

July 2016



THE VOTER

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

www.lwvkc.org – email. lwvkcjcp@yahoo.com 816-464-1800

Join us for our next meeting

Saturday, July 16, 2016

9:30 a.m. (social time); 10:00 program begins

Community Christian Church 4601 Main; Kansas City, MO 64112

MEETING WILL BE IN LIBRARY – GO IN NORTH DOOR

Join with our League's Leadership Team for presentations on and discussion of the following:

- Plans for Women's Equality Week in KC
- Our fight to protect the vote and partnership with Missouri Coalition Against Photo ID
- Report on LWV National Convention in Washington, D.C.
- September Trip to St. Louis to Celebrate the Vote
- Whatever else is on your minds

Co-President's message (Linda Smith and Donna Hoch)

Making it Harder to Vote in Missouri

As we approach August and the primary election, we are feeling the pressure caused by actions of the Missouri General Assembly which have the potential for seriously limiting the right of many people (estimated to be around 220,000) to vote. HJR53 calls for an amendment to the Missouri Constitution that would allow a photo ID requirement to vote, although the constitution currently provides that voting is a fundamental right in Missouri.

The question on the ballot will read "Shall the Constitution of Missouri be amended to state that voters may be required by law, which may be subject to exception, to verify one's identity, citizenship, and residence by presenting identification that may include valid government-issued photo identification.?"

A companion piece of legislation HB1631 would limit forms of ID acceptable at the polls only to non-expired Missouri or Federal ID's with photos and expiration dates – typically a current Missouri driver's or non-driver's license. The legislation further provides that those who do not have a valid photo ID could vote upon presenting another form of ID and signing a statement under penalty of perjury. Those who do not sign could cast a provisional ballot that would not count unless the voter returned to the election authority with a proper ID. This legislation was vetoed by Governor Nixon but is expected to be overridden during the August General Assembly session.

There is more – come to the meeting on Saturday the 16th and learn the whole story.

Learn also about our now-ongoing work with the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition, including a host of groups including the NAACP, Alpha Kappa Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta sororities, Jobs with Justice, MORE2 (square), ACLU, What U Can Do, and others.

There are opportunities for members and for friends of the League to play a role in fighting to protect the right of Missourians to vote!!

**WOMEN'S EQUALITY WEEK
AUGUST 20-27, 2016**

Mark your calendars for the following events:

Sunday August 21

Kick-off Reception- Blue Room at American Jazz Museum

5:30 – 7:00 reception 6:00 -- entertainment

Sponsors: Women's Equality Week Coalition; A Philip Randolph Institute

Monday, August 22

Women's Equality and Race: Bridging the Gap to Sisterhood

Bruce Watkins Center, 3700 Blue Parkway, KCMO 64130

Reception: 6:00 p.m.

Program: 6:30 – 8:00

Sponsors: LWVKC,J,C,P; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Mu Omega Chapter, Women of the NAACP Kansas City, El Centro, Inc.

Moderator: Barbara A. Washington, ESQ., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

Panelists: Jackie Loya-Torres, Community Development Officer, Commerce Bank; Kiki Curls, MO State Senator, District 9, Minority Caucus Chairwoman, Shanna Steitz, Senior Minister, Community Christian Church.

Wednesday, August 24

Voter Suppression: Kansas and Missouri at the Epicenter

Asbury United Methodist Church, 5400 W. 75th Street, Prairie Village, KS 66208

Reception: 6:00 p.m.

Program: 6:30 – 8:00

Moderator: Mary Sanchez, Journalist and columnist

Speakers: Micah Kubic, ACLU Kansas, Judy Morgan, Representative, MO General Assembly

Sponsors: League of Women Voters of Johnson County, KIS; LWVKC, J.C.P Counties MO;

Mainstream Coalition, Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta; Women for Kansas

Friday, August 26 – Women’s Equality Day

World Premier of “Equal Means Equal” documentary

Time: Morning, with talkback session afterwards

Union Station, KCMO

We are grateful to League member Jane McClain for working with the Women’s Equality Week Coalition to spearhead the planning of these events, along with Alice Kitchen who is leading the WEW Coalition. We are grateful also to Sandra Fowler-Jiles, a long-time League member, for her leadership role in planning the August 22.

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You will be pleased to notice our website continues to be updated.

Check it out at: <http://www.lwvkc.org>