FIGHTING GERRYMANDERING PROPOSALS

LWV of Missouri is gearing up to fight proposals to replace the redistricting reforms that voters approved in 2018 with a less transparent process that would allow unprecedented partisan and racial gerrymandering.

Pre-filed bills in the General Assembly would put a measure before voters in 2020 to eliminate Amendment 1’s independent demographer, give the majority party more power to skew district lines and hide the data used for the final legislative district maps. Two of the resolutions would use Citizen Voting Age Population instead of total population to draw maps after the 2020 Census.

“Respect the voters’ will, quit attacking Clean Missouri” is the headline on a letter to the editor in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch by LWVMO President Evelyn Maddox. The letter comments on a quote by Representative Dean Plocher (R-MO-089) that said he and other opponents of Clean Missouri wouldn’t “be overturning the will of the voters” if they put redistricting on the August 2020 ballot. Maddox says in the letter, “In fact, the legislature has a worrisome record of overturning Missouri voters on multiple issues, including puppy mills and casino tax revenue for education.”

Amendment 1 (Clean Missouri) was approved by voters in every state senate district in 2018. Post cards asking legislators to oppose efforts to undermine the will of the people will be available in the League office by Jan. 9.

CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS, PREPARING FOR 2020

More than 90 people enjoyed the Dec. 7 Holiday Luncheon at Keagan’s Restaurant. Senator Jill Schupp shared her concerns about bills to undo Clean Missouri’s reforms and open the door to more partisan gerrymandering. Schupp also expressed concern about a proposal to make it more difficult to get a petition initiative on the ballot and her support for an early voting bill.

Many attendees bought or brought books to give to Circle of Concern for families in the Parkway, Rockwood and Valley Park School Districts and to Red Circle of North County.
Greetings and Happy New Year! 2019 was a very gratifying and exciting year for the League and 2020 will probably be even more exciting with four elections. Along with LWVUS, local and state leagues, we will be celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the progress that women have made. That means that the June 2020 LWV National Convention in Washington, D.C. will be an awesome event and there are likely to be many unforgettable activities and distinguished individuals coming to express congratulations. If you are interested in attending, call the League office.

Before we begin talking about 2020 in detail, we’d like to thank members of the Metro St. Louis League for their steadfast loyalty and willingness to help when asked. We are very grateful for the more than 90 members and friends who attended the December 7 Holiday Luncheon at Keagan’s. Many, many thanks to you all, especially to those who donated a children’s book.

2020 will also be a pivotal, critical year for our democracy and preservation of the autonomy and rights women have achieved. We are reluctant to sound too alarmist, but the truth is we are at a crossroads. Obviously, the census is a very big deal and the Metro St. Louis League is gearing up to do its part to help ensure maximum participation in the census for the St. Louis area. We will be sending you more details about how you can help in the very near future.

The outcomes of elections in 2020 will be determinative in terms of foreign policies, civil rights, voting rights, health care, workers’ rights, women’s reproductive rights, environmental quality and economic disparities, among many other matters. Therefore, we must continue doing a phenomenal job of registering people to vote, providing timely voter education services and getting out the vote.

As you know, we must be prepared to work to defeat bills already pre-filed in the Missouri General Assembly designed to put redistricting measures on the August 2020 ballot that, if approved by voters, would overturn Amendment 1 and allow unprecedented gerrymandering. We must also work to defeat legislative efforts to make it significantly more difficult to use initiative petitions to get proposed legislation on ballots. Let us not forget to advocate for bills that we strongly believe in, such as those to bring about National Popular Vote and Early Voting in Missouri.

Whew! It never stops, does it? But that’s what makes things interesting — never a dull moment. Here’s wishing you and the League a wonderful new year!

— Louise T. Wilkerson and Nancy J. Miller, Co-Presidents

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Each child at Red Circle’s Dec. 27 Kwanzaa celebration at North County Rec Center received a book donated by a League member.
Kick off the League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis 2nd Century with

Trivia Night!
Saturday, March 21, 2020

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

Doors will open at 6:30 with Emcee Dan Dillon starting the trivia at 7 pm. Trivia will include a few questions on women’s history in honor of the LWVUS Centennial in 2020.

Sponsor a table of 10 for $250 or become a round sponsor for $150. Cost is $25 per seat which includes water and snacks. You can bring your own food and/or alcoholic beverages.

Your participation allows Metro League to Register, Send Reminders to Vote, Educate, Protect and Defend Voters

You can go online to www.lwvstl.org to pay using PayPal or a credit card or mail your payment, this form and a list of any guests to 8706 Manchester Rd., Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144.

Name(s): ____________________________________________

E-mail address: ____________________________ Phone: ____________________________

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

Table Preference ____________________________
TALKING POINTS ON MEDICAID EXPANSION

The LWV supports Medicaid Expansion as a practical and highly effective means of addressing poor health outcomes and marked health inequities in Missouri with no added cost to the state.

Currently, the federal government pays 63.4 percent of the annual $10 billion cost of Medicaid in Missouri. With expansion, the federal government would pay 90 percent and Missouri’s share would go from 36.6 percent to 10 percent.

Expansion would create an annual cost savings of about $39 million. By not expanding Medicaid, Missouri has turned away $15.5 billion dollars since 2014.

Medicaid is a lifeline that keeps millions living above the poverty threshold. The goal of Medicaid expansion is to bring access to health care and greater economic security for low-income households. Having a source to help with health care expenses is critical to maintaining a healthy and productive life.

- Making health-care affordable
- Reducing financial strain
- Protecting against catastrophic medical cost and medical debt

Medicaid Expansion will bring to Missouri the following:

- Access to health insurance and health care to more than 230,000 additional people
- Reduction in the number of low-income individuals and families with medical debt
- Reduction of risk of hospital closure
- Thousands of new jobs supporting health care
- Nearly $2 billion dollars a year in economic activity
- Families will be able to balance costs for health with other necessities

COSTS TO STATES WHO HAVE EXPANDED MEDICAID HAVE NOT INCREASED. OTHER STATES ARE VERY SATISFIED WITH THEIR DECISION TO EXPAND MEDICAID.

League volunteers gathered thousands of signatures on the petition to put Medicaid Expansion on the 2020 ballot. We will continue to work with Missouri Health Care for All and other coalition partners in the coming months.

—Irma Ruebling, Chair, Health Care Committee

Tributes and Memorials

Thank you to Robert Downey for a donation in memory of his mother, Norma Jean Swope Downey, and to Marilyn Ratkin for a donation to honor Sydell Shayer.
DO YOU NEED TO GET A REAL ID?

Starting October 1, 2020, League members will need a REAL ID-compliant driver’s license to enter a federal courthouse or travel by airplane without a passport. To get a REAL ID, applicants must go to a Department of Motor Vehicle license office and present one document in each of several categories: identity and lawful status (unexpired passport or certified birth certificate), Social Security number (signed card, W-2 Form or pay stub) and proof of Missouri residency (utility bill, bank statement, insurance card or voter registration card). Women who use a married name should bring a certified marriage license or other proof of the name change.

Missouri law allows for a one-time waiver of the duplicate transaction fee, but there is a license office processing fee of $12 for a six-year license. Personal information may be changed as part of a duplicate one-time waiver transaction, but if you are applying for a different class of licensure or to add any endorsements or restrictions, the one-time waiver will not apply. Allow 10 to 15 days for processing and mailing. For more information, go to https://dor.mo.gov/drivers/real-id-information/

CONCERNS ON EPA LEAD AND COPPER RULES

LWV of Metro St. Louis recently commented on the Environmental Protection Agency’s proposed lead and copper rule revisions to improve the National Drinking Water Act, saying, “the rule revisions do not adequately address the lead issue, including the need for full lead line replacement.”

The Environmental Quality Committee drafted the comments using the League’s Natural Resource position to “promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest...The revisions do not go far enough to ensure that every American has access to clean and safe drinking water,” the League stressed.

“Any lead in drinking water has adverse health effects, particularly in children. The revised regulations do require improvements in the accurate testing for lead, as well as expanded testing for lead in schools and childcare centers. As the proposal stands, it is inadequate to provide a safe reliable source of primary water for the American people in 2020 and in the foreseeable future.”

— Mickey Croyle, Environmental Quality committee

SUPPORT STLAPPROVES

League members who live in the city are encouraged to support Prop D to establish a new voting system for elections in St. Louis City. Last June, the board voted to support approval voting in nonpartisan primaries to narrow the field of candidates for the general election and permit all registered voters to participate. Signatures are now being gathered to put this on the ballot in 2020.

Members can learn more about alternative voting systems at the January unit meetings.

For more information on Prop D, go to https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/show-your-support-for-democracy.
NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE – WHERE WE WERE AND WHERE WE ARE GOING

About two years ago after returning from the 2018 national League convention and hearing what other state Leagues were doing to get the National Popular Vote (NPV) introduced and passed in their states, several members of our League wanted to do the same in Missouri. Our League board was supportive. In no time, several of our tried and true League members signed up to be members of a the local NPV committee and many new members signed on as well. We now have about twelve very committed members, including one person from the Kansas City League and one from the Southwest League.

The sequence of events was as follows. We dedicated ourselves to understanding the subject, then to educating our members and finally started to educate the voters and hopefully the entire community. We did this by getting op-eds published in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and the St. Louis American. Committee members wrote letters to the editor in several local newspapers and produced a Power-Point presentation.

Realizing that we needed the backing of the entire state and local Leagues to accomplish our goal of getting state legislation passed, we convinced the state League to put NPV on its advocacy agenda. That brings us to 2019. We identified some legislators and enlisted local League volunteers to contact their legislators in selected districts to measure interest in the NPV. We started a little late in the legislative session and were not successful in getting a legislator to file the bill.

We printed educational material, made a presentation at the state convention and made NPV buttons to wear. We are in the process of designing and printing a brochure. We are planning to ask individuals and organizations to have the League use their names as supporters of the NPV. We plan to use this list to show the strength of support for NPV to use in PR and to ask selected groups to educate their members as well as advocate for a bill when it is introduced in the 2020 legislative sessions.

Looking to the 2020 legislative session, we will approach two legislators from either side of the state who will file the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact in the MO House of Representatives in early January. Once the bill is filed and is given a number, these legislators will encourage other legislators to cosponsor the legislation. The League will do likewise. Individuals are encouraged to ask state legislators to co-sponsor.

Historically, bills rarely get passed the first year they are introduced. But this is a foot in the door. In an election year many legislators are also reluctant to support legislation when they are concerned about the support of their constituents. Our committee’s goal is to reach as many areas of the state as we can. Many voters do not realize that our present state-based system does not treat every vote equally. The National Popular Vote would change that.

— Sydell Shayer, NPV Chair
COUNTY IMPROVES BUILDING CODES

The St. Louis County Council recently passed an updated building code that is 15 percent more energy-efficient than the one currently in place. LWVSTL sent testimony supporting the new energy codes. The League’s Environmental Quality Committee did a lot of the initial work with our coalition members. Special thanks go to Chair Mickey Croyle.

These updated building codes will do the following:

- Save people money. Homeowners can expect to save $250 per year on utility bills through energy efficiency updates such as increased insulation, more efficient windows and lights and programmable thermostats.
- Create healthy homes. The codes follow life-saving research to improve indoor air quality. Poor indoor air quality has been linked to serious illnesses like cancer, asthma, and even learning disabilities.
- Protect homebuyers. Mandatory testing ensures homes are tight, well-insulated, and perform as required by the code.
- Reduce air pollution. Energy efficiency means we burn less coal to produce electricity.
- Prevent foreclosures. Owners of energy efficient homes are 32 percent less likely to default on their loans, thus preventing foreclosures and maintaining our neighborhoods.

ED REFLECTIONS

With four elections in 2020, we’re preparing for a very busy year in the League office.

We’re working on a PowerPoint presentation and informational materials to educate voters on the reasons to oppose efforts that would not only gut Amendment 1 but open the door to more gerrymandering by raising the efficiency gap and use Citizen Voting Age Population instead of total population to draw legislative district maps. I’m concerned that voters may be deceived by legislators who call this effort “Cleaner Missouri” since their bills ban lobbyist gifts now capped at $5. We’ll have postcards ready before the January 18 Women’s March that ask legislators to respect the will of the people who overwhelmingly supported Clean Missouri in 2018. We want fair maps after the 2020 Census.

We’re one of 600 local Leagues across the country participating in “Women Power the Vote,” a Day of Action on Friday, Feb. 14, to mark the national League’s 100th Anniversary. Watch your email for a suffrage valentine.

I’m also excited to see the state expanding the VOTE411.org online voter’s guide statewide. Anne Sappington is directing that effort.

— Jean Dugan
SPEAKERS BUREAU TRAINING

If you are interested in joining the League’s Speakers Bureau Team, please email Nancy Price at nprice07@gmail.com.

2020 will be a busy year for presentations on the census, local and national ballot issues and the centennial of universal suffrage for women with the 19th amendment’s ratification. Training will be in the League office in January at dates to be determined. The 2020 Census and the importance of a complete count will be important as we approach April 1st Census Day. Nancy Price will provide training, information and support so consider 2020 as the year you become a LWV speaker!

VOTING FLYER FOR REALTORS

Metro St. Louis Registrars were invited to offer voter registration at a holiday mixer of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers. League members spoke about the value of sharing voter registration information with their clients. Virtually everyone a realtor serves is someone who needs voter registration.

Audience members received a new flyer that realtors can copy and distribute to their clients. Perhaps this reminder will help more citizens to remain engaged in democracy.

— Catherine Stenger

VOLUNTEER CORNER

We appreciate the many volunteers who help the League educate and empower voters. Thanks this month to Sue Allen, Marie Andel, Connie Anthony, Mary Archer, Aaliyah Bailey, Dayle Banett, Brenda Banjak, Elizabeth Barnes, Nicki Batchelor, Cindy Bausola, Julie Behrens, Carolyn Beimdiek, Carole Bendet, Cynthia Biehle, Patricia Bishop, Annetta Booth, Lucy Brennan, Stefany Brot, Sharon Brown, Virginia Buckles, Nicole Burgdorff, Sharon Campione, Marilyn Chambers, Jean Chace, Karen Cloyd, Lisa Collier, Carrie Crompton, Mickey Croyle, Don & Gail Crozier, Alicia Davis, Jill Davis, Joanne Davis, Sue Dellbringge, Mary Domahidy, Flora Dulle, Angie Dunlap, Terry Dunlap, Christine Eason, Barb Ehnes, Joan Esserman, Kathleen Farrell, Linda Fiehler, Susan Fluegel, Cynthia and Patrick Fox, Julie Gaebe, Gloria Garidel, Agnes Garino, Mary Jo Geary, Eileen and Paul Gmerek, Eve Golden, Yvette Goods, Anne Handley-Fierce, Barbara Harris, Roslyn Harvey, Sheila Hayes, Nancy Hirsch, Debby Howard, Joan Hubbard, Nancy and Gene Hutchins, Donald Jeffries, Chris Jones, Pat Jones, Kathy Kane, Danielle Kimbrel, Janet King, Diane Koop, Kelly Kress, Renate Langer, Meredith Langlitz, Rebecca Langrall, Ruth Lee, Brandon Lehde, Mary Leopold, Dorothy Lockard, Ellen Looby, Jo Ludwig, Marilyn Marcus, Christy Marshall, Donna McCarrison, Linda McDaniel, Ken McKelvie, Kathleen Maret, Debbie Mason, Cindy Menskins, Harry Meyer, Kay Meyer, Mary Ann Meyer, Cynthia Miller, Marian Miller, Nancy Miller, Barbara Mitchell, Cindy Mitchell, Patricia Moran, Gretchen Moser, Susan Murray, Rebecca Now, Jitka Olander, Eileen Pacino, Joyce Patton, Nancy Pawol, Sharon Poe, Carol Portman, Nancy Price, Kathy Quinn, Kathe Quigley, Barbara Rehkop, Peggy Robb, Cheryl Roland, Ann Ross, Irma Ruebling, Jennifer Rushing, Haley Sante, Anne Sappington, Joe Schartz, Yvonne Scholte, Jo Seltzer, Sydell Shayer, Lynn Shields, Judith Smart, Steve Smith, Diann Spencer, Laura Staley, Catherine Stenger, Carol Strawbridge, Claire Stolz, Beth Sturgeon, Elaine Sweeney, Penney Thomas, Lillian Thompson, Pam Todorovich, Sabrina Tyuse, Laurie Velasquez, Sharon Wells, Louise Wilkerson, Sue Williams, Karen Wilmore, Katherine Witzig, Cindy Wunderlich, Macon Wurthmann and Judi Yokum.

The League needs a new editor for the In League Reporter newsletter. Please contact the office if you are interested in this position or helping in the office. There’s a yellow sign-in sheet on a clipboard by the front desk that we use to track our volunteers’ hours. Let us know if we missed your name and we will thank you in the next newsletter.
YOUTH VOTER REGISTRATION

LWV of Metro St. Louis just received a $500 grant from LWVUS for youth voter registration in 2020.

In the past two years, League volunteers have held more than 40 voter registration drives at 20 high schools and five colleges/universities. Up to 15 voter registration drives are planned this Spring, including at least one alternative/vocational school. The League has new “I just registered to vote” stickers to give newly-registered youth.

We currently partner with Power to the People to reach schools in low-income communities. For 2020, we plan to reach out to more minority and immigrant communities.

If you are interested in helping with youth voter registration, contact Peggy Robb at 314-845-2312 or padr1981@gmail.com.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Michelle Forgach</th>
<th>Beverly Guterman</th>
<th>Deb Lavender</th>
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<td>St. Louis, MO 63103</td>
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<th>Jennifer Lohman</th>
<th>Kasey McKaig</th>
<th>Lynn Pederson</th>
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<td>St. Louis, MO 63119</td>
<td>Richmond Heights, MO 63117</td>
<td>Chesterfield, MO 63017</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:kaseymckaig@gmail.com">kaseymckaig@gmail.com</a></td>
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<th>Barbara Reynolds</th>
<th>Shannon Robinson</th>
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<tr>
<td>Weldon Spring, MO 63304</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO 63116</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:barb0210@sbcglobal.net">barb0210@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:shannonjrobinson@gmail.com">shannonjrobinson@gmail.com</a></td>
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REGISTERING NEW CITIZENS

The League registered more than 1,700 new citizens to vote in 2019. LWV of Metro St. Louis is again applying for a grant from the LWVUS Education Fund to continue this work in 2020.

The League is the only organization that registers new citizens at naturalization ceremonies held by the Eastern District of both the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. Most are held downtown at 11 p.m. on Fridays.

Catherine Stenger will be conducting more trainings for League members who are interested in voter registration.

Eileen Gmerek and Julie Gaebe help a new citizen register to vote at a naturalization ceremony in December.
2020 UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 16</td>
<td>Young(ish) Friends of the League, 7 pm. STL County Mid-County branch, Clayton</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 17</td>
<td>Women’s March sign-making party, noon—5 pm. League office</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>Women’s March, watch your email and the League Facebook page for more details closer to the event.</td>
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<td>January 18</td>
<td>Missouri Women’s Network Legislative Retreat</td>
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<td>April 18</td>
<td>Annual Meeting, The Heights 8001 Dale Ave, Richmond Heights</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>Trivia Night, 6:30 p.m. 1st Congregational Church in Webster Groves</td>
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<td>May 3</td>
<td>Reception and tour of Beyond the Ballot: St. Louis and Suffrage exhibit, time TBD. Missouri History Museum, Forest Park, STL</td>
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<td>June 25-28</td>
<td>LWVUS National Convention, Washington, D.C.</td>
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<td>August 26</td>
<td>Women’s Equality Day, 100th Anniversary of 19th Amendment</td>
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JOIN US FOR NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Recently joined? Or, interested in learning more about LWVSTL? Come to hear how you can be involved in educating voters. Join us for dinner and create your own loaded baked potato!

To let us know you are coming, RSVP to the League by email, phone or Facebook.
UNIT MEETINGS

Meeting Topic: Voting Methods and Program Planning

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

North County: Tuesday, January 14, 4:30 pm. Rock Road branch of STL Co. Library, 10267 St. Charles Rock Rd., St. Ann. Contact Louise Wilkerson, 314-438-8005, louisew@sbcglobal.net

St. Charles: January 16, 6:30 pm. St. Charles Justice Center, 1781 Zumbehl Rd. Contact Jennifer Rushing, jrush1120@live.com

St. Louis City: Saturday, January 11, 10:30 am. Trinity Episcopal Church, Euclid & Washington. Contact Kathleen Farrell, 314-773-2876, kathleenfarrell@earthlink.net

South County: Wednesday, January 8, 6:30 pm. Concord Trinity United Methodist Church, 5275 Lindbergh Blvd., Contact: Angie Dunlap, 636/468-6846

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

Webster/Kirkwood: Wednesday, January 15, 9:30 am. 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: January 13, 4 pm. Contact: Nancy Miller, 314-961-6869 or njsmill@yahoo.com

City-County Governance Study Group: January 13, 6 pm. Contact: Debby Howard, 314-434-3073 or jack-howe@swbell.net

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

Education: January 25, 10 am. Contact Nancy Miller, 314-961-6869 or njsmill@yahoo.com

Environmental Quality: January 18, 1 p.m. Contact: Mickey Croyle, 314-395-7876 or erwin-croyle@charter.net

Health Care: Contact: Irma Ruebling, 314-330-9063 or irma.ruebling@slu.edu

National Popular Vote: *January 20, 1:30 pm. Meet at 709 Champeix Ln., Creve Coeur. Contact: Sydell Shayer, 314-434-5116 or slshayer@gmail.com

Policing Study Group: Friday, February. 7, 3 pm. Contact: Mary Leopold, 314-991-5958 or mary.muldoon.leopold@gmail.com
ST. LOUIS WOMEN’S MARCH

Walk with the League at the St. Louis Women’s March on Saturday, January 18. The League walks to bring attention to issues important to women and children, to demand equal rights for all, to encourage all voters to engage with their elected officials and make their voices heard at the ballot box. Watch your email and the League Facebook page for more details closer to the event.

StL Women’s March Sign-Making Party!

Get creative and prepare to march for issues important to you!

StL Women’s March Sign-Making Party!

Friday, January 17th
Noon - 3 pm
League Office
8706 Manchester Rd

St. Louis Women’s March

If you plan to attend the St. Louis Women’s March on January 18, plan to join the League to make signs the day before. Show off your creativity and wit with a sassy sign. At the party we will also be writing postcards to remind legislators that voters are paying attention.