



# The Voter

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

## JUNE 8 LUNCH & LEARN: FEDERAL \$ FOR CITY AND COUNTY FROM CARES AND ARPA ACTS



Our Lunch & Learn program at noon on Tuesday, June 8, will feature Boone County Commissioner Janet Thompson and Columbia City Finance Director Matt Lue. They will give us an update on city and county funds from the Cares Act and the American Rescue Plan. Viewers are welcome to pose questions in the Zoom Chat.

There will be no Lunch & Learn Programs for July and August. We will resume in September. We will also decide closer to that time whether and when we can get back to in-person programs at the library. The Zoom Lunch & Learn programs

have been so successful and well attended that we are looking into offering both virtual and in-person options!

Thank you to Lauren Williams and the Columbia Public Library for co-sponsoring these programs. 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

## REDISTRICTING: CENSUS APPORTIONMENT DATA RELEASED

The April 1, 2020 population counts to be used for apportionment were delivered to the President on April 26. These data are used to apportion the 435 seats in the U. S. Congress among the 50 states. Missouri will again have eight Congressional Districts for the next decade. Due to relative population changes, district boundaries must still be redrawn after each census. The Missouri General Assembly can now begin the process of drawing those boundaries.

The total U.S. population, which includes the 50 states plus Washington D.C., is 331,449,281. This is an increase of 7.4 percent since the 2010 census. This is the slowest growth since the Great Depression. It is the result of the birth rate being down, the death rate being up (COVID was a major factor), and a decline in international immigration to the United States. Apportionment calculations based on the 2020 Census show that Colorado, Florida, Montana, North Carolina, and Oregon will each gain one seat, while Texas will gain two seats. California, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia will each lose one seat.

The total population for Missouri is 6,160,281, an increase of 165,986 or 2.8 percent over the 2010 census. Missouri's ranking went from 18th to 19th most populated state. The average U. S. Congressional District will contain 761,169 people. In Missouri, all districts will have a goal of 770,035 people, so our "share" of our representative will be close to the average share.

Later this year, more detailed information from the census will be released and used to develop the Missouri Senate and House districts. These districts will be drawn by the 20-member House and Senate Independent Bipartisan Citizen Commissions. The process of selecting nominees for each of these commissions is now underway. If no map of the districts for either house is agreed upon by one or both commissions, the MO Supreme Court will appoint a Commission of Appellate Court Judges to draw the map or maps. For more information, go to: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/04/2020-census-data-release.html>

— Nancy Price, LWVMO  
Redistricting Committee

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy summer everyone! I hope you all have a more joyful, interactive and safe summer this year, as more people continue to be vaccinated.

Our May 17 board meeting was held by Zoom again. It has been easy, convenient and safe to attend evening board meetings in the comfort of our respective homes. However, we also miss meeting in person and look forward to meeting face to face for our board meetings eventually, with a virtual option, when we all feel comfortable doing so.

### Lunch & Learn

The Zoom Lunch & Learn programs have also been very successful and very well attended. We hope to offer a hybrid (in-person and virtual option) when it is safe to do so at the library. We are monitoring the situation, month by month, to decide when to meet in person again.

### LWVMO State Convention

While I was not able to attend the LWVMO State Convention on May 15, 2021, because of a previous commitment, I understand it went very well on Zoom, although it was a long day! Marilyn McLeod was elected president of LWVMO, Diane Suhler was elected as treasurer and Carol Schreiber was elected to the board.

There will be two new state-level studies: one on paid leave and one on alternative funding for public schools. Concurrences were approved on several issues: adding alternative voting to put LWVMO in line with LWVUS; criminal justice; pay day loans; and TIFs. There were pre-convention caucuses for each study and concurrence, and those who attended felt they were very well done.

Dr. Turner, president of the LWVUS, gave a very inspirational speech. Our state convention was one of only a handful where she spoke live and took questions!

### LWVCBC Annual Meeting

Thanks again to Professor Kathy Kiely of the MU School of Journalism, who was our keynote speaker at our Annual LWVCBC meeting last month. Professor Kathy Kiely's talk, "Democracy is a Fragile Thing," was informative, insightful and engaging. She included interesting and relevant stories of her

time in Washington, D.C. An edited version of her speech is on our website. We look forward to collaborating with her in the future.

### Medicaid Expansion

On a different note, the board was extremely disappointed, but not surprised, that the Missouri state legislature refused to uphold the will of the voters of Missouri and fund Medicaid expansion. This issue will now be taken up by the court system; a lawsuit to require the state to expand its Medicaid program in compliance with the Missouri constitution was filed May 20 in Cole County Circuit Court. We appreciate that the Missouri Foundation for Health is funding a substantial part of the legal expenses in this case, on the voters' behalf.

### Online Events about Voting

Locally, the Boone County Clerk's office is offering online events on Facebook which are virtual conversations about the history of voting, access, and how to register and vote in upcoming elections. The two remaining events will be "Voting Conversations: Access" on June 21, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., and "Voting Conversation: How-to" on July 12 at 6:30 p.m. Thank you to Boone County Clerk, Brianna Lennon.

Finally, a big thank you to Ava Fajen for putting this newsletter together in exemplary fashion, and to all the LWV board members and committee chairs who contributed articles.

— Barbara Hoppe, President  
[yesforparks@hotmail.com](mailto:yesforparks@hotmail.com)



## LWVCBC EDUCATION COMMITTEE READY FOR ACTION!

The Education Committee plans to address several issues related to youth and under-represented citizens. Committee members currently include Alice Reese, Claire Dooley, Ene-Kaja Chippendale, Linda Headrick, Barbara Hoppe, Meredith Donaldson, Susie Adams, and Zona Burk, Committee Chair. Other League members are asked to join the committee or send ideas.

The group will recruit youth members from Boone County high schools and colleges, and representatives from local adult groups, to get their input on how to facilitate engagement to support voting. Hopefully, these recruits could also provide a pathway to League membership. Membership in LWVCBC is free for people aged 16 to 23 and subsidized memberships are available for those with limited income.

While youth voter turnout increased in the recent national election, it is important to identify what facilitated the increase, what barriers still exist, and what is the current picture for Boone County.

The committee has some immediate tasks:

- Getting acquainted, developing a plan of work, and setting meeting dates.
- Identifying all public and private high schools and colleges in Boone County.
- Identifying and contacting organizations that serve under-represented groups.
- Researching voter participation in Boone County.
- Gathering relevant curriculum materials from the county's schools. We have the Missouri standards and outcomes, but specific learning activities vary.

All ideas and prospects are welcome!!! The Education Committee will also consider adding an ad hoc sub-committee that will work to get the next new public school in Columbia named for Luella St. Clair Moss.

— Zona Burk, Education Chair  
[z.burk@mchsi.com](mailto:z.burk@mchsi.com)

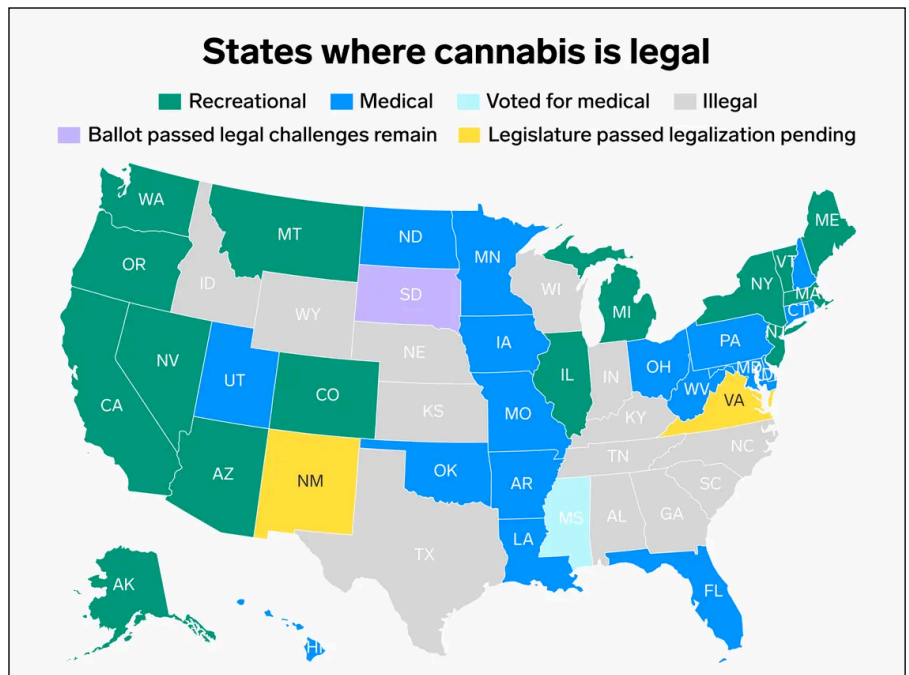
## NEW STUDY GROUP FORMING: MARIJUANA IN MISSOURI

Sixteen states and Washington, D.C. have legalized adult use of marijuana.

In 2012 the voters of both Colorado and Washington did so through the initiative process. In 2019 Illinois legalized marijuana use. In the last several weeks, Virginia, New Mexico and New York have legalized marijuana through legislative action.

There is a campaign underway to place this issue before Missouri voters in November of 2022. The Columbia/Boone County League is undertaking a study of this issue and will make a recommendation on whether our League should endorse this initiative.

Any members who are interested in joining the study committee are invited to contact Dan Viets, [DanViets@gmail.com](mailto:DanViets@gmail.com) or Pam Springsteel, [pspring@socket.net](mailto:pspring@socket.net)



This figure is from the *Business Insider*, April 14, 2021, <https://www.businessinsider.com/legal-marijuana-states-2018-1>

## MISSOURI 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Despite the difficulty of going to the Capitol for testimony or witnessing hearings during the pandemic, we were following many bills during the legislative session. Some LWV members did venture to the Capitol to testify or sent in testimony via the Internet.

We were especially concerned about bills that intended to limit voters' access to the ballot (strict voter ID) or impose severe limitations on citizen ballot initiatives. Thankfully, none of those bills passed this session.

We were also closely watching the funding of Medicaid Expansion, which Missouri voters approved by citizen initiative as Amendment 2 to the state Constitution in August 2020. The LWV was actively involved in support for that initiative. The legislature did not fund Medicaid Expansion as required by the Constitution, but a lawsuit has been filed to address that.

The Missouri legislative session ended on May 14. Below are details on various bills that the LWV was following.

### GOOD BILLS THAT PASSED

#### Criminal Justice Legislation

Police would be prohibited from using chokeholds in most circumstances under wide-ranging criminal justice legislation that secured final passage on May 13. The Senate voted 26-7 in favor and the House sent it to the governor on a vote of 140-4.

Senate Bill 53 also requires law enforcement agencies to track and report use-of-force incidents; increases penalties for officers who have sexual contact with those in custody; and grants prosecutors more authority to seek to overturn past wrongful convictions. It also eliminates a requirement that Kansas City police officers reside within the city limits.

#### Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)

Although the League was not following this bill, the House of voted 91-64 on May 11 in favor of legislation creating a statewide prescription drug monitoring program to help prevent opioid abuse. If the governor signs the bill into law, it will mark the culmination of a years-long effort

to create a PDMP in Missouri, which is the only state in the nation that does not have one.

#### Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

A state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is one of the best ways Missouri can help all working families – even those in low-paying jobs — have the opportunity to build better lives and economic security.

#### Fuel Tax Increase

This legislation will increase Missouri's fuel tax for the first time in 25 years. Missouri, with a fuel tax of only 17 cents per gallon, has one of the nation's lowest rates. It last increased in 1996 under legislation enacted in 1992.

The bill heads to the governor, who has issued a statement signaling his intent to sign it. Over several years, Senate Bill 262 will gradually add a total of 12.5 cents to the state fuel tax. When fully implemented, the tax will generate more than \$500 million per year in additional revenue for state and local transportation projects. The first 2.5-cent increase is scheduled to kick in Oct. 1, with additional 2.5-cent bumps every subsequent July 1, until the tax tops out at 29.5 cents in 2025.

#### Regulations for Religious Boarding Schools

For the first time in several decades, religious boarding schools would be subject to state regulation under legislation that cleared the General Assembly on May 13. The bipartisan bill passed 23-9 in the Senate, 147-1 in the House of Representatives.

The longstanding problem of unregulated religious boarding schools in Missouri came to the forefront last fall with a *Kansas City Star* investigation into allegations of abuse at the Circle of Hope Girls Ranch in Cedar County. The bill requires that the schools follow basic safety requirements, such as submitting to fire, safety and health inspections and maintaining medical records for all residents. It also requires background checks on all employees and volunteers, and guarantees that parents have access to their children.

(continued on pg. 5)



## MISSOURI 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### GOOD BILLS THAT FAILED

#### Medicaid Expansion

The legislature did not approve funding for Medicaid expansion. Although Governor Parson originally had it in his budget, he formally withdrew the state's plan for Medicaid expansion after the General Assembly's refusal to include expansion funding in the state operating budget for the 2022 fiscal year.

However, under the Constitutional Amendment approved by voters in August 2020, an estimated 275,000 additional Missourians will be eligible for the health care program and entitled to services when the new fiscal year begins July 1, regardless of whether the program is fully funded. The LWV of Missouri actively supported passage of the Amendment.

Under the Affordable Care Act, the federal government will pay 90 percent of the cost of expansion, which is about \$1.4 billion for FY 2022. In addition, implementation will provide Missouri an additional \$1.5 billion under the latest federal COVID-19 relief package. In addition to increasing health care access for Missourians, injecting that much federal spending into the state would create an estimated 80,000 jobs and provide a substantial boost to the economy.

***A lawsuit to require the state to expand its Medicaid program in compliance with the Missouri constitution was filed May 20 in Cole County Circuit Court.***

#### Federal Reimbursement Allowance (FRA)

The General Assembly did not pass an extension of the Federal Reimbursement Allowance (FRA), or provider tax, for the first time in decades. The FRA is a major source of funding for Missouri's Medicaid program, and the state's entire budget would be destabilized without this funding. A special session of the legislature is likely to deal with this issue.

#### Forgive the Overpayment of Unemployment Compensation

This would have waived repayment of overpaid unemployment compensation during COVID.

#### Protection Against Discrimination on Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity

HB 275 and SB 81 would have provided protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

### BAD BILLS THAT PASSED

#### Nullification of Federal Gun Laws

Prohibits state and local governments from enforcing federal laws that might infringe on firearm rights. (HB85 and HB 310)

#### Vouchers for Private Schools

Vouchers for private schools (HB 349) will divert state funds that could have been used for public education and other vital services to fund private and home schools that are not held to the same standards as public schools.

#### Limitations on Local Control of Public Health Measures

The legislature approved the conference committee version of HB 271, which limits local control of public health measures. The final version allows public health agencies to issue initial emergency orders for up to 30 days; these then can be extended by vote of the governing body of the city or county. Local and state public health officials may not have the ability to take appropriate and timely action to adopt and enforce provisions to help ensure public safety.

### BAD BILLS THAT FAILED

#### Proposed Legislation on Restrictive Voter ID and Initiative Petitions

Although passed by the Missouri House, the bills we were following that sought to restrict citizen ballot initiatives did not get a final vote in the Senate and therefore were not passed by the Legislature this session. This is also true for the voter suppression bills (e.g., strict voter ID).

***Although this was very good news for voter rights advocates, it is very probable that these bills will be brought up again.***

#### 1619 Project and "Critical Race Theory"

Several failed bills and amendments would have prevented classroom instruction on "critical race theory," the 1619 Project initiative of the *New York Times*, and related curricula.

— LWVMO  
Legislative Committee

## ENGAGING YOUNG WOMEN IN LWVCBC

How can you help us engage a more diverse membership, especially among teens and college students? The membership committee has been working on this.

Susie Adams, member and teacher at Battle High School, is planning to contact some of her former Battle HS students who are now at MU, and is also checking to see if there are interested student organizations at Columbia high schools. And Meredith is reaching out to community organizations such as Worley Street Roundtable, NAACP and BOLD: The Black + Brown Opportunity, Leadership & Development Academy.

We are hoping to find some young women to help us refine our outreach, to share our LWV resources, and help young women achieve their goals. Membership is free for 16-23 year olds, but we want to have ways of engaging them once they join.

So, how can you help? Tell young women you know about the league and invite them to join. Help us to engage young women in active citizenship or to identify those already active. Please contact me to share your ideas!

— Meredith Donaldson, Membership Chair  
[mjdonlsn@gmail.com](mailto:mjdonlsn@gmail.com) 573-288-3018



### Upcoming League Events!



JUNE 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	JUNE 1	2	3	4 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50am	5
6	7	8 Lunch & Learn: Local Funds from Cares Act & American Rescue Plan Zoom at Noon	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 LWVCBC Board Meeting 7pm Zoom	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	JULY 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 LWV on Paul Pepper KBIA 8:50am	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	21 LWVCBC Board Meeting 7pm Zoom	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**LWV Officers:**  
 President: Barbara Hoppe (424-9668)  
 1st VP: Mahree Skala (474-2195)  
 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)  
 Marilyn McLeod (239-3708)  
 Rene Powell (864-4087)  
 Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)  
 Pam Springsteel (445-0642)

**Appointed Directors:**  
 Dick Parker (256-4397)

**Committee Chairs:**  
 Budget: David Leuthold  
 Civil Liberties: Pam Springsteel  
 Education: Zona Burk  
 Energy & Climate: Dick Parker  
 ERA: Susan Koenig  
 Fundraising: Open  
 Health: Mahree Skala  
 Hospitality: Pam Springsteel  
 Membership: Meredith Donaldson  
 Mental Health: Mahree Skala  
 Redistricting Committee: Sharon Schneeberger  
 Speakers Bureau: Open  
 Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

**Voter Editor:** Ava Fajen

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

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

*Member News*

**Membership for 2021: 206**

**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 _____ <b>\$100*</b> _____
Household Dues	\$100 _____ <b>\$135*</b> _____
First time member 30 years of age and under.	\$30 _____
Subsidized Dues (for members on limited income)	\$25 _____
<b>Student Dues in honor of our 100th Anniversary! \$0</b>	<b>_____</b>
<b>(Ages 16 to 23)</b>	
Additional contribution to subsidize dues for members unable to afford membership rates.	\$ _____
General Donation	\$ _____
	<b>Total: \$ _____</b>

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>

## PROGRESS IN REDUCING GLOBAL WARMING

The past month has seen some significant progress in greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction to control global warming.

President Biden moved the intermediate date for achieving a target of 50% - 52% GHG reduction up from 2035 to 2030 (compared to 2005 levels). The United Kingdom retained the 2035 date, but increased the target to 75% from 50%.

The United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) Emissions Gap Report gives a yearly review of the difference between where greenhouse emissions are predicted to be in 2030 and where they



should be to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. The most recent report, released in December 2020, indicates that although the pandemic caused a brief dip in carbon dioxide emissions, temperatures are still expected to rise by more than 3°C in this century. The Paris Climate Accord has the goal of limiting global warming to less than 2°C, ideally less than 1.5°C.

The United Nations Gap Report points out that we need to move more rapidly because we have not been doing enough for the last decade. We now need to achieve a 55% reduction in GHG by 2030 to be on track to prevent major problems.

Columbia can meet the UN target of 55% reduction by 2030. The major element in Columbia is increasing the renewable energy goal to 100% because our electric utility was responsible for 45% of the total Columbia City GHG in 2015. Renewable energy for the utility does not achieve the 55% reduction by itself but the remaining 10% is doable.

— Dick Parker, Chair,  
Energy & Climate Committee  
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