



# The VOTER

Bulletin of the League of Women Voters of Lawrence-Douglas County, KS  
PO Box 1072 • Lawrence KS 66044-1072

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization encouraging the informed, active participation of citizens in government & influencing public policy through education and advocacy.

|                 |                        |                                  |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| President:      | Kristin Salmans        | lawrenceleaguekspres @ gmail.com |                        |
| Voter Editor:   | Ruth Lichtwardt        | lightwatcher @ gmail.com         |                        |
| Local League    | www.lawrenceleague.com | www.facebook.com/lwvldc          | www.twitter.com/lwvldc |
| State League:   | www.lwvk.org           | lwv.kansas @ gmail.com           | 785-234-5152           |
| National League | www.lwv.org            |                                  | 202-429-1965           |

## League Calendar

|                                    |                |   |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---|
| NOTE: Postponement of Fluker Award |                | The Board decided to postpone this annual meeting until fall of this year in hopes that the traditional luncheon might be possible then.  |
| Thursday, April 29th               | 6:00 - 7:30 pm | LWVUS Day of Action: Kansans Deserve Fair Maps Redistricting Panel Discussion. Registration required, link on page 2. Article on page 3.  |
| Saturday, May 8th                  | 3:00 pm        | Eudora Open Fair Opportunity for tabling. See Signup Genius, link on page ____.   |
| Saturday, May 8th                  | 7:00 am        | Tabling Opportunity at the Farmers Market, 824 New Hampshire St. Voter Services will be providing voter registration and education at the downtown Farmers Market on second Saturday mornings this summer. See page ____ for link to Signup Genius, and article on page ____.   |
| Tuesday, May 11th                  | 6:30 pm        | LWVL-DC Board Meeting. <i>via Zoom</i> . All interested League members are invited to attend. Recurring link on page 2.   |
| Saturday, May 11th                 | 5:30 pm        | Sustainability Advisory Board. <i>via YouTube</i> . The Board's purpose is to advise the Governing Body of the City of Lawrence on issues affecting sustainability, environmental protection, waste reduction, recycling, energy conservation and natural resource conservation environmental protection. Link on page 2. |
| Tuesday, April 13th                | 6:30 pm        | LWVL-DC Board Meeting. <i>via Zoom</i> . All interested League members are invited to attend. Recurring link on page 2.   |
| Saturday, May 15th                 |                | International Day of Families   |
| Sunday, May 16th                   | 3:00 pm        | Community Partnership Meeting. Article on page 3, link on page 2.   |
| Thursday, May 20th                 | Noon - 1:00 pm | Hot Topic: Rachel Sweet, Regional Director of Planned Parenthood, will discuss recent legislative events in Kansas, including the proposed amendment to the Kansas constitution limiting bodily autonomy of women. Link on page 2.  |
| Monday, May 24th                   | 7:00 pm        | Hot Topic: Kristin Salmans, delegate to the UN Conference on the Status of Women for the LWV, will review her experience. Article on page 3 Link on page 2.   |

# President's Message

April- full of hope and change! The sunshine, flowering trees and green everywhere are such an encouragement. As always, we have a full calendar of events and our voter registration and education events are beginning to pick up too. The Farmers Market and Eudora events are needing volunteers- check out the sign-up genius for your chance to help out.



What an amazing group of incredibly talented and committed people attended our annual meeting! Reviewing our activities and achievements over this challenging pandemic year is quite gratifying! One of the benefits which has come from necessary changes as a result of the pandemic is our use of Zoom. I miss our in-person interactions and look forward to returning to them. But Zoom has made it possible for us to offer more and for many people opportunity to attend meetings and educational events which would have been challenging otherwise. I hope we continue to use technology to our advantage this way!

The last three years have been a time of growth and learning for me, particularly in the role of president. Thank you for your patience, encouragement and for giving me the opportunity to grow with you all. Thank you, too, for the inspiration and the ongoing affirmation that our democracy is indeed worth the work! I look forward to continuing involvement and growth with you all as my friend Emily Riner leads us.

The year ahead will be one of the most challenging and important in the history of the League. The voter suppression bills and tactics in Kansas and across the country pose a real danger to our nation as well as progress we have made toward racial, gender and identity equality. Your involvement in the League right now is critical to register, educate and get people engaged in the issues affecting their lives every day.

Together in League  
#MakingDemocracyWork

-Kristin  
[kristinbrightstar@gmail.com](mailto:kristinbrightstar@gmail.com) 334-538-4410

## LINKS FOR CALENDAR ITEMS

### Signup Genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b44a9a92babf49-league>

**Kansans Deserve Fair Maps Redistricting Panel Discussion** [Click here to register](#). Registration is required to receive the Zoom link.

### Hot Topic! Rachel Sweet with Planned Parenthood

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88692518065?pwd=ZTVzYSt5TGUjWiszRjYlYzZUVnhVZz09>

### Hot Topic! Kristin Salmans on the UN Commission on the Status of Women meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83994083592?pwd=TXg3M2M3TlMrb2puQzQ4dGJlVQVjhdz09>

### LWVL-DC Community Partnership Meeting

This is a recurring meeting link for all Community Partnership Meetings.

### Join Zoom Meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85868570294?pwd=eFRFNHJjQXVIQlgreG53SHMxLldQQT09>  
Meeting ID: 858 6857 0294  
Passcode: 656791

### Fluker Award Nomination Form:

<http://bit.ly/FlukerLWV>

### LWVL-DC Board Meetings

To join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86368994704?pwd=YVczMEpYR2lWk04lTXc5bCtzbWNzQT09>  
Meeting ID: 863 6899 4704  
Passcode: 472392  
NOTE: This Zoom link and passcode is the same for every Board meeting.

### Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting:

These meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/lawrencekvideo>

## Past Hot Topic! Meetings:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQLHXiojsQvnyqsoRdFxUaQ>

## KANSANS DESERVE FAIR MAPS REDISTRICTING PANEL DISCUSSION

[#KansansDeserveFairMaps Redistricting Panel Discussion](#). LWVK is hosting this event, featuring Rep. Stephanie Clayton, member of the current House Redistricting Committee; and former Sen. Tim Owens, co-chair of the Kansas Joint Legislative Committee on Redistricting in 2010. Dr. Michael Smith, professor of political science at Emporia State, will moderate this enlightening event. [Click here to register](#). Registration is required to receive the Zoom link.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS MEETING REPORT

Members of the NAACP, Moms Demand Action, the Sunrise Movement and LWVL-DC met in March to discuss their mutual goals and how they might combine some of their messages by working together. One mutual goal was the problem of communicating with under-served communities about important issues and it was generally agreed that one-to-one communication is an effective way to educate about important issues, such as vaccinations, voting and gun control.

The next meeting will be held on May 16, at 3:00 pm and is open to all. To attend click on the Link in our Links column, p 2.

- Ma'Ko'Quah' Jones  
Community Partners Chair

## HOT TOPICS!

Hot Topics continue to be virtual on Zoom as we all hope for a day we can gather in person.

May's program will be Rachel Sweet with Planned Parenthood Great Plains discussing the latest legislative developments in Kansas, including the placement of a Constitutional Amendment on the 2022 primary ballot which would limit the bodily autonomy of women.

May 20, 2021 12:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88692518065?pwd=ZTVz-YSt5TGUIWiszRjYlYzZUVnhVZz09>

Also in May, Kristin Salmans will review the meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women 65. The League of Women Voters assisted in founding the United Nations in 1945. We were one of the first organizations to be recognized by the UN as a non-government organization observer, and continue that status with four full time volunteer observers in New York today. The Commission on the Status of Women was established in 1947 and CSW65 is the UN's largest annual gathering on gender equality and women's empowerment. The theme for this year's virtual conference is "Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls". This global gathering provides a forum for information exchange and sharing of problems, issues and best practices in promoting women's equality. The League of Women Voters had 20 delegates from across the US participate, including Kristin Salmans, LWVL-DC President. Please join us for a review of this important event.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83994083592?pwd=TXg3M2M3TlMrb2puOzQ4dGJlVQVJhdz09>

In the next months we will have programs addressing voter habits, diversity in our community, climate change, and a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of League of Women Voters Lawrence-Douglas County. Program updates and links will be available at our Website and FB pages.

If you missed a Hot Topic program, they are available for later viewing on our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQLHXiojsQvnyqsoRdFxUaQ>

- Denise Pettengill  
Chair, Hot Topics Committee





## VOTER SERVICES IS SAFE, SOCIAL, AND NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Do you have COVID cabin fever? Now that spring is here, the League is once again "tabling" at the Saturday farmers' market downtown (and other community events) and we need your help! This is a great way to engage with the community, enjoy much-needed time outside with real people, and support voter registration and education.

So far in 2021 we have tabled at Love Garden with Rep. Christina Haswood and her team on MLK Jr.'s birthday and on St. Patrick's Day weekend. Volunteers help set up a table with League literature about voting deadlines and legislative priorities, registration forms, and free stickers and snacks. We post signage with helpful reminders and greet passers-by.

Right now, it's usual just to talk with folks about the city elections this year, and help new residents register to vote after they have moved. It requires just a little training that you can do by watching [this video](#) or working a shift with a seasoned volunteer. Last year I trained some of my high school-aged students who became regular volunteers. One evening on Mass. Street they were surprised by an appreciative Papa Keno's customer who brought over a free pizza!

Please consider volunteering for one of these tabling events. You can find the SignUp Genius form for this spring [here](#). Feel free to contact me or Martha Silks if you have any questions. Thank you!

-Sonya Czarnecki and Martha Silks  
Voter Services

## HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (FROM UN'S INDIGENOUS FORUM MEETINGS)

There is so much going on in the news, locally and around the world, it is difficult to keep up with it all. However, it is important to note that striving for inclusivity also includes being mindful of **which particular topics we regularly decide to pay attention to (or not), and what we decide to learn more about.**

For example, it's not uncommon for Americans to think human rights violations against indigenous peoples are simply history, without realizing the egregious treaty violations that are happening right now and that we all have a role to play in it.

You can watch any of the UN's upcoming Indigenous Forum meetings via <http://webtv.un.org/> April 19 through April 30 (with opening ceremony at 3 pm to 5 pm on Monday, April 19, and closing ceremony 3 pm to 5 pm on April 30). All sessions April 20-29 will be held at 9 am to 11 am.. Simply go to [webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org/) at the times/dates of your choosing.

The theme of this year's Indigenous Forum is "peace, justice and strong institutions; the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16."

Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, the first Native American to hold a Cabinet position, is creating a Unit to investigate missing persons/deaths of indigenous people. The new unit will be within Bureau of Indian Affairs & aims to tackle the decades-long crisis of missing and murdered Native Americans.

"Violence against Indigenous peoples is a crisis that has been underfunded for decades," Haaland said in a statement Thursday. "Far too often, murders and missing persons cases in Indian country go unsolved and unaddressed, leaving families and communities devastated."

Thousands of Indigenous women and girls have been killed or vanished for years. Their families and activists say the cases are often disregarded by law enforce-



ment, which has forced them to bring the spotlight on the issue through social media campaigns, marches and protests.

The new unit is expected to "help put the full weight of the federal government" to investigate the cases and coordinate resources among federal agencies and Indian country, according to the [Department of Interior](#):

## DEI SELF-EDUCATION

Recommended Books for youth (with thanks to Jennifer Scotten and Krista Barbour):

*Black is a Rainbow Color* by Angela Joy, illus. Ekua Holmes (picture book)

*Sharice's Big Voice: A Native Kid Becomes a Congresswoman* with Nancy K. Mays (picture)

*A Clean Getaway* by Nic Stone (middle grades)

*Blended* by Sharon M. Draper (middle grades)

*Dress Coded* by Carrie Firestone

*Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson (verse novel)

*We Are Not Free* by Traci Chee (YA)

*The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas (YA)

*Toning the Sweep* by Angela Johnson (YA)

*The Arrival* by Shaun Tan (YA)

*Becoming Maria [on Sesame Street]* by Sonia Manzano (YA)

*The Lines We Cross* by Randa Abdel-Fattah (YA)

## MONTHLY GREEN CHALLENGE

Each month, we challenge members to take one action toward living a "green," sustainable life-style and fighting climate change. This month's challenge:

The average American throws out 70 pounds of clothing each year.

**Reduce clothing waste in five ways:**

**1. Buy less and keep clothes longer.** Sustainable clothes are those you wear most often and take good care of to make them last longer. Resist buying clothes you won't wear very often.

**2. Buy secondhand clothes.** Giving clothes a second life contributes to a less wasteful economy. Shop for cheaper clothes that look brand-new at local thrift, resale, and vintage shops.

**3. Invest in sustainable brands if you can.** When you do buy new clothes, try to buy clothing made from sustainable materials that will last for years. Fast fashion brands use low-quality materials that are bad for the planet and fall apart quickly, which creates more waste. If you're able to spend the extra money, buy from a sustainable brand.

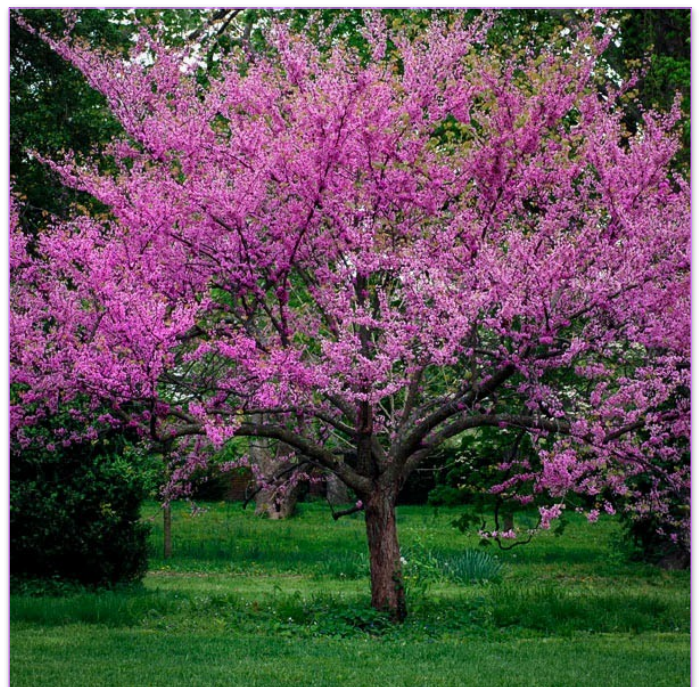
**4. Stay away from the oil industry's fabrics.** Before buying new clothes, check the labels to see if they are made of synthetic fabrics like nylon, polyester, acrylic, and spandex—all made from fossil fuels. These fabrics contribute to the oil industry's pocketbooks, and they aren't made to last.

**5. Repurpose old clothes.** After going through your closet, try selling some clothes at Arizona Trading Company, Clare's Community Closet, or Plato's Closet. Donate wearable clothes to the Ballard Center, Social Service League, Salvation Army, or Goodwill, instead of throwing them away. Donate old blankets and towels to the Humane Society. Repurpose old T-shirts as rags, masks, or headbands. Old, tattered garments and sweaters can be cut and sewn into creative quilts or blankets.

- Jeanne Klein

## A HIGHLIGHT FROM THE LWVK CONVENTION, 2021

**HRI, For the People Act** passed the U.S. House in 2020, but was placed in Mitch McConnell's dead pile



in the Senate. It passed the House again in 2021, and is now in the Senate as S1.

HRI and the same bill, S1, is an expansive, 800 page bill. It does a number of great things - It sets the floor for voting rights in the U.S. It sets Redistricting guidelines to reduce Gerrymandering. It reduces dark money in politics and sets ethics requirements.

All of the provisions in For the People Act, have been implemented at some level of government in some U.S. Location – so all have been tested. This is a critical bill in stopping states voting suppression bills, making fair redistricting maps, and providing requirements and ethics reforms for voting and donations.

Even though both Kansas Senators Jerry Moran and Roger Marshall have said that they are against S1, please call, email or write their offices to say that you want it passed.

**You are also probably familiar with the Kansas Legislature's attempt to make voting harder** with HB 2183 and HB 2332. Thankfully, the Governor vetoed these bills and several other bills yesterday. We need to continue to tell our Kansas legislators that we want the Governor's veto to stand.

- Cille King, Co-President, LWVK

*Note: Cille's full presentation is on our website, Lawrence-League.com. Cille researched and collected data for an informative analysis of our 2020 National Election.*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MINUTES

LWV-L/DC BOARD MEETING MARCH 9, 2021

VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

**Present:** Kristin Salmans (President), Marjorie Cole (Vice President), Melissa Wick (Treasurer), Sharon Brown (Secretary), Tamara Cash, Charley Crabtree, Cille King, Denise Pettengill, Emily Riner, Martha Silks

**Absent:** Tracy Matthews, Becky Plate

**Guests:** Sonja Czarnecki, Jeanne Klein, Ruth Lichtwardt, Norma Pierce, Dru Sampson

Kristin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Marjorie announced that we have one new member, Sage McHenry.



Kristin welcomed Norma Pierce who will be our new Webmaster. Norma requested the addition of two more on the web team. Denise volunteered to serve as back-up webmaster and Kristin will be an extra for the domain.

**VOTER SERVICE:** Martha reported that she has applied to the Farmers' Market for League to participate as a non-profit and be permitted to set up a

registration table one weekend a month.

**TREASURER:** Melissa reported income of \$173.68 in February (dues \$143.68, contributions \$30) and expenses of \$32.46 (VOTER printing).

|                       |            |             |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------|
| BALANCE SHEET         | 03/01/2021 |             |
| MMA                   |            | \$27,907.65 |
| CHECKING (02/01/2021) |            | \$10,909.97 |
| NAT'L EDUC FUND       |            | \$4,843.39  |
| L-DC SCHOLARSHIP FUND |            | \$4,709.33  |
| CHECKING (02/28/2021) |            | \$11,051.19 |

### SEPTEMBER CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION:

League members will meet near City Hall on Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> prior to the City Commission meeting. Jeanne Klein volunteered to prepare a proclamation that will be presented by the commission at 5:30 p.m. Jeanne encourages members to dress in period clothing at this event.

### SEPTEMBER CANDIDATE PICNIC:

This event is planned for Sunday, September 19, 5:00 p.m. at Centennial Park.

**PRESIDENT:** Kristin announced that two local teachers will participate in the Case Method Institute Continuing Education for High School History Teachers: Sonja Czarnecki from Bishop Seabury and Michelle Anderson from the Lawrence Virtual School.

- Sharon Brown, Secretary



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LAWRENCE/DOUGLAS COUNTY

Make a Difference - Join/Support the League!

Return this form with a check made out to LWVL/DC, and mail to the address below.
Membership is open to any person who is sixteen years of age or older.
New or renewed memberships received now will expire March 31, 2022

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing Member \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_

I heard about the League via (Facebook, website, friend, other): \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues:\*

Table with 3 columns: Approximate Household Income, Individual Membership, Household Membership. Rows include Student\*, Under \$25,000, \$25,000 to \$50,000, Over \$50,000, Sustaining member, Life member.

\* Our membership assessment supports the National & State Leagues at \$50/member (\$32 National and \$18 State).
\*\* Student members: 16 and older and enrolled in an accredited school.
\*\*\* Under \$25,000 Pay what you can, we need your voice at the table!

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not a member, but would like to support the League with my contribution as indicated below.

I have enclosed a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the League General Fund.

I have enclosed a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the League Education Fund.\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\* this contribution is tax-deductible. Write check to "LWV Education Fund."

PLEASE PRINT

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ (ZIP) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ (each member)

As a League member or supporter, I would like to help support League activities by participating in:

- General Membership Meetings: Set up and/or tear down, Hospitality, Taking notes...
Contribute to the League by: Researching for League studies, Participating in fund-raising...
Membership: Recruitment, Mentor/follow-up...
Voter Services: Register voters, Help with voter education...
I have the following skills: Editing articles, Database management...
My interests include:



# APRIL 2021

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