



THE VOTER

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

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Almost Everything You Need to Know: The Facts About the Pre-K Education Issue

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



Everyone wants the best for our pre-K children, but the League of Women Voters has concerns about the proposed plan for Pre-K education in public, private, parochial, and home schools. Our first meeting on the subject was in April, 2017, and now, in 2019, we have major concerns about the provisions of the proposed plan.

Panelists from the education field will be on hand to discuss Pre-K public and private programs, Missouri laws and school financing as well as facts about the Pre-K ballot issue.

Community Christian Church 4601 Main; Kansas City MO

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.

Looking Ahead

- Mar 9 LWV Meeting Program: The Transformation Journey
- Mar 28 LWV, Women in NAACP, MO Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Event
- Apr 13 LWV Meeting Program: Dr. Chris King, Environment
- May 3-4 LWVMO State Convention: Celebration of LWVMO 100th Anniversary
- May 11 LWV Annual Meeting: Election, Budget Approval, 2019-2021 Program Year

**LWV/KC/J/C/P
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2018-2019

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Co-Presidents' Message

It seems like just yesterday that we were registering voters, working the polls, and producing the Voter Guide for the November midterms. Now, for the local election, we will do the same, only this time we will be working on the online **vote411.org**, rather than both the printed Guide and 411.org. **As always it takes a League to get everything done so please volunteer to help with one of our election efforts.**

After having working diligently to advocate for Amendment 1, "Clean Missouri" we are now called upon to protect it. LWVMO is working with former Clean MO Director Sean Nicholson to lead local leagues through whatever "**Defend the Win**" efforts will help protect it.

There's a lot of other League work on deck, especially to prepare for the Annual Meeting in May when we will elect several new local board members. **Contact Margie Richcreek, Chair of the Nominating Committee, if you want to nominate someone, or self-nominate, for the slate.**

Our registrars do a great job of reaching out to the young, and we hope that the poster contest will help them connect with more high schools in the KCJCP area. **The League has sent the winning poster "Our Time" to 700 Missouri high schools, statewide, including approximately 160 private and parochial schools. The poster and the League's cover letter will perhaps introduce us where we've not been before.** It was a grant from First Vote that enabled us to offer cash prizes to the high school entrants. We will be able to make our own posters from it for our registrars and others to use.

Finally, we want to remember our beloved Sue Scholl, a dear friend to many members, and an inspiration to all. We honor her work and her spirit. We miss her.

Evelyn Maddox and Rosemary Durkin

1. Education Panel on Pre-K	5. Local Legislative Panel	9. Mayoral Forum	10. HR1	14. Sue Scholl Defender Of Democracy
13. 2. Co-Presidents' Message	6. Legislative Tracking	11. New Member Orientation		
3. Rosalyn Torburg-Penn	7. Quick Tips for Advocacy & Tracking	12. Alzheimer's Law, State Convention		
4. Local Election News	8. vote411.org	13. NPVC		

Black History Month We Honor Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, PhD Historian of Black Suffrage



Rosalyn Terborg-Penn who died in December, 2018, was an American professor of history and author who specialized in African-American history and black women's history.

Her ground-breaking book *African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote, 1850-1920* was published in 1988. For a list of sources on the subject go to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African-American_women%27s_suffrage_movement

Among recognitions received in her lifetime were the Association for the Study of African American Life and History's Carter G. Woodson Scholar's Medallion; the Southern Historical Association's John Blassingame Prize for Distinguished Scholarship and Mentorship in African American History (2010); The Association of Black Women Historians' Letitia Woods Brown Prize for the Best Article published

about Black Women in 2011 (2012).

The prominent black suffragists shown below are described in an online Vogue article at <https://www.vogue.com/article/african-american-suffragists-women-voting-rights>



Frances Ellen
Watkins Harper



Anna Julia Cooper



Ida B Wells



Sojourner Truth



Nannie Helen
Burroughs



Elizabeth
Piper Ensley

LWVUS Sets Legislative Priorities for 2019

1. Campaign for Making Democracy Work® (MDW), with special emphasis on protecting voting rights.
2. Watchdog: Respond strategically on issues with LWV positions when needed, but focus on the Campaign for Making Democracy Work®.

April 2, 2019 Municipal, School & Special Election

Mail-In Absentee Voting Applications mailed to Permanently Disabled: January 29, 2019
Military & Overseas Portal opens: February 15, 2019

In Person Absentee Voting Begins: February 19, 2019

Last Day to Register: March 6, 2019

Mail-In Absentee Voting Applications mailed to Permanently Disabled: January 29, 2019

Election Day: April 2, 2019

Polls Open at 6:00 a.m. - Polls Close at 7:00 p.m.

Note the General Election that follows the April 2 election will be June 4, 2019.

- **Kansas City Election Board Preps for Election**
 - **Observer Corp Report**

The regular monthly meeting of KCEB was held on January 24. Staff reported preparations for the April 2 election: Polling place rental fees require an increase based on requests from owners due to growth in cleaning and utilities costs, etc. Has been \$80 since 2009. A new rate of \$150 was approved by the Board. This applies to 115 polling locations city-wide.

Directors are currently conducting interviews for the training position vacated by Clair Wyatt. During the second round of interviews, candidates were asked to develop a program for a mock election for high school students that would replicate all elements of a typical election, start to finish. Lauri Ealom designed the program which she intends to be put in use in other situations.

KCEB will host the Urban Boards of Elections convention, tentatively scheduled for May 8-10, 2019.. Directors will seek several sponsorships from vendors in addition to allowing products and services exhibits during the convention. (LWV will be invited to exhibit.) The five urban boards plus county clerks and other elections authorities will pay a registration fee of about \$170.

Sandy Eeds

Panel of Local Legislators Meets in KCMO Insights into MO Legislative Session

On February 1, the United Way and Empower Missouri co-hosted their annual event for face-to-face contact between social activists and organizations with the legislators. The panel included **Representative Brandon Ellington (Dist. 22)**, **Representative DaRon McGee (Dist. 36)**, **Representative Dan Stacy (Dist. 31)**, **Representative Barbara Washington (Dist. 23)**, **Senator Mike Cierpiot (Dist. 8)**, and **Senator Lauren Arthur (Dist. 17)**.

They all indicated that they welcome visits to their offices and feedback from individuals and organizations of issues that are of interest or concern to them. When dealing with a legislator who is not favorable to your ideas, it is best to concentrate on making a fact-based case, rather than an ideological argument. Also, legislatures are complex people and may surprise you are their viewpoints so prior research is important. The discussion resulted in information on these legislative issues which need monitoring and possible action by LWV.

Reproductive Rights

- A number of Pro-Life bills have been introduced so need to follow and determine when to act

Voting Rights

- Group of legislators continue to see voting as a privilege rather than a right so efforts to block voting continue
- On the positive side, legislation introduced for no excuse absentee balloting so we need to support this. (Lauren Arthur)

Budget

- Revenue is down 8-12 %
- Majority party introducing tax cuts for wealthy
- Discussion by Governor of reducing State employees by 400
 - Some concerns he may try and recommend this money go to highways and bridges
 - May also need to watch as focus on rural highways and bridges and exclude cities
- TIF Tax Incentive Financing
 - Bills being introduced to define “Blighted” and give way for schools to opt out of money allocated to be used for development

Medicaid Expansion

- No likelihood of expansion
- Some groups may be trying to form coalition to get on ballot to get voter approval
 - Amendment 1
- Legislators working on a constitutional amendment to overturn the redistricting portion
- LWV will need to work on campaign to oppose

Human Needs

- SNAP (food stamp)- bill adding work requirement crating difficulty for children’s needs, disabled, mentally ill and people with low skills
- Criminal Justice reform- some appetite for reforming penalties on laws, expungement of records, HIV laws

Rosemary Durkin

Come One, Come All: Missouri State Legislative Tracking

On January 9th the members of the 100th session of the Missouri legislature were sworn in to what promises to be an eventful 18 week session in 2019. There are many freshman legislators this session (62 of 183 Representatives and 9 of 34 Senators). These new employees should get our input! Bills (which have been filed beginning December 1) after two readings in chamber are then possibly sent to committee. If the bill is given a hearing in committee; the public may provide their input by contacting committee members. Throughout the session, the State Legislative Bulletin will track bills progress through committee, actions taken, and report back. This is where you come in:

You may individually track the legislation that interests you through our homegrown online legislative tracker *fastdemocracy.com*. If there are specific issues or legislation that you are interested in us following or -- even better --- If you would be interested in assisting with tracking for the State please email Melodie Armstrong @mamst2005@gmail.com. A big thank you those below who have already volunteered

Renee VanErp, Gun Issues

Pauline Testerman, Environment

Melodie Armstrong, Medicaid

Delores Blaser, Education

Bill	Calendar/Sponsors	Description	Calendar
2019HB40	Lavender, Deb; Richard Brown	Modifies orders of protection by adding provisions that allow the confiscation of firearms from individuals a court deems to be a danger to themselves or others	2019-01-24, House Read Second Time (H)
2019SB217	Schupp	Creates the offense of unlawful transfer of weapons for a licensed firearms dealer to deliver a handgun to a purchaser without waiting at least 72 hours	2019-01-09, Senate: S First Read--SB 217-Schupp
2019HB659	Shields, Brenda	Requires the Department of Mental Health and the Department of SS to apply for a Medicaid waiver program	2019-01-24, House: Read Second Time (H)
2019HB554	Kendrick, Kip; Ingrid Burnett	Requires the Joint Committee on Legislative Research to investigate the merits of a Medicaid Buy In program	2019-01-15, House: Read Second Time (H)
2019SB 76	Sater;	Requires certain MO HealthNet participants to comply with work and community engagement requirements	2019-01-22, Senate: Second Read and Referred S Seniors, Families and Children Committee
2019SB77	Sater	Requires the Department of SS to apply for a global waiver for Mo Health Net	2019-01-22, Senate: Second Read and Referred S Seniors, Families and Children Committee

Melodie Armstrong, Liaison

Quick Tips to Get Started on Advocacy and Tracking

1. **First, make a copy of the back of your Voter Identification Card (the one that confirms you are a registered voter).** It lists all your election districts for city, county, state, federal, and education. Pin or tape it somewhere for quick reference so you can quickly identify if that's YOUR representative or district being referred to by number in the media.
2. **Use the ID card's list of your districts to identify your representative(s).** KCEB.org has all elected officials on its website. Try your own election board's site if you are not in the KCEB area. (But you'll need to know your own district numbers.) If all else fails, ask your reference librarian for help.
3. **Overwhelmed just trying to learn what bills are actually in the queue in Jeff City or Washington? Use fastdemocracy.com or govtrack.com or both to find out what's happening legislatively on a topic.** Ask your LWV friends what their preferred online tracker is, because there are more free online services. Fastdemocracy.com will send you a notice when something happens on your chosen topic if you choose the link to alerts. Hint: if you are a novice, just pick one or two topics to track.
4. **Read the "political" and "government" articles of whatever media you receive.** Besides your local media, try subscribing to the free *The Missouri Times* online. It quickly reports breaking news from all of Missouri government.
5. **Buy some pre-stamped postcards at the Post Office to have handy (or envelopes with stamps)—and have a list of addresses handy for your representatives** because usually advocacy has to be done quickly to reach representatives before a vote. In addition to the postcards (or stamps and envelopes), you'll need to have phone numbers and email addresses handy for your representatives.
6. **Share! Share! Share! It takes all of us keep up with fastmoving developments, so let Melodie Armstrong, marmst2005@gmail.com know what you are tracking.**
7. **Got questions? Contact Melodie Armstrong, marmst2005@gmail.com or Evelyn Maddox, emaddox64111@gmail.com for help.** Tracking needn't be hard or inconvenient if you are prepared to do it. Some preparation time will make your experience fun and rewarding. Remember, *"Democracy is not a spectator sport!"*
8. **Finally, always represent yourself only during advocacy. Never represent the League of Women Voters in what you do or say during advocacy. The only public spokespeople are the Co-Presidents or whoever they pre-authorize to speak.**

Get Ready – Get Set – Advocate!

HELP WANTED!



On March 15, we will launch www.vote411.org for the April 2 local elections. Voters in Kansas City, as well as Cass, Clay, Jackson, and Platte counties, will choose mayors, city council members, school board directors and more.

We need your help for the following.

Contact candidates: After we email candidates, some quickly provide information on their qualifications and priorities. Sadly some do not. We need members to call these candidates to encourage them to reply to vote411.org. And then call again. And maybe again.

Identify and/or research important ballot issues. Ballot language can be complex. After we identify important issues on the ballots, we'd like to provide clarifying information for voters. Also let us know if there is an important issue in your community that you'd like to research and explain.

Get the word out. We plan to distribute thousands of flyers throughout the area. We need members from all over the four-county area to help us deliver them to libraries, community centers, churches, businesses, and other organizations in your neighborhood, city, or county. Or maybe you're an idea person or have media contacts. We're always looking for creative ways to let voters know that good election information is just a click away.

For computer lovers. If you enjoy work that's a little more technical, consider loading election information onto the website. It's fun. Really.

Trust but verify. We try to get things right the first time, but we need fresh eyes to review and test what we enter into vote411.org.

If any of these looks interesting to you, please contact Pat Goodwin

VOTE411.ORG[®]

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Kansas City, Missouri

Mayoral Candidate Forum

Saturday, March 9th, 2019

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

4501 Walnut St, KCMO 64111

JOIN US FOR THIS FREE EVENT

Register at Mayor.ClimateGKC.org

Broadcast Live on

KKFI 90.1 FM and [FB.com/ClimateGKC](https://www.facebook.com/ClimateGKC)

Hosted by:

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

Climate Council of Greater Kansas City

Deportation Defense Legal Network

KKFI 90.1 FM

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church



“Defend the Win” is the effort to counter legislative attempts to neutralize Amendment 1 reforms.

Sweeping Reform Bill from the U.S. House of Representatives

HR1

HR1 is a comprehensive, 570-page bill which has the support of LWVUS. Rep. Sarbanes, Chair of the Democracy Reform Taskforce, is one of the bill’s sponsors who describes HR1 as a **“bold transformative set of reforms to strengthen our democracy and return political power to the people.”** HR1 has three “Divisions”: *Div A-Voting, Div B-Campaign Finance, and Div C- Ethics* and each division has a plethora of subsets.

Of particular interest, according to LWVUS, is that the legislation would restore the Voting Rights Act, improve Automatic Voter Registration, modernize the public financing of elections through small donor matching funds, end gerrymandering, and restore transparency in our government. A simplified explanation of HR1’s parts can be found on Rep. Sarbanes’ document, page #3, at this website:

https://democracyreform-sarbanes.house.gov/sites/democracyreformtaskforce.house.gov/files/H.R.%201%20Section-by-Section_FINAL.pdf

Webinar – For All Members, Feb 5

Join **a webinar briefing on HR1**, by LWVUS, the For the People Act, the first democracy reform agenda bill introduced in the House of Representatives in the 116th Congress. LWVUS staff will provide an overview of the legislation, detail what provisions the League is fighting for, and talk about grassroots engagement with Congress as well as opportunities to engage at state and local levels. **The webinar will be held on Tuesday, February 5, at 3:00 PM CST. RSVP here.**



New Member Orientation Learning What the League Does , and How

Fourteen members gathered on February 2 for New Member Orientation. Donna Hoch led the group through slides which described the history and the work of the League. Members' enthusiasm was revealed in the Q&A which focused on "How does it all work, exactly?" It was apparent that the League has a lot to do to *Defend Democracy* but one person doing one thing a time is how it all gets done.

New Federal Law Re Alzheimer's

Good News for Public Health

“The *Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act* unanimously passed the U.S. Senate, was approved by a near-unanimous vote in the House of Representatives, and signed by President Trump. The law was authored by Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) and Tim Kaine (D-Va.).

The BOLD Act authorizes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to spend \$20 million a year for five years. The law:

- **Establishes centers of excellence across the country dedicated to promoting the best ways to effectively deal with Alzheimer's and to help caregivers better understand and address dementias. The centers will also help educate the public on Alzheimer's disease, cognitive decline and overall brain health.**
- **Provides for the CDC to work with state health departments to help them promote brain health, reduce the risk of cognitive decline and improve the care for individuals with Alzheimer's.**
- **Requires improved analysis and timely reporting of data on Alzheimer's cognitive decline, caregiving and health disparities at the state and national level.**

AARP estimates that more than 6 million people in the United States suffer from Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Based on current projections, that number will [swell to more than 16 million by 2050](#). Alzheimer's costs the United States more than \$277 billion per year, including \$186 billion spent by Medicare and Medicaid.”

Source: <https://www.aarp.org/health/dementia/info-2019/bold-act-alzheimers.html>

• **Plan to Attend State Convention** • **Celebrate 100 Years of LWV Missouri**

- **LWVMO State Convention: May 3rd and 4th at the Drury Inn on Eager Road, near the intersection of Brentwood and interstate 64/40. Watch for announcement of room rates for convention attendees. Authorized delegates to the convention from KCJCP are the two Co-Presidents and ten other members selected by the KCJCP Board.**

Did You Know?

When the Missouri General Assembly convened in January, it celebrated its 100th anniversary of meeting in the newly constructed Jefferson City



Electing the President Why We Need an Alternative to the Electoral College

The winner takes all is not the way presidents are elected in the United States. Our present electoral system dates back to when the United States Constitution was written in 1787. Then the country only had 13 states of various sizes and populations. Each was reluctant to give up whatever power it had. The electoral system, as set out in the Constitution, is called the Electoral College. The Electoral College method of determining presidential votes is state based.

The Electoral College system is undemocratic. It does not count each person's vote equally. Each state is allotted electoral votes depending on its population. But the electoral votes are not just numbers; they are represented by real people. Each state chooses an individual elector for each of its electoral votes. The state determines how the elector will vote. With few exceptions, the electors pledge to give their vote to the candidate who gets the most votes in their state.

For example, Missouri has 10 electoral votes. In Missouri, if candidate A gets 100,000 votes and candidate B gets 90,000 votes, Candidate A would get all the electoral votes in Missouri. If you add up all the winners of the electoral votes in each state, usually, it does not add up to the same number as if you did away with the Electoral College and only counted the direct votes that people cast in the whole country. In the United States, the candidate that wins the most electoral votes actually wins the election, not the candidate who wins the majority of popular votes countrywide.

So far, five presidential candidates who won the most votes nationwide did not become president. The most recent case was in the last election. In 2016, Hillary Clinton received 2½ million more votes than her opponent but still lost the presidency because of the way votes are counted under the electoral college.

According to a 2015 poll, between 65 and 75% of American voters support direct election of the President by popular vote. According to that same poll, 75% of Missouri voters support direct election of the President.

Abolishing the Electoral College is not easy. It is part of the original U S Constitution and would require a constitutional amendment. There is an alternate way to elect the president by a direct popular vote of the people nationwide, which is gaining traction. It would use the Electoral College but change the rules a little bit. It is called the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. The Compact is an agreement among the states to have their electors pledge that they would cast their vote for president to the candidate who won the most votes in all 50 states rather than to the candidate who won the most votes in their state. It is not as farfetched as one might think.

Twelve states and the District of Columbia, totaling 172 electoral votes have already passed legislation to give their votes to the national presidential winner. That means that only 98 more electoral votes are needed to reach 270 electoral votes, which would guarantee the national majority vote winner. Michigan, with 16 electoral votes, is likely to be the next state to join the Compact. Several legislators in Missouri, from both the Republican and Democratic parties, have introduced legislation to join the Compact. It requires public support to urge them on.

Sydell Shayer, Chair, League of Women Voters of Missouri, National Popular Vote Committee,

Sue Scholl

Champion Registrar – Defender of Democracy

“Let’s march in the Brookside pre-St. Patrick’s Day Parade,” suggested **Sue Scholl**, and the next thing I knew I was at the thrift shop buying a long white skirt, high collared white blouse, and prim straw hat! Six or so “suffragists” met at Sue’s, made our “VOTE” signs, and Tim drove us to the starting point in their van. The one-mile route was doable, and everyone on both sides of the streets cheered us all the way back to the van. The next year, there were more Leaguers marching with a few riding in a borrowed vintage auto! **Sue** loved celebrating! We all loved celebrating with **Sue**!



Sue will be remembered by ALL of us Leaguers who had the pleasure of “marching” with her since 2004 - long timers as well as those who have joined our League in recent years. One of our newer members remarked, “**Sue** is connected with everyone!” It was easy to find a connection because we knew what she stood for - it might have been the T-shirt she was wearing, or maybe the buttons pinned to her vest, or possibly the array of stickers across the back of her car! **Sue** was open and honest about her support. We all loved Sue’s honesty!

Sue Scholl was unique, colorful, and committed to many causes - particularly every citizen’s right to register and to vote - to voice one’s opinion - to be heard. **Sue Scholl** mattered to our League - she marched and we followed. We will miss you, **Sue**, may you rest in peace.

A memorial fund has been established in her honor. This fund is likely to be used to promote activities of the Voter Service Committee of which **Sue** was the chair since 2010. **If you would like to contribute please go online and go to the donation button or send your check made out to LWVKCJCP to 1912 A NW Cherry Street, Lee's Summit, MO 64081. Put Sue Scholl's name in the memo section of your check or in the “message to seller section online” if paying online.**

Sue is survived by her husband, Tim Scholl, Capt. USAF Retired; son, Bill Scholl; daughter, Deirdre Lickona; 14 grandchildren; brother, Daniel Kelly; and sister, Nancy Fernald. Susan was a USAF nurse, well baby nurse at St. Luke’s Hospital, geriatric VA nurse and a public health nurse for Kansas City Missouri for 25 years. Sue’s memorial service was held January 26.

Margie Richcreek, Donna Hoch, Delores Blaser