



THE VOTER

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

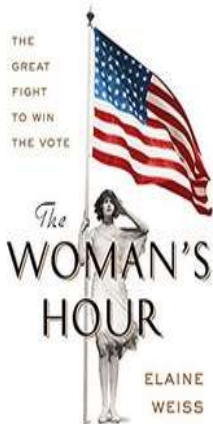
Box 10416, KCMO 64174-0416—816.464.1800

[facebook.com/lwvkc](https://www.facebook.com/lwvkc) lwvkjcp@gmail.com www.lwvkc.org

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BOOKS ON VOTING: FROM THEN TO NOW DISCUSSION FORUM

Community Christian Church
Hospitality 9:30, Program 10:00



Members **Anitra Steele** and **Sue Scholl** will headline the November 10 meeting with a forum on voting-related books. There will be discussion of various titles starting with Horace Bushnell's *Women's Suffrage: Reform Against Nature (1869)* as well as recently published *The Women's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote* by Elaine Weiss, and ending with recommendations of books on voting for children.

Set in the backdrop of a back and forth discussion between Anitra and Sue, **this program is meant as a highlight of non-fiction and fiction books old and new.** A short bibliography of titles will be given to attendees.

Anitra is a retired Children's Librarian and Sue is self-described "dyed-in-the-wool feminist" and avid reader.

Community Christian Church 4601 Main; Kansas City

Park free in multi-level garage south of church.

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

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

Nov 10 State Workshop in Sedalia—Last Day to Register

Register at lwvmisouri.org or locally with Caroline Arnold, 816.333.6059, cmarnold@live.com \$25 includes lunch. To car pool, contact Donna Hoch, thehochs@hotmail.com or 816.868.1083.

Community College, Sedalia. Registration 8:30 am. LWV members encouraged to attend the Workshop or the local meeting. Program: Jessica Rohloff from LWVUS, Sarah Smith, General Manager of KMBC and KCWE TV in Kansas City; Lafayette County Clerk Linda Niendick. Update on LWV court cases; winning posters from high school contest displayed; plans to celebrate 100th anniversary of LWV/US/MO/KCJCP birthdays and 19th Amendment, and more.

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2018-2019

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Co-Presidents' Message

In pondering the past weeks of violence, threats, and uncertainty, we look for comfort and hope. Wherever we find it in friends, faith, prayers and the Kaddish. We seek comfort in each other and hope in our democracy.

LWV has worked for 98 years on strengthening our democratic system through education, involvement, study, personal sacrifice, and marches for freedom. Our local LWV has worked aggressively for months. We should feel proud and hopeful. even in these dark times. We are in it for the long haul- regardless of the outcome of any election. Here is just some of our work in the critical months before the election on November 6.

- We have met students and young adults to engage them in reasons to be active participants in the democracy.
- We have registered new citizens at naturalization ceremonies and welcomed them into our society.
- We have gone anywhere we could think of to register voters. We celebrated our registrars' work on National Voter Registration Day.
- We have stood in the rain at the polls to inform voters on the voter ID required to vote.
- We have advocated for Healthy Homes so that people could be living in housing without rats, broken pipes and with increased safety.
- We have sat in court hearings as silent but forceful witnesses against voter suppression.
- We have challenged unfair redistricting and diminishing of citizen power. Also, we have challenged the dark money making all of us voters smaller and less influential.
- We have produced Voter Guides in print and online so voters would know for what they were voting.
- We have developed forums for the public to meet the candidates and shared our expertise in managing and hosting these events.
- We have scheduled speakers for ourselves and guests on ballot issues and became more knowledgeable about underlying facts.
 - Rosemary and Evelyn

1. Book Discussion Forum	4. Poll Monitors	8. Art Poster Winner
2. Co-Presidents' Message	5. Voters Guide; Naturalization Ceremony	9. Amendment 1/Clean Missouri Press Conference
3-4. Court Upholds LWV	6.-8, Committee Reports	10. One Person, No Vote Conversation
11. Holiday Luncheon, Dec 8		

Courts Uphold Challenges to Photo ID Law

LWVMO, which includes our league, has been a plaintiff in two ongoing lawsuits and has been tracking a third lawsuit. We have had successful results in the past two months and have much to celebrate.

Shortly after the Photo ID law was implemented in July, 2017, LWVMO, NAACP, and St. Francis Xavier Church filed a lawsuit against the Secretary of State alleging that the state failed to allocate sufficient money to educate the voter, provide documents such as birth certificates, marriage and divorce records and supply a voter ID to voters, such as the non-driver license picture ID.

Our challenge was to prove that insufficient money has been allocated by the legislature because the law would be unenforceable if so. St. Francis had a program assisting voters who needed an ID and alleged that the Secretary of State did not produce what was needed. The Circuit court dismissed the original law suit but the appeals court heard the case on Oct 10 at a special hearing at Warrensburg. **The MO Court of Appeals ruled on Oct. 30, 2018 that the prior dismissal was reversed and should be set for a new trial.** The ACLU, Advancement Project and another firm argued and won the case for us.



Sophia Lakin who argued the case on Oct. 10 is in the front, middle, with **Denise Lieberman** of **Advancement Project** at the right. LWV members are pictured with the legal team representing LWV and NAACP. **LWV** members are pictured on the back row from the left: **Dawn Wade**, **LWVKCJCP** (third from left), **Donna Hoch**, **LWVKCJCP**, **Kathleen Boswell**, **President of LWVMO**, **Linda McDaniel**, **LWVSTL**, and **Kathleen Farrell**, **LWVSWMO**. **Rod Chapel**, **President of MO NAACP** is in the back, at the far right.

Lawsuits continued -

Lawsuits continued –

LWVMO and A. Philip Randolph also filed a federal lawsuit against the Division of Motor Vehicles and the Secretary of State alleging violations of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (Motor Voter). The DMV had failed to offer voter registration to people who changed their address by mail or online. The Secretary of State, as the elected official responsible for elections, failed to see that the NVRA was followed and enforced. **The case for relief for people who did not have the offer to register was the subject of a federal court hearing in August, 2018.** The DMV argued that it was too expensive and time consuming to change this non-process. **The federal judge ruled that the DMV was required to contact the voters impacted and offer them the chance to update their registrations. The trial on whether the DMV and Secretary of State violated the NVR will be argued in April, 2019. Since it is a Federal case, it will set precedent for any future case.**

Another case, in which the league has not been a plaintiff, has had an important ruling on the Photo Voter ID law. **Priorities, INC filed a lawsuit questioning the constitutionality of HB 1631 which set out the requirements of photo id and the use of an affidavit for non -photo id presented by the voter.** This was a requirement for a “signed statement” (affidavit) if the voter presented a utility bill, a bank statement, a voter ID card, or MO school ID. The court ruled the statement (affidavit) was inaccurate, confusing, poorly worded and untrue as the person could still vote with these forms of ID. **The requirement to sign a sworn statement was eliminated for the upcoming November election. A government issued photo ID will not be required to vote on Nov. 6, despite the statements produced by the Secretary of State’s office.** This ruling was also issued in late October.

LWV has challenged various aspects of the photo ID requirement since HB 1631 passed in 2016.

Rosemary Durkin

Poll Monitors Will Work on Election Day



Denise Lieberman (pictured) of the Advancement Project conducted poll monitor training for at least 17 LWV members who will work at various poll sites on Election Day. Poll monitors commit to at least a three-hour shift at assigned sites. All voters are advised of their rights as they approach the poll and are asked to report any problem after voting. Monitors will report any problem to a hotline staffed with trained lawyers (including one LWV member), who then trouble shoot the situation. **There will be at least 300 poll monitors working across Missouri.** Some monitors will report to an assigned poll site at 6:00 a.m. to report any issues with the opening of a poll site. Poll monitoring is another of LWV’s

Voter Protection efforts to defend democracy.

Voters Guide Distributed and Live Online

Beginning October 22, over 11,000 *Voters Guides* were distributed to over 200 sites in Jackson, Platte, Clay and Cass counties by the League of Women Voters. The herculean effort, led by members Pat Goodwin and Peg Prendergast (pictured), involved 40 members.



The production of the current *Voters Guide* began in the summer of 2018 after the Missouri LMV Spring Conference. Coverage of state issues in the *Guide* was provided by LWVMO while local issues were covered by the Kansas City League. The effort included gathering information on issues and candidates, fundraising for printing and production costs, distribution of vote411.org flyers, creating a delivery plan for the *Guides*, and the actual delivery of the guides. **Peg Prendergast is shown with her delivery of about 4,000 *Voters Guides* to members for distribution.**

This year's *Voters Guide* was printed by *The Kansas City Star* using funds from nearly \$5,700 raised for the effort. 27 members of our chapter donated to the project. Funds were raised by members who worked the polls for the Adopt-a-Poll through KCEB, members who donated through Adopt-a-Poll Worker program during the August primary election, and donations by local labor unions and local organizations. Another \$1,000 will be raised on November 6 through Adopt-a-Poll.

The vote411.org effort during the primary period which ended August 7 produced a record 7,200 hits to the website. The Kansas City League of Women Voters would like to thank every member who participated in the *Voters Guide* project for all their hard work and a special thank you to Pat Goodwin and Peg Prendergast.

Mitzi Klukvin



New citizens are shown receiving their certificate of citizenship at a naturalization ceremony at the Federal Courthouse on Oct. 17. Cathy Hiersteiner, Laura Mountjoy, Sue Scholl, and Cheryl Barnes served as registrars at two ceremonies that day.

Committee Reports

Hospitality Committee, submitted by Sheryl Eufinger

Members of the Board will be serving our catered Annual Holiday Luncheon on Dec. 8. The menu will be a traditional dinner with plenty for everyone. The cost for lunch is \$20 per person. Guests are welcome. Make your reservation, now, with Caroline Arnold at cmarnold@live.com or 816.333.6059. (There is no charge to attend the Historic Kansas City video program which precedes lunch. See page 11 for details.)

Sliced turkey breast
Potatoes au-gratin
Mini croissants
Hot spiced apple cider

Sliced boneless baked ham
Fresh cranberry-orange salad
Pumpkin pie
Tea and coffee

Thank you to members who graciously respond with hospitality for our monthly meetings. We could use help at every meeting to assist with the food, drinks and table décor. **We can always use more help during the meetings and with clean-up afterwards.** Our committee's goal is to attractively present food and serve in an environmentally conscious manner. Please contact Sheryl Eufinger at lwwkjcjp@gmail.com if you wish to help.

Observer Corps, submitted by Sandy Eeds, Observer

The KCEB Directors Report at the October 18 meeting of the Kansas City Election Board summarized preparation of the poll sites for the November 6 election.

- **There will be 153 polling places which indicates good coverage Satellite polling will occur at Center High School and Brush Creek Community Center.** There will be three Voter Assistance Specialists and seven election judges at each location. The Whole Person location will again function as a central poll.
- Absentee voting is up. 745 walk-in voters to-date. **Average time to vote is 12-13 minutes.**
- **Directors are predicting 55-60% turnout at this mid-term vs. 38% in 2014.**
- KCEB has increased social media information.

Voter Registration, submitted by Sue Scholl

A big thank you to all the registrars and LWV members who helped get about 120 people registered at about 15 events from Sept. 25 to Oct. 10. Registrars participating were MJ McCall, Bertie Daw, Polly Swofford, Joyce Fulps, Mary Lindsay, Sherry Templeton, Ann Johnson, Cheryl Barnes, Cathy Hiersteiner and Symie Menitove and her team working for Students & Young Adults. We did events at concerts, naturalization ceremonies, Travois, Amethyst House, community events, schools, and colleges.

Committee reports continued -

Committee Reports continued -

Voter Registration Drives for Students & Young Adults, submitted by Symie Menitove

Post high-school institutions have been an untapped source for voter registration so a new committee was established this year to develop an LWV drive to register young adults. The time was ripe but LWV had to develop campus contacts to get invitations to campus events.

The Dean of Students at UMKC referred us to the student president of the **Associated Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM)** because UMKC does not allow unaffiliated groups on campus unless they are working with a student organization. Subsequently we collaborated with ASUM for voter registration at the Campus Information Fair and several other campus events.

AAUW has a small team locally that conducts voter registration drives at the UMKC Women's Center and the Metropolitan Community Colleges. Through the AAUW, we were invited to the Women's Center "Chill Out" event and to drives at other Metropolitan Community Colleges.

At other colleges and universities, our contacts were the Director of Student Activities, the Student Life Director, Student Services, and the Director of Student Affairs. **KCEB contacted us to do a drive at a university on one occasion.** At technical schools, we worked through the head person. Seminaries were unresponsive.

From the end of July through October 9, 2018, we held 36 voter registration drives on 16 campuses (including eight at UMKC) and one very popular coffee shop. We collected 500 affidavits and postcards. Although we do not have the number of administrative hours spent organizing drives, we know that we provided 201.5 hours of volunteer staffing hours.

Vote411/Voters Guide, submitted by Pat Goodwin

Vote411.org was launched on October 17 for the November 6 general election and **11,000+ Voter Guides were printed at a cost of \$1188. They were distributed during the week of Oct. 22.** Thirty-seven League members participated in delivering the guides along with informational flyers on judges up for retention, which were provided by the Missouri Bar Association. **Although over 100 sites were identified as distribution locations, members delivered guides to dozens of other places including coffee shops, restaurants, churches, and retirement communities. A happy recipient is pictured to the right.**



Forums Report, submitted by Anitra Steele

Although numerous Amendment 1 informational events and a forum for Mo. Rep. Districts 14 and 15 were held, the two Statewide race forums, [US Senate and State Auditor] did not "make". This was due to the failure to get a response from the major Senate candidates and negative responses from the Auditor candidates. Over the summer, KCUR had a change of personnel and with the lack of candidate responses, the plans made over a year ago to partner with us on the statewide candidate forums fell to the wayside.

Forums report continued -

Three Amendment 1 events were set up by Co President Evelyn Maddox with assistance from Anitra Steele [Oct. 10, North Independence Library], Rita Gulden (Oct 26, Parkville YMCA/Community Center), And Caroline Arnold [Oct. 30, John Knox Village in Lee's Summit]. In addition, smaller educational and advocacy events were held about Amendment 1.



Dr. Greg Vannahme
Asst. Prof. of Political Science
UMKC



Dr. Debra Leiter
Asst. Prof. of Political Science
UMKC



Senator Rob Schaaf
MO District 34

On Oct. 25, at the Metropolitan Community College-Maple Woods a **forum for Mo. Rep. Districts 14 and 15 was held**. All candidates attended. Steve West, Republican candidate for the 15th District holds some distinctively different views which the audience questions were able to bring out. Delores Blaser called all the Northland members to alert them to this forum and arranged the staffing. **Cheryl Barnes moderated, Anitra Steele and Linda Stone were timers, Card Sorters were Delores and Susan Moon. Card distributors were members Carol Clopton, June Lamb and Sher Wilde. Welcome table and Green Room help were provided by Sheryl Eufinger and Janet Archer.** The *Voters Guide* and marijuana grid were given to the 55 attendees.

Local Winners

Statewide Poster Contest

Two KC area schools participated in the LWVMO art poster contest ending Oct. 30. The two school winners will compete for a \$500 grand prize to be announced at the Nov. 10 Fall Workshop in Sedalia. Donna Hoch is shown presenting a \$50 gift certificate to Omar Munoz of Ruskin High School. Principal Torrence Allen and Art Teacher Danielle Agin, look on.

Alondra Conchas is the winner at Allen Village Charter School. She will be presented a \$50 gift certificate when she is available for a presentation.





On Oct. 30, KMBC-TV live streamed a “Tricks and Treats” press conference about Amendment 1 at the J. C. Nichols Fountain where UMKC students and members of organizations spoke. LWV member Cheryl Barnes was the local member who worked with Clean MO to organize the logistics. Emphasis was placed on how currently MO legislators average nearly \$900,000 a year in lobbyist treats (gifts). Amendment 1 limits gifts to \$5 per occurrence. Speakers were Evelyn Maddox (LWVMO & KCJCP), Reverend Bob Hill (Voices of Faith), Brennan Schartz (Student), Cecilia Belsler-Patton (Jobs with Justice), and Celesteal Clark (Student). Those who enthusiastically cheered the messages were LWV members Josh Williams, Janelle Sjue, Rose Stuckey, David Mountjoy, Laura Mountjoy, Ann Johnson, and Linda Lloyd of LWVJOCO--and Don Bender from the Sierra Club. Evelyn Maddox was interviewed as a representative of LWVMO for spots on KMBC news.



Poll monitors gathered for a final picture before departing from training at All Souls UU Church on Oct 27. Monitors not pictured were in training at other locations. See page 4 for details.

One Person, No Vote

A Conversation with Carol Anderson



The Kansas City LWV was pleased to be asked to host a table at the American Public Square/KCUR event on October 11th at Graham Tyler Memorial Chapel at Park University in Parkville. **The event was a conversation with Carol Anderson (pictured in the middle with Jean Ann Kouns, left, and Evelyn Maddox, right).** She is author of ***One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression is Destroying Our Democracy***. Her book was nominated for the 2018 National Book Award for Nonfiction.

Ms. Anderson is the Charles Howard Candler Professor of African American Studies at Emory University and former professor at the University of Missouri. She is also an ardent fan of LWV and inscribed ***“League of Women Voters, You are Warriors! I love the LWV!”*** on Evelyn’s book. Some of the facts shared at the event were:

- 838 polling places shuttered by local officials across the country after the Supreme Court’s 2013 Shelby County v. Holder ruling.
- 50,000 Names purged from the voter roles by the St. Louis City Board of Elections in the 2000 national election. The Board failed to notify the people whose names were removed.
- 99 bills introduced in 31 states in 2017 that restrict access to registration and voting. 32 states have some form of voter ID law currently in effect.
- 43 is the number of non-citizens, out of the 1.8 million Kansas voters, that registered to vote in the state since 1999, according to the findings of a voter fraud lawsuit brought by Secretary of State Kris Kobach. 11 of those actually cast a ballot.
- Errors and security concerns of Interstate Cross Check system was shared.
- A history of systematic denial of voting rights was shared to help us understand the long struggle.

It was a well-attended presentation. Michelle Tyrene Johnson, a KCUR reporter covering race, culture and identity, Sylvia Marie Gross and Peggy Lowe both of KCUR conducted the interview.

LWV members handed out flyers about Vote411.org at our table and answered questions about voting. Pictured are **Rita Gulden, Jean Kouns, Carol Clopton, Donna Hoch, and Pauline Testerman who attended.**



Donna Hoch

*Holiday Luncheon Follows Historic KC Program
December 8, 2018*

*RSVP NOW FOR LUNCHEON - \$20 payable to
Caroline Arnold, cmarnold@live.com
1912A NW Cherry St.
Lee's Summit, MO 64081*

*Luncheon follows a video presentation by Historic
Kansas City. It is appropriate to enjoy time
learning about Historic Kansas City as we
approach our own historic milestone of serving
Kansas City for 100 years in February, 2020.*

Sliced turkey breast and baked ham

Potatoes au gratin

Fresh cranberry orange salad

Mini croissants

Pumpkin pie with creamy Cool Whip

Hot spiced apple cider

Tea and coffee

No RSVP required if attending only the program.

Community Christian Church, KCMO