



The Voter

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

“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

FEBRUARY 10 NEW MEMBER WELCOME!

Please join us for a new member orientation to learn more about your local League of Women Voters and how we link with the state and national level Leagues. Participants will learn how their membership supports actions at all three levels to educate voters, monitor legislation, and take action on important public policy issues. If you are interested but unable to attend, please contact Kate Canterbury, chair of the membership committee at katecbgb@gmail.com, 214-536-1300.

For 100 years, members have found that involvement in the League has led to a better understanding of public policy issues and helped them be more active citizens. Right now, we are looking for members who want to share their

interests or skills in financial management, membership development, environment and climate action, legislative issues, and voter education.



NEW MEMBER WELCOME FEBRUARY 10, 10AM ZOOM

All new members and other interested members are invited.

A Zoom link
will be sent to all members.

FEBRUARY 15 LUNCH & LEARN: QANON PLEASE NOTE DATE AND TIME CHANGE!

Our next Lunch & Learn will be at **11 a.m. on Thursday, February 15**, at the library and on Zoom. MU sociologist Dr. Chris Conner will speak on "QAnon: From Fringe Conspiracy to Global Political Phenomenon." **Please note this is a change of both our usual day and time, to accommodate the Speaker's schedule.** To attend via zoom, register via this link: [QAnon and Conspiracy Theories: Lunch & Learn](#)

The January 10 Lunch & Learn program was well attended both in person and on Zoom, on a very cold day. Guest Speakers Catherine Armbrust from the CoMo Mobile Aid Collective

and Kari Utterback of Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services gave an excellent, thought-provoking presentation about their programs and the current outreach and assistance to the "Unhoused/ Homeless in Columbia." If you missed this program, you can view it at lwvcbc.org or dbri.org. Thanks to Lauren Williams and the Columbia Public Library for co-sponsoring these programs.

— Barbara Hoppe, Chair
Lunch & Learn Committee

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As I write this, we’re enjoying a welcome thaw after weeks of icy weather. It’s a good thing spring isn’t too far away! The beginning of the presidential primary season is a powerful signal that 2024 will be a very active year for the League.

A recent commentary in the Missouri Independent is an inspiring reminder of the important role LWV plays in election years. The headline is “My best advice to voters in 2024: Focus on policy and the stakes, not the political circus.” The author, David DeWitt, stresses that this is a time for voters to hold our elected officials accountable. He describes our democracy as “an exercise in collective self-government under the rule of law.” His bottom-line advice is to “Focus on policy, focus on real-world outcomes, and focus on the stakes of power across all of our levels and branches of government.”

That’s exactly what LWV aims to do by providing unbiased voter services, nonpartisan forums for elected officials and aspiring candidates to articulate their goals and plans, and voter education materials about candidates and ballot issues. Each year we meet to weigh League positions on policy issues and prioritize advocacy efforts based on members’ research and discussion. To participate, you’re invited to join the February 13 LWWUS Program Planning meeting. See page three for information.

LWVUS has had a firm, succinct policy position on reproductive freedom since 1983: “Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.” The Missouri initiative petition for reproductive freedom will be available soon, so we’ll soon provide details about opportunities to sign and help circulate it.

The February events calendar is full, starting with a February 8 forum with our current Boone County legislators. The February 15 Lunch and Learn will shed light on conspiracy theories (note it’s a different time and day of the week than usual). And don’t miss the kickoff of the When She Votes coalition on February 24! This inspiring event, co-sponsored by LWV-CBC, will help us focus on the real-world impact of voting on people’s lives.

To quote David DeWitt one more time, “It’s long, slow, hard, and crucial work, to pass down a country to future generations better than how we found it.” That’s what our forebears in the League did, so let’s keep working at it.

— Mahree Skala
President, LWVCBC
skalamahree@yahoo.com

Link to David DeWitt Commentary is <https://missouriindependent.com/2024/01/23/my-best-advice-to-voters-in-2024-focus-on-policy-and-the-stakes-not-the-political-circus/>



MISSOURI 2024 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SELECTION PROCESS

We’ve received a lot of questions about the 2024 Missouri presidential candidate selection process. Without a presidential primary (which the legislature abolished last year), the political parties are responsible for their own processes. LWVMO recently held a webinar on the topic with speakers from the state Republican and

Democratic parties. A two-part recording is available by clicking [here](#) for information about the March 2 Republican caucus and [here](#) for a description of the Democratic election on March 23.

— Mahree Skala
President, LWVCBC

LWVUS PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING ON 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.

The main priority of LWVUS has been Making Democracy Work® which includes voting rights, improving elections, redistricting, and money in politics. 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. Local Leagues can also propose a concurrence with a local position or propose a new study on a policy issue that is not covered in Impact on Issues.

Local Leagues are asked to report on their work during 2022-2024 using LWVUS positions. We will 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 important and essential work for 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.

After local Leagues submit their reports,



LWVUS will consider all the responses from Leagues throughout the country (300 local Leagues submitted responses in 2022). The National Board will then make recommendations to the convention, where delegates will debate and vote on the final program and any new concurrences or studies proposed by local Leagues. **This process is why we are called a “grassroots” organization!**

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

APRIL 2ND ELECTION CANDIDATE AND BALLOT ISSUE FORUM WILL BE MARCH 21

The LWV has scheduled an election forum featuring candidates in contested races, a recall vote on Ward 1 Councilman, and a Boone County ballot issue on Thursday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the Columbia Public Library (with a virtual option). David Lile will moderate the forum.

The April 2 Election will feature contested races for Columbia City Council Ward 2 and Columbia School Board. In addition, Ward 1 will vote on whether to recall Councilman Nick Knoth.

The Boone County Commission has voted to put the following issue on the April 2nd Ballot:

Proposition 1: “Shall the County of Boone exempt senior citizens from certain increases in the property tax liability due on such senior citizens’ primary residences?”

Here is our schedule for the forum:

- Ward 1 Recall Vote with Nick Knoth and a representative from the Recall Group
- Ward 2 Candidates Lisa Meyer and Robert Schreiber
- Columbia School Board Candidates Jeanne Snodgrass, Alvin Cobbins, and John Potter (for two positions on the Board)
- Proposition 1 Speakers

Betsy Peters is running unopposed in Ward 6. She will be at the forum and available to talk to voters in her Ward.

The League is planning to have a digital Voters Guide available in mid-March.

— Carol Schreiber, Chair
Voter Service Committee

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

Our Social Media intern, Claire Winningham, has returned to MU for her second semester, and needless to say, we look forward to her working with us again this year. She is teaching the committee about the intricacies of social media, and we appreciate her skills and patience. Although we are "mastering" Lunch & Learn posts, we have more to learn.

We continue to ask you and your friends to promote our social media posts. You will find our posts on our [Facebook Page](#) (Search for LWV of Columbia-Boone County), [Facebook Group](#) (Search for League of Women Voters of Columbia, MO), [Twitter](#) (@lwcabc), [Instagram](#) (@lwcabc), [Threads](#) (@lwcabc) and on our website ([lwcabc.org](#)). We

welcome your ideas or interests in social media; please email us at sharon@schneeberger.net.

Finally, it's not too early to start sharpening your skills for recognizing mis- and disinformation relating to voting in 2024, the year of voting. The LWV-US has shared a short, to-the-point piece entitled Artificial Intelligence's Impact on Election Mis- and Disinformation. You might want to read it so you will not be fooled, tricked, misled, or bamboozled! A brief excerpt is printed below.

The social media committee meets on Mondays at 3pm on Zoom. If you would like to join in, send a note to sharon@schneeberger.net.

— Sharon Schneeberger, Chair
Social Media Committee

FROM THE LWV BLOG: WHAT LWVUS IS DOING ABOUT AI AND DISINFORMATION

The League is closely monitoring AI's potential impacts on our elections. In October 2023, the League supported a petition to the Federal Election Commission (FEC), arguing that the FEC should regulate "Deceptive AI Campaign Communications" like other deceptive campaign communications. LWVUS urged the Commission to heed the requests in the petition and issue explicit guidance that deceptive AI campaign communications meet the definition of "fraudulent misrepresentation" according to the US Legal Code.

The League's positions on a citizen's right to know, citizen participation, and campaign finance apply to the issue of deceptive AI; voters deserve access to true and complete information about elections and the candidates seeking their votes. The League is concerned that deliberately false, AI-generated content in campaign ads or other communications will undermine the role of voters and corrupt the election process by attempting to deceitfully sway voters' opinions or suppress voter turnout through misinformation about election rules.



Linda Smith discussed voter registration at the recent Voter Services Committee mtg.

WHEN SHE VOTES KICKOFF FEBRUARY 24!!

When She Votes is a new group of interested local leaders who are **collaborating in a dedicated effort to promote** voter registration, voter education, AND making sure registered voters VOTE in Boone County in 2024!

Members of the LWV of Columbia-Boone County have joined the NAACP, Services for Independent Living, representatives of the Boone County Commission, the Boone County Clerk, the University of Missouri, and other interested local leaders for this important non-partisan work.

When She Votes will hold an official Kickoff on Saturday, February 24, at Boone Electric Cooperative from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Ten dynamic women speakers will connect struggles by individuals in their daily lives to the power of positive change by voting. Voter registration will

be available. (The deadline to register for the April 2nd Election is March 8.)

League members are invited and encouraged to attend the Kickoff to support our effort to get citizens of Boone County to not only register to vote but to vote in the various elections being held in 2024.

The vision of When She Votes is to empower and inspire every eligible Boone County voter to register and vote in every election. It is a project intended to encourage and support women (and men) to get educated about the issues, register to vote, vote, and encourage and support others to do the same.

When She Votes t-shirts are available to order online at [When She Votes Tshirts \(jotform.com\)](http://WhenSheVotesTshirts(jotform.com))



Seated in front row: Mary Ratliff and Marilyn McLeod. Row 2: Linda Smith, Valerie Shaw, Brianna Lennon, Chimene Schwach, Eryca Neville. Back row: Sharon Schneeberger, Monica Naylor, Carol Schreiber, Karen Sicheneder and Janet Thompson.

FUTURE VOTERS



LWV Youth Voter Advisory Board members at Kewpie Fest.

The Education Committee has been working hard to bring Zona Burke's vision to fruition by developing an LWV Youth Voter Advisory Board. The committee has been planning an event to bring Columbia students together to discuss the needs of young voters for the 2024 election. The vision of the committee was for the students to develop educational materials centered around the central themes of "Why Vote," "How to Vote," and "How to access information."

We met with five students in early December, and it was a smashing success. Four students from Hickman and one from Battle attended, and they were very enthusiastic. We all participated in a team-building activity so the five students and five members of the Education Committee could get to know each other. Watching the

generations interact and listen to one another was so refreshing. Linda Headrick shared data gathered from a past student survey concerning youth voting, and our advisory group worked through ways to address the survey concerns. They also brainstormed a vision and goals for the advisory, along with the official name, LWV Youth Voter Advisory Board.

The first meeting left all members with a positive view of the future! The students are excited about getting their peers involved and developing a plan for the 2024 election, and the success of the meeting energized the Education Committee members.

— Susie Adams, Co-Chair
Education Committee

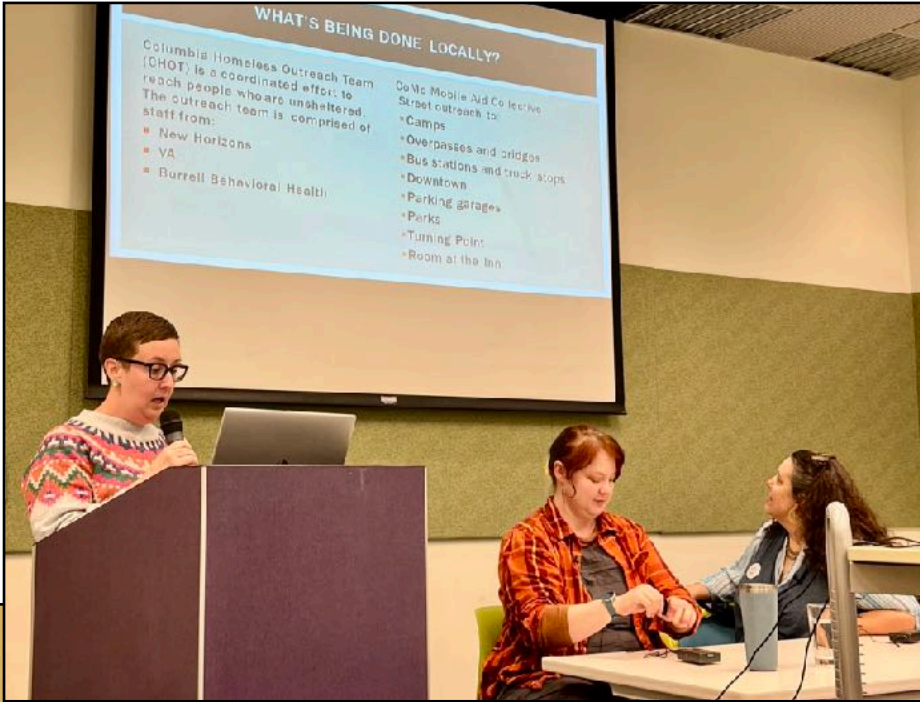
EARTH DAY WILL BE SUNDAY APRIL 21ST SAVE THE DATE !

Save the Date! For Earth Day at Peace Park and adjacent streets on Sunday, April 21st! The LWVCBC will have a booth, lots of good information, voter registration and change of address table & more!

— Barbara Hoppe, Co-Chair
Climate and Energy Committee

JANUARY 10 LUNCH & LEARN PHOTOS

Speakers at the January 10 event included, standing, Kari Utterback of Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services, and, seated, Susie Yocum and Catherine Armbrust, from CoMo Mobile Aid Collective. They addressed outreach and assistance to the Unhoused/ Homeless in Columbia.



Laura Williams from the library and Sharon Schneeberger assisted with the presentation at the January Lunch & Learn.



Attendees at the January Lunch & Learn.



Upcoming League Events!



FEBRUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JAN 28	29	30	31	FEB 1	2	3
4	5 Social Media Committee Mtg 3pm	6	7	8 Legislators Looking Forward, 6:30pm Library	9	10 New Members Welcome 10am Zoom
11	12 Social Media Committee Mtg 3pm	13 LWVUS Program Planning Mtg 6:30 pm, Zoom	14	15 Lunch & Learn QAnon 11am Special Time Library and Zoom	16	17
18	19 Social Media Committee Mtg 3pm LWVCBC Board Meeting 5:30pm Zoom	20	21	22	23	24 When She Votes Kickoff Bo Electric 10am
25	26 Social Media Committee Mtg 3pm	27	28	29	MAR 1	2
3	4 Social Media Committee Mtg 3pm	5	6 Last Date to Register to Vote on April 2	7	8	9
10	11 Social Media Committee Mtg 3pm	12	13 Lunch & Learn Noon Library and Zoom	14	15	16
17	18 Social Media Committee Mtg 3pm LWVCBC Board Meeting 5:30pm Zoom	19	20	21 Candidate Forum for April Election Library 6:30pm	22	23
24	25 Social Media Committee Mtg 3pm	26	27	28	29	30
31	APRIL 1	2 ELECTION DAY	3	4	5	6

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
 State: lwvmissouri.org
 National: lwv.org

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

MEMBER NEWS

Welcome to our New Student Members Katherine Cox-Littrell, Kate Waller, and Ojima Adejo. **Welcome to New & Renewing Members** Kristen Beerly, Priscilla Bevins, Vicki Boyd-Kennedy, Cynthia Campbell, Courtney Daniels, Shannon Frey, Judith Goodman, Linda Hancik, Joyce Harkins, Katherine Hunvald, Barbara Jones, Elizabeth Otiker, Brook Omar, Rebecca Postula, and Lisa Schwartz.
In Memoriam: Midge Pinkerton

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



League of Women Voters

PO Box 239

Columbia MO 65205

<http://lwvcbc.org>

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS NEW TREASURER AND BOARD MEMBERS: WE NEED YOU!

The LWVCBC Nominating Committee, consisting of Susan Koenig, Ena Chippendale, Linda Smith, Sharon Schneeberger, and Barbara Hoppe, is working on nominating a new treasurer and five board members to serve for the 2024-2026 term. Our present treasurer, Mary Hayden, is stepping down, and another board member, Meredith Donaldson, has moved out of state.

Our greatest need is finding someone capable and willing to serve as treasurer. If you are interested, please let one of us know!

Thankfully, several other board members are willing to continue to serve if nominated and approved at the annual membership meeting. In

addition to nominated board members, who are voted on by our membership at our annual April membership meeting, our president is allowed to appoint up to ten additional members to serve for one year as appointed board members.

Being on the board is enjoyable, rewarding, and essential work. If you are interested in being on the LWVCBC board as treasurer, a nominated board member, or an appointed member, please let one of the nominating committee members know.

— Barbara Hoppe
2024 LWVCBC Nominating Committee