



THE VOTER

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

**MISSOURI LEGISLATIVE REVIEW
SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2017
GUESTS WELCOME!**

Missouri legislators from both sides of the aisle will review the 2016 – 2017 legislative session from their perspectives. Get the inside story about what passed and what didn't pass.

**Democrat Representative: Judy Morgan
Republican Representative: To Be Announced**

9:30 - Social Time 10:00 - Program

**Community Christian Church 4601 Main; Kansas City, MO
Use south entrance, to Centennial Room in lower level.
Park free in multi-level garage south of church.**

**July Meeting: Saturday, July 15, 2017, 9:30/10:00
Community Christian Church**

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

LWV/KC/J/C/P BOARD

2017-2018

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On May 14 the *Kansas City Star* editorial page called out the Missouri Legislature with the headline: “*Missouri legislative scorecard: The good, the bad and the ugly.*” The first paragraph alone went on to characterize the just completed session as “marked by frustration, pointless squabbles, a near-collapse and several important missed opportunities.” That said, the editorial went on to let readers know that “to their credit, legislators were able to overcome their disagreements and pass a handful of important bills.” Wow! That was clearly a very mixed legislative session that ended May 12.

And the chaos continues with Governor Greitens having called two special sessions for what he labels “unfinished business.”

On Saturday, June 17, we will hear directly from legislators about what happened in the regular session and the special sessions. Major issues addressed by the legislature in the regular session were the budget, the Real ID problem so that Missourians can fly without challenges, statewide prescription drug monitoring, right-to-work legislation, state-wide minimum wage, ethics reform and more. The two special sessions were called for proposed bills benefiting a proposed steel mill in New Madrid and more restrictions on abortion.

It will be a very interesting discussion of what has been and what is expected to be around the corner for the 2017-2018 session of the Missouri General Assembly.

The June meeting also marks a transition in our League as new Co-Presidents, Donna Hoch and Evelyn Maddox, introduce members of the Board for 2017 – 2017. Please support all our leadership as we move forward to build a strong LWV/KC/J/C/P.

Donna Hoch
Evelyn Maddox
Co-Presidents

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REVIEW OF LWVKCJCP ANNUAL MEETING

Denise Lieberman, Staff Attorney with the Advancement Project, and leader of the Missouri Coalition for Voter Protection, described the status of the implementation of the voter photo ID requirement that became effective (June 1, 2017) after passage of Amendment Six last November. Unfortunately, the status is insufficient education of voters and local election workers by the MO Secretary of State; however, the Missouri Coalition is actively pressing for better statewide efforts by the SOS.

The League, locally and statewide, will vigorously work to inform voters about what photo ID they need to have a trouble-free voting experience. Members of the KC Area Coalition for Voter Protection, as well as our local League will train volunteers to speak to groups and voters about the new requirements.

Your Board of Directors are off and running for the year. The “Directions to the Board” (below) collected from members at the Annual Meeting have been incorporated in the Board’s planning for the upcoming League year of July 1 through June 30.

1. An additional meeting day and time so more members can participate in LWV. A committee led by Evelyn Maddox will report their initial observations to the Board in August. *Contact Evelyn Maddox, emaddox64111@gmail.com to participate.*
2. Pro-environment studies. Our goal is to develop a strong committee that will follow these issues. A speaker will be scheduled for our July meeting program. We currently have two confirmed members of this committee (Cheryl Barnes and Pauline Testerman) and are looking for more. *If you would like to serve, contact Cheryl Barnes, cbcb816@gmail.com.*
3. Education concerns, charter schools etc. Delores Blaser, our chapter expert, is seeking more help to monitor legislation and to arrange for a panel on Education concerns for the March or April meeting. Please step forward to help because our leaders cannot do it alone. *If you can serve on the Education Committee, contact Delores Blaser, dblaser12345@gmail.com*
4. Follow local Issues, for example the airport replacement issue. At each local meeting, the co-presidents will share information about emerging and continuing local issues and solicit members’ input about developments. *Be prepared to announce your area’s local issues at monthly meetings.*

5. Redistricting and gerrymandering concerns. Linda Smith, a MO LWV Board member, is leading the research on what other states have done to solve this problem. Linda will share information as it becomes available. Research results will necessarily include how the 2020 Census will affect re-districting.

REVIEW OF ANNUAL MEETING CONT'D -

6. Educate voters about the Photo ID implementation: Rosemary Durkin and Evelyn Maddox are co-chairing our efforts and are calling for volunteers. Their plans include preparing handouts for newly registered voters, developing training for a Speaker Corps, and training speakers. Photo ID volunteers will inform voters at public events about how to get documents required for photo ID, and how to get the non-driver's identification card without personal cost. *Contact Rosemary Durkin to volunteer, rdurkin30@gmail.com.*
7. Forum support. Orientation/training for moderators and other forum workers will be scheduled this summer. Date and location to be announced. *To inquire or volunteer, contact Anitra Steele, anitrasteel@yahoo.com.*
8. Focus on new member engagement, their interests, and understanding of the League. Membership Chair Paula Zaiss has developed Committee plans for recruitment, engagement, education and retention of members. The Committee will also issue timely renewal notices and will consistently encourage all League members to recruit friends and acquaintances to join the League. *Contact Paula Zaiss, pgzaiss@gmail.com to volunteer.*
9. Study topics and relevant topics. At this time we have no local or national studies underway; however, MO LWV is likely to give us directions on local rights for gun control and gerrymandering during the coming year. *LWV members can suggest topics for National Study in 2018 and State Study in 2019 at our January Program Planning Meeting.*
10. Fundraising: Fundraising will be ongoing this year as we will pay a double pledge to LWV Missouri in February, 2018. It is also necessary to raise funds to print a 2018 Voters' Guide and to renew our Vote411.org commitment. Our successful self-catering at the Annual Meeting was the first fundraiser of the year. *If you would like to lead or join the Fundraising Committee, contact Donna Hoch, thechochs@hotmail.com.*

We are excited about what has been accomplished this past year. Thanks to the contributions of Past Co-President Linda Smith and others, we have grown our membership, expanded our influence, shared *The Voter* newsletter monthly instead of bi-monthly, and continued our efforts to protect citizens' rights. We are confident that we will continue to

thrive. Please plan to share your time and energy with the League. Please contact any Board member to volunteer whatever time and efforts you can to make a difference.

Donna Hoch (thehochs@hotmail.com)
Evelyn Maddox (emaddox64111@gmail.com)
Co-Presidents

MISSOURI LWV STATE CONVENTION April 28-29

Linda Smith, Donna Hoch, Peg Prendergast, and Evelyn Maddox were among LWV Missouri members who attended the state bi-annual convention in Springfield, April 28-29. The four joined other delegates to approve the continuation of positions identified in our *Missouri Guide to State Action* and to add a position on climate change. Linda Smith proposed the addition to recognize manmade climate change as a critical threat to the planet. The Convention also voted to remove from the *Missouri Guide*, "Support of a permanent constitutional commission in addition to other methods for initiating constitutional change," and added a Legislative reform statement, "Support of standards for apportionment to make congressional and legislative districts as compact, contiguous, and as nearly equal in population as possible with no partisan gerrymandering." (The *Guide to State Action, 2015-2017*, can be viewed at www.lwvmissouri.org/guide-to-state-action/.)

Delegates were asked to approve an additional per member pledge of \$20 to be paid to LWVMO for reporting years 2018 and 2019. The additional income to LWVMO is specifically to fund the cost of a fulltime Executive Director for LWVMO. Elizabeth McDonald, the Executive Director, started May 1, 2017, and will work in the LWVMO office in St. Louis. She will also perform work for the St. Louis LWV Chapter which will be funded by that chapter. LWVKCJCP has committed for additional pledge funding for one year, making a total of \$40 per member to be remitted to LWVMO in February, 2018.

Representative Crystal Quade of, Missouri District 132, Greene County, and Vice President of the Freshman Legislative Class of 2016-2017, was the keynote speaker of the convention. She provided a comprehensive review of her work on the House Budget Committee and the challenges of working with a governor who is inexperienced in public service.

Linda McDaniel, LWVMO Representative on the MO Voter Protection Coalition, reported that the League, along with Advancement Project, DEMOS and Project Vote is considering filing "a letter of action" to the Missouri Dept. of Motor Vehicle (DMV) concerning its noncompliance with the National Voter Registration Act. NVRA Section 5 requires that state driver license bureaus offer anyone getting a driver's license or changing their address to have the opportunity to register to vote. Not all Missouri DMVs offer this opportunity. MO DMV would have a responsibility to respond in 90 days and if it does not, legal action could be undertaken..

The Harriet Woods Award for Community Service was presented to our own Peg Prendergast in recognition of her service with the American Red Cross. Peg received a standing ovation as she accepted the award from State President Elaine Blodgett.

The Lenore Lobe Award for exceptional contributions to the League of Women Voters was presented to Kathleen Farrell of the St. Louis Chapter for her tireless efforts with the Metro St. Louis Voters Guide in partnership with the *Post-Dispatch*, her speaker's bureau efforts, and Voter Service duties.

The meeting ended with installation of newly elected MO LWV Board Members, including Linda Smith and Evelyn Maddox, followed by individual attendees giving the traditional "Directions" to the newly installed State Board. The "Directions" will be considered for action by the new Board.

VOTER REGISTRATION AND FORUM EVENTS

The following Voter Registration schedule is just one example of the contributions our trained Registrars and Forum volunteers make to the community on an ongoing basis. *If you are not a trained voter registrar, and would like to be, contact Sue Scholl, usafscholl@aol.com, about becoming trained.* The next training is to occur June 20, however, Sue can tell you the options for date and location of training.

Jun 24	Oak Park (outdoor event)
Jul 12	Boone Elementary
Jul 19	Red Bridge Elementary
Jul 26	Ruskin High School
Jul 27/29	Indian Creek Elementary
Aug 1,3,4	Ruskin High School
Aug 5	Center High School

Generally, Forum events are requested by organizations during the run up to an election. Due to few scheduled elections, we have only one Forum scheduled. *To schedule training to be a volunteer, or to request a Forum, contact Anitra Steele, anitrasteel@yahoo.com.*

Sep 6	Platte County Political Panel
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Vote411.org

On Tuesday, August 8, voters in Kansas City, Jackson, Cass, Clay, and Platte counties will go to the polls. For the second time, thanks to LWV KC volunteers, these voters will have access to Vote411.org to help them decide how to vote on the races and issues they will see on their ballots.

To prepare for the August 8 election, the Voters Guide Committee has contacted the five voting jurisdictions and is beginning to receive information on what will be on the ballot. Like the April election, a voter can enter her address in Vote411.org to access the races - and only the race that she will see on her ballot.

Vote411.org not only provides specific information on ballot issues and races pertinent to a specific voter; it also provides general information to make voting easier. For example, voters can find out where to vote, what identification they need to bring to cast a ballot and important events and forums in the community. The Voter Guide Committee welcomes new participants. *If you have skills in communications, spreadsheets, word processing, web site maintenance, or fundraising, or, if you simply are interested in working on this project, please contact Pat Goodwin at patgoodwin6@gmail.com.*

PHOTO ID COALITION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

As of June 1, the Voter Photo ID law, authorized by passage of Amendment Six last November, became effective. On May 31, our local League participated in a press conference at the Fletcher Daniels State Office Bldg., with the NAACP, Sierra Club, What U Can Do and other local organizations in the Missouri Coalition for Voter Protection. Donna Hoch, our co-president, spoke in the press conference concerning issues women particularly experience with securing Photo ID's due to name changes for marriage and divorce.

Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft responded to the Kansas City, St. Louis, and Marshall press conferences by issuing a press release the same day stating, "Today, a group (Missouri Coalition for Voter Protection) opposed to Missouri's voter-approved photo voter ID law launched a misinformation campaign and held press events across Missouri to intentionally mislead and confuse voters about Missouri's new voter ID law."

To counter the claims of the Coalition that the SOS has not done enough to inform voters and election workers about the convoluted "emergency rules" applying to the new law, on June 5, the Secretary of State's office announced a schedule of 23 "informational" appearances statewide. According to the SOS, "The informational events will allow Missouri's chief election official an opportunity to share clear and accurate guidance to Missourians and the media about the new voter ID law and assist anyone who needs to register to vote." Unfortunately, all but five of the 23 weekday events (June 5 to June 9) were scheduled between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., with the remaining five events starting at 5:30 or 6:30 p.m. The original tour did not include Metro Kansas City or Metro St Louis, but two St. Louis sites were added... League members, statewide, planned to attend the Secretary's meetings to monitor information being given to the public.

At this time, our League and the Voter Protection Coalition need a corps of people to educate voters. We need people who would like to:

- Provide education to groups about the new requirements
- Develop power point presentations
- Develop materials to distribute to voters
- Answer questions and distribute materials to the public
- Participate alongside voter registrars at registration events

- Help us find people who can design brochures or other material
- Find donors willing to underwrite some of the costs

The League is committed to voter rights for free and accessible voting. We will be involved in removing as many barriers to voters as we can by informing our voters. *If you would like to join our team, please call Rosemary Durkin 816-728-5741.*

On June 8, 2017, a case was filed on behalf of the Missouri State Conference of the NAACP and the League of Women Voters of Missouri seeking a temporary restraining order to block the photo ID law from being in effect during a local special election in St. Louis on July 11. See page 10 for details.

Peg Prendergast Honored With Harriett Woods Award

Peg Prendergast's work in our local and state Leagues and the Guardian Angel Parish is legendary; however, her service with the American Red Cross was our focus in her nomination for the Harriett Woods Award which was presented at the MO LWV State Convention in April, 2017.

During the Joplin, MO tornado in 2011 Peg reached out to the American Red Cross (ARC) to see how she could be of service, only to learn that ARC volunteers must be trained prior to working a disaster. She vowed to be Red Cross Ready and began training.

What Peg soon learned was the majority of the disasters that the American Red Cross in Kansas City Region (15 county area) responds to are single-family house and apartment fires, which affect families locally. At a scene, Red Cross volunteers work side-by-side with firefighters and other emergency personnel to ensure victims are given immediate relief. What they need most without waiting a day or more is food, lodging, clothing, medication replacement, and mental health counseling. Once Peg finished her required training classes and began working part-time at Sprint she increased her volunteer hours as a Disaster Action Team responder and has responded to numerous local fires. Fires across the region happen 24/7 which means Peg works all hours of the day, any day of the week.

When Superstorm Sandy hit, it was the deadliest and most destructive hurricane of 2012. Peg was Red Cross ready and deployed to New Jersey in October/November 2012 There, she spent two weeks' vacation working as a Feeding Supervisor at a Mass Feeding Shelter.

Peg was awarded "Rookie of the Year" in 2013 for her Red Cross volunteer activities/duties with the Greater Kansas City Chapter. Peg continues to volunteer with ARC and serves on the Volunteer Leadership Team as Co-Lead of Shelter activities for GKC. During 2016 Peg was recognized for having logged the most volunteer hours for the KC chapter. Peg believes there is nothing more rewarding than helping her community and believes her work with the ARC serves a need for the community as well as personal fulfillment .

In addition to volunteering with the American Red Cross, Peg works part-time at Sprint Corporation, volunteers at Guardian Angel Parish Church, where she received the Bishop Award for service, and has a long history of service to LWV. Most recently, she has been instrumental in our successful publishing of a Voters' Guide for the 2016 Presidential Election and the creation of the online Vote411.org, but Peg is known for her leadership and support throughout our chapter, the Missouri League, and the U. S. League. Congratulations Peg!

Note: Harriett Woods (1907-2007) was the first female lieutenant governor of Missouri and an advocate for women's rights who went on to become the President of the National Women's Political Caucus in the early 1990's. "Woods inspired a new generation of female politicians in America," according to the State Historical Society of Missouri. (shsmo.org/historicmissourians)

WELCOME, CLASS OF 2016-2017!

New Members

Anne Embrey	Diane Stuart	Jill Tibke	Rachel Richardson
Becky Yockey	Elizabeth Darr	Judith Dechant	Riva Capellari
Candace McDowell	Gwendolyn Cooke	Karen Brown	Robert Reimer
Carol Chatten	Helen Johnson	Kate Bergmann	Susan Ebel
Deborah Keating	Jamie Parkinson	Larry Lillis	
Deborah Reimer	Jared Ebel	Pauline Wasserman	

Returning Members

Ellie Dawson	Dick Dawson	Tommye Sexton	Stan Sexton
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PERSONALS

On June 9, Alice Kitchen, long time member of League of Women Voters was inducted into the "Hall of Fame" of the Greater Kansas City Women's Political Caucus. Alice was honored at its annual "Trailblazers Event" along with inductees Gail James and the Honorable Kathryn Shields.

Our condolences go out to Armand and JoAnn Mathews upon the death of their son, Todd.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Alice Kitchen and
her "Trailblazer"
Award from GKC
Women's Political
Caucus.

<p>Peg Prendergast accepts Harriett <i>On Ju Woods award from plaintiff Marilyn McLeod, in effect Award Committee Chair. .</i></p>	<p><i>f the League of Women Voters of Missouri vote P, for a temporary restraining order to prevent local election in St. Louis. The following press LWV MO Board Members: Lin</i></p>	<p>Becky Yockey, and Petty Penny Arcade, with blue ribbon award in the Open English Pleasure class, at the Nebraska Charity Horse Show in June.</p>
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For In 8, 2017

Conta...

Ricardo A. Ramírez, Advancement Project, [202-728-9557](tel:202-728-9557), rramirez@advancementproject.org
 Inga Sarda-Sorensen, ACLU National, [212-284-7347](tel:212-284-7347), isarda-sorensen@aclu.org
 Daniela Velázquez, ACLU of Missouri, [314-669-3424](tel:314-669-3424), dvelazquez@aclu-mo.org

Groups Challenge Missouri Photo ID Law in Court

Jefferson City, Mo. — Advancement Project’s National Office and The American Civil Liberties Union today sued Missouri over the state’s new photo ID law.

The case was filed on behalf of the Missouri State Conference of the NAACP and the League of Women Voters of Missouri. The groups are seeking a temporary restraining order to block the law from being in effect during a local special election on July 11. In-person absentee voting for this election begins this Monday, June 12. An additional 52 Missouri counties go to the polls on August 8.

The request was made in part because Missouri’s chief elections official, Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, has admitted the state would be unable to implement the requirements of restrictive photo ID law in time for this election and the state has yet to allocate funds to the Secretary to implement the law.

“Missouri’s restrictive photo ID law was designed to make it harder for people to vote,” said Denise Lieberman, Co-Director of Power and Democracy at Advancement Project’s national office, and coordinator of the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition. “It is a gimmick that – as we’ve seen in other states – inevitably leads to blocking people from the ballot, especially people of color, young voters, seniors, women, and people with disabilities. This suppressive effect is magnified once the state fails to hold its end of the bargain. It is beyond unacceptable that the state of Missouri has launched a photo ID requirement while not sufficiently preparing, educating voters, or funding it. As a result, the burden is now falling on the backs of voters.”

“Voters were promised that this law was not about disenfranchising the most vulnerable in our state,” said Tony Rothert, legal director of the ACLU of Missouri. “The state’s lack of funding and implementation of this law tells another story.”

“States are not allowed to make an end run around voting rights by forcing burdensome changes to election law and then failing to provide the required funding for proper implementation,” said Sophia Lakin, an attorney with the ACLU’s Voting Rights Project.

Texas, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania are among the states that have already been reprimanded by the courts for disastrous implementation of their voter ID laws and inadequate, confusing voter education.

The case, *Missouri NAACP v. Missouri*, was filed in Cole County Circuit Court.

Court documents will be available shortly.

www.advancementproject.org