



# The Voter

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

## OCTOBER 9: MU HOMECOMING PARADE



The LWVCBC will be part of the MU Homecoming Parade on Saturday, Oct. 9th. The parade starts at 9:00am and participants are to assemble by 7:15 am. Bring your coffee!

We will have a decorated truck with bales of hay and an open tailgate for riders, and 10-20 walkers/marchers and bikers, with banners and signs. We have premade signs that you can carry or you can make your own.

If you are interested in joining in the fun, let me know by sending an email to [lwvcbc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcbc@gmail.com). We will need an exact head count and all participant names, in

order to get wristbands required by MU for each participant. I will let you know the exact time and details once you sign up. It should be fun and an outreach opportunity.



Also, as we walk/march/saunter by the announcer's stand they will say the following: *The League of Women Voters Columbia- Boone County ROARS in support of the MU Tigers and works tirelessly to ensure that ALL citizens can vote, be informed and actively participate in their government. Any person 16 years or older may join the League of Women Voters. GO TIGERS!!*

— Barbara Hoppe  
573-424-9668

## OCTOBER 12 LUNCH & LEARN: MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE



Our September 14 program on Redistricting in Missouri, presented by Sharon Schneeberger and Carol Schreiber, was excellent, informative, and well-attended. The presentation also featured a video of Paul Pepper and Marilyn McLeod discussing gerrymandering and redistricting. This was our annual Holly Burgess Public Policy Forum, co-sponsored by the American Association of University Women - Columbia Branch and the Columbia Public Library. It can be seen on Youtube and found on our website at [lwvcbc.org](http://lwvcbc.org). Please share it.

Our Zoom Lunch and Learn Program at noon on Tuesday, October 12th, will be titled "Mental Health and Substance Use — Making the Connection with our Kids." A panel will discuss how to start conversations about mental health and substance abuse with youth. Adults play a powerful role in positively influencing young people. Participants will learn what to look for, how to help, and specific factors for working with

different age groups. Speakers will be Kim Dude, Laura Powell, and Heather Harlan.

On Tuesday, November 9, Alice Kitchen from the Kansas City League of Women Voters will present a program on Paid Family Leave.

Our Lunch and Learn program on Dec. 14 will feature guest speaker Jeanne Mihail, who has analyzed publicly available data from the Boone County Jail. She looked for patterns in the data — people charged, types of charges, etc. — to see what equities/inequities might be revealed.

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](http://events.dbri.org). Lunch & Learn Programs are recorded and can be viewed on our website and our Facebook page.

— Barbara Hoppe, Chair  
Lunch & Learn Committee

**REMINDER: DEADLINE FOR 2022 DUES IS NOVEMBER 1**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September was a busy month for the local LWVCBC. Our annual picnic at Stephens Lake Park on the 8th was a beautiful cool day, and the first time we have met in person since March of 2020. A breath of fresh air in many ways. It was good to see and talk with so many longtime, new and prospective LWVCBC members. However, we will continue meeting virtually for Lunch & Learn and most of our other programs and committee meetings for the near future.

I want to say how fortunate we are to have Marilyn McLeod, the LWVMO President, on our LWVCBC Board. She tirelessly advocates, both in Jefferson City and with our national representatives, to make voting more accessible for everyday citizens. Many now face increasing barriers and roadblocks intended to keep them from voting. At the August 24 House Elections Committee hearing, she testified: "We do not see any need for legislation to limit the petition process in Missouri or increase election security. This committee should look for ways to increase voter participation, not limit it." She also called on the committee to move to no-excuse absentee ballots and encouraged the state to "use federal money to help county clerks and other election authorities update voting equipment and make it easier for all eligible voters to cast their ballots securely." Thank you Marilyn.

On a related note, we are asking our members to weigh in on Fair Maps and Redistricting in Missouri, which is taking place this fall. The League is asking for transparency and fair representation in the drawing of new House and Senate district maps. The way the maps are drawn, based on the new 2020 census, will determine whether Missouri voters get to pick

their representatives, or whether representatives get to "cherry pick" their voters.

You can attend a public hearing on redistricting for the Missouri House or Senate. For details, please see Sharon Schneeberger's article on page 7. If you have friends or family in one of the locations where hearings will be held, encourage them to testify. For more detailed information, and talking points for testifying, see [lwvmissouri.org](http://lwvmissouri.org) or [lwvcbc.org](http://lwvcbc.org).

The redistricting commissions have until December 23 to submit a tentative plan for both chambers to the Secretary of State's Office and will then have until January 23 to finalize their work. If the bipartisan panels cannot reach an agreement, it goes to a judicial panel.

I hope you share this newsletter with friends and relatives to let them know what we are working on and why. We invite each and every one of you to get more involved. Please invite others you know to join us in this crucial task of "Making Democracy Work."



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

## MISSOURI STATE PREEMPTION OF LOCAL CONTROL

The Preemption/Local Control study group is drafting a report and position statement for board review in November. When finalized, it will be made available to the membership and we'll set up an opportunity for discussion and consensus development.

— Mahree Skala, Chair Local Control Study Group

## OCTOBER 19 INFORMATIONAL MEETING: PARKS TAX RENEWAL



Please join us at noon on Tuesday, October 19, as Mike Griggs, Director of the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department, shares information about the upcoming Park Sales Tax vote. This meeting will be via Zoom, and the link will be sent to all members prior to the meeting.

The renewal of the 1/8-cent Park Sales Tax will be on the ballot on November 2, 2021. If approved by voters, the tax will be renewed for a period of ten years. This is a dedicated tax, and revenue is used “solely for local parks for the

city, in order to purchase, improve and manage parks, trails, and natural lands for water quality, wildlife, tree preservation, and recreation purposes.”

We have all benefited from our wonderful Columbia parks, and it is time again to show our support! Please invite your friends and join the discussion or view it later on our website and our Facebook page.

— Meredith Donaldson, Chair  
Membership Committee

## LWVMO ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 13

The LWVMO annual Fall Conference will be held this year, in person and on Zoom, on Saturday, November 13, in Sedalia, at the State Fair Community College, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is a great time to meet other League members from our TEN local Leagues.

The theme is "Hot Topics" and the topics include: 1) Legislative and Congressional Redistricting in Missouri; 2) Paid Leave – State Study presentation by LWV KC/Jackson/Clay/Platte Counties; 3) Intersectionality, Race and the

American Story; 4) Intersection of Rural and Urban Voter Issues; and more.

Lunch will be provided for those attending in person. Registration is \$25 for in-person attendance and \$15 for virtual attendance. (We have funds to pay registration for 6-8 people.) Let us know via email soon if you would like to attend. Our League will do the registration for you and send in one check. We hope you will plan to attend, in person or on Zoom.

— Barbara Hoppe  
LWVCBC President



## MARIJUANA STUDY UPDATE

The LWVCBC Voters Marijuana Policy Study Committee has been meeting monthly. We are studying several questions relating to the legalization of marijuana.

Topics we are examining include the impact of legalization on use by young people; whether marijuana use causes people to use other, more dangerous prohibited substances; and what the socio-economic consequences of legalization are. The Committee hopes to have its final report compiled by November.

The organization that placed medical marijuana before the voters of our state in November 2018 has recently filed an Initiative to legalize use by all adults over the age of 21. The ballot language and fiscal impact statements are being prepared. Once the measure is approved for circulation, likely in mid-October, the petitions will be printed. The campaign hopes to begin gathering the signatures needed to place this measure on the November, 2022 ballot soon thereafter.

— Dan Viets, Chair  
Marijuana Study Committee

## UN-FUN FACTS ON PUBLIC EDUCATION IN MISSOURI\*

- Missouri ranks 50th in the US for state revenue dedicated per K-12 student.
- Missouri ranks 45th in the US in average teacher salary for public school teachers.
- As of 2018, Missouri ranked 46th in the US in per capita state fiscal support for higher education.
- Higher education tuition has increased 20% since 2010 because of the loss of state funding.
- As a result of tax cuts and tax credits over the last 25 years, Missouri loses \$1.5 billion from its budget annually that could go to helping students and families around the state.

— Carol Schreiber, Chair  
Voter Service Committee

\*Information from MNEA and Missouri Budget Project.

## UPDATE ON COLUMBIA'S ELECTRIC UTILITY PLANS

Planning for the future electricity needs of Columbia is underway. The Integrated Electric Resource and Master Plan (IERMP) task force met on Sept. 23 to consider what actions to recommend to the City Council in response to the report developed by the engineering firm, Siemens. This report addresses electricity sources for the next 20 years and the utility's Transmission and Distribution system.

Siemens developed eight possible scenarios for the city, in which 100% renewable energy is achieved in either 2030, 2040, or 2050. Between the years 2020 and 2040, the various scenarios would cost between \$688 and \$838 million, and would generate between 0.8 and 6.1 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent greenhouse gas.

At its meeting, the IERMP task force failed to select one of the specific scenarios for when Columbia Water & Light should reach 100% renewable energy. Instead, recommended that 100% renewable energy be achieved "by the earliest date possible." (I prefer reaching 100% renewables by 2030, and that plan generates the lowest CO<sub>2</sub>.)

For each of the scenarios, Siemens considered both (1) factors the City Council can influence, such as the year the utility reaches 100% renewables, energy efficiency programs, rooftop solar installations, conversion from natural gas heating to electric heating, and electric vehicle penetration; and (2) those it cannot influence, such as national economic growth; prices of carbon tax, coal, and natural gas; new technology. The task force will recommend to the City Council the rapid development of Demand

Side Management, Energy Efficiency, Distributed Energy (basically rooftop photovoltaic), and electrification (conversion of gas heat to heat pumps).

Siemens also proposed a set of options for addressing potential transmission problems and said that we do not need a new substation.

Finally, Siemens looked at about 25 smaller changes in the electric line, costing a total of \$53 million, to increase the reliability of the distribution system. The task force decided these items should be prioritized, and suggested to the Council when appropriate. None of these will be acted upon by the City Council this year; each item will individually go before the City Council to seek funding.

The task force plans an Oct. 28 public hearing on the Siemens report and the task force recommendations. There will be an opportunity for citizens to comment.

The Council must hear from the citizens on this issue, and I believe that citizens expressing their views on Oct. 28 will be significantly more influential than if one waits until the City Council meeting. Of course, it is also vital to see a large crowd of interested citizens at the City Council meeting when they consider the issue.

**Please attend the Oct. 28 public meeting in City Hall.**

— Dick Parker, Chair  
Energy & Climate Committee  
[rbparker111@gmail.com](mailto:rbparker111@gmail.com)  
573-256-4397



# SEPTEMBER 8 ANNUAL FALL PICNIC PHOTOS

We had a beautiful day for our annual picnic at Stephens Lake Park on September 8. It was great to visit with each other in person. Thank you to Suzanne Stillwell for taking these photos.



Jessica Hardesty Norris



Meredith Donaldson, Pam Springsteel, Mahree Skala, Elaine Blodgett, Ruth Milledge, Barbara Hoppe, and Dick Parker.

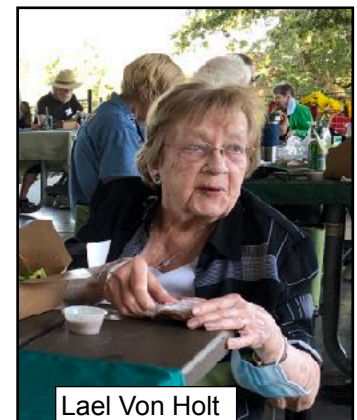
The League of Women Voters



Barbara Hoppe and Mike Sleadd



Joan and Steve Mudrick



Lael Von Holt



From left to right, Cheri Robinette, Jana Stephens, Joni O'Connor, and Susan Koenig.



Each committee chair addressed the group.



Joanne Cowan and guest Alice Harvard



Ava Fajen



Marilyn McLeod



## MINORITY YOUTH: INEQUITIES IN JUSTICE - PART THREE

Our September 21 Constitution Day program focused on our local juvenile justice system. The panel answered these questions:

### How does the Juvenile Justice System work?

Boone County's Robert L. Perry Juvenile Justice Center works with young people aged 12-17. (As of 2018, Missouri law no longer considers 17-year-olds to be adults.) Some of the offenses that lead to referral to the Juvenile Justice Center are truancy, runaway, stealing, property damage, and violent behavior.

### What has Boone County done well?

The Columbia Public Schools and the YES Academy make it possible for these 12 to 17-year-olds to continue their education while at the Center. Many local nonprofits also work with these young people, including the Cradle to Career Alliance, FACE, and Journey Toward Inclusive Excellence. The Center will be adding job placement as one of their services.

### What needs improvement?

Several aspects of the process need improvement. When a youth or family is in crisis, they may not be able to access counseling immediately. There are too many referrals to the system for minor offenses. Rep. David Tyson Smith hopes to educate his colleagues in the legislature so that bills that are bad for youth don't get passed. Our population is becoming more diverse, so the Center staff needs to be educated about other cultures. MU is helping in this effort.

The expert panelists for the program were: Sara Miller, Missouri 13th District Family Court

Commissioner; Tara Eppy, Superintendent, Boone County Juvenile Justice Center; Ruth McCluskey, chief juvenile officer for the 13th District Court; and David Tyson Smith, defense attorney and 45th District MO State Representative. The moderator was D'Andre Thompson, Program Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Specialist for Boone County Community Services.

The planning committee consisted of Pam Springsteel, chair; LWV members Elaine Blodgett, Meredith Donaldson, Marilyn McLeod, Sharon Schneeberger, Mahree Skala, and Dan Viets; Janet Thompson, County Commissioner; Steve Calloway, Minority Men's Network; JoAnne Nelson & D'Andre Thompson, Boone County Community Services; Verna LaBoy, FACE; Crystal Newcomb, Cradle to Career Alliance; and Lauren Williams, the Adult & Community Services Manager of the Daniel Boone Regional Library. Ms. Williams also hosted the program on Zoom.

A number of local organizations cosponsored this program, including the LWVCBC Civil Liberties Committee, Columbia Public Library, Worley Street Roundtable, Boone County Community Services, Cradle to Career Alliance, FACE, Journey toward Inclusive Excellence, Faith Voices, Mid-Missouri Civil Liberties Association, Minority Men's Network, NAACP - Columbia Branch, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Delta Upsilon Chapter. The forum can be viewed on our website: [www.lwvcbc.org](http://www.lwvcbc.org).

— Pam Springsteel, Chair  
Civil Liberties Committee



To the left, attendees enjoy boxed sandwiches from the Uprise Bakery at the fall picnic. Above, Pat Etienne and Zona Burk relax after the meal.

## REDISTRICTING IN MISSOURI: CAN CITIZENS HAVE ANY INFLUENCE ON THE PROCESS?

League members and citizens can get involved in both Missouri House and Senate redistricting and Congressional redistricting.

### Missouri House and Senate

The mapping of the Missouri Senate and House Districts is done by independent bi-partisan commissions. The members of these commissions are nominated by the political parties and selected by the governor. You can attend a public hearing — in-person or on Zoom — to call for fair and transparent maps. The House Commission will hold these public hearings:

- Oct. 18 in Springfield
- Oct. 19 in Kansas City
- Oct. 21 in St. Louis,
- Nov. 4 in Jefferson City
- Nov. 9 in Cape Girardeau
- Nov. 10 in Kirksville

The Senate Commission plans three public hearings:

- Oct. 16 in St. Louis
- Oct. 18 in Springfield
- Oct. 19 in Kansas City

### U.S. Congressional Districts

The Missouri Legislature maps the Congressional Districts in the same manner as passing a law. The Congressional apportionment process will officially begin with the start of the new legislative session in January. Let your current state representative and senator know that you are interested in watching the redistricting of the Congressional districts and want transparency and fair maps. Caleb Rowden is on the Senate Congressional committee ([caleb.rowden@senate.mo.gov](mailto:caleb.rowden@senate.mo.gov) or 573-751-3931) Chuck Basye is on the House Congressional committee ([chuck.Basye@house.mo.gov](mailto:chuck.Basye@house.mo.gov) or 573-751-1501.)

### For more information:

Go to [lwvmissouri.org/fair-maps-2/](http://lwvmissouri.org/fair-maps-2/) for more information on Fair Redistricting.

Also, at our LWV September Lunch & Learn, Carol Schreiber and Sharon Schneeberger explained the redistricting processes. View the presentation at [GMT20210914 Redistricting in MO LWV - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMT20210914)

— Sharon Schneeberger, Chair  
Redistricting Committee

## HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT EXPANDED MEDICAID!

People who need healthcare coverage can apply now to the Missouri Department of Social Services for Medicaid enrollment. New enrollees will be approved beginning October 1, and eligible people who have applied since July 1 may be covered retroactively.

Unfortunately, many people who could benefit from expansion haven't heard about it yet! Please spread the word any way you can. LWVCBC will be posting information on our Facebook page that you can share with all your friends. A great LWVMO flyer will be coming soon; let us know if you have a place to distribute flyers.

Here's how to apply: online at <https://mydss.mo.gov/> or by phone at 855-373-9994. Or download application forms in English at <https://dssmanuals.mo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/im-1ssl.pdf> or Spanish at <https://dssmanuals.mo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/im-1sslsp.pdf>. While DSS is updating its online portal, applicants may get the message "ineligible based on income." They should keep going by clicking NEXT, creating an account, and applying.

Healthcare can make a huge difference in people's lives. Don't miss an opportunity to let someone know!

— Mahree Skala, Chair  
Health Committee



## Upcoming League Events!



# OCTOBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	OCT. 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Marijuana Study Group 4:00 p.m. Zoom	9 MU Homecoming Parade Gather 7:15am Parade 9:00 am
10	11 LWV on Paul Pepper Show, KBIA 8:50 am	12 Lunch & Learn Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Youth Zoom at noon	13	14	15	16 Education Committee 1:00 p.m.
17	18 LWVCBC Board Meeting 7pm Zoom	19 Info Meeting Parks Tax Zoom @ Noon	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	NOV 1	2	3	4 MO House Redistricting Hearing Jeff City	5	6
7	8 LWV on Paul Pepper Show, KBIA 8:50 am	9 Lunch & Learn Paid Family Leave Zoom at noon	10	11	12	13 LWVMO Fall Conference Sedalia
14	15 LWVCBC Board Meeting 7pm Zoom	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	DEC 1	2	3



**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)  
 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  
 Lunch & Learn: Barbara Hoppe  
 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: [lwvmisouri.org](http://lwvmisouri.org)  
 National: [lwv.org](http://lwv.org)

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

**Member News**  
 Membership for 2021: 211 Members!

**Welcome to New Members:  
 Carla Klein and Jim Lee**

**In Memoriam:  
 We are sad to report the passing of member William Fisch**

**Reminder: Deadline for 2022 dues is November 1**

**2022 MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
**League of Women Voters Columbia-Boone County**  
**COME AND JOIN US!**

**Simply fill out the form and mail to the address below**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Time Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues include local, state and national membership. **\*We invite you to add an additional \$22 for 2022 to support the work out our League.**

Individual Dues	\$65 _____	<b>*\$87</b>	_____
Household Dues	\$100 _____	<b>*\$122</b>	_____
New member 30 years of age and under.			\$30 _____
Student Dues (Ages 16 to 25) Enrolled FT/PT			\$FREE _____
Subsidized Dues (for members on limited income)			\$25 _____
Additional contribution to subsidize dues for members who cannot afford membership rates.			\$ _____
General Donation			\$ _____
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

**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 here \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Donation to LWVCBC Education Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*\*Donations to Education Fund are tax-deductible. Please include a separate check payable to LWVEF-MO704



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**League of Women Voters**

PO Box 239

Columbia MO 65205

<http://lwvcbc.org>

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE LIZ SCHMIDT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD AND THE OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARD**

The LWVCBC annually presents the Liz Schmidt Community Service Award and/or the Outstanding Citizen Award. The Schmidt Award honors our long-time member and amazing volunteer Liz Schmidt. It goes to a deserving individual or group making a difference in the lives of Columbia-Boone County.

If you have a nomination for either award, please specify which award it is for; provide a description of the work done by the organization or individual and why you think they should receive this award; and include your contact information. Nominations are due by Friday, October 15. Please send to [lwvcbc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcbc@gmail.com) or mail to P.O. Box 239, Columbia, MO 65205.

The award(s) will be presented at the Founders Day program (event planning is underway).

Some of the recent recipients of the Community Service Award include the Room at the Inn (2017), Central Missouri Stop Human Trafficking Coalition (2018), Voluntary Action Center (2019), and Team Boone and Boone County



Liz Schmidt, 1929 - 2016

Clerk's Office (2020). The Outstanding Citizen Award was previously presented to Wendy Noren (2017); Steve Hollis (2019); and Stephanie Browning, director, and Scott Clardy, assistant director, of the Columbia/Boone County Health Department (2020).

— Marilyn McLeod

