



# The Voter

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

## LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY TRAINING JANUARY 4

Want to learn more about effective ways to interact with legislators? A training session will be offered on Zoom January 4 at 3:00 p.m. We'll cover what forms of communication are most effective, how to interpret LWVMO legislative alerts, and the best ways to weigh in on critical issues that impact voting rights, women's rights, and democratic institutions and processes in our state.

If you're interested in taking a more active role during the upcoming legislative session and want to attend the training, please send a note to [lwcbbc@gmail.com](mailto:lwcbbc@gmail.com) or call Mahree Skala at 573-474-2195.

— Mahree Skala, President  
LWVBC

## JANUARY 6 —GET INVOLVED IN OUR DEMOCRACY IN 2024

Join the LWV Voter Services Committee on Saturday, January 6, at 9:30 a.m. in Conference Room B at the Columbia Public Library.

Come and contribute as we plan these activities for 2024:

- Voter education
- Voter registration
- Outreach to young people by partnering with the Education Committee
- Candidate forums
- Speakers Bureau

- New ideas to improve voter participation and education
- Outreach through social media

We welcome new energy and ideas from you! If you cannot attend the meeting, please let me know if you are interested in any of these activities by emailing me at [carolschrei@gmail.com](mailto:carolschrei@gmail.com). We will keep you updated on the results of this meeting.

— Carol Schreiber, Chair  
Voter Service Committee

## JANUARY 10 LUNCH & LEARN: UNHOUSED/HOMELESS IN COLUMBIA

Our Wednesday, January 10 Lunch & Learn program will be at noon at the library and on Zoom. Guest Speakers Catherine Armbrust from the CoMo Mobile Aid Collective and Kari Utterback of Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services will address the "Unhoused/Homeless in Columbia." (For Zoom, register at [https://bit.ly/BCLWV\\_Jan24](https://bit.ly/BCLWV_Jan24) ).

In February, Lunch & Learn will meet on a different day of the week. On Thursday, February 15, MU sociologist Dr. Chris Conner will speak on "QAnon: From Fringe Conspiracy to Global Political Phenomenon." He will also share

insights on how to communicate with friends or family who have fallen prey to false information.

If you missed our excellent December Lunch & Learn program on getting the City of Columbia Utility to 100% Renewable Energy by 2030, view it at [lwcbbc.org](http://lwcbbc.org) or [dbri.org](http://dbri.org). **We need your involvement & action NOW to make this happen!**

In March, Lunch & Learn will return to the second Wednesday of the month. Thanks to Lauren Williams and the Columbia Public Library for co-sponsoring these programs.

— Barbara Hoppe, Chair  
Lunch & Learn Committee

**2024 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE NOW**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year everyone! This is a time for reflection and new beginnings, and I hope you'll consider your commitment to the League as you make plans for 2024. The big election year is upon us—and will move very quickly. Voter education and registration, candidate and issue forums, and voter guides are among the many things on our “to-do” list. The factual information we provide is needed now more than ever. It's an all-hands-on-deck situation, so please reflect on how you want to help and respond when we send out the call for volunteers.

LWV will continue our traditional role of informing, educating, and registering voters and will use some new social media tools to get the word out. We're also partnering with the “When She Votes” coalition of several local organizations that aim to encourage new and inactive voters to get to the polls. Young voters (and potential voters) of high school and college age are another essential focus of our efforts.

Advocacy for policies that support women's rights, voting rights, and democratic participation is another significant part of our mission. We're looking for members who want to make their voices heard in the state legislative process, and we'll provide training to

help more of us communicate in a timely manner about issues of importance to the LWV (see article on p.1). Our local delegation will give us their views of the 2024 session at our February 8 Legislator Night, so mark your calendars and plan to attend.

With your help, the LWV will continue to be a trusted resource for our community through the April, August, and November elections and into the future those elections bring about.

— Mahree Skala  
President, LWVCBC  
[skalamahree@yahoo.com](mailto:skalamahree@yahoo.com)



## FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS — AWARD WINNERS AND THE HISTORY OF REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS IN THE US

Over 40 members and visitors gathered on December 10 to celebrate the founding of LWV of Columbia 104 years ago (December 11, 1919). On that day, with faith that the 19th Amendment would be ratified, the founders changed the organization's focus from gaining women's suffrage to educating and registering new voters.

In the 2023 awards ceremony, Sherri Wyss and Tracie Vangel accepted the Liz Schmidt Community Service Award on behalf of Love Columbia, and Carolyn Amparan was recognized as Citizen of the Year. (See related articles on pp. 6 and 7 for more details about these deserving recipients.)

Margie Sable, MSW, DrPH, and Mary Beck, RN, BSN, JD, provided our program. Margie traced the regulation of reproductive rights back to the Comstock Laws of 1873, which prohibited access to contraceptives on the grounds of obscenity. Early providers of contraceptives and information about them were arrested and jailed. Supreme Court decisions in 1965 and 1972 finally rendered these laws null and void.

Several states (including California, led by Ronald Reagan) legalized abortion in the late 1960's and early 1970's. The Title X Family Planning Act, which provides family planning to low-income Americans, was signed by Richard Nixon in 1970. (Continued on pg. 5)

## “LOOKING AHEAD: STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE” ON FEB. 8

The LWV and the Columbia Public Library will host “Looking Ahead: State Legislative Update” at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 8, at the library and on Zoom. All the Boone County state legislators have been invited: Rep. Cheri Toalson-Reisch (District 44); Rep. Kathy Steinhoff (District 45); Rep. David Tyson Smith (District 46); Rep. Adrian Plank (District 47); Rep.

Doug Mann (District 50); and Sen. Caleb Rowden. David Lile has agreed to moderate the program. There will be time for audience questions, and in-person attendees can meet their legislators following the formal program.

— Carol Schreiber, Chair  
Voter Service Committee

## LWVUS PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING FEBRUARY 13

LWVUS will hold its 2024 Convention in June. As preparation for the convention, all local Leagues are asked to provide input on the work of LWVUS for 2024-26.

For several years, the main priority of LWVUS has been Making Democracy Work® which includes voting rights, improving elections, redistricting, and money in politics. Local Leagues are asked to report on their work in these areas during 2022-2024. Our League needs to decide if we support continuing the priority of Making Democracy Work.® If we do not support this priority, we would need to propose a different priority.

The next part of the process is to review LWVUS’ Impact on Issues (<https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues>) positions and report on any positions we have used in our work from 2022-2024. This is essential work in the League of Women Voters.

Here is how LWVUS describes our mission and membership:

*The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend democracy through advocacy, education, and litigation, at the local, state, and national levels.*

*LWV members are passionate activists who support LWVUS work in all 50 states and in more than 700 communities.*

Our LWVUS Program Planning Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 13, at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. A link will be sent to all members. This is a great time to appreciate the work we do and the part we play with LWVUS.

— Carol Schreiber, Chair  
Voter Service Committee

## CANDIDATE FORUM FOR APRIL 2 ELECTION WILL BE MARCH 21

The April 2nd Election will feature races for the Columbia City Council Wards 2 and 6 and the Columbia School Board. The LWV has scheduled a candidate forum featuring candidates in contested races on Thursday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the Columbia Public

Library (with a virtual option). David Lile will moderate the forum. If any ballot issues are placed on the ballot, we will provide information on those issues.

— Carol Schreiber, Chair  
Voter Service Committee

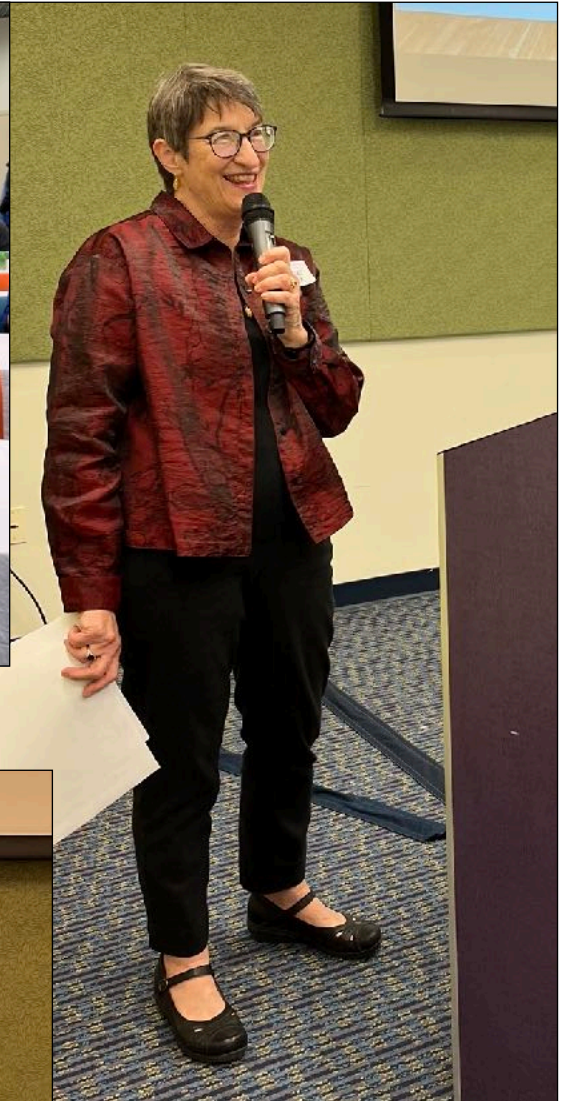
## LWVCBC BOOK CLUB??

There has been some discussion about starting an LWVCBC Book Club, which would meet two or three times annually. We would select an engaging book of particular interest to LWV membership. If you are interested or if you have

a book suggestion, send an email to Barbara Hoppe, [yesforparks@hotmail.com](mailto:yesforparks@hotmail.com). We will let you know if this becomes a reality. Thanks!

— Barbara Hoppe, Chair  
Lunch & Learn Committee

**FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION DECEMBER 10, 2023**



Top left, Margie Sable and David Leuthold have a chat. Top right, LWVCBC President Mahree Skala addressed the crowd. Lower left, Mary Beck, RN, BSN, JD, (left) and Margie Sable, MSW, DrPH, spoke to the Founders Day attendees about the history of reproductive health rights in the US.

## FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS (CONT'D)

(Cont'd from pg. 2) In 1973, the Roe v. Wade decision effectively legalized abortion through the second trimester.

Efforts to discourage abortion began with gag rules for Title X providers and a ban on federal Medicaid funding for abortion. In 1985, in a case brought by the Missouri AG, the Supreme Court established the precedent that states could restrict abortion care, and they have done so ever since.

In 2022, the Supreme Court ruled that the states have the right to regulate any aspect of abortion (the Dobbs Decision). Since then, abortion has been banned outright in 13 states (including Missouri) and is restricted in 31 others. Mary detailed some of these restrictions and the resulting medical problems for women with pregnancy complications such as miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy. The laws have made it very difficult for clinicians to manage problem

pregnancies. The risk of dying from an abortion is much lower than that of continuing a pregnancy to term. Many medical professionals are simply moving away from restrictive states, decreasing access to maternity care.

Mary also documented evolving state laws, including restrictions on travel to seek an abortion and aiding/abetting laws. She concluded with the protections offered by the federal government under other existing laws and President Biden's executive order protecting access to reproductive healthcare, patient privacy & provider safety/security.

We left the gathering motivated to regain and prevent further erosion of women's rights. While the future of the Missouri reproductive rights initiative petition remains unclear, we will follow developments closely and keep you informed.

— Mahree Skala, President LWVCBC



Former LWVCBC presidents were asked to stand. The two standing near the front are Joni O'Connor (left) and Elaine Blodgett. Others standing farther back include Marilyn McLeod and Carol Schreiber. Win Colwill, seated in front next to Joni, is also a former LWVCBC president.

## LUNCH & LEARN CHAIR OR CO-CHAIR??

Anyone interested in being a Lunch & Learn Chair or Co-Chair? I have been Lunch and Learn Chair for many years and would be happy to share the position or step down if someone else is interested in being Chair. We have an excellent and active group of Board Members who participate in planning the Lunch & Learn

Programs, and we usually have more ideas than we have months to present them. If you are interested in being a Co-Chair or Chair for the planning year Sept. 2024 - May 2025, email me at [yesforparks@hotmail.com](mailto:yesforparks@hotmail.com). Thanks!

— Barbara Hoppe, Chair Lunch & Learn Committee

## 2023 LIZ SCHMIDT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD GOES TO LOVE COLUMBIA

Love Columbia opened its doors as Love INC of Columbia in 2008 to coordinate the efforts of churches and volunteers to help neighbors in need. Love Columbia was established as a clearinghouse to assess and verify needs and develop programs promoting self-sufficiency and flourishing.

Jane Williams, a social worker and community organizer, and Pat McMurry, a local business owner who had worked for years with pastors and large-scale multi-church events, founded Love Columbia. They brought together key church and business leaders eager to respond strategically and collectively to identified community needs. Since 2008, Love INC has continually developed and grown this holistic model of outreach and assistance in Columbia. The organization has grown from a dozen churches and a few volunteers to a community network of over 80 churches, dozens of business partners, hundreds of volunteers, and 30 staff.

Love Columbia has evolved and changed over the past 15 years to meet the ever-changing needs of our community. The Love Seat is a retail outlet for used furniture and clothing. This establishment provides a place for low-income individuals to find necessary home items, and it serves as a place of employment for people in

need of jobs, especially those previously incarcerated.

Love Columbia's Extra Mile program was created to help people along the journey from need to stability. This program provides coaching and mentoring in budgeting and financial skills.

In addition, Love Columbia's services now include car and bike donations and repairs, housing coaching, payday relief loans to free individuals from the grips of the payday loan system, job readiness assistance, rent and utility assistance, and most recently, the building of transitional housing.

Columbia is very fortunate to have a leader such as Jane Williams and an organization such as Love Columbia in our community. Jane and Love Columbia are on 'the front line' in combatting poverty, homelessness, and housing insecurity. The League of Women Voters thanks you for all you do for our community, and we are honored to recognize your wonderful work with the Liz Schmidt Community Service Award. Sherri Wyss and Tracie Vangel of Love Columbia accepted the Liz Schmidt Community Service Award on behalf of Love Columbia at the Founders Day celebration.

— Diane Suhler  
LWVCBC Board Member



LWVCBC President Mahree Skala (far right) presented the the 2023 Liz Schmidt Community Service Award. Sherry Wyss (left) and Tracie Vangel (center) accepted the award on behalf of Love Columbia.

## CAROLYN AMPARAN IS THE LWV OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Carolyn Amparan has been a leader advocating for environmental issues in Columbia since she retired from IBM. After moving to Columbia in 2013, she jumped on a bus and attended her first big climate protest march in Washington, D.C. It was a great experience, and she became increasingly involved from there. In November 2014, she attended Al Gore's organization "Climate Reality Leadership Corps" training and, after that, started delivering presentations and educating the public on the impacts and solutions of climate change.

Carolyn has chaired the Executive Committee of the Mid-Missouri Group of the Missouri Sierra Club since 2015 and served on the Missouri Chapter Executive Committee from 2014-2017. In 2018, she was appointed to the Columbia Mayor's task force to develop a Climate Action Plan for Columbia. The plan was approved in June 2019.

She was appointed to the revamped Columbia Climate and Environment Commission, where she served a 3-year term (2020-2022), the first two years as Chair of the Commission. With input from the Sierra Club team, she also contributed to the Boone County Master Plan to fight climate change, prevent pollution, protect green space and sensitive areas, avoid urban

sprawl, and protect wildlife. Boone County is still working on the master plan, and she will stay engaged. She also wrote a proposal, with committee input, for the Columbia City Council to move forward with developing minimum energy efficiency standards for rental units.

Most recently, she has served as Sierra Club's representative on the Fair Electric Rates Coalition, which challenged the structure of the July 2023 rate hikes, and she has led the 100% by 2030 Coalition, of which LWVCBC is a member. She has spoken eloquently and informatively for the Coalition at City Council Meetings.

Through the years, she has spoken to many groups, including helping with Osher classes and an online course at MU on climate change impacts and solutions. She has also been a guest speaker for the LWVCBC Lunch & Learn Program, most recently in December 2023.

Carolyn's enthusiasm, knowledge, and commitment to education and to improving the environment in Columbia and Missouri are exemplary and appreciated. She is a most deserving recipient of this award!

— Barbara Hoppe, LWV Board Member  
Climate & Energy Co-Chair



Carolyn Amparan accepts the 2023 Citizen of the Year Award from Barbara Hoppe, LWVCBC Board Member and Energy & Climate Committee Co-Chair.



# Upcoming League Events!



JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	JAN 1	2	3	4	5	6 Voter Service Mtg 9:30 am Library Rm B
7	8	9	10 Lunch & Learn "Unhoused" Noon Library and Zoom	11	12	13
14	15 LWVCBC Board Meeting 5:30pm Zoom	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	FEB 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Legislators Looking Forward, 6:30pm Library	9	10
11	12	13 LWVUS Program Planning Mtg 6:30 pm, Zoom	14	15 Lunch & Learn QAnon Noon Library and Zoom	16	17
18	19 LWVCBC Board Meeting 5:30pm Zoom	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	MAR 1	2



**LWV Officers:**  
 President: Mahree Skala (474-2195)  
 1st VP: Susie Adams  
 2nd VP: Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)  
 Secretary: Carol Schreiber (657-0639)  
 Treasurer: Mary Hayden

**Elected Directors:**  
 Elaine Blodgett (256-2803)  
 Kate Canterbury (214-536-1300)  
 Linda Headrick  
 Barbara Hoppe (424-9668)  
 Marilyn McLeod (239-3708)  
 Ruth Milledge  
 Rene Powell (864-4087)  
 Pam Springsteel (445-0642)  
 Diane Suhler (443-0549)

**Appointed Director:**  
 Zainab Jasim

**Committee Chairs:**  
 Budget: Open  
 Civil Liberties: Pam Springsteel  
 Education: Susie Adams & Zainab Jasim, Co-chairs  
 Energy & Climate: Barbara Hoppe & Sharon Schneeberger, Co-chairs  
 ERA: Susan Koenig  
 Fundraising: Open  
 Health: Mahree Skala  
 Hospitality: Pam Springsteel  
 Luella Committee: Pam Springsteel  
 Lunch & Learn: Barbara Hoppe  
 Membership: Kate Canterbury  
 Mental Health: Mahree Skala  
 Social Media: Sharon Schneeberger  
 Speakers Bureau: Open  
 Voter Registration: Linda Smith  
 Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

**The 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**

**In Memoriam: Carol Lane**

Meredith's shoes will be hard, nay impossible, to fill, but I am pleased to have taken over Membership. January starts a new membership year, so if you have yet to rejoin for 2024, please do so as soon as possible! Our roster is due to the national league at the end of the month. If you are unsure if you have renewed your membership, please contact me at [katecbgb@gmail.com](mailto:katecbgb@gmail.com). Lastly, I wanted to **welcome our new members, Alison Kaiser and Cecile and Clyde Bentley.** — Kate Canterbury

**2024 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.

Individual Dues \$65 \_\_\_\_\_

Household Dues \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

Contributing \$125 \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to subsidize dues for members who cannot afford membership rates. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**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>

## WATCH FOR DETAILS ON NEW PRESIDENTIAL SELECTION PROCESS

This article is reproduced from the *LWV Missouri Voter*, Nov-Dec 2023 issue, page 4.

The Missouri General Assembly eliminated the state's March presidential primary in 2022 and turned the process over to the political parties. LWVMO is planning a Zoom webinar in mid- January to educate members and voters on the new process.



**GOP:** A Republican caucus is being planned for March 2. To participate in the Republican Caucus, voters must be registered as a Republican by Jan. 22 and show up at designated caucus sites across the state. They'll elect a chair and secretary who will go over the rules.

**DEMOCRATS:** A polling place in each county will be open from 8 am to Noon on Saturday, March 23. The party is also offering mail-in voting. Declared Democrats will receive a postcard in early February and other voters can request a ballot from Feb. 12 to March 12. Only those registered as a Democrat who vote in the primary are eligible to become a delegate or participate in county mass meetings and conventions.



To register your party affiliation, go to the Voter Registration options on the Secretary of State's website. You can also change your registration in person at your local election authority.

For the latest information on either party's presidential preference or delegate selection process, contact the **Missouri GOP at 573-636-3176** or the **Missouri Democratic Party at 314-932-5125**.