Local members showed their support for the Equal Rights Amendment and honored the League’s centennial at the January 18 Women’s March in downtown St. Louis. (Photo by Laurie Murphy.)

CLEAN MISSOURI PANEL DISCUSSION

10 to Noon, Tuesday, February 11, 2020
St. Charles Community College

⇒ What is Clean Missouri?
⇒ Why did Missourians vote for it?
⇒ Why are some legislators opposed to it?

In 2020, Republicans in the Missouri General Assembly have proposed to undo many of the changes, especially with regards to redistricting (see page 3).

This panel will discuss the fair maps Clean Missouri promised and why some legislators want to change the redistricting process. Panelists include Nancy Miller, co-president of LWV of Metro St. Louis. We are looking for Republican supporters to serve on the panel.

The event will be in SSB Auditorium, St. Charles Community College’s SSB Auditorium, 4601 Mid Rivers Mall Drive, Cottleville, MO 63376. For more info, go to: https://stchas.edu/events/2020/2/11/Clean-Missouri-Panel

PHOTO ID UPDATE

The Missouri Supreme Court on January 15 struck down a portion of Missouri’s voter ID law. Election officials will not be allowed to require a photo ID to vote or represent in advertising and materials that a photo ID is required to vote.

In Priorities USA v. Missouri, the court said the affidavit portion of Missouri’s voter ID law was “misleading and contradictory.” Current state law says a voter can use a non-photo ID such as a utility bill or bank statement with name and current address (option 2). The court also noted that the right to vote and right to equal protection under the Missouri constitution are “even more extensive than those provided by the federal constitution.”

While the injunction issued in October 2018 is now permanent, the House Committee on Elections had a hearing Jan. 22 on a bill to rewrite the affidavit and eliminate the option of using non-photo IDs. HB1600 would also drop the requirement that voters be notified in advance about changes in the law. The League expects a decision soon in its lawsuit on the Secretary of State’s implementation of the voter ID law.

Voter Protection Coalition leader and League member Denise Lieberman testified against HB1600, calling it an attempt to reinstate a strict photo ID requirement. “It would require voters to show a non-expired state issued photo ID to vote or cast a provisional ballot that would only be counted if the voter returned with photo ID or if the voter’s signature on the provisional ballot envelope matches the signature on their voter registration.”
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

If these last two weeks are any indication, 2020 will be very busy. The Women’s March on Jan. 18th highlighted the ERA, with participants also gathering petition signatures and registering voters. Our new LWVMO ERA advocacy chair, Teri Miller, is busy spreading information to the state about going forward after Virginia’s recent vote to ratify the constitutional amendment. The fight now goes to Congress to extend or eliminate the deadline and to the courts.

The St. Louis city unit joined the advocacy effort for a change in election systems in the city with Prop D. Metro members Kathleen Farrell and Joan Hubbard conveyed the League’s support at a Jan. 24 event at city hall.

As part of the state League’s support of Making Democracy Work and People-Powered Fair Maps, Angie Dunlap testified before the Senate Rules Committee on the harm that SJR38 would do to the citizen mandates in Amendment 1. After the Missouri Supreme Court struck down a portion of the Voter ID law, Denise Lieberman testified at a hastily-scheduled meeting of the House Elections and Elected Officials Committee to defend against a new threat. HB1600 would eliminate the option of non-photo IDs and re-write the affidavit that the Missouri Supreme Court found was “misleading and contradictory.” We will continue to fight voter suppression and efforts to undermine Amendment 1.

Mickey Croyle’s article in this ILR informs all of us about the current efforts of the EPA to decrease controls and standards for water and air in our country during the upcoming months. The Board has authorized a letter to be sent to the commission in charge of the public hearings. As in all of these issues, LWV members are encouraged to call, text, email or write to their legislators.

You might think that this is all that is going on in the Metro League right now, but we are in year two of celebrations, with the LWVUS centennial celebration approaching on February 14. Hundreds of state and local Leagues are participating in A Day of Action with the theme “Women Power the Vote.”

In addition, we have been coordinating with the public libraries in St. Louis City and County to provide materials, events and presentations to commemorate Black History Month in February and Women’s History month in March.

The Missouri History Museum will open its Beyond the Ballot exhibit in April. We are thrilled to have former LWVUS President and author Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins join us for a special event at the museum on May 4. The public and all LWV members are invited to tour the exhibit and then attend a 5 pm presentation. We will invite 100th Anniversary Hundred Dollar Club members for a reception after the public event.

— Nancy J. Miller and Louise Wilkerson
**Fight for Fair Maps**

The League of Women Voters defended Clean Missouri at a Senate Rules Committee hearing on a Republican gerrymandering resolution (SJR38) on Jan. 14. Metro St. Louis Vice President Angie Dunlap told Senators that Amendment 1 reforms strengthen all voters’ voices. “For 100 years the League of Women Voters has worked for an accessible, transparent and representative government. Today we continue the effort for accessibility and transparency. Today we continue to work for FAIR maps to have a truly representative government.”

LWVMO Secretary Louise Wilkerson said, “Instead of improving our redistricting process after the 2020 Census, SJR38 would give political parties more power and allow an unprecedented level of racial and political gerrymandering.”

SJR38 sponsor Dan Hegeman said he wants to offer the public “another opportunity to weigh in on this monumental change that would affect Missouri for decades to come.”

“Missouri voters do not want to drop Amendment 1’s independent demographer, give political parties more power, hide the data used for the final maps, or set a weaker race equity standard,” LWVMO

President Evelyn Maddox said in written testimony to a House committee hearing on similar House resolutions (HJR76 and HJR101). Maddox said leaders of both houses should be reviewing the applications of qualified candidates for the new state demographer “instead of suggesting that voters were confused and need to revisit this issue.”

LWVMO has post cards that League members can send to their state senators and representatives asking them to respect Missouri voters.

**Tributes and Memorials**

Mickey Hall, a past LWVMO state president, passed away on January 9, 2020. Thanks to Julie Behrens, Mark Hall, Bryn & Heather Tracy, and Christopher Tracy for their recent donations in her memory.

Mickey gave many years of dedication to the League as an officer and as an office volunteer. She was state president in the late 1970's. Mickey was a great administrator and kept the state office running. One of her singular accomplishments was a novel idea for the League office to gets its first computer at no cost to us. For the interesting story go to the October 2019 issue of the In League Reporter, page 7, Moments in History. Mickey volunteered in the League office every Tuesday from the end of her presidency to the time she moved to Iowa a few years ago. Despite advocating for League positions, Mickey had her private agenda of supporting a woman’s right to an abortion long before it became a national issue.
Support League of Women Voters’ Work
To Register and Educate Voters and
Defend Voting Rights

LWV STL 7th
Annual Trivia Night!
Saturday, March 21, 2020

First Congregational Church
10 W. Lockwood
Webster Groves, MO 63119

Doors open at 6:30, trivia starts at 7 pm.
Event will honor LWVUS Centennial in 2020.

$25 per seat, or a table of 10 for $250. Round sponsorship is $150. Water and snacks included. You can bring your own food, drinks and/or alcohol.

Trivia Night: If you would like to help with this event, please contact Nancy Price, Chair nprice07@gmail.com. If you can bring a snack or help with games or set-up it, would be most appreciated. Please bring your friends or come “stag” and we will seat you with friends you have not yet met.

Fundraiser includes:
♦ Mulligans
♦ 50/50 Raffle
♦ Games
♦ Cash prize for top-scoring table

Name(s): __________________________________________
E-mail address: ___________________________ Phone: ____________________

___ Table Sponsor ($250)
___ Round Sponsorship ($150)
___ Ticket ($25 each)

Others at your table: __________________________
MSD WASTEWATER BALLOT ISSUE

The voters of the City of St Louis and the County of St Louis will vote on April 7th on the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD) Bond Issue and Rate Proposal for wastewater. The MSD was formed on February 9, 1954, when voters approved the Plan of the District (Charter) to provide a metropolitan-wide system of wastewater and stormwater facilities. MSD began operations in January 1956 in an area roughly composed of the City of St. Louis and the portion of St. Louis County located east of Interstate 270. MSD took over the publicly owned wastewater and stormwater drainage facilities within its jurisdiction and began the construction of an extensive system of collector and interceptor sewers and treatment facilities. Most of the remainder of St. Louis County was annexed by MSD in 1977.

MSD’s Rate Commission was established in 2000. The Commission consists of 15 member organizations that represent a broad cross-section of the customers and community MSD serves. The LWV Metro STL is one of 15 community groups represented on the Rate Commission. Mickey Croyle is the current League Commissioner. The Commission’s purpose is to provide public input into how MSD sets its rates. The Commission is required by Charter to review all Rate Proposals and render an opinion before submitting Rate Proposals to the Board of Trustees for approval.

The Rate Commission process includes multiple public hearings throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area where MSD customers have an opportunity to provide feedback on the Rate Proposal. The Rate Commission approved the MSD request to seek Bond Financing to decrease the increase in rates for the ratepayers after a lengthy and detailed study. Voters will be voting to approve the bond issue, if this fails the rates will be substantially higher.

The MSD is both a wastewater and stormwater utility. It is the 4th largest sewer system in the United States. Funds for each are accounted for separately. The 2020 MSD Rate Proposal is for wastewater. The proposal objective is required by federal and state regulatory requirements and the EPA/Missouri Coalition for the Environment Consent Decree Litigation Settlement.

The rate proposal will provide funding to:
1. Eliminate sanitary (wastewater) sewer overflows from sewer pipes.
2. Reduce combined sewer overflows (where wastewater and stormwater share a pipe)
3. Prevent building backups
4. Repair and rehabilitate the aging MSD system
5. Replace the incinerators at the Bissell and Lemay treatment plants
6. Build a tunnel from Fenton Treatment plant to lower Meramec plant to eliminate the Fenton Plant.

These actions are required under the consent decree.

— Mickey Croyle, Environmental Quality Committee Chair

This table indicates the rates for the April 2020 MSD Bond Issue. Rates will increase regardless of the vote, but without voter approval for the bond financing the rates will be significantly higher (right hand side of the table).

The League of Women Voters of Metro Saint Louis Board voted to support the MSD Wastewater ballot issue using the numerous Natural Resource and Environmental Quality positions on water quality and waste management.
PROP D FOR DEMOCRACY

St. Louis city unit leader Kathleen Farrell and board member Joan Hubbard spoke in favor of Prop D for Democracy at a news conference at city hall on Jan. 24. The measure would make city elections more fair with a system of approval voting in a non-partisan primary followed by a top-two runoff. "Too many times we have elected city officials with less than 40% of the vote," Farrell said. "The people, not special interests, should decide who runs our city."

"Our board members carefully considered the STL Approves initiative and found that Prop D ensures that the candidate with the most support from voters would win elections for many offices in St. Louis City," Hubbard added.

Prop D petitions are available in the League office. For more information, go to https://stlapproves.org/.

ED Reflections

It’s hard to balance all of our activities to register and educate voters with our work to protect voting rights, much less fit in ways to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Women’s Suffrage in 1920. That’s why our League office needs you to step up to these challenges.

LWV of Metro St. Louis received a $5,000 grant from the Trio Foundation of St. Louis to increase participation in voting in 2020. This work includes:

★ Preparing a brochure on the role of citizens in the election process,
★ Encouraging people in hard-to-count areas to participate in the Census,
★ Helping youth and people in disadvantaged and homeless communities register to vote,
★ Expanding voter education and get-out-the-vote (GOTV) efforts, and
★ Gathering signatures for Prop D, VOTE2020 and other initiative petitions.

Let the office know if you’d like to help with one of these activities or other League work.

— Jean Dugan

Welcome to our new intern Haley Myers, a senior pre-law student at Washington University. Haley will be in the office Mondays and Wednesdays through April 15. She’ll be working on statewide advocacy and helping Anne Sappington with the voters guide.
NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE

The League is working very hard to get the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact bill passed in the Missouri legislature. It is an agreement among the states to award their electoral votes for president to the candidate who wins the most votes in all 50 states rather than to the candidate who wins in each individual state. The LWV believes that the popular vote method is most fair and democratic.

We are pleased to say that three state representatives have sponsored the Compact. They are Rep. Peter Merideth, St. Louis, HB 1988; Rep. Ashley Bland Manlove, KC, HB 1591 and Rep. Judy Morgan, KC HB 1949.

Every League member in the state received an Action Alert with the name of their state representative and their district. We are counting on each of you to contact your state representative and ask him or her to co-sponsor one or more of the Compact bills. In order to get a bill passed it must be filed in both the House and Senate. Your help is greatly appreciated.

For more information go to lwvstl.org or nationalpopularvote.com

— Sydell Shayer, LWVSTL NPV Committee Chair

EARLY VOTING BILLS FILED

Representative Wiley Price has introduced HB1398 and Senator Karla May has introduced SB681 to add a new section relating to early voting in elections.

Both of these bills entitle voters the option to vote in advance of Election Day without having to state an excuse, in person or by mail, for any general election. Each of these bills specify that early voting shall be conducted from the sixth Tuesday before the election until the close of regular business hours on the Monday immediately before the election.

We ask that you join us as we continue our advocacy for this issue in order to gain more widespread community and legislative support. Call, write or text your State Representative and Senator and ask that they vote FOR EARLY VOTING.

—Joan Hubbard, Chairman, Early Voting Committee

ADVOCACY TRAINING AND MISSOURI CAPITOL TRIP

Join us and make your voice heard at the Missouri Capitol in Jefferson City. On March 11 join us on a LWVSTL-sponsored bus trip to Jefferson City to speak with legislators. We will be doing advocacy training and practice on the bus on the trip there. Also, we are offering early advocacy training on March 9 from 4 to 6 in the League office.

Please RSVP to let us know that you will be coming. Call the League office to get on the list for the trip and/or the early training.

We encourage citizens to contact their elected officials and make their voices heard. Email and phone calls are one method. A face-to-face visit works too.

Other groups have set upcoming advocacy days, including ACLU on February 12, Mom’s Demand Action on February 18, Sierra Club on March 12, MO Women’s Actions Network on March 31.

—Angie Dunlap

MARCH PANEL ON FIGHT FOR WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE

The League is working with the AAUW on a Press Club panel on the Fight for Women’s Suffrage — Hard Lessons learned. The event will be held at the Missouri Athletic Club West from Noon to 1:30 pm on Friday, March 20. The panel includes LWVMO Co-President Louise Wilkerson and Margo McMillen, author of The Golden Lane: How Missouri Women Gained the Vote and Changed History.
**SUFFRAGE CINEMA**

The League has scheduled two showings of “Iron Jawed Angels,” a movie about the suffragists’ struggle to win the vote. The first is at the 1st Congregational Church in Webster Groves on Wednesday, Feb. 19, from 1 to 4 pm. The second is at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters on Sunday, March 8, from 1 to 3:30 pm.

Both showings will be followed by a discussion of women's equality in the 100 years since the League of Women Voters was founded.

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**LWVSTL DAY OF ACTION – COOKIE BRIGADE**

A celebration of 100 years of the League of Women Voters should include the partners that we work with to bring about the League Voters Guide. Local election authorities are those partners. Like the Metro League, they will have a busy year helping voters. In appreciation and celebration for 100 years the League would like to give 100 cookies to our partners at the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and some of the county election boards: St. Louis City, St. Louis County, Jefferson County, St. Charles County. That is 500 cookies, about 42 dozen. Our goal is for 14 volunteers to make 3 dozen cookies, or to buy 3 dozen bakery cookies. These cookies would need to be delivered to the League office by the morning of February 13. Delivery to the election boards will be the afternoon of Feb. 13 and morning of Feb 14. If you can donate three dozen cookies, please contact Angie Dunlap.

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**SPEAKERS BUREAU:** A training is set for Saturday, February 1 at 10 am in the LWV office. Currently, our most requested presentations are the 2020 Census, National Popular Vote (NPV), the History of Women’s Voting, and continued education on what is needed to participate in elections. There will be more topics as we approach the November election and its ballot issues. If you would like to explore being a Speakers Bureau presenter, please contact Nancy Price at nprice07@gmail.com. We have a place for all skill levels and provide training and support.

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**EDUCATION COMMITTEE WELCOMES NEW CHAIR**

I just wanted to introduce myself as the new chair of the Education Committee. The committee usually meets the third Saturday each month at the League office at 10 a.m. Our next meeting is February 15. We will be looking at bills on education related issues before the Missouri Legislature. We also have a long-term project to monitor the academic achievement of the Missouri school districts that have switched to a four-day week. New members are always welcome. If you have any questions or anything you would like to discuss, contact me at susangturk@yahoo.com or 314-771-0946.

—Susan Turk

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**WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS**

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Volunteers Guide: Work on the Voters Guide for the April 7, 2020 municipal elections is underway. Our municipal guides provide an important service to the community, but we depend on League volunteers to make them work. Working on a municipal guide is also a great way to get into practice for the rest of the year’s elections. Email aksappiness@gmail.com or call (314-703-0640) Anne Sappington to find out how you can help or come to our mailing party on February 14 for pizza, beer, and fun conversation!

Candidates Forums: We will need two volunteers to help livestream our Candidate Forums in February and March. One person will operate the iPad at the forum (training will be provided) and we will also need someone to watch from home and alert the iPad operator of any issues via text message. Email Meredith Langlitz to volunteer at meredith.langlitz@gmail.com.

Observer Corp Orientation: The Metro League of Women Voters is building an Observer Corps to monitor and report on the actions of key local elected bodies such as the St. Louis Board of Aldermen, County Councils, and Freeholders Board. If you are just curious or would like to be one of our observers to attend and report on some of these meetings, you are invited to an orientation meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 12 at the League Office on Manchester from 4 to 5:30. You may RSVP to the League Office duganlwv@gmail.com or to Sue Williams sjwillia43@att.net. —Susan Williams

Volunteer Corner


Please contact Barbara Harris at volunteer@LWVstl.org if you have time to volunteer in the office. Look for the yellow sign-in sheet on a clipboard by the front desk that we use to track our volunteers.
UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUNG(ISH) FRIENDS OF THE LEAGUE

Young(ish) Friends of the League was recently launched to create new opportunities for younger League members.

- February 14: Voters Guide Candidate Questionnaire Mailing Party—7pm at the League Office in Brentwood
- March 21: Trivia Night. Be sure to ask to sit at the Young Friends Table when you buy your Trivia Night tickets! 6:30pm at the First Congregational Church in Webster Groves.
- April 15: Young(ish) Friends Member meeting—7pm at St. Louis County Library Mid-County Branch (Clayton)

MARK 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

The LWV Metro STL Board voted on January 22, 2020 to participate in the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day: Lobby and Rally in Jefferson City Capital Building on April 22 from 7:30 am – 4 pm. LWV Metro STL members are invited to meet in Jefferson City with other environmental groups to show the lawmakers that we care about clean water, healthy food, and public land while supporting justice for disenfranchised communities, preservation of biodiversity, and solutions to address our changing climate. There will be lobbying opportunities in the morning, and a Rally/Celebration in the first floor Rotunda in the afternoon. Watch for additional details.

2020 UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 11</td>
<td>Fair Maps Panel, St. Charles Community College, 10 am to Noon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 19, March 8</td>
<td>Suffragist Cinema: Iron Jawed Angels, 1-4 at 1st Congregational Church in Webster Groves on the 19th, 1-3:30 at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters on March 8</td>
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<td>March 20</td>
<td>Press Club Panel on the Fight for Women’s Suffrage —Hard Lessons Learned cosponsored by AAUW. 12-1:30 pm at the Missouri Athletic Club West</td>
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<td>March 21</td>
<td>Trivia Night, 6:30 pm. 1st Congregational Church in Webster Groves</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Dr. April Langley presentation: Bonded Justice, Race, Class, Gender and Suffrage, 6 pm, St. Louis City Central Library’s Carnegie Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>Annual Meeting, The Heights, 8001 Dale Ave, Richmond Heights</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>Lobby Day and 50th Anniversary of Earth Day Celebration Rally in Jefferson City. 7:30 am—4:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins presentation on The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters at 5 pm followed by book signing, reception and docent tour of Beyond the Ballot exhibit for $100 Club members. Missouri History Museum, Forest Park</td>
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UNIT MEETINGS

Meeting Topic: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Chesterfield/Creve Coeur: Thursday, February 13, 9:30 am. Sydell Shayer’s home, 709 Champeix Ln., Creve Coeur. Contact: Eve Golden, 314-469-9985, j.golden@sbcglobal.net

North County: February 12, 6 pm, Rock Road Branch Library, 10267 St. Charles Rock Rd., St. Ann

St. Louis City: February 8, 10:30 am. Trinity Episcopal Church, Euclid & Washington. Contact Kathleen Farrell, 314-773-2876, kathleenfarrell@earthlink.net

St. Charles: February 13, 6:30 pm, St. Charles Justice Center, 1781 Zumbehl Rd. Contact Jennifer Rushing at jrush1120@live.com or Don Crozier at 636-293-6864 or doncrozier@gmail.com.

South County: We will not have a unit meeting in February. Watch your email for an invite to work on the Voters Guide as a South county group on a night or two in February.

University City/Clayton Unit: Inactive for the time being. Members are encouraged to attend other units.

Webster/Kirkwood: Wednesday, February 12 p.m. First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, 10 West Lockwood. Contact K Wentzien, 314-961-0894 (home), 314-805-6950 (cell), suitsme.prodigy.net

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Unless noted, * all meetings below will be held at the League office in Brentwood at 8706 Manchester Rd., Suite 104

Centennial: February 10, 4 pm. Contact: Nancy Miller, 314-961-6869 or njsmill@yahoo.com

City-County Governance Study Group: February 17, 6 pm. Contact: Debby Howard, 314-434-3073 or jackhowe@swbell.net

Early Voting: February 12, 2 pm. Contact Joan Hubbard, 314-753-0689 or joanhubbard@prodigy.net

Education: Saturday, February 15, 10 am. Contact Susan Turk, 314-771-0946 or susangturk@yahoo.com

Environmental Quality: April 4, 1 pm. Contact: Mickey Croyle, 314-395-7876 or erwin-croyle@charter.net

Health Care: February 18, 5:30 pm. Contact: Irma Ruebling, 314-330-9063 or irma.ruebling@slu.edu

National Popular Vote: February 3, 1:30 pm. Meet at 709 Champeix Ln., Creve Coeur. Contact: Sydell Shayer, 314-434-5116 or slshayer@gmail.com

Observer Corps: February 12, 4 pm. Contact Sue Williams at 314-521-8415 or sjwillia43@att.net.

Policing Study Group: February 7, 3 pm. Contact: Mary Leopold, 314-991-5958 or mary.muldoon.leopold@gmail.com
Missouri’s Marie Bryum was the first woman in the country to vote after the 19th Amendment was ratified, casting the first ballot in a special election for Hannibal city council on Aug. 31, 1920. A hundred years after getting suffrage, women now outnumber men among registered voters. Since 1998, women have turned out in higher numbers than men, with women making up 53 percent of voters in 2018. For the four elections in 2020 (March 3, April 7, August 4 and November 3), women will power the vote.

LWVMO and LWV of Metro St. Louis are joining other state and local Leagues in celebrating the February 14 centennial of LWVUS with that theme. We’ll be sending suffrage valentines to elected officials and friends of the League, giving cookies to local election workers, and starting a Suffrage Cinema series to discuss the role of women in politics today.

In the League’s second century, we will continue to register and educate voters as we fight against voter suppression. Our goal is to preserve and increase voting rights for all Americans.