



# THE VOTER

*The League of Women Voters of Kansas City/Jackson/Clay/Platte Counties*

**Winston Apple**  
**September 16, 2017**  
**9:30 – 12:00**

Winston Apple, citizen-initiator of a number of petition proposals, will discuss why he has proposed major changes to Missouri's elections. He will discuss his views on the benefits of proportional representation in the General Assembly, ranked-choice voting, and a public financing option for candidates. His objective is to improve the quality of elections by making the system more genuinely democratic.



Winston Apple is a retired teacher of government and economics courses who is now teaching applied versions of those subjects as a political activist. He believes using the initiative process is necessary to reform our political system and address critical problems. He is personally devoted to reforming our political system to make government more genuinely representative of the will of the people.

To prepare for discussion on Sep 19, LWV members are encouraged to read the public policy positions of LWV US pertaining to our basic principle "To promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive." View *Impact on Issues* online for positions on "Representative Government," page 8 and "The Election Process." page 19.

## **Community Christian Church 4601 Main; Kansas City MO**

Enter on south side of church; take steps to lower level Centennial Room.

Park free in multi-level garage south of church

Handicapped entrance and parking is on north side of church with elevator access to lower level.

**September 12, Tuesday:** National Day of Action, Press Conference for Voter Protection  
**September 26, Tuesday:** Happy Hour, National Voting Registration Day Celebration  
**September 28, Thursday:** Kickoff of Northland LWV  
**October 9, Monday:** "I've Got a Crush on You" Quality Hill Play House Fundraiser  
**October 12, Thursday:** "The Life and Times of Barbara Jordan" Performance Fundraiser

**LWV/KC/J/C/P  
BOARD**

**2017-2018**

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## Co-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

There is a very busy schedule for LWV members this month: the National Day of Action press conference, Happy Hour on National Voter Registration Day to honor our Voter Registrars, and our fundraisers at Quality Hill Playhouse and the performance of "The Life and Times of Barbara Jordan". Look for details in this issue and also for details about our website's new online membership application, online dues payment, and FACEBOOK account.

Given our speaker's topic this month, it seems timely to publish the following recently Board-approved guidelines for petitioning at our LWV meetings and events.

### PETITIONING GUIDELINES EFFECTIVE JULY, 2017

Over the past year, numerous individuals (including some non-members) have at LWV meetings and events sought signatures on petitions for potential ballot and other issues. Generally speaking, there has been no real opportunity for these to be reviewed prior to the meeting/event to determine whether these documents are consistent with LWV values and policy positions.

Additionally, the efforts to obtain signatures have diverted meeting participants from the main purposes of their being there. That said, the LWV/KC/J/C/P Board wishes to respect the interests and activism of its members in a manner that serves both the organization and its members.

With this in mind, the LWV/J/C/P Board, at its July 10, 2017, agreed on the following guidelines for petition circulation and signing at LWV/J/C/P membership meetings and events:

1. Only LWV/KC/J/C/P members will be permitted to circulate and seek signatures on petitions at LWV/KC/J/C/P meetings and events.
2. In order to ensure that the petition being circulated is consistent with LWV values and policies, the draft petition should be submitted via email or other means, at least 10 days prior to a meeting or event, to the Co-Presidents of the LWV/KC/J/C/P for review and a determination by the Board of whether it is appropriate to seek signatures at a LWV/KC/J/C/P meeting or event. The Co-Presidents will consult with other members of the Board if needed. They will advise the member who submits the proposal of their decision.
3. At the meeting/event an announcement will be made by the chair/moderator that the petition is available for review and signature at the "Petition" table. Signatures on petitions will not be sought by individual approach to members at any time during the meeting or event.
4. Any questions about this policy should be directed to either of the Co-Presidents.

**1 September Meeting**  
**2 Co-Presidents' Message; Petitioning Guidelines**  
**3 Call to Action: JaCo Jail Conditions**

**5 6 News in Brief**  
**7 Voting Rights Press Conference & Rally Event**  
**8 Happy Hour Celebration; Northland Kickoff Events**  
**9 Fundraiser: "The Life and Times of Barbara Jordan"**  
**10 Fundraiser: "I've Got a Crush On You"**

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## CALL TO ACTION

### Jackson County Jail Conditions

Kansas City LWV has been called to action on the unacceptable conditions of the Jackson County Jail. The jail has been raided twice by the FBI and additional Federal Law Enforcement in the last year and there is an ongoing investigation into reports of rape, rampant drug use, abuse by guards and many other criminal allegations as to the treatment of prisoners and deplorable conditions. The national League's position on "*Social Policy*", *Impact on Issues*, pg 73, directs us to promote the health and safety of all Americans, which would include those who are incarcerated. Our local position also supports minimum standards in the Jackson County Jail for the housing of inmates.

LWV members are needed to serve on an observer corps to meet with members of the Jackson CO Legislature Committee that is charged with reporting, monitoring and correcting these conditions. Also, we will be contacting and researching practices with the Director of Corrections, Joe Piccinini, and the Sheriff, Mike Sharp.

Not all work will require attendance at legislative meetings. We will also need members to do research, make calls from home and follow up on our intervention and outreach. We will contact three county legislators, Dan Tarwarter III, Alfred Jordan, Vice Chair of the Legislature and Greg Grounds. We will also contact Crystal Williams who is on the Finance and Audit Committee and of course, we will be contacting Frank White, County Executive.

Other contacts to be made are the Dept of Corrections and the Sheriffs Dept; County .Prosecutor Jean Peters Baker; County Counselor Attorney Stephen Nixon who provides counsel for county employees.

Paula Zaiss, Interim Leader, Alison Arendt, Interim Asst Leader, Pauline Testerman, and Larry Lillis.

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## Calendar for State and National Events

October 28, 2017	Missouri LWV Fall Conference, Sedalia
May 5, 2018	Missouri LWV Spring Conference, Kansas City
June 28, 2018	U. S. League of Women Voters Convention, Chicago

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LWV KCJCP is now on Facebook. Thanks to Becky Yockey and a team of LWV members, we can use Facebook to get our message out to a broader audience than ever before. For those who are not experienced Facebook users, here are step by step instructions to find, view, and utilize our Facebook page.

1. Go to your Facebook page online/on your mobile ([www.Facebook.com](http://www.Facebook.com), username (email) and password)
2. Put cursor in the top left white search bar, and type in "League of Women Voters of Kansas City", press enter
3. Our fb page should be at the top of your search results. Hover cursor over the name of our organization and press enter.
4. You should be on our "home" page; on the left side are "contents" such as "about," "photos," "events," etc.
5. Find "LIKE" and click on it. That means you "like" our page and may receive some notifications.
6. Find "FOLLOW" and click on that as well; then you will receive our notifications of meetings, co-sponsored events, etc.
7. Scroll through the page to familiarize yourself with what we're doing and posting.
8. Notice also that there's a citation of our website address; click on that and you'll be linked to our website.
9. If you see an event or fundraiser, you can help promote it by hitting "share". A window will pop up with the event/fundraiser; you can type your own comments ("Can't wait to hear this speaker!") over the blue letters "Say something about this". When you finish and hit "post" this same item, with your comments, will appear on your fb page.
10. Sharing helps spread the word! If you "like" and "share," you're telling your friends on fb that this is something of worth to you, and perhaps they'd like to consider it as well.

Becky Yockey

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Alison Arendt**, a new member to LWV, has already helped to form our new Jackson County Jail Observer Corps. Alison, a Johnson County native, recently relocated from Chicago to Lee's Summit. She was introduced to canvassing and phone banks during the November election and now would like to work with the League on issues.

**BECKY YOCKEY** has been appointed to serve as Board Director effective with the August board meeting. Becky has already activated our FACEBOOK account and will serve as its administrator. She will continue serve as Co-Chair of the Membership Committee with Paula Zaiss.

**DISCUSSION GROUP** Watch for an announcement in the October VOTER about formation of a discussion group to regularly meet in the early evening in the Plaza area. All members and guests are welcome to attend. The discussion group is intended to provide an evening meeting alternative for members to gather as well as for members to probe more deeply into issues of interest.

**ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION** – This federal commission remains vulnerable to being eliminated by Congress so LWV US is appealing for letters and calls to Congress to maintain the Commission. One responsibility assigned to EAC by the Help America to Vote Act of 2002 is to develop and maintain voluntary voting system guidelines for the states, which are to include standards for basic functionality accessibility, and security capabilities. It is currently meeting to develop the next generation of guidelines.

**ELECTIONS** to be held on Nov 7 are local elections only. Check your election board's website for its ballot. Oct 11 is the last day for voter registration for the Nov 7 election.

**FACEBOOK** for LWV KCJCP is now operative thanks to Becky Yockey and a team of members who worked diligently to activate it. Please "like" it at "League of Women Voters of Kansas City" and email pictures and immediate news for posting on Facebook to Becky at [yockeys@swbell.net](mailto:yockeys@swbell.net). Instructions for finding our Facebook page are elsewhere in this VOTER.

**ISSUES FORUM** – LWV members moderated a Legislative Issues Forum, on Sep 6, which was sponsored by Parkville Area Chamber, Platte City Chamber, Riverside Chamber and Weston Chamber. Panelists included City, County, State and Federal representatives who addressed pertinent issues that impact Platte County directly.

**LWV MISSOURI FALL CONFERENCE** – Plan now to attend the one-day LWVMO Fall Conference October 28, 2017 State Fair Community College in Sedalia. Conference details will be released in October. We will organize car pools to travel together from Kansas City to enable as many members to go as possible. Contact Donna Hoch, 816.868.1083. [thehochs@hotmail.com](mailto:thehochs@hotmail.com) to inquire.

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**LWV US COUNCIL** met in June in Dallas for its bi-annual Council of League leadership. LWV MO President Kathleen Boswell (Sedalia) and our Executive Director Elizabeth McDonald represented Missouri. At Council 2017, LWV US leaders explored how local, state, and national levels will work together to achieve transformational objectives. To view a short message from LWV US on transformation of LWV go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zt9YsQaLvXg&t=39s> Another interesting video posted on you tube by LWV US is “**Engaging Millennials in Elections**” at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4U9n7H2XiQk>

**IN FOR TEN** - - LWV registrars responded to a request for help to train Voter Educators at a nonpartisan event in English Landing, Parkville, hosted by Progress Northland, Aug 26, at English Landing in Parkville. A special guest was Kentucky Secretary of State Alison Lundergan who is pictured with Deb Keating and Evelyn Maddox. SOS Lundergan received national attention for being the first SOS to refuse to send voter data to the Commission on Election Integrity (Pence-Kobach Commission).

**MISSOURI SECRETARY OF STATE** –As of last week the SOS office had not sent voter data requested by the Pence Kobach Commission on Election Integrity because of a pending lawsuit against the Commission.

**NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY** is celebrated nationwide by the public on September 26 The national day is especially meaningful for LWV because of LWV’s 97 year old mission to educate and advocate for voters. Several LWV registrars will be on campus at UMKC as well as other KC locations.

**TAX DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (TDD) for the streetcar continues to be a local issue for voters living the TDD.** The election of Directors of the Kansas City Main Street Rail Transportation Development District (TDD) will be on October 7, 2017. This election is being conducted by the Kansas City Board of Election Commissioners and poll sites will be announced. Only registered voters residing in the TDD may vote. For details about the election and to view a list of candidates, go to [kceb.org](http://kceb.org).

**TDD LAWSUIT FILED** - Several KCMO voters filed a lawsuit in Cole County, MO, challenging the voting process used in the streetcar extension TDD. Defendants are State of Missouri, the Secretary of State, and all fifty of the streetcar extension petition sponsors. The suit alleges the TDD voting process "imposes onerous procedural requirements which handicap the exercise of their (Voters) franchise to vote." The suit was filed by Sherry DeJanes a Kansas City Attorney, founder of BE SMART KC, which is an opponent of the proposed TDD.

**VOTER PROTECTION** – Press conference and rally in Kansas City on Sep 12, is a response to Pence-Kobach’s continuing to pursue unsubstantiated voter fraud in New Hampshire. See details of the press conference on page 6...

**VOTERS LOSE IN TEXAS** - A three-member panel of the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans has voted 2-1 to allow the controversial Texas law requiring voter ID to be implemented, at least until the same court rules on the constitutionality of the law. That means Texas voters will be subject to voter identification in November that has not previously been required.

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## Voting Rights Advocates Speaking in KC, Tuesday

**LWV KCJCP and its partners in the KC Area Coalition for Voter Protection received a request from the Democracy Initiative to rally a response to the Pence Kobach's meeting of the Election Integrity Commission in New Hampshire on Sep 12. The need is to stand firm against unwarranted actions of the Commission to interfere with New Hampshire's election system, as well as to protest the Commission's continuing to pursue unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud. The Coalition appealed to other concerned organizations to join in conducting a press conference. The result is described in the press release below.**

**Kansas City, Missouri – September 6, 2017** – Starting at noon on Tuesday, Sept 12, voting rights advocates from Kansas and Missouri will meet at the north end of Ilus Davis Park to lift up a vision of inclusive democracy as counterpoint to a meeting taking place in New Hampshire.

“The best way to uphold the integrity our elections is by making sure every eligible voter can vote and that their vote is counted as cast,” said one of the organizers, Evelyn Maddox, “not by pursuing allegations of voter fraud where none exists.”

Maddox is co-president of League of Women Voters of Kansas City, Jackson, Clay and Platte Counties. She says many of these groups want to send a message to the “Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity” that the American people will not be intimidated out of exercising their right to vote, nor permit the use of voter data as pretext for purging voter rolls.

With the U.S. Courthouse as a backdrop, speakers will share their current and planned actions regarding the “Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity.” Established by executive order in May, with Vice President Mike Pence as chair and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach as vice chair, the Commission will search for “fraudulent voter registrations and fraudulent voting.” Its second meeting is Tuesday.

In contrast, the voting rights advocates gathering on Tuesday are more concerned by increased voter intimidation and suppression efforts. Of particular concern are inflexible voter ID laws, reduced polling sites and inadequate poll worker training, requests for voter file data, and the potential of federal interference in state election laws. Kansans, in particular, are encumbered by the registration requirement of documentary proof of citizenship championed by Secretary Kobach and others on the Commission.

Participants in this event include representatives from Communities Creating Opportunity (CCO); Heartland Alliance for Progress; Hope, Resistance & Renewal; League of Women Voters of Johnson County, Kansas; League of Women Voters of Kansas; League of Women Voters of Kansas City, Jackson, Clay and Platte Counties; MORE2; NAACP Kansas City, MO Branch; Progressive Social Network; and What U Can Do. Several of these organizations have aligned under the name Greater KC Coalition to Protect the Vote, drawn together by Dr. Robert Lee Hill.

At 12 p.m., Evelyn Maddox, co-president of LWV of KCJCP will convene the event and introduce speakers, including the Reverend Susan McCann, President of Communities Creating Opportunity (CCO); Sara Baker of ACLU of Missouri; and the Rev. Rodney E. Williams, president of the Kansas City branch of the NAACP. Cille King, co-president of LWV of Kansas, who is quoted in the Kansas Advisory Committee report to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, will talk about the impact of [the S.A.F.E. Act](#) on citizen participation.

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**HAPPY HOUR CELEBRATION  
NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

**HONORING LWV VOTER REGISTRARS**

All LWV members are invited to gather on Sep 26 for Happy Hour to honor our **26 Voter Registrars** who work diligently throughout the year to register voters. On **National Voter Registration Day, Sep 26**, they'll join the nationwide drive of LWV to be present throughout the community to register voters.

We'll gather at **The Well, 7421 Broadway St., in Waldo at 4:00 p.m.** to ?. Although The Well's address is "Broadway", it is viewable from Wornall. It's just north of 75<sup>th</sup> street on the east side of Wornall. It will be a cash bar and select drinks and appetizers are half-price during Happy Hour.



**THE KC NORTHLAND**

**LET'S MEET SOCIALLY AND SHARE OUR LEAGUE EXPERIENCES WITH FRIENDS**

**Bring a friend or two**

**September 28, 2017  
7:00 p.m.**

**Residence of Linda and Jack Smith  
7335 NW Amity Ave  
Kansas City, MO 64152**

**Your hosts: Pauli Kendrick, Linda Smith, Paula Zaiss**

**Wine, other beverages and snacks will be served, RSVP: 816 741-6110**

# *The Life and Times of Barbara Jordan*

Written and Performed  
by  
Jacquee Gafford

OCT 12  
Doors open at 6:00.  
Performance at 7:00 p.m.

Community Christian Church  
Sanctuary  
4601 Main, Kansas City MO

Enter on Main or 46<sup>th</sup> Street.

Park free in multi-level garage south of church  
Handicapped parking and entrance on north side of  
church.

\$20 per ticket. Anyone may purchase tickets  
online at [lwvkc.org](http://lwvkc.org), or mail a check to Caroline  
Arnold, 1912 A NW Cherry St., Lee's Summit  
MO , KCMO 64081-1126. Be sure to include  
contact information with mailed check. To  
inquire, contact Caroline at 816.333.6059.

This one-time performance is a public  
fundraiser for League of Women Voters of  
Kansas City MO/Jackson, Clay and Platte  
Counties.



**Barbara Jordan  
1936-1996**

Barbara Jordan was an American lawyer, educator and politician who was a leader of the Civil Rights Movement. She was best known for her eloquent opening statement at the House Judiciary Committee hearings during the impeachment process against Richard Nixon, and as the first African-American woman to deliver a keynote address at a Democratic National Convention. She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom among numerous other honors. She was a member of the Peabody Awards Board of Jurors from 1978 to 1980.

On July 25, 1974, Texas Representative Barbara Jordan delivered a 15-minute televised speech in front of the members of the U.S. House Judiciary Committee. She presented an opening speech during the hearings that were part of the impeachment process against Richard Nixon. This speech is thought to be one of the best speeches of the 20th century. Throughout her speech, Jordan strongly stood by the Constitution of the United States of America. *Source: [wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara\\_Jordan](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Jordan)*

Recommended reading: Barbara Jordan: An African American Politician by John McNair; Barbara Jordan: An American Hero by Beth Rogers; Barbara Jordan: A Self Portrait by Barbara Jordan and Shelby Hearon

## LWV FUNDRAISER

OCTOBER 9

7:30 P.M.

303 West 10 Street

Downtown KCMO

Thanks to the support of Quality Hill Playhouse for a second time, LWV will benefit from a limited number of \$20 tickets being sold to members and their friends and family.

The performance is "I've Got a Crush on You" on Monday, Oct 12, 7:30 p.m. at 303 West 10 Street, KCMO.

Due to limited tickets, sales are first come, first served.

