



The Voter

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

APRIL 10 LUNCH & LEARN: BOONE COUNTY PRESIDING COMMISSIONER KIP KENDRICK

Our next Lunch & Learn will be at **noon on Wednesday April 10**, at the library and on Zoom. Presiding Boone County Commissioner Kip Kendrick will give us an update on the current Boone County Planning Process. To register for Zoom participation go to: [https://dbri-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN - Y72nbJmS4av_gKUtCvRKA#/registration](https://dbri-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN-Y72nbJmS4av_gKUtCvRKA#/registration)

Our May 8th program will be on Mental Health. Carisa Kessler, Director of Crisis Services, Central Region, at Burrell Behavioral Health will speak on "Behavioral Crisis Services in Missouri" She will discuss the Missouri 988 Crisis Line and the 24/7 Columbia Behavioral Crisis Center.

We deeply appreciate MU Law Professor Rigel Oliveri, who gave a very timely, informative, and interesting presentation at our March Lunch & Learn on "The Supreme Court's Current Term: Cases and Implications." If you missed this program or want to share it with friends, you can view it at <https://youtu.be/B5SNr-mUkNY>.

There will be no Lunch & Learn programs during June, July, and August, but they will resume in September. If you have ideas for programs, please share them with me or any member of the board. Thank you to Lauren Williams and the Columbia Public Library for co-sponsoring these programs.

— Barbara Hoppe, Chair
Lunch & Learn Committee

**LWVCBC
ANNUAL
BUSINESS
MEETING**

**APRIL 27 AT 10:00 AM
BO CO FAMILY
RESOURCES BUILDING
2700 W. ASH**

**GUEST SPEAKER:
MARY RATLIFF
ELEANOR GOODGE AWARD:
DAVID LILE**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's easy to feel overwhelmed and insignificant during this election year, when it can seem like our democratic system is stretched and strained. Each of us alone can only do so much to motivate and educate voters and support solutions to issues facing our society. But by working together as active League members, we can make a difference in our community and state.

This Voter is full of stories about our members putting ideas into action. The municipal candidate/issue forum is a great example. The forum and the Voter Guide on our website have helped prepare local voters for the April 2 election. Many members were involved in registering and educating voters before the deadline. The Successful Adulting project helps MU students recognize their rights and responsibilities in becoming informed voters.

The Legislative Advocacy Team reads and acts on weekly LWVMO Legislative Bulletins. We are a little more than halfway through the legislative session and have weighed in on many issues through emails, letters, and phone calls. Please email us at lwvcbc@gmail.com if you'd like to join this team.

Several League members have been very active in soliciting signatures for the reproductive freedom initiative petition drive. Many thanks to Margie Sable for coordinating these efforts. If you have suggestions for venues for collecting signatures or would like to get signed up to circulate the petition yourself, please email lwvcbc@gmail.com.

April is a big month for our League because we have our annual meeting on April 27. It's a time to meet and mingle and conduct the organization's business, such as electing officers and approving a 2024-25 budget. (See page 6 for the proposed budget and slate of nominations, page 4 for information about our guest speaker, Mary Ratliff, and page 7 for an article about our Eleanor Goodge award recipient, David Lile.) Please come, connect with your fellow members, and consider what you would like to do during the rest of this important election year.

— Mahree Skala
President, LWVCBC
skalamahree@yahoo.com



SAVE THE DATE: SOCIAL MEDIA SUMMER SERIES!

Unfortunately, social media is increasingly used to spread misinformation. Even more unfortunate, many people do not know how to distinguish between facts and opinions. In a critical election year, this could well lead to unintended outcomes.

The LWVCBC is teaming up with the Columbia Library to offer a three-part series, "Before You Vote: How to Critically Analyze Your Digital Media Sources." Speakers for the series include Professor Kathy Kiely of the MU School of Journalism, Professor Scott Christianson of the

Trulaske School of Business, and Seth Smith of the Columbia Public Library.

Topics will include developing good media skills, ideas for navigating the digital world, and the use of artificial intelligence in an election year. Sessions will be held on June 12, June 26, and July 10 and will be approximately 90 minutes long.

Mark your calendar now for this exciting series.

— Linda K. Smith, Chair
Voter Registration
linda.k.smith1954@gmail.com

EARTH DAY FESTIVAL APRIL 21

The Columbia Earth Day Festival will be held on Sunday, April 21, in Peace Park from noon to 7 p.m. In case of bad weather, the event will be moved to April 28. We have yet to receive our booth number, but it will be on Eco Avenue.

Our booth will focus on what the City can and should do to address climate change. We need more volunteers to help staff the booth or help set up or take down. Usually, two people take two-hour shifts. It is easy and fun! If you would like to help, please send an email to yesforparks@hotmail.com.

We will also have a voter registration table. To sign up to work at the voter registration table go to https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B44ADAA29A0FA7-48734053-voter#

Finally, a big thank you to Penelope Heidi and Allison Hall, two of the student members from our Youth Advisory group who have volunteered to set up a youth outreach table.

We look forward to seeing all of you there!

— Barbara Hoppe, Co-Chair
Climate and Energy Committee
yesforparks@hotmail.com

APRIL 23 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.

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

If you are interested but unable to attend, please contact Kate Canterbury, membership committee chair, at katecbgb@gmail.com, 214-536-1300.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME — APRIL 23, 6PM ZOOM

All new members and other interested members are invited. The Zoom Link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82143913983?pwd=bIEzakVxOHI4Qkt1WjFCdnJKNWxOdz09>

Meeting ID: 821 4391 3983

Passcode: LWV

VOTING IS ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESSFUL ADULTING!

The Columbia/Boone County League is collaborating with MU faculty to help students gain the knowledge and confidence to exercise their right to vote. Members Susie Adams, Linda Headrick, and Linda Smith worked with Boone County Clerk Brianna Lennon and course director Melissa Herzog to create two videos for "Successful Adulting." This 8-week course covers many topics related to independence, critical thinking, and decision-making to prepare

students for adulthood. Voting is now one of them! The League also provided a resource guide with links to reliable US, Missouri, and local information sources.

The 8-week in-person course began in late March and will reach 125 students. There is a long waiting list, and Dr. Herzog is working toward offering the class more than once a year.

— Mahree Skala, President
LWVCBC

MARY RATLIFF TO INSPIRE LWV MEMBERS

Mary Ratliff will be our featured speaker at our April 27th Annual Meeting at 10 a.m. Mary was a nurse who worked at the VA, where she retired from the Director’s Office as a Patient Representative. Mary is a communicator, a facilitator, and a proven leader who knows how to bring issues to the table for win-win resolutions.

Mary, president of the Columbia NAACP since 1986, also served as the president of the Missouri NAACP from 1991 to 2016 and served on the NAACP National Board of Directors from 1996 to 2008.

She had an idea to form a group in Columbia to encourage every eligible person to register and, most importantly, to vote in every election. She brought representatives from a variety of organizations and backgrounds together to form what is now known as “When She Votes.”

We know her presentation will inspire our LWV members to keep up our enthusiasm and energy for the long election season.



MARCH 21 CANDIDATE AND BALLOT ISSUE FORUM PHOTOS



Top, left to right, David Lile, moderator, First Ward Councilman Nick Knoth, and Sarah Medcalf of the Recall Group. On April 2, Ward 1 will vote on whether to recall Councilman Nick Knoth.

To the right, seated left to right: Columbia City Council Ward 2 candidates Lucio Bitoy (certified write-in candidate), Robert Schreiber, and Lisa Meyer.



LWV CANDIDATE AND BALLOT ISSUE FORUM PHOTOS



High school student Allison Hall, left, poses her question to the Columbia School Board candidates. The three candidates running for two seats on the board, seated left to right, are Jeanne Snodgrass, Alvin Cobbins, and John Potter.



Above, Representative Cheri Toalson Reisch (R-District 44) and Boone County Presiding Commissioner Kip Kendrick discussed the county ballot issue, 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?"



Left, Youth Voter Advisory Board members Allison Hall, Olivia Watts, and Penelope Heidi each posed a question to the candidates for Columbia School Board.

Forum photos courtesy of Linda Headrick and Linda Smith.

PROPOSED BUDGET AND BOARD/OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 2024/2025

LWV-Columbia MO (LWVMO)	
Budget	
July 2024 to June 2025	
	2024.2025 Budget
Revenue	
LWVMO Educ Fund	1,700
Member Contributions	2,000
Member Dues	11,500
Misc. Income	200
Fundraiser	3,250
From Savings	450
Other Contributions	50
Total Revenue	19,150
Expenditures	
Annual Dues-LWV US *	6,200
Annual Dues-LWV MO*	4,000
Awards	200
Board Expenses	500
/Zoom/ PO Box Rent**	525
Committee-Climate & Energy	50
Committee-Education	50
Committee-Health	50
Committee-Hospitality	1,000
Committee-Luella	325
Committee-Lunch & Learn	150
Committee-Voter Service	500
Convention-National	1,500
Convention-State Council	850
Issue Outreach	200
LWVMO Ed Fund	200
Membership	100
Miscellaneous	50
Newsletter	1,400
Scholarships/Internships	1,000
Bank & PayPal Fees	300
Total Expenditures	19,150
Revenue Over/(Under) Expenses	-

The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate for the LWV Board:

Officers

2nd Vice President – Sharon Schneeberger (2024-2026)

Treasurer – Susan Clark (2024-25)
(Filling out Mary Hayden’s term)

Board Members

Zainab Jasim (2024-2026)
Ruth Milledge (2024-2026)
Kate Canterbury (2024-2026)
Diane Suhler (2024-2026)

The Nominating Committee Proposes the 2025 Nominating Committee

Ena Chippendale, Chair
Joni O’Connor
Linda Smith

* * * * *

Officers with terms ending in 2025:

President Mahree Skala
1st Vice President Susie Adams
Secretary Carol Schreiber

Board members with terms ending in 2025:

Linda Headrick
Marilyn McLeod
Elaine Blodgett
Pam Springsteel
Rene Powell
Barbara Hoppe

* Estimated

DAVID LILE TO RECEIVE 2024 ELEANOR GOODGE AWARD

David Lile is the recipient of the 2024 Eleanor Goodge Award to recognize his exemplary service to the LWV of Columbia-Boone County.

David has worked with our League for about a decade, always enthusiastically responding to our requests to moderate our candidate and ballot issue forums, as well as other educational forums that we provide for the public.

The League and the public have benefited from his extraordinary talent for bringing out the best in everyone involved in our public forums. His special ability to ask hard questions while maintaining a demeanor that always clearly

shows his interest in the answers elicited has been a great asset.



It is important to recognize the special gift he has given us in his joyful willingness to work with us and serve as moderator for so many of our events. His exceptional personal skills make them better!

Since he is not an official member of the League, we will give him membership. We could not be more grateful for his participation in our public events.

— Marilyn McLeod, President
LWVMO

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

2024 LWVMO Spring Conference



Where: Ethical Society of St. Louis

When: Saturday, June 8, 9 am to 3 pm

**Topics include: Election Security;
How to be the Face of the League;
Library Censorship; Youth Voting; and
League Work on Initiative Petitions**



Watch for registration information at LWVMO.org



Upcoming League Events!



APRIL 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	APRIL 1 Social Media Committee Mtg 3pm	2 ELECTION DAY	3	4	5	6
7	8 Social Media Committee Mtg 3pm Youth Voter Advisory Board 5-7pm Library Room B	9	10 Lunch & Learn @ Noon Public Library BOCO Presiding Commissioner	11	12	13
14	15 Social Media Committee Mtg 3pm LWVCBC Board Meeting 5:30pm Zoom	16	17	18	19	20
21 EARTH DAY Peace Park	22 Social Media Committee Mtg 3pm	23 New Member Welcome 6PM Zoom	24	25	26	27 LWVCBC ANNUAL MTG 10 AM BOCO Family Resources Bldg 2700 W. Ash
28	29 Social Media Committee Mtg 3pm	30	MAY 1	2	3	4
5	6 Social Media Committee Mtg 3pm	7	8 Lunch & Learn Mental Health Noon Public Library	9	10	11
12	13 Social Media Committee Mtg 3pm	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Social Media Committee Mtg 3pm LWVCBC Board Meeting 5:30pm Zoom	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Social Media Committee Mtg 3pm	28	29	30	31	JUNE 1

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 new members Ruth Tofle, Cindy Bush, Kristin Bowen, Llona Weiss, Molly Sartorius, Kate Waller, Diane Meeker, Marlene Manella, Nancy Foley, Caroline Teasley, and Richard Smith.

We invite all new members to join us for a **New Member Welcome on April 23rd at 6pm on Zoom.**
 See article on page 3 for details.

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>

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

Our goal is to communicate information, supported by the League of Women Voters, about the importance of voting and being an active citizen. Toward that end, this month we have posted about our Lunch & Learn, Election Forum, Women’s History Month, registering to vote, and the multiple options for voting. Please promote our social media posts and share them with others. You will find our posts here—

- Facebook Page-Search for LWV of Columbia-Boone County or <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100066526418132>
- Facebook Group-Search for League of Women Voters of Columbia, MO or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/146613212050532>
- TwitterX- <https://twitter.com/lwvcbc>
- Instagram- <https://www.instagram.com/lwvcbc/>
- Threads- <https://www.threads.net/@lwvcbc?hl=en>
- LWV-CBC website- <https://lwvcbc.org/>

Go to our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCge8bRnB1_KGzXNfzTRLgrQ

to view recordings of the two events we held last month:

- Lunch & Learn - "The Supreme Court’s 2023-2024 Term: Selected Cases” presented by Rigel Oliveri on March 13
- “2024 LWV-CBC Municipal Election Forum” on March 21

The social media committee meets on Mondays at 3pm via Zoom. We welcome your ideas or interests in social media. And, even better please join us by emailing sharon@schneeberger.net.

— Linda Headrick, Peggy Placier, Carol Schreiber, & Sharon Schneeberger; Social Media Committee