



# 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.

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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

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?** Membership dues for April 1, 2021-March 31, 2022 are due now. For rate structure see membership application on back page of this issue. If in doubt about whether you owe, please email Marjorie Cole, [nobledog@aol.com](mailto:nobledog@aol.com).

Saturday, June 19th		Juneteenth (Our newest Federal Holiday!)
Wednesday, June 23rd	3:30 pm	For the People Act Friendbank. Information & registration link on page 6.
Tuesday, July 13th		Voter Registration Deadline for the Primary Election.
Tuesday, July 13th	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	LWVL-DC Board Meeting. <i>via Zoom</i> . All interested League members are invited to attend. Recurring Zoom link on page 2.
Thursday, July 15th	Noon - 1:00 pm	July Hot Topic! Check our website at <a href="http://lawrenceleague.com">lawrenceleague.com</a> for more information.
July 24th - August 1st		Douglas County Fair, <i>Fairgrounds, Lawrence, KS.</i>
Tuesday, August 3rd	7:00 am - 7:00 pm	Primary Election for Lawrence City Commissioner and School Board candidates
Tuesday, July 13th	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	LWVL-DC Board Meeting. <i>via Zoom</i> . All interested League members are invited to attend. Recurring Zoom link on page 2.
Saturday, Sept. 11th		LWVL-DC Day to run the LWV booth at the Kansas State Fair. See article on page 4.
Saturday, Oct. 23rd	11:30 am	Helen Fluker Award Ceremony and Luncheon. More details to be announced.
Tuesday, Nov. 2nd	7:00 am - 7:00 pm	General Election.

# President's Message



Greetings all,

The rainy weather took a break for us to gather to celebrate the life of our beloved treasurer, Voter Services sage, and friend, Melissa Wick (you can see her full obituary here: <https://rumsey-yost.com/2021/05/melissa-a-wick/>). She was certainly right that you could never rain on her parade and I am grateful for the opportunity to have known her. Melissa's husband and acting treasurer, Brian Kuehl, has requested that memorials be made to the LWV-LDC and the Lawrence NAACP in Melissa's honor. See page 4 for news about what those memorial funds will be used for. Please keep Brian and all of those who love Melissa in your thoughts.

June 19, 1865 is the date when federal troops arrived in Texas to announce the end of slavery; over two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was declared. To honor this holiday, the LWV-LDC collaborated with Lawrence Public Library to hold a panel discussion on two important films, Freedom Summer and Fanny Lou Hamer: Voting Rights Advocate on June 13. I hope you will take the time to watch these remarkable films (available free on the library's Kanopy to everyone with a library card) even if you were unable to attend the panel discussion: <https://lawrence.bibliocommons.com/events/609c15908bef11f62efad2ca>. Thank you to all who worked hard to put on this event.

The last day to register to vote for the August Primary is July 13. You can see current election information for Douglas County here: <https://www.douglascountyks.org/depts/voting-and-elections/current-elections>.

We are seeking a new treasurer. If you or someone you know are willing to serve in this capacity, please reach out to Emily Riner at [emilyapriner@gmail.com](mailto:emilyapriner@gmail.com) or 605-261-0328.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [emilyapriner@gmail.com](mailto:emilyapriner@gmail.com) or 605-261-0328 with any questions, comments, or needs.

Wash your hands, tell those you love how much they mean to you, and stay well.

-Emily Riner

## Links for Calendar Items

**Want to volunteer for Voter Services?** You can find the SignUp Genius form for this summer at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b44a9a92babf49-league1>

**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/channel/UCOLHXiojsOvnyQsoRdFxUaO>

### LWV-LDC 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.

**If you missed Kristin Salmans' presentation** on the United Nations Conference on the Status of Women 65, you can access the recording here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/tTVCCSH57aGBIsOCixoFsX3NhQ4QDeZdQtXspz7V9QMzzSScuiiu\\_3ZD7N5aApU4J\\_Z7aDPyZyyDFOKz](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/tTVCCSH57aGBIsOCixoFsX3NhQ4QDeZdQtXspz7V9QMzzSScuiiu_3ZD7N5aApU4J_Z7aDPyZyyDFOKz)

Passcode: b5M?PtPb

## Bodily Autonomy Constitutional Amendment Presentation:

Thank you to Rachel Sweet of Planned Parenthood Great Plains for joining us for a Hot Topic on the Constitutional Amendment that will be on the August 2022 ballot. Watch the presentation here: <https://youtu.be/mTrBVgzHH3k>.

Hot Topic! If you missed our April Hot Topic with Boog Highberger, the recording is available at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kljnlTZku20>

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

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

Competitive Races for Kansas redistricting Explained: Check out this video from LWWK regarding Kansas redistricting and subscribe to their YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbMQn5cxUhl>

## Voter Services Report

We are need volunteers! We have Voter Services events planned for most Saturdays at the Lawrence downtown farmers' market, twice a week (Thursday Banana Days, and Sundays) inside Checker's, and several events at the Lawrence Public Library (also inside). We continue to participate in other community events when invited.

Volunteering at voter services events is a great way to engage with the community, and support voter registration and education. 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. Of course, we help new residents register to vote, or to re-register after they have moved. We always pair up new volunteers with someone experienced in these events.

Please consider volunteering for one of these community events. You can find the SignUp Genius form for July [here](#).

Feel free to contact Martha Silks or Charlie Crabtree if you have any questions and thank you!

- Martha Silks, Sonja Czarnecki, and Charlie Crabtree  
Co-Chairs Voter Services

## Sticker Design Contest: Win \$100 prize!

Please share the attached flyer on page 9 about the 2021 sticker design contest far and wide, especially with any middle- or high-school aged students that you know! The JPEG version ([available here on our website](#)) is good for posting on social media -- please do!

- Sonja Czarnecki



## Report from Climate Change Committee

Several months ago, it was decided that the LWW-L/DC would initiate a Climate Change Subcommittee. Kay Johnson and Ma'Ko'Quah Jones are the co-chairs and are looking for subcommittee members. The group will meet virtually once per month after subcommittee members are identified and a convenient time is determined. The standing committee date and time will be announced in the next VOTER. The purpose of the subcommittee will be to develop a position paper and action plan for the chapter.

- The national league has developed a [LWWUS Climate Change Position](#) and toolkit. The Climate Change Subcommittee will follow the LWWUS Climate Change toolkit and guidelines.
- The City of Lawrence Commission actions and recommendations made by the City of Lawrence [Sustainability Advisory Board](#) will also be considered. In March 2020, the Lawrence City Commission adopted [Ordinance 9744](#), establishing a goal

of 100% clean, renewable energy by 2035. The City of Lawrence will strive to achieve the use of 100% clean, renewable energy according to the following timeline:

- By 2025 for electricity in municipal operations.
- By 2035 for all energy sectors in municipal operations.
- By 2030 for electricity city-wide.
- By 2035 for all energy sectors city wide.
- Another resource that will be considered and used is information developed by [Climate Action KC](#) – the [Climate Action KC Playbook](#) and the [Climate Action KC – 2021 Kansas State Legislative Platform](#) . **The City of Lawrence has joined many other KS and Missouri cities and counties to be a member of regional partnership of Climate Action KC.**

Please contact Kay Johnson [kayj1116@gmail.com](mailto:kayj1116@gmail.com), if you would like to participate in this subcommittee or have questions.



## Volunteer at the State Fair!

Our Kansas State LWV will have a booth at the Kansas State fair with many interactive, fun elements. LWV-LDC is signed up to staff the booth on Saturday, September 11, 2021. We need at least two volunteers per shift from 9:00am-9:15pm. Please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448ACAA2EA0FC1-lwvldc>.

It will be a wonderful time (and you will receive an entrance ticket to the fair)! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [emilyapriner@gmail.com](mailto:emilyapriner@gmail.com) or 605-261-0328 with any questions, comments, or needs.



## Melissa Wick Memorial Scholarship Recipient

Brian Kuehl, Melissa Wick's husband, announced that he will fund a \$1,000 scholarship in memory and honor of Melissa until 2027. We thank Brian for his generosity and know that Melissa would be so pleased to know that donations to this fund will be used as scholarships for local students.

We are pleased to share that Evan McHenry will be the first recipient of the Melissa Wick Memorial Scholarship. Evan McHenry graduated from Bishop Seabury Academy in May, and plans to study English at Brown University in the fall.

His writing has appeared in Lawrence Magazine and the Seabury Chronicle, and his photography has been featured in KANSAS! Magazine and Inscape Magazine. At Seabury, Evan was a prefect, the director of the Writing Center, and the founding editor of Seabury's first ever Literary Magazine, Frontage Road. He was a member of the school's four person Academic WorldQuest team, which won regionals back to back in 2020 and 2021 and placed 11th at nationals this year. He also played varsity soccer for four years.

This past year, Evan was selected as a member of the Gannett Kansas 2021 All-State Academic Team, was one of only 4500 seniors nationwide to be named a Presidential Scholar Candidate, earned the Seal of Biliteracy in Latin, and won the English Department Award at his school.

Evan has interests in English, Environmental Studies, Classics, Architecture, and many other subjects, and he hopes to explore them further next year at Brown.

# DEI Self-Education

1. Read [BYSTANDER ACTION](#) by RacismNoWay (Article, 1:20 min)
2. Read [THE FOUR D's of BYSTANDER INTERVENTION](#) by American Friends Service Committee (4 min)
3. Read [Stand Up: A Guide to Bystander Intervention](#) by Harvard Civil Rights- Civil Liberties Law Review (5:30 min)
4. Read ['Ism' Interrupters: 3 Easy Phrases for Newbie Anti-Racists & Allies](#) by Ashley Cleland, M.Ed. (Article, 3 min).
5. Read [How to Be an Active Bystander When You See Casual Racism](#) By Ruth Terry (Article, 13 min)

## 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: Sustainable Gardening

1. Grow a Climate Victory Garden. Grow your own vegetables in raised beds or even containers placed in full sun. Share your extra harvest with Just Food.
2. Compost food scraps and yard waste. Composting reduces food waste, grass clippings, and leaves in landfills. Use coffee grounds to add nitrogen to your soil around plants. Place your compost under new plants and on garden beds instead of using artificial fertilizers that harm the planet.
3. Create a pollinator garden. Urban development has greatly reduced butterfly populations and monarch butterflies now face the threat of extinction. Plant milkweeds and other native flowers to feed butterflies during their migrations. Visit Monarch Watch waystations for ideas.
4. Avoid pollinator-killing chemicals. When bees are exposed to neonicotinoid pesticides, it results in impaired movement, memory losses, or death. Also

avoid glyphosate, the main ingredient in Roundup, a popular weedkiller. Glyphosate-based pesticides make honeybees vulnerable to disease and also kills milkweeds that monarch butterflies need to survive.

5. Convert part of your lawn to a garden bed. Reduce lawn mowing and gas pollution by creating a new, raised garden bed for pollinators in full sun. Lay down cardboard and layer top soil, grass clippings, and chopped leaves to at least 6” high. Your new bed will be ready for planting next spring. Plant drought-tolerant native plants to reduce watering, too.

6. Visit Douglas County Research and Extension <https://www.douglas.k-state.edu/lawn-garden/index.html> or Kansas Healthy Yards and Communities <https://kansashealthyyards.org/> for other helpful resources.



## Lawsuit Against Newly Enacted Voter Suppression Laws

The League of Women Voters of Kansas, Loud Light, Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice and the Topeka Independent Living Resource Center filed a lawsuit June 1, 2021, challenging newly enacted voting laws in Kansas that will make it more difficult for Kansans to vote. House Bill 2183 and House Bill 2332 violate the Kansas Constitution by interfering with Kansans' voting, due process and free speech and association rights.

Kansas saw record-setting numbers in the 2020 general election. Over 1.3 million Kansans voted (72% of all registered voters) with over 450,000 voting by mail using an advance ballot and another 370,000 returning their advance ballots in person. HB 2183 and HB

2332 would erode the turnout gains of 2020 by hindering organizations who inform and assist voters.

"Kansas saw incredible turnout numbers in the 2020 election, in large part due to the work of trusted nonpartisan organizations like the League to provide voters with accurate, timely election information. HB 2183 and HB 2332 threaten to undermine this progress by criminalizing the vital efforts of civic organizations," said Jacqueline Lightcap, co-president of the League of Women Voters of Kansas. "These anti-voter bills will have a disproportionate effect on voters with disabilities, voters of color, voters whose first language is not English, student voters, and elderly voters."

The lawsuit challenges four aspects in particular of the new voter suppression laws:

1. **Voter Education Restriction:** It is now considered a crime to "give the appearance of being an election official." This "false representation" provision would chill the free speech activities of organizations like the League of Women Voters of Kansas, Loud Light, Kansas Appleseed, the Topeka Independent Living Resource Center and numerous other churches, community organizations, and concerned citizens provided to ensure every Kansan knows how to safely and effectively cast their ballot.
2. **Advocacy Ban:** The distribution of applications to vote an advance ballot is now prohibited if materials are mailed from outside the state. This provision hinders the legitimate advocacy efforts of organizations working to get out the vote.
3. **Signature Rejection Requirement:** The new mandated signature-match regime could lead to the disqualification of a significant number of ballots each election based on the opinion of untrained election workers working without any legal standard to guide them.
4. **Delivery Assistance Ban:** Kansans are no longer permitted to assist in the collection of 10 or more

advance ballots, disproportionately harming Kansans with disabilities, rural Kansans, and those living on tribal lands.

View the complaint here:

<https://www.democracydocket.com/cases/kansas-voter-suppression-bills/>

- Press Release from LWV of Kansas

## Join the LWV-US For the People Friendbank Take Action: Tell the Senate to Support the For the People Act (S1)!

The For the People Act is the fair representation bill the American people want and deserve. This legislation will put power back into the hands of American voters by making voting easier and more accessible and by modernizing future elections. Over the last two years, we saw the bill pass the House of Representatives, but get stalled at the Senate. **We cannot let this happen again.** The House has passed the For the People Act again - it is now time for the Senate to fulfill its duty for our democracy. The For the People Act addresses some of the most pressing



issues facing our democracy: it will

- Restore the Voting Rights Act;
- Modernize our voter registration system;
- Restore voting rights to formerly-incarcerated individuals;
- Curb partisan gerrymandering; and
- Make campaign contributions more transparent.

**Contact your Senators TODAY and tell them to VOTE YES on the For the People Act (S1). Return control of our government back where it belongs—into the hands of the people.**

To get this bill passed, we need to contact our representatives and mobilize our networks to do the same! Inviting our own friends, families, and acquaintances to take action builds our collective power by multiplying

our efforts and showing our representatives we are watching and care about these reforms.

### What is a friendbank?

Like a textbank or phonebank, the friendbank allows volunteers to reach out to individuals to encourage them to take action, but instead of contacting strangers from a voter file, we will be reaching out to our own contacts! Friendbanks are especially effective because people are more likely to act if they have been asked by a trusted messenger—like you!

Join LWV-US for the For the People Friendbank. Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84481111111>

## Highlights of the Minutes - LWVL-DC Board Meeting

May 11, 2021

**Present:** Emily Riner (President), Kristin Salmans (Vice President), Melissa Wick (Treasurer), Sharon Brown (Secretary), Tamara Cash, Marjorie Cole, Charley Crabtree, Sonja Czarniecki, Kay Johnson, Cille King, Brian Kuehl, Tracy Matthews, Denise Pettengill, Martha Silks

**Guests:** Jim Fluker, Jeanne Klein, Ruth Lichtwardt, Amber Sellers, Marcos Descalzi

Everyone present introduced themselves by giving their name, role in League and whether they are an early bird or a night owl. Marjorie announced that we have four new members: Jim Crider, Sharon Miller, James Minor and Jackson Salmans.

Marcos Descalzi presented information about Prairie Roots Kansas, a new community organizing group that is committed to connecting with Kansans to encourage voter registration and turnout for elections. Barbara Bollier is the chairman and their website is [www.prairierootsks.com](http://www.prairierootsks.com)

**FLUKER AWARD:** Jim Fluker gave an update on plans for the Helen Fluker Award Ceremony. The new date is Saturday, October 23 at 11:30 a.m.

**VOTER SERVICE:** Martha reported that the Eudora event scheduled for May has been postponed until fall. We have tabled at two Farmers Markets so far and

received 13 new registrations. She will be scheduling more events at Checkers and will add more opportunities to the volunteer calendar. Melissa suggested we table at Lawrence Public Library the last weekend before the primary and also continue to promote free student membership.

**TREASURER:** Melissa reported income of \$2,771.24 in April (dues \$2,557.34, contributions \$193.90, scholarship donation \$20) and expenses of \$1,184.72 (check registers \$38.96, printing tab at UPS store by HyVee \$255.76, state PMP \$890).

BALANCE SHEET	05/01/2021
MMA	\$27,909.98
CHECKING (04/01/2021)	\$11,923.98
NAT'L EDUC FUND	\$4,843.39
L/DC SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$4,729.32
CHECKING (04/30/2021)	\$11,923.98

**CASE METHOD INSTITUTE:** Sonja announced she would be scheduling community case study meetings to demonstrate case methods. She plans to have these meetings late during the fall semester, in November or December. She also suggested partnering with LPL to share this information at a future Hot Topic meeting.

**ZOOM:** A motion was made to purchase a ZOOM account for the League, \$160 per year for maximum 100 people. Motion carried. Melissa will set up the account.

**ONGOING BUSINESS:** A motion was made that the board appoint Emma Holsclaw to serve a one-year term as director. Motion carried.

- Sharon Brown, Secretary



# LWW 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:\*

Approximate Household Income	Individual Membership	Household Membership
Student**	FREE	FREE
Under \$25,000***	\$25	\$40
\$25,000 to \$50,000	\$40	\$60
Over \$50,000	\$60	\$90
Sustaining member	\$100	\$150
Life member (of 50 years)	\$0	

\* Our membership assessment supports the National & State Leagues at \$50/member (\$32 National and \$20 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 League General Fund.

I have enclosed a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 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 (provide coffee/tea/dessert)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Taking notes/writing report of meeting

#### Membership

- \_\_\_\_\_ Recruitment
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mentor/follow-up with new members
- \_\_\_\_\_ Provide a ride to a member
- \_\_\_\_\_ Phone members without internet access

#### Voter Services

- \_\_\_\_\_ Register voters
- \_\_\_\_\_ Help with voter education

#### Contribute to the League by:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Researching for League studies on issues
- \_\_\_\_\_ Participating in fund-raising activities
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attending/reporting on government meetings
- \_\_\_\_\_ Representing the League at community events
- \_\_\_\_\_ Serving on the Board of Directors

#### I have the following skills:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Editing articles/reports
- \_\_\_\_\_ Database management
- \_\_\_\_\_ Microsoft Word / Excel / Quickbooks
- \_\_\_\_\_ Website/Social Media design/management

#### My interests include:

\_\_\_\_\_

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www.facebook.com/lwvldc • www.twitter.com/lwvldc



# Sticker Design Contest!



**Design a sticker  
for a water bottle  
or laptop that will  
remind everyone to  
register  
and vote!**

Who can enter: students in grades 6-12  
Contest deadline: August 27, 2021  
Guidelines: 3-4" square, and include this QR code:



Email entries to: [lawrenceksleague@gmail.com](mailto:lawrenceksleague@gmail.com)  
**\$100 prize for the winning entry**

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