



League of Women Voters of
Kansas City, Mo.
www.lwvkc.org

Aug. 15, 2018
For Immediate Release

League of Women Voters Endorses Amendment 1 to Clean Up Missouri Politics

Amendment 1 initiative will increase ethics, transparency, fairness and accountability in the legislature

Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 15, 2018—The League of Women Voters of Kansas City (LWV, Mo.) endorses Amendment 1, a legislative reform initiative that will be on the Nov. 6 ballot. League and community leaders held news conferences across the state this week to share their reasons to support the bipartisan ballot initiative.

Civic and local LWV leaders weighed in on the need for reform.

The Rev. Rodney E. Williams, president of the NAACP-Kansas City branch and Swope Park United Christian Church said, “Amendment 1 will provide legislative reform and make state government more transparent, limiting the power of big money in the state legislature.”

“The League of Women Voters is proud to endorse Amendment 1 because it is important to put Missouri voters before big donors, lobbyists and partisan games,” said Ms. Rosemary Durkin, co-president of the Kansas City League of Women Voters. “Amendment 1 will increase fairness, integrity, transparency and accountability in Missouri’s General Assembly.”

Mr. Sandy Eeds, vice president, stressed the importance of Amendment 1’s legislative redistricting reform to stop political gerrymandering. “More competition and transparency in the redistricting process will mean that more officials, of any party, will be more responsive to the needs of their entire districts,” Eeds said. “Because the League of Women Voters believes in equal voting rights and good government for all, we are endorsing Amendment 1 to clean up the Missouri Legislature.”

League board member Ms. Cheryl Barnes said, “Amendment 1 ensures we’re able to hold legislators accountable when they fail to act in the public interest. This Constitutional amendment will take power away from special interests and give it back to the people.”

The Clean Missouri initiative will:

- **lower campaign contribution limits** for state legislative candidates
- **eliminate almost all lobbyist gifts** in the General Assembly
- **require that legislative records be open to the public**
- **require politicians to wait two years before becoming lobbyists**
- **ensure that neither political party is given an unfair advantage when new maps are drawn after the next census** by asking a nonpartisan expert to draw fair legislative district maps, which would then be reviewed by a citizen commission for fairness and competitiveness

Amendment 1 was certified by the Secretary of State’s office to appear on the Nov. 6, 2018 ballot.

The League of Women Voters® is a non-partisan political organization that envisions a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate. The League of Women Voters of Missouri has been working since 1919 to empower voters and defend democracy. Women got the vote in 1920.

###