



# The Voter

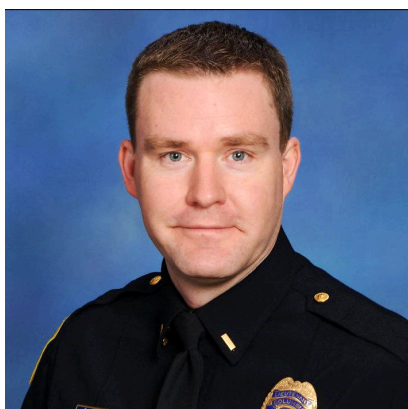
The League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County, MO

## MARCH 9 LUNCH & LEARN: COLUMBIA POLICE CHIEF GEOFF JONES



Our Lunch & Learn program at noon on Tuesday, March 9, will feature an update on the Columbia Police Dept. by Chief Geoff Jones. Chief Jones spoke at a Lunch & Learn program in 2019, soon after he became Columbia's Police Chief. We look forward to hearing from him again. The program is co-sponsored by the Columbia Public Library and will again be on Zoom. There will be an opportunity to ask questions through the Zoom Chat feature.

On April 13 we look forward to getting a report from Carolyn Amparan and Jay Haysheider on Columbia's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and



Columbia Water & Light's Integrated Energy and Resource Master Plan. They will also share what you can do to help.

As always, we welcome your suggestions for Lunch and Learn topics and speakers for the coming year.

You will need to register for these events on the library's website: [events.dbri.org](https://events.dbri.org). Lunch & Learn Programs are also recorded and can be viewed on our website and our Facebook page.

— Barbara Hoppe, Chair  
Lunch & Learn Committee

## APRIL ELECTION CANDIDATE FORUMS ON MARCH 16 AND 23



The LWV Candidate Forums for the April 6th Election will be on March 16 and 23. The races on the ballot are for Columbia City Council Wards 2 and 6; the Columbia School Board; and State Representative District 45.

**On Tuesday, March 16 we will have the candidates for Columbia City Council Ward 2:** Bill Weitkemper, Jim Meyer, and Andrea Waner; and Ward 6: Betsy Peters, Randy Minchew, and Philip Merriman.

**On Tuesday, March 23 we will have the candidates for Columbia School Board:** Teresa Maledy, Lucas Neal, Aron Saylor, Katherine Sasser, and Jeanne Snodgrass. **In addition, we will have candidates for MO State Representative District 45:** David Tyson Smith (Democratic) and Glenn Nielsen (Libertarian). The winner of this race will replace Kip Kendrick, who resigned from the position.

All candidates have confirmed that they will participate.

Both forums will be co-hosted by the Columbia Public Library, will be on Zoom, and will begin at 7:00 p.m. We will be using the library's Zoom account, so you must register through their site: [events.dbri.org](https://events.dbri.org). We will send an email reminder and the registration link in March. Barbara Hoppe, former Columbia City Councilwoman and LWV member, will moderate the forums. The candidates will have time for a two-minute opening statement, questions and answers from the moderator and through Zoom Chat, and closing one-minute statements.

The last day to register to vote is March 10. To register to vote, go to: <http://bit.ly/boonevote>

— Carol Schreiber

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This message includes some information from the Board meeting which was held on Monday, February 19 on Zoom. Many of the items discussed at the meeting are addressed in other articles in this issue of *The Voter*, but here are some things that may be new and some other thoughts.

**Education Committee** – Vena Long has moved out of state, so she is no longer chair of the Education Committee. The Board members discussed some of the activities of the Education Committee in the past, including school tours, inviting the superintendent of schools to speak, studying issues and legislation (for example, Charter Schools), and holding forums on education-related issues.

Diane Suhler suggested that we promote civic education and social studies. This idea seemed to get the "juices flowing." Elaine Blodgett and Diane suggested we promote civics with "facts of the month" on social media and Barbara Hoppe suggested we write op-eds four times a year on civics. The group was just getting started! This sounds like an idea whose time has come (again!).

Citizens often take their democracy for granted, and it is always a good idea to bring attention to its critical importance in our lives. Some additional ideas were circulating after this meeting, so if you are interested in participating, please contact me and I'll get you connected.

**State Program Planning** – Twelve members attended the program planning meeting in January. The Board reviewed and discussed a summary of the meeting. One of the issues of concern to the attendees was bills in the state legislature taking away local government control over both public health ordinances and other issues such as orders to keep CAFOs (Confined Animal Feeding Operations) out of counties.

A committee of Board members made up of Elaine, Mahree, Barbara, Ruth and Carol formed to decide whether to recommend a LWVMO concurrence with another state's position on "local control" or to study the issue locally. Mahree and Elaine researched other state Leagues and found acceptable state positions on "local control." After consideration, the committee recommended to the Board to ask

LWVMO to concur with the Colorado position. The Board approved this recommendation and will submit it to the LWVMO Board for their consideration

**Proposed Bylaws** – The Board reviewed some proposed changes and updates to the Bylaws. Most changes were made to add flexibility due to unexpected events (such as COVID) and to delete outdated membership categories. There are also some changes mandated by the national LWV. The proposed changes will be distributed to members in the April *Voter* and will be voted on at the Annual Meeting.



**Redistricting** - One might think that after 100 years for League action, there wouldn't be much to do, but it appears that the work continues to be needed. I am very proud that Sharon Schneeberger is chairing the LWVMO Redistricting Committee and that Carol Schreiber is a member of the committee. At a recent statewide introductory meeting about the subject, I noticed several other local LWV members have volunteered to help. That is great news!

Redistricting will be a major focus this year, that is for sure. This is something that is critical to the functioning of the government and the relationship of the voters to their elected leaders. Fair maps are critical. If gerrymandering of the legislative district maps occurs to serve the interests of a single party – and note that both political parties do this – then the politicians choose their voters and not the reverse – the voters need to choose their elected leaders.

(Cont'd on pg.4)

## DIGITAL VOTER GUIDE FOR APRIL ELECTION

For the first time, the LWV will put together a digital Voter Guide for the April 6th Election. We will include candidates for the Columbia City Council Wards 2 and 6; Columbia School Board; and State Representative District 45.

We will ask candidates to provide biographical information and



answer questions related to the positions they seek. We will then provide their answers in the Voter Guide. The deadline for responses will be March 5. We plan to have the digital Voter Guide ready by March 16.

— Carol Schreiber

## MINORITY YOUTH: INEQUITIES IN JUSTICE

In planning for this year, the Civil Liberties Committee decided to address the issue of racial justice. LWV Member Janet Thompson suggested focusing on the racial inequality in the “school to prison” pipeline. The committee took her recommendation and, along with a number of local cosponsors, presented a two-part public forum on “Minority Youth: Inequities in Justice” in February.

Lauren Williams, our partner at the Columbia Public Library, provided this excellent summary of Part I, which was held on February 3:

In part one of our forum on Inequities in Justice we framed the issue in mid-Missouri, defining the school-to-prison pipeline. This pipeline refers to a path from the education system to the juvenile or adult criminal justice system that disproportionately affects students of color. Over the past two decades this path has grown significantly, with the approach to discipline in U.S. public schools having changed to incorporate zero tolerance policies and the Safe Schools Act.

We learned about how school discipline and the justice system are related, what the inequities are in the system, particularly around race, and how they affect young lives in the community. From 2008 to 2017, for example, black students in Missouri never represented more than 20 percent of enrolled students. But during that time period, they represented around 40 percent of total suspensions given in Missouri. [Source: the Columbia Missourian conducted an analysis on data sets obtained from the

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.]

Ranita Norwood, Supervisor of Student Services at Columbia Public Schools, provided information about the training they have started to provide staff around implicit bias, their focus on restorative justice, separating the deed or the behavior from the doer, and working to reintegrate youth into the school and wider community. Sarah Johnson, juvenile court public defender, and Ruth McCluskey, chief juvenile officer of the 13th judicial circuit, shared information about the 2018 Juvenile Justice Reform act which requires states to identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities. Asia Smith, a student at Battle High School, shared her perspective on the anxious relationship between minority students and some school staff, school resource officers, and the police in general.

Steve Calloway from the Minority Men’s Network clarified that this issue is part of a web of greater issues including segregated housing and lack of affordable housing, wealth and economic disparity and health disparities. There is racism in our systems, so this isn’t a problem that can be fixed by just a few people, just the schools, or just the justice system. We have to address the biases that are not only in ourselves but in our systems and rules and laws, and we need to work together as a community to create opportunities to support our young people in ways.

(Continued on pg. 10)



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR ANNUAL MEETING!

The LWVCBC Board is currently planning our Annual Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, April 28 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. (Although we are hopeful that many members will have been vaccinated by then and it might open the possibility of an in-person meeting, it seems wisest at this time to anticipate that the meeting will be on Zoom.)

We will have a guest speaker (TBA) and, of course, we will conduct the business of the LWV, including the report of the Nominating Committee, Budget Committee, Local Program,

proposed changes to the Bylaws and the presentation of the Eleanor Goodge Award for Exemplary Service to the LWV of CBC. Please mark your calendar as we do require a quorum! All the details will be included in the April Voter.

— Marilyn McLeod



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Cont'd from pg.2)

**Voter Protection Committee** – Sharon Schneeberger reported on the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition's update on legislation in the current MO legislative session. Denise Lieberman noted that if a bill has not passed one chamber by Spring Break, then there is less of a chance of it becoming law.

Bills of great concern are: HB334-strict voter ID; SB137-drastic purge of voter rolls; SB145-restriction on initiative petitions; SB26 & 66-protesting restrictions; HB738-prevent counting absentee ballots until after election day.

We are strongly in favor of US Congress bills HR1 (which includes rights restored; online voter registration; automatic voter registration; same day registration; early voting; vote by mail; election day as national holiday; and nonpartisan redistricting commissions) and HR4.

Here are the things we support: No excuse absentee voting; automatic voter registration; and jail absentee voting. We oppose: voter photo ID; efforts to restrict voting; and voter purges.

In Sharon's report, you will notice that there are two tracks related to voting. In Missouri, we are seeing attempts to restrict voters (e.g., strict voter ID, restrictions on initiative petitions, voter roll purges, etc.) At the national level, thankfully, there are proposals to do the opposite: to make it easier to vote.

I have presented, and could offer again, a program called "Voting in America: The Long and Winding Road" which tells the story of how long it took for our voting process to be truly inclusive of our citizens. Only with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was it finally possible that most (hopefully, all) eligible voters were able to vote. But the Supreme Court decision in 2013, *Shelby County v. Holder*, has brought back deliberate restrictions around the country to prevent certain people from voting.

President Biden recently said: "Democracy doesn't happen by accident. We have to defend it, fight for it, strengthen it." I am proud to say, the League's mission is exactly that.

On a more personal note, my hope is that you have already received your vaccination(s) or at least are in line for it. In the meantime, stay safe and stay well. And Spring is around the corner!

— Marilyn McLeod, President  
[Marilyn\\_mcleod@yahoo.com](mailto:Marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com)



## ELEANOR GOODGE AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE LWV

At our Annual Meeting in April, we will honor a League member with the Eleanor Goodge Award for Exemplary Service to the League of Women Voters.

If you have someone in mind that is deserving of the award, please send a statement detailing how your nominee meets the following criteria for the award:

Member of LWV of Columbia-Boone County.

- Exemplary service and a long-term commitment to the principles of LWV.
- Primary service should be at the local level but may include service at the state or national level.

- Service goes beyond service in an elected or appointed LWV assignment.
- This award does not need to be given each year and may be given posthumously.

Some previous recipients include Carolyn Leuthold (2012), Maydell Senn (2013), Lael Von Holt (2014), Kathryn Allen (2015), Win Colwill (2016), Elaine Blodgett (2017), Joni O'Connor (2018), Ava Fajen (2019) and Pam Springsteel (2020).

Please send your nomination to [lwvcbc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcbc@gmail.com) by March 12. The board will vote on this award at the March board meeting and it will be presented at our "virtual" Annual Meeting in April.

— Marilyn McLeod

## LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING

As you probably know, since its beginning, the League of Women Voters studies public policy issues and, depending on the consensus of the members, uses those studies as the basis for their public policy positions, called "program" in LWV terminology. In advance of the state or national conventions, in alternate years, members are asked to review the previous policy positions of the LWV at either of those two levels and suggest changes or additions to the current program. This year, for example, we looked at the state policy positions since there will be a state convention in May.

However, and this is a big however, we are also supposed to review our Local Program every year in advance of our own local Annual Meeting and vote on any suggested changes or additions at that meeting.

With apologies... we have not done this for several years. We've been so busy with national and state that this was somehow overlooked. (And we didn't have Liz Schmidt to remind us!) So to ameliorate this situation, please find attached to this issue of *The Voter* the most current Local Program that we have. Please review it and if you have any comments, corrections or suggested additions, please forward them either via email to: [lwvcbc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcbc@gmail.com) or by postal mail to: LWVCBC, PO BOX 239, Columbia 65205. Please do so by March 12 so that the board can review your suggestions and then we can send the proposed revisions in the required time before the Annual Meeting. Thank you!

— Marilyn McLeod



## AMERICAN WOMEN ARTISTS SINCE THE VOTE

The MU Museum of Art and Archaeology exhibit “American Women Artists Since the Vote” can be viewed until April 4. As noted on the website: “This exhibition celebrates the centenary of the Nineteenth Amendment and the achievements of American women artists from every decade since 1920. The selection, all drawn from the Museum’s collection, includes a variety of media and techniques and represents artists that have found regional, national, and international success.”

Social distancing and mask precautions are in place, and you are likely to encounter very few other visitors. Museum hours are Tuesday - Friday: 9am to 4pm and Saturday & Sunday: Noon to 4pm.

Alisa McCusker, Curator of European and American Art, wrote about the exhibit in the Winter 2020 Museum Magazine: “The twentieth century witnessed a tremendous increase in the numbers of women creators, scholars, administrators, and business owners in the art world. This trend has continued in the first two decades of the current century, although women are still underrepresented in museum exhibitions, acquisitions, leadership roles, and boards. Much still remains to be done.

“This exhibition celebrates the centenary of the Nineteenth Amendment and the achievements of American women artists from every decade since 1920. The selection, all drawn from the Museum’s collection, includes a variety of media and

techniques and represents artists that have found national and international success, such as Louise Bourgeois, Helen Frankenthaler, and Lorna Simpson, along with artists that have tended to receive more local and regional recognition, such as Norma Bassett Hall, Daisy Cook, Brooke Cameron, Amy Worthen, and Jennifer McCurdy. Each of their visions matter—just like every vote counts.”



### LWVUS: Our Mission, Vision, and Value

#### Mission

Empowering voters. Defending democracy.

#### Vision

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

#### Value

We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

## COLUMBIA RENEWABLE ENERGY UPDATE

**The basic question is: shall we aim for 100% renewable energy for the city electric utility by 2030, 2040 or 2050?**

I expect recommendations regarding this to go to the City Council this September from the Climate and Energy Commission, the Water and Light Advisory Board, and the Integrated Electric Resource and Master Plan task force. There is some pressure for them all to make the same recommendation but they could each make different recommendations.

As all who know me suspect I would like the City Council to set a goal of 100% renewable energy by 2030 using the current method of calculating costs and GHG responsibility.

### International Goals

The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in the fall of 2018 said that the world needed to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 55% from 2018 levels by 2030 (or by 7.6% each year until 2030) and this was supported in 2019 by the United Nations Environmental Program.

Obviously Columbia is a very small portion of the world, so what is our obligation?

Columbia, and many cities in the US and worldwide, have done Climate Action and Adaptation Plans (CAAP) using outdated global warming information, and set goals of 50% reduction of GHG by 2035.

Columbia's CAAP study began in 2017 and was concluding as the IPCC report was published. The task force elected not to change their goal dates, and consequently the goals they set for intermediate levels are 50% by 2035. Columbia selected 2015 as the base year since that was the most recent data available at the time.

### Columbia's Sources of GHG

In 2015, Columbia had six sources of greenhouse gas: 1) Three electric companies produced a total of 63%, of which Columbia's electric utility, (Columbia Water & Light), produced 45.5%; 2) Transportation produced 27%; 3) The UM power plant produced 13.5%; 4) Natural gas produced 8%; 5) Boone Electric Cooperative produced 4.4%; and 6) Landfill and waste water produced 2% (methane from bacterial digestion of organics escaping capture).

Columbia Water & Light currently plans to reach 45% renewable energy by 2024. The Truman Solar 10 MW solar field just east of town is scheduled to start delivering renewable energy on April 1. The UM power plant has already cut their greenhouse gas in half from the 2015 level.

Columbia has been a leader in climate action. I think that just meeting the world goal of 55% reduction by 2030 does not help us maintain that position. Columbia cannot achieve even a 55% reduction without our electric utility becoming 100% renewable.

That still leaves 10% to be cut from other sources. The University has already cut the GHG production in the power plant by half.



Transportation needs significant reduction by conversion to electric vehicles. Natural gas, the major source of heat for buildings, also needs to be cut. (Installing more customer-owned Photovoltaics is good, but once the utility reaches 100% it does not reduce GHG additionally.) Vehicles and natural gas replacement save customers money but come with up front costs which take a few years to earn back. These are things individual citizens, including League members, need to do.

Remember, GHG reduction this year is much better than GHG reduction next year! It accumulates and lasts for at least 100 years.

Clearly there exist many details to be worked out but the basics are clear. Columbia needs to set the goal for renewable energy at 100% by 2030 for the electric utility. The City Council needs to set that goal and League members should contact their City Council members and tell them what you think.

— Dick Parker





## Upcoming League Events!



### MARCH 2021

Sun day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesd ay	Thurs day	Friday	Satur day
28	<b>MARCH</b> 1	2	3 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50am	4	5	6
7	8	9 Lunch & Learn: Columbia Police Chief Jones Zoom at Noon	10	11	12	13
14	15 LWV Board Mtg. 7 p.m. Zoom	16 Candidate Forum City Council 7pm Zoom	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Candidate Forum School Board and State Rep 45th District 7pm Zoom	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	April 1	2	3
4	5	6 Election Day	7	8	9	10
11	12 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50am	13 Lunch & Learn: Columbia Plans for Climate & Energy Zoom at Noon	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 LWVCBC Annual Meeting	29 LWVUS Day of Action for Fair Maps	30	May 1



**LWV Officers:**

President: Marilyn McLeod  
(239-3708)  
1st VP: Barbara Hoppe (424-9668)  
2nd VP: Diane Suhler (443-0549)  
Secretary: Carol Schreiber  
(657-0639)  
Treasurer: Ruth Milledge  
(268-9591)

**Elected Directors:**

Elaine Blodgett (256-2803)  
Kate Canterbury (214-536-1300)  
Susan Clark (446-1678)  
Meredith Donaldson (289-3018)  
Rene Powell (864-4087)  
Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)  
Mahree Skala (474-2195)  
Pam Springsteel (445-0642)

**Appointed Director:**

Dick Parker (256-4397)

**Committee Chairs:**

100th Anniversary: Pam Springsteel  
Budget:  
Census: Carol Schreiber  
Civil Liberties: Marilyn McLeod  
Clean Missouri: Sharon  
Schneeberger  
Education: Open  
Energy & Climate: Dick Parker  
ERA: Susan Koenig  
Fundraising: Pam Springsteel  
Health: Mahree Skala  
Hospitality: Pam Springsteel  
Membership: Meredith Donaldson  
Mental Health: Mahree Skala  
Speakers Bureau: Open  
Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

**Voter Editor:** Ava Fajen

Local Website: [lwvcbc.org](http://lwvcbc.org)  
State: [lwvmisouri.org](http://lwvmisouri.org)  
National: [lwv.org](http://lwv.org)

Like us on Facebook: "League of Women Voters - Columbia, MO"

**Member News**

Welcome to new members:  
**Judy Masales, Catherine Sweet,  
and Barb Tucker**

Membership for 2021  
**197**

## 2021 MEMBERSHIP FORM

### League of Women Voters Columbia-Boone County

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues include local, state and national membership.

**NEW** \_\_\_\_\_ **RENEWAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Dues \$65 \_\_\_\_\_ **\$100\*** \_\_\_\_\_

Household Dues \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ **\$135\*** \_\_\_\_\_

First time member 30 years of age and under. **\$30** \_\_\_\_\_

Subsidized Dues (for members on limited income) \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Dues in honor of our 100th Anniversary! \$0** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Ages 16 to 23)**

Additional contribution to subsidize dues for members unable to afford membership rates. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

General Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to LWV Education Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please include a separate check for donations to the LWV Education Fund. Donations to Education Fund are tax-deductible)

Make Checks Payable to LWV and mail to:  
League of Women Voters  
PO Box 239  
Columbia, MO 65205

Newsletters are sent via email.

If you need a paper copy, please check \_\_\_\_\_

**\*We invite you to help celebrate our 100th Anniversary by joining or renewing at the Suffragist Level!**



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**League of Women Voters**

PO Box 239

Columbia MO 65205

<http://lwvcbc.org>

## **MINORITY YOUTH: INEQUITIES IN JUSTICE**

(Continued from pg. 3)

In Part II of this program, which was held on February 17, we focused on ways that local organizations, and individuals, are contributing to efforts to ameliorate the situation. Joanne Nelson and D'Andre Thompson from Boone County Community Services shared the results of a study that had major input from students in the Columbia school system, and offered their suggestions. Boone County Community Services provides funding for a number of organizations, including the Boys and Girls Club and Big Brothers/Big Sisters, which are examples of organizations where individuals in the community can offer their time.

Verna LaBoy, a member of the board of the Family Access Center of Excellence (FACE), spoke about how this organization works to improve access to high quality social, emotional, and behavioral health services for all Boone County youth (0-19) and their families. She also shared how grassroots efforts, such

as the Worley Street Roundtable, are another way to engage community members.

COR Columbia – where “COR” is the Latin word for “heart” – was also highlighted at this event. That organization focuses on young male athletes in the local schools who are mentored in their school work and in their lives by volunteers. Jason Fenstermacher, a faculty member, and three students from Battle High School shared their thoughts about the positive effect of this program in their lives.

Cosponsors of these forums included the Columbia Public Library, the Columbia NAACP, the Minority Men's Network, Alpha Kappa Alpha – Delta Tau Chapter, the Mid-Missouri Civil Liberties Association and the Boone County Children's Services Board.

Since there is more information to share, the committee is considering providing an additional program on the subject.

— Marilyn McLeod

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