

THE LEAGUE HAS STRONG ROOTS

The League of Women Voters:

- ◆ Grew out of the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1920. Our chapter began in December 1919! Today there are nearly 800 League chapters nationwide
- ◆ Is a citizen advocate organization working on the local, state, and national levels to make your voice heard and keep you informed. It exemplifies true grassroots involvement
- ◆ Is open to men and women at least 16 years of age. Annual dues include membership in the local League, LWV of Missouri, and the LWV of the U.S.

THE LEAGUE IS RESPECTED

The League of Women Voters:

- ◆ Is nonpartisan and committed to open, responsive, and effective government brought about by informed, involved citizens
- ◆ Never supports or opposes any political party or candidate, but encourages political participation
- ◆ After thorough study, takes public interest positions on policies and issues
- ◆ Is one of the most credible and respected citizens' groups in the country

THE LEAGUE IS EFFECTIVE

What the League of Women Voters works on:

- ◆ Voter Registration and Education
- ◆ Advocacy on public policy issues
- ◆ Candidate and Ballot Issue Forums
- ◆ Issue identification and research
- ◆ Letters to public officials and media
- ◆ Monitoring state and local government
- ◆ Public programs on issues of interest to citizens
- ◆ Public testimony at government hearings and meetings
- ◆ Annual interviews or public event with state legislators.

LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP OFFERS:

Opportunities for:

- ◆ Education on public policy issues
- ◆ Personal growth through networking with other citizens interested in public policy
- ◆ Community involvement through candidate forums, citizen education, voter registration, workshops, conferences and forums
- ◆ Influence governmental decisions that directly affect you, your family and your community
- Gain leadership, communication and public speaking skills

OUR LEAGUE COMMITTEES

Civil Liberties Committee

- ◆ Annual Constitution Day and other programs on civil liberties issues
- ◆ Discussion and action on civil liberties issues

Education Committee

- ◆ Public forums or programs to review issues on the education agenda of state legislative sessions
- ◆ Discussion and action on education-related subjects, at all levels of education
- ◆ Involve local students in activities related to voting

Equal Rights Amendment Committee

- ◆ Working for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment
- ◆ Calls to Action when appropriate

Energy & Climate Committee

- ◆ Sponsors a booth at the annual Earth Day and Sustainability Fairs
- ◆ Programs on energy issues
- ◆ Meets with local officials and monitors legislation.

Health & Mental Health Committee

- ◆ Public forums or programs focused on public policy issues
- ◆ Monitors legislation

OUR LEAGUE COMMITTEES

(continued)

Lunch & Learn Committee

- ◆ Plans monthly programs on current topics in conjunction with the Columbia Public Library

Voter Service Committee

- ◆ Candidate and ballot issue forums
- ◆ Voter registration activities
- ◆ Preparation and distribution of Voter Guides (print and/or online)
- ◆ Annual interviews or public event with State Legislators
- ◆ Monitors legislation impacting on voting access. And voter protection action.

HOW TO CONNECT

- ◆ **Lunch & Learn**—Monthly program with the Columbia Public Library
- ◆ **Annual Welcome Back Event**— early fall
- ◆ **Annual Founders Luncheon**—in early December
- ◆ **Annual Membership Meeting**—in April
- ◆ **Annual Fundraiser** —in June
- ◆ **Committee Meetings**
- ◆ **Consensus Study Groups**—Study and discuss topics recommended by local, state, or national LWV.