blodgett (256-2803)
 Rachel Brekhus (875-4295)
 Sue Breyfogle (474-7977)
 Holly Burgess (449-0625)
 Joni O'Connor (234-1012)
 Dick Parker (256-4397)
 Midge Pinkerton (445-2052)
 Peggy Placier (442-2996)
 Pam Springsteel (445-0642)
 Diane Suhler (443-0549)
 Shirley Troth (443-7033)
 Lael Von Holt (443-7747)

LWV Committee Chairs:

Civil Liberties:
 Marilyn McLeod (445-3500)
 Education: Peggy Placier
 Energy Matters: Dick Parker
 Health: Jan Swaney (442-3172)
 Membership: Liz Schmidt
 Mental Health: Lael Von Holt
 Voter Service: Carol Schreiber
 Voter Editor: Ava Fajen

Board Meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month. All members are welcome to attend.



Membership Application



Send your dues to Membership Chair, League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 239, Columbia, MO 65205. Thanks to all LWV members for renewing your membership!
 Dues are \$55 for individuals, \$80 for a household and \$15 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.)

Websites:
 Local: lwvcbc.org
 State: lwvmissouri.org
 National: lwv.org

Maydell Senn has been experiencing some health issues

and is now living with her son. Mail to her is welcome at this address:
 Maydell Senn
 C/O Rick Senn
 775 Lake Marey Rd.
 Fairlee, VT, 05045
 (Phone: 603-653-3037)

Holly Burgess is also experiencing some health issues

and will be in St. Louis for the next 3 months. Please use this address:
 Holly Burgess
 C/O Jill Muth
 9435 Sunny Creek Lane
 Sunset Hills, MO 63127

The husband of long time LWV member, Carol Blount, died recently. Carol died in January 2013 and her husband, Dr. Donald Blount, died in November.



League of Women Voters

PO Box 239

Columbia MO 65205

<http://lwvcbc.org>

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**The Time is Now to Participate in the
LWV Agriculture Update Study!**

- Look inside on pages 3 to 9 for the consensus questions and related articles.
- Go online to read recommended articles, view recommended websites, and enjoy related videos at <http://www.lwv.org/content/about-agriculture-update-and-committee>
- Attend the consensus meeting on Feb. 26 at 6:00 p.m. at the Boone Electric Cooperative Conference Room.



**AG STUDY CONSENSUS
MEETING FEBRUARY 26**



**LOOK INSIDE FOR A COMPLETE CALENDAR
OF UPCOMING EVENTS ON PG 10**