



THE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Kansas City/Jackson, Clay, Platte Counties
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The Transformation Roadmap Committee Opportunities

Community Christian Church

Saturday, Mar 9, 9:30 Hospitality, 10:00 Program

Many snowy days ago we were looking forward to presenting new initiatives to strengthen and up-date the great work we do as the League. Trusting that no snow will fall on March 9th, we will delineate the National League's plans to expand our message, grow and diversify our membership and modernize our operations. We'll summarize their Transformation Road Map and show two short videos that give an overview of its intent.

In the second part of our presentation we'll outline the local League's committee structure in a new format. Our goal is to make it easier for members to align their passions, interests and expertise with everything that the League is doing.

After time for Q&A on both parts, we'll be inviting members to sign up or re-join committees at tables around the room. There is much to do in the coming year and in the run up to 2020. With more members than ever, we're hoping committees are well represented.

Before you head to the committee tables, though, you should know that our Nominating Committee is working on our slate of officers and directors to be elected for a two-year term at our annual meeting on May 11th. Someone from each committee will represent them as a Director on our Board, so consider your interest and ability to serve as you sign up. You may talk with anyone on our Nominating Committee: MJ McCall, Jean Ann Kouns, Carolyn Weeks, Patricia Keairnes, Caroline Arnold, Sheryl Eufinger, or Margie Richcreek.

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 28 Courageous Conversation About Race, LWV/KCJCP, WIN, KC Alumna Delta Sorority
 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
BOARD**

2018-2019

OFFICERS

**Co-Presidents
Evelyn Maddox
Rosemary Durkin**

**1st Vice President
Sandy Eeds**

**2nd Vice President
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**Secretary
Pat Goodwin**

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**DIRECTORS
Becky Yockey**

Cheryl Barnes

Dawn Wade

Josh Williams

Pauline Testerman

Sheryl Eufinger

Co-Presidents' Message

Is it Spring Yet?

The winter is dragging on. The frequent snow with shoveling, slippery streets, cancelled schools, and meetings fill our days. When will it end? Has life become a way of surviving storms and inconvenience? Political clouds of disillusionment and anxiety fill the days and late- night comedians revisit the alarming trends. The temptation is to retreat into passivity or powerlessness. Have we forgotten the joy of sunny days, flowers and hope?

An organization like the league cannot afford to reside in the doldrums. If we focus on the slowness of legislative and cultural change, we lose sight of needs of people for economic security, equality and fairness. We are approaching 100 years of existence. We have contributed to good government despite the changes wrought by wars, civil unrest, struggles for justice and accelerating technological changes.

Last month we focused on action plans for the year which included a legislative focus and state-wide initiatives and studies. This month we will determine how we can meet the needs of our membership for involvement, belonging and effectiveness. To remain a relevant and accessible organization, we need to continue responding to change in the world and finding our place to influence and impact decisions. Bucky Fuller, inventor of the geodesic dome which has no limiting dimensions said: "We are called to be architects of the future, not its victims:"

Two of our members, Mary Ann Wynkoop and Stacey Webb, are already stepping into the next year by representing our league in planning events for the 2019-2020 Women's Equality Coalition (formerly known as Women's Equality Week). Don't miss our upcoming Diversity Event with the Women of the NAACP and the KC Alumanae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. which will be on March 28 (flyer attached).

Congratulations to LWV Missouri and LWV St. Louis upon their 100th anniversaries this month.

Rosemary Durkin and Evelyn Maddox

1-2. Program, Co-President Message	5. Leg Tracking;Town Hall & Forums	8. 411.org Needs Help	11. Women's March, January 19, 2019
3. Women's History Month-Immigrants	6. Pre-K Ballot, Question	9. Ja Co News' MO Bills in Progress	12. Convention – 100 th Anniversary of LWV MO
4. Gun Violence/Gun Safety	7. Voter Protection- Everyone Welcome	10. U.S Bills in Progress; Grants for Voter Registrations	13. LWV Diversity Policy, Changing Voter Demographics
14 – 18. Proposals Solicited for Local Positions or Study			

Women's History Month March, 2019

MISSOURI VALLEY SUNDAYS



Yes, We Can! Immigrant Women and Their Impact on Kansas City

Sunday, March 10, 2019

Program: 2 p.m. • Reception following

Central Library, 14 W. 10th St.

RSVP: kclibrary.org • 816.701.3407

Yes We Can! Immigrant Women and Their Impact on Kansas City

Generations of immigrants helped build our nation, our state, and our city. Too often, however, the contributions of women who settled here have gone unrecognized or underappreciated, their roles and voices obscured within the overall narrative.

Commemorating Women's History Month in March, University of Missouri-Kansas City social historian **Sandra Enriquez** identifies and examines some of the female immigrants—past and more contemporary—who were instrumental in shaping Kansas City's politics, culture, and society.

Enriquez, a native of Ciudad Juárez, México, who earned her doctorate in history from the University of Houston, is an assistant history professor at UMKC and director of the university's Public History emphasis. Her presentation is co-sponsored by the **Kansas City Athenaeum**.

Since its founding in 1894, it has been the mission of Kansas City Athenaeum members to "beneficially influence Kansas City culture through education, historic preservation, friendship, and philanthropy." More information about the organization's history and activities can be found at kathenaeum.org or <https://www.facebook.com/kansascityathenaeum/>.

Missouri Valley Special Collections

5th floor, Central Library, The Kansas City Public Library

816.701.3427 • kchistory.org

Gun Violence – Gun Safety

Background Checks: Only One of Many Challenges

Ever since the tragic shootings at Marjory Stoneman High School in Parkland FL, the national conversation about gun violence is finally taking place. While often the discussion focuses on the tragedy of homicide and mass shootings– the reality is that of the 38,000 firearm deaths every year, 33% are homicides while 67% are suicide and accidental deaths. That statistic illustrates why gun safety is a such an important and core concept.

To that end, the suggestion for the current position of LWVMO in the *Guide to State Action* is right on point: *The concept of Gun Safety is to protect the health and safety of citizens by supporting measures that promote consumer safety.* These measures speak to the easy access to firearms – and would include closing the loopholes of the 1993 background check bill and legislating for safe gun storage.

While we advocate for this kind of legislation, we must recognize the need for immediate steps to prevent suicide and accidental deaths.

Regarding suicide – approximately 63 % of firearm deaths are the result of suicide. A brief review of statistics informs us that **Suicide is the 10th** leading cause of death in the US for all ages groups (CDC). **Every day**, approximately 123 Americans die by suicide (CDC); and there is **one death** by suicide in the US every 12 minutes (CDC). In particular, we are seeing a rise in teen suicide, which in many instances is an impulsive act based on just one incident. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for ages 10-24, and is also on the rise in rural areas among older men. As the population ages, the prospect of older adults in homes with easy access to guns is a problem to be addressed.

While the number of accidental deaths by firearm is statistically low - approximately 4% - they are particularly tragic as they so often involve young children, who either die or accidentally kill someone else. Accidental gun deaths occur mainly in those under 25 years old. In 2014, 2,549 children (age 0-19) died by gunshot and an additional 13,576 were injured.

Clearly, easy access to firearms and careless storage of them are both serious contributors to the majority of firearm deaths. Consequently, it is crucial to pass sensible gun regulations that can lead to promoting gun safety.

Currently, there are 22 bills regarding firearms pending in the Missouri House; the only two making progress are HB 641 and 643 to “allow the concealed carry of firearms on public transportation systems and the transporting of non-functioning or unloaded firearms on public buses.”

There are eight bills pending in the Senate; SB 39 is the same as the two-House bills listed above. SB 40, a version of an Extreme Risk Protection Order bill, is on its way to a committee hearing.

Judy Sherry and Renee Van Erp



[Facebook.com/lwvkcmo](https://www.facebook.com/lwvkcmo)

[Facebook.com /lwvmo](https://www.facebook.com/lwvmo)

Schedule for Registration, Absentee Voting, Election Municipal, School & Special Election April 2, 2019

Jan 29, 2019 Mail-In Absentee Voting Applications mailed to Permanently Disabled
 Feb 15, 2019 Military & Overseas Portal opens
 Feb 19, 2019 In Person Absentee Voting Begins
Mar 6, 2019 Last Day to Register
Apr 2, 2019 Election Day, polls open 6:00 a.m.; polls close 7:00 p.m.

Note: The “Run Off” Election that follows the April 2 election will be in June.

----- **Town Hall: Pre-K and School Board Districts 1 & 5**

League members **Delores Blaser** and **Gwen Grant**, and Jim Caccamo of St. Ignatius Spirituality Center, will be participating in a Town Hall panel on the Pre-K ballot issue, **March 5, 6:30- 8:00 p.m., at The Church in Waldo, 7735 Main.** The Town Hall will also include candidates from KCPS Sub-District 1 and KCPS Sub-District 5. It is sponsored by the Waldo Tower Neighborhood Assoc.

LWV Forums Schedule March 2019

Saturday, March 9, 2019, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. - Mayoral Candidate Forum

All Souls UU Church, 4501 Walnut, KCMO 64111

Co-sponsors: Climate Council of Greater Kansas City, Deportation Defense Legal Network, KKFI, All Souls UU Church

Tuesday March 12, 2019, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. - Kansas City Public Schools Board Forum

Linwood United Church, 3151 Olive, KCMO 64109

Co-sponsors: MORE2, KCPS DAC, Visitation CCO

Thursday March 14, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., 2019 - Hickman Mills School Board Forum

Smith-Hale Middle School, 9010A Old Santa Fe Rd, KCMO

Co-sponsor: South Kansas City Alliance Coordinator: Donna Hoch

Tuesday March 19, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., 2019 - Kansas City Council District 4 Forum

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1700 Westport Rd. KCMO 64111

Co-sponsor: Neighborhood Assoc of West Plaza, Westwood Park, Volker, Roanoke, Westport/Plaza, Coleman Highlands and Valentine

Tuesday March 26, 2019, 6:00 – 7:45 pm, - Raytown Mayor & Council Forum

Raytown Christian Church, 6108 Blue Ridge, Raytown

Co-sponsor: Raytown Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism

Legislative Tracking Web Sites MO House, MO Senate, MO SOS

The Missouri Secretary of State's office makes daily postings on its website, <https://www.sos.mo.gov/> On March 1, the "Latest News" postings were the announcement of two initiative petitions with links to their contents, and, the closure of an investigation of former Attorney General Hawley. Check out the website, especially during any legislative session.

The website for the MO General Assembly is <http://www.moga.mo.gov/> which has the web postings for both the House and Senate. Look for tabs to the "House" and to the "Senate". Each posts the calendar, including committee meetings. Otherwise, the sites are <https://senate.mo.gov> and <https://house.mo.gov>.



LWV Says VOTE NO Pre-K Economic Development Question.

LWV does NOT support the Pre-K Economic Development Sales Tax issue for many reasons: its regressive sales tax, use of appointed boards, and violation of the Missouri Constitution Article IX's separation of church of state. LWV is a strong supporter of pre-K public education, but NOT this version. Here is how it will appear on the ballot:

CITY OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI APRIL 2, 2019 QUESTION 1 (Initiative Petition) (Pre-K Economic Development Sales Tax)

SHALL THE FOLLOWING BE APPROVED? Shall the City of Kansas City impose a sales tax authorized by Section 67.1305 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri for a period of 10 years at a rate of 3/8% to be used for economic development purposes through funding Pre-K instruction for four and five-year olds the year before they enter kindergarten, funding improvements to early childhood centers, and investing in the City's early childhood education workforce?

Delores Blaser



Stacey Webb
Equality Coalition Planning Meeting,



Ann Homburger and Jeanne Cooper,
St. Teresa's Academy Registration

Defend Democracy – Protect the Vote Missouri Voter Protection Coalition

The Missouri Voter Protection Coalition is a non-partisan coalition of approximately three dozen organizations statewide, including LWV/KCJCP and LWV/MO, that work in collaboration to protect the right to vote in Missouri. The Coalition engages in legal and legislative advocacy, voter education and outreach, strategic communications, training and organizing support to advance a shared commitment to voter access, particularly for voters of color, women, voters with disabilities and other minority voices who voices are silenced by voting barriers.

Please join these efforts! Sign up at: <https://goo.gl/forms/gmyJtfaYXXzZTYsy1> to be on the Voter Protection Coalition's distribution lists in 2019 and to sign up for working groups (including: legislative, election protection, champions training, 2020 ballot measure and outreach/education) to advance the Coalition's work to protect the right to vote in Missouri this year.

Our work involves the following:

- **Democracy Champions Training (will organize and coordinate details for 2019 trainings)**
- **-Legislative (will track voting legislation in Missouri, identify and organize lobbying opportunities and make recommendations for coordinated Coalition advocacy)**
- **-Election Protection (will organize election monitoring efforts, including poll monitor recruitment, training, meeting with local election officials)**
- **-ProVoter Action (will strategize efforts to advance a pro-voter initiative in 2020)**
- **-Outreach & Education/Speaker's Bureau (will uplift and participate in voter education and outreach events; speaker's bureau training can be available)**

Since 2006, the Coalition has regularly lobbied the Missouri Legislature, coordinated statewide non-partisan Election Protection efforts, coordinated advocate meetings with state and local election officials, supported legal challenges to voting barriers, organized campaigns to fight anti-voter ballot measures and coordinated organizing and trainings for voter advocates.

Any member of LWV/KCJCP is welcome to participate in the MO Voter Protection Coalition. Participants signing up on : <https://goo.gl/forms/gmvJtfaYXXzZTYsy1> will receive email notices of teleconferences that are scheduled about every two weeks.

Questions or concerns? Contact Denise Lieberman, National Co-Program Director, Power & Democracy, dliberman@advancementproject.org or send email to lwkjcp@gmail.com



March 15 is fast approaching, and the Vote411 Team needs your help as we prepare to launch our online voter guide for the April 2 election.

Contact candidates: On March 1 we sent emails to candidates inviting them to provide information on their qualifications and priorities. We'd like as many responses as possible by March 15, so we need members to call candidates who have not replied and encourage them to participate in vote411.org. We tried this in November, and it made a big difference.

Identify and/or research important ballot issues: There's still time to provide information on important ballot issues in your community. What's on the ballot that we can summarize, explain, or clarify?

Get the word out: Two things...

- We will have vote411 flyers at the March 9 meeting so members can volunteer to deliver to libraries and community centers in the four-county area. Find me near the sign-in table if you'd like to drop some flyers off at a site near you.
- Also look for an email with our mini-flyer attached. You can print and copy the flyer to give to family and friends as well as churches, schools, businesses, and other organizations in your community.

Double-check: If you have a knack for finding errors, have we got an opportunity for you. Join us for a couple hours during the week of March 11 to compare vote411 information to the actual ballots.

If you would like to help, please contact Pat Goodwin. (Ph. 816-799-5555; email - patgoodwin6@gmail.com)



News from Eastern Jackson County

The city of Independence has released their legislative goals for the 2019 state legislative session. These priorities are based on goals established by the City Council and the city's Strategic Plan.

- (1) Pursue legislation that may allow cities to suspend Missouri driver's licenses when people fail to appear in Municipal Court.
- (2) Pursue a Regional Crime Lab in Independence operated and funded by the Missouri Highway Patrol.
- (3) Continue to advocate for local control over poles and small cell phone attachments for cellular service.

Pauline Testerman

You're Not Tracking Current Legislation? Here Are Just A Few Bill in Progress

Nancy Copenhaver, Moberly/Randolph LWV, and Marilyn McLeod, Columbia/Boone County LWV, are leading LWV/MO's legislative tracking efforts. Melodie Armstrong is KCJCP's liaison but the challenge to keep up with pace of proposed legislation requires all of us to watch and report legislation.

MO HB 445 Threatens Government Transparency – Watch this bill which was passed by the MO House and has moved to the MO Senate. If also passed by the Senate, it would undermine provisions of Amendment 1 (Clean MO) relating to open records laws. It would also include school boards and city halls in exemption from sunshine laws. Proponents argue they are shielding release of constituent communications but opponents say it goes beyond that. Governor Parsons has not commented on the bill but he has spoken in favor of transparent government.

MO HB 126 Threatens Pro-Choice - The Missouri League has had a position since 1983 that women have a right to privacy when making reproductive choices. HB 126 which has been passed by the MO House includes provisions severely limiting the period during which a woman may make a decision to abort. In addition, HB 126 has no provisions for cases of rape or incest. The bill has proceeded to the MO Senate where it is expected to face more vigorous opposition, though not necessarily successful opposition than the MO House. Testifying against the bill in the House were Jennifer Box; Erin King; Wayne Lee; American Civil Liberties Union-Missouri; and the Planned Parenthood Advocates in Missouri. To see the report of the Senate's research of the House bill, go to:

https://www.senate.mo.gov/19info/BTS_Web/HouseBillSumm.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=5160320

MO HB 28, HB 269, and HB 208 Relating to MO Property Tax Credit (Circuit Breaker). HBs 28 and 269 would cap the aggregate payout of tax credits. HB 208 would discontinue the Property Tax Credit for renters. Only certain low-income seniors and totally disabled taxpayers currently qualify for a return of up to \$1,100 to property owners and \$750 to renters living on property for which property tax is paid.

MO SB 46 & 50 – Relating to sales taxes, including mechanisms to capture sales tax that is due for online retail purchases, but use revenue gained as a trigger to implement further cuts to Missouri's top rate of income tax.

Firearms legislation - For information about firearms legislation, go to page 3 of this Voter.

U. S. House Bills in Progress

U.S. HR 1- “We the People” - This comprehensive set of pro-democracy reforms could be voted upon in the House next week. It is expected to pass the House but is not expected to be as easily successful in the Senate.

U. S. HR 8 - Background Check for Guns– On February 27, the House passed the HR 8 Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019. The bill would require background checks on gun show sales and individual sales to non-family individuals. Passage in the Senate is expected to be difficult but not impossible.

LWVUS Awards KCJCP Two Voter Registration Grants More Progress for Our Mission – More Volunteers Needed

The national league has awarded our league two grants. One grant focuses on **high school and college student registration**. The second grant focuses on registration of **new citizens at the naturalization events** that take place monthly at the US Court House or sometimes at the Kansas City Public Library. We have experience in both types of registrations but **we agreed to increase our presence** in both of these groups. We need to increase and **develop media attention at our events**, provide more information to these new voters in the form of **communication documents** and increase **get out the vote activities**.

We need to **develop communication material** for both groups that is targeted to the needs for each group. Voter education is an important goal of the league. We have not finalized the form this communication would take, so we need people to research information that might be valuable to each audience. Someone suggested developing a You Tube video for the students. Another person suggested communication on state and local civics for the new citizens. The naturalization exam focuses on federal laws and history. We are open to your ideas, help and input. We cannot be successful without additional involvement.

Our needs include **people willing to register voters**. In the school events people who can register by affidavit and postcards are needed. Affidavit expertise is necessary in the naturalization events. Training can be provided for you.

Skills in **public relations, marketing and media are also needed**. People who like to **schedule, track and** report on the results could also help. People with communication, research or design skills could also share their talents.

There is a place for many members in these two projects.
Symie Menitove and Becky Yockey are currently working on these projects but they need help. Please contact them, or myself, **Rosemary Durkin** and let us know how you would like to assist.

Rosemary Durkin

Dr. Chris King Speaks at LWV April 13 National Security and Water

The Environmental Committee has arranged for a talk by Dr. Chris King at our April 13 meeting in recognition of Earth Day on April 22. Dr. King, PhD, Brigadier General (ret.), is a popular speaker about Global Climate Change and National Security. On April 13 his topic will be various issues related to water.

Let's Meet in St. Louis LWV Missouri Convention, May 3 -4, 2019

The Metro St. Louis invites you to attend the 64th state convention in St. Louis May 3 and 4. We'll be meeting in the Hawthorne Room at the Drury Inn at 8700 Eager Road in Brentwood. To receive our group rate for LWV, \$139 plus tax, call 800-325-0720 and be sure to mention group number 2351722

In honor of the League's centennial in 2019, the League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis has planned a **Suffragist Tour of Bellefontaine Cemetery on Thursday, May 2**. Guide Mary Ellen Vander Linden will give a presentation dressed as Edna Fischel Gellhorn, the first president of the Missouri League. **There will be two one-hour tours as well as refreshments by the chapel. Cost is \$20.** Go to lwwstl.org to register. The state board will meet Friday morning, with the convention on Friday afternoon and most of the day Saturday.

Saturday's keynote speaker is Amber McReynolds (right), a national leader in effective and innovative practices that increases the security, convenience and efficiency of elections. The former director of elections for Denver, she is now the Executive Director for the National Vote at Home Institute and serves as senior strategic adviser on various election-focused projects across the country.



The convention will be held at the Brentwood Drury Inn. Call 314-968-3704 and mention group 2351722 by April 1 for rate of \$139 (plus tax) for room with a king bed or two queen beds. Free parking, free hot breakfast, and happy hour from 5:30 to 7 with hot food and cold drinks. Watch for more information soon!

LWV Missouri Established in March 2019 Suffrage for Missouri Women Passed in March 1919

The Missouri League of Women Voters was organized at the Golden Jubilee Convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in [St. Louis, Missouri](#) in March, 1919.

That same month, Missouri passed a bill allowing women to vote in presidential elections, and in July, 1919, Missouri became the 11th state to ratify the 19th Amendment. The MO [Equal Suffrage League](#) was initially not allowed to change its name but later, the National President of the [League of Women Voters](#), [Carrie Chapman Catt](#), called a state convention and allowed the Suffrage League to change its name. On October 16, 17, and 18, 1919, the Missouri Suffrage Association held a convention and the old League became the Missouri League of Women Voters.^[1]

For more history of U. S. women's suffrage, go to <https://www.thoughtco.com/womens-suffrage-timeline-3530518> and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equal_Suffrage_League_\(St._Louis\)#cite_note-0-1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equal_Suffrage_League_(St._Louis)#cite_note-0-1), and <https://missouriwomen.org/category/suffrage/>

National Electorate Demographics Changing LWVUS Credited for Voter Protection

Ebony online (ebony.com/news, *American Politics Beyond 2020*) has an informative article on how demographics are changing the electorate. The article mentions the League of Women Voters as an organization that is working to protect voter rights from efforts to suppress and disenfranchise non-white voters. It also mentions that the U.S. Census projects that immigration will be the primary driver of population growth beginning in 2030 and will result in non-Hispanic whites losing majority status in 2045; and, no group will have majority status then because non-white groups will make up a majority collectively.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy of LWVUS

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

Kansas City Women's March January 19, 2019 Extreme Cold Didn't Deter Attendees



Amanti (left) and her mother were attentive to the end. Diann Spencer (right) brought friends and connected with Evelyn Maddox (far right) before the march started. It was a rousing and diverse event that brought women and men together from all over the KC area and beyond.



Proposals Solicited for Local Positions or Study
March 2, 2019

We have had a recent review of our statewide positions and some of you submitted proposed changes to these positions and recommended a study or revision. Those recommendations will be evaluated by the Board of LWV Missouri.

We also have an opportunity to review our local positions. The positions that have already been adopted on a local level are attached. **Please review the positions and contact me, rdurkin30@gmail.com, if you have any questions and if you would like to write up a suggested revision or recommendations for a study. If you are recommending a study, you would need to agree to lead the study.**

Currently, Cheryl Barnes and Alice Kitchen are working on developing a proposal for consideration at the annual meeting in May on TIF/tac abatement in the Kansas City area.

If there are any local positions that you would like to propose for changes, or study, please advise the local board in writing by March 31, so it can be review them at its April board meeting

If you want to submit a proposal, here is the suggested format for the Board's evaluation:

- Clarify the proposed focus of your proposal
- Provide the details of the proposal
- Include a statement of the problem/issue that needs to be addressed
- Provide an analysis of the unique role the LWV can play in helping resolve the issue
- A description of some of the specific activities the League could undertake on the issue

At our Annual Meeting on May 11, the members will first vote to consider any of the non-recommended items. Then those who have written the recommended proposals and the non-recommended proposals that received enough votes to be considered are given time to present their proposal. After hearing all proposals, the members vote.

Rosemary Durkin, rdurkin30@gmail.com

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KC/J/C/P POSITIONS IN BRIEF (adopted April 2004)

EDUCATION

Kansas City: Support of adequate local tax levies to provide optimum education systems for the school districts within the Kansas City limits. The following criteria should be used to evaluate the adequacy of proposed tax levels:

1. Retention or improvement of the districts state classification.
2. Competitive teacher's salaries among the twelve Kansas City, MO districts.

Independence:

1. Support open meetings of the school board for the purpose of informing and soliciting public opinion, and encouraging the public to attend these meetings. (1971)
2. Support a quality education that prepares students for their role as contributors in the changing cultural, social and economic world. (1-1972)
3. Support of the school system in Independence with the objective of providing optimum education for all. (9-1975)

CITY POSITIONS

Kansas City: Human Resources – Currently (3-1-04) the functions delineated below are performed or monitored by the City's Human Relations Department. There is no Human Relations Commission now; however, a Human Rights Commission (HRC) has the task of responding to all issues of bias although it has no enforcement power.) (Consensus 1966)

Support of equality of opportunity in public accommodations and housing. The Kansas City fair housing ordinance should include these provisions:

1. Coverage of all dwellings except rental units in one-family or two-family owner-occupied structures.
2. Actions of real estate brokers, lending institutions and builders should be covered.
3. An anti-blockbusting clause should be included.
4. The Human Relations Commission should enforce the ordinance with recourse to the courts.
5. Complaint investigation procedures should be in the following order:
 - a) Voluntary compliance, b) efforts at mediation, c) subpoena of witnesses at all stages, d) public hearings and e) court action
6. The enforcing agency should be allowed to initiate complaints
7. The principle of ascending fines for second violations should be part of the housing ordinance.
8. A program of public education should be instituted by the Human Relations Commission, with a sufficient budget.

City Government

Support of Council-Manager form of government. The following points were emphasized:

1. The six district and the six at-large council members create a representative government that can be responsive to the will of the majority.

2. More emphasis should be placed on the policy-making capabilities of the council.
3. Consideration should be given to transfer of some of the detail of the charter to the administrative code.
4. Consideration should be given to methods for strengthening the policy making leadership role of the mayor.

Support of the following City Charter Changes: (Consensus 1972)

1. A considerable increase in the number of signatures required to declare intent to cause referendum petitions to be circulated.
2. Raising the number of signatures required to bring an issue to referendum to about 10% of the registered voters.
3. Charter revision should be done by an appointed non-partisan committee rather than a 13-member elected commission.
4. Charter review body should make proposals to city council every 10 years to be taken as amendment to propositions to the voters.

Support of Planning and Zoning: (Consensus 1977)

1. Applicants for rezoning, opponents, and citizen groups should have equal opportunities to present their information and opinions.
2. Persons appointed to the City Plan Commission and the Board of Zoning Adjustment should have a balance of interest among them.
3. Notification of rezoning hearing should be published in a paper of general circulation other than the Daily record. Written notification of hearings and rehearing's to all owners of record and residents of adjoining property should be a requirement. . . . not a courtesy. The notification procedure might include prominently posting a sign at the property, easily recognizable from a distance, at least two weeks before the first hearing.
4. In the planning process, a set of goals should take priority over a map showing proposed uses, although it is understood both are important.

Housing: (Consensus 1981)

1. Support of a written housing policy to preserve a healthy environment and conserve decent and safe housing stock.
2. Support the conservation of the city core and older housing stock.
3. Support the Mayor and City Council formulating this policy.
4. Support and adequately funded Housing Department.
5. Support property maintenance and code enforcement.
6. Support private investment in housing.

Finance: (Consensus 1984) Support for adequate financing of city services. Support of budgeting procedures that facilitate citizen comprehension and City Council participation. Support for reliance upon progressive taxes. The following points were emphasized:

1. **Expenditures:** Among the categories used in the Budget by objectives, the League gives highest priority for support of two, "Public Safety and Protection" and "Maintenance and Utility".
2. **Procedures:** The League would like to see the format of the Proposed Budget and the Financial Report coordinated to facilitate citizen comparison and comprehension as well as meeting accounting and city finance principles. The League would also like to have significant changes in the budget from the preceding year noted and fully described in the proposed budget.

3. **Revenue:** The League supports a reduction of the utility tax. When taxes are justified to the public, based on an emergency and earmarked for a specific use, the League supports a sunset clause tied to their adoption. The League supports bond issues for needed capital improvements.

Independence City Positions

1. Support of Independence City Charter (including our position opposing formation of a board of police commissioners with the exception and conditions state in the position paper) and evaluation of any proposed amendments or revisions. (1961)
2. Support having a functioning Human Relations Commission. (3-1964)
3. The LWV of Independence supports a sound system to finance Independence municipal services and capital improvements. (1971)
4. Annexation (12-1972)
5. Oppose formation of a Board of Police Commissioners. (10-1974)
6. Support recreation programs designed and available to meet the needs of all ages. (10-1977)
7. Support services to be accessible to every citizen by means of an efficient and economical delivery system form the Fire, Health, Police and Public Works/Maintenance Departments and any other departments appropriately assigned to these services. (1993)
8. Support of comprehensive planning as a general guide for the development of Independence. (1994)
9. Support of tax increment financing as first implemented by the City of Independence, MO. (1996)

COUNTY POSITIONS

CLAY COUNTY: Study of the home rule charter government for Clay County. Support of criteria for a new jail facility in Clay County.

1. The Plans for the jail must take into consideration the current as well as the long range uses and needs of the entire County.
2. All federal minimum standards should be met.
3. Adequate parking facilities should be included in the total jail plan.
4. The future expansion of all county governmental facilities should be an integral part of the overall planning for a new jail.

JACKSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT: The following positions were established by the now defunct Tri-County League, an inter league organization (ILO), after study and consensus all the participating Leagues:

1. Support of the charter form of government in Jackson County (1967-1970)
2. Support of the authorization for home rule charter counties to provide services approved by the voters on a county-wide basis. (1967-1970)
3. Support of authority of Jackson County to enter into inter-governmental contracts. (1967-1970)
4. Support of a merit system applying to all county employees below the level of department head. (1967-1970)
5. Support of improved administration of institutions and services for juvenile wards of Jackson County, with chief emphasis on treatment. (1967-1970)
6. Support of increased accountability for administration of Jackson County finances. (1974-75)

7. Support of a continuing re-evaluation of property tax assessment. (1974-75)
8. Support of a sound county tax system. (1974-75)
9. Support the minimum standards in the Jackson County Jail position for the housing of jail inmates. (1974-75)
10. Support continuance of Jackson County Anti-Drug Tax for an additional seven years. (1995 position of Independence only as the Tri-County ILO had dissolved.)

REGIONAL POSITIONS (Tri-County)

1. Support of an adequate welfare program for residents of Jackson, Clay and Platte Counties. (1970)
2. Support of a regional plan for management and disposal of solid waste in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area. (2-1973)
3. Support of the expansion of a public mass transit system and the need to develop a mass transit metro in the Kansas City area. Locally, we support the concept of one regional authority governing mass transit in the Kansas City statistical metropolitan area. The League supports provisions which take into consideration convenience, accessibility, reliability and speed. Also important is reasonable fares, minimal comfort and personal safety. The League supports those measures, which reduce to a minimum the disruption of existing communities and ecological balance. The League also favors the use of existing facilities and rights of way where possible.

LWV of KC, Jackson, Clay & Platte Counties:

Metropolitan Water Position (Consensus April 2014)

We support maintenance of best practices for water standards throughout the Missouri River Basin, with particular emphasis on quality and quantity as it affects metropolitan Kansas City.

I. Quality: LWV/KC/J/C/P supports activities, legislation and regulations that:

- A. Ensures safe drinking water.
- B. Minimizes contaminants in the water supply by monitoring and reviewing residential, agricultural, commercial and industrial discharges.
- C. Holds residents, commercial entities and industry accountable for actions that can affect the water supply.
- D. Coordinates intergovernmental agencies charged with managing the water supply.
- E. Uses region-wide coordinated management plans and techniques in solving the Missouri River Basin problems.
- F. Protects the water in the ecosystem by strict adherence to agricultural, industrial, residential, environmental and commercial zoning regulations that prohibit the introduction of toxic or polluting discharges or detrimental land use techniques within the Missouri River Basin, which ultimately affects the metropolitan water supply.
- G. Continual testing of the Missouri River Basin water quality for impact from pesticides and fertilizers, resistant bacteria, persistent pharmaceuticals and other chemicals.

II. Quantity

LWV/KC/J/C/P supports activities, legislation and regulations that:

- A. Encourages water conservation.
- B. Discourages inefficient water practices; restrict requests for large withdrawals with the potential for or actual damage to the ecosystem.
- C. Supports reclaiming wetlands and marshes for native species, recharging aquifers and minimizing flood damage.