



# Missouri Voter

Volume 78, Issue 2

The League of Women Voters of Missouri

March/April 2017

## LWVMO 63rd STATE CONVENTION

April 28-29, 2017

Springfield, MO



### Welcome to Springfield!

We hope you are planning on attending our Convention.

#### *A very brief overview:*

**Friday, April 28** The Convention will start on Friday afternoon at 2 p.m., followed by an early evening reception at *Missouri State University's Kenneth E. Meyer Alumni Center*.

#### **Saturday, April 29**

Saturday's meeting will be held at *Drury University's Trustee Science Center*. This day will begin at 9:00 a.m., will include lunch, and will run until 3:00 p.m.

For more information, you can find details on our website: [lwvmissouri.org](http://lwvmissouri.org). Registrants will receive a packet of information in advance of the Convention.

## President's Message



Dear LWV Members,

John Bytheway — *'Inch by inch, life's a cinch. Yard by yard, life's hard.'*

When it comes to building and strengthening our organization it takes time and constant work. There has never been a better time than now to try new ideas and innovations while at the same time becoming careful listeners and keen observers of those around us. The new year has brought with it more honesty in how many people feel about life in general and political frustration as both liberals, conservatives and the guys in the middle are putting forth agendas and basically trying to win a vote or stop the others' actions with votes.

All sorts of agendas are coming out: do more with less funding; or do without...make life easier and tax less on corporations and high earners. Small items like finding that public defenders are way underfunded and are assigned 100 to 150 caseloads at a time. (We have reached 49th in that--who is 50th?) Road and bridges and other issues of transportation need fixing and funding--where is that money? (We rank 47th there among states.) In attempts to give more funding to problems, funds are being transferred from areas which may not be able to do their work.

The best place for any of us to begin is at home--our communities and counties. Do they have enough funding and what are the issues in your area? Work on it in your town and then bring these issues to state meetings and determine if other areas have that same problem.

The League's role continues to be one of encouraging discussion of these community issues and get people talking. Some of it takes talk, compromise and much debate to reach a resolution. It also is critical that everyone exercise the right to make decisions through their vote.

Just Do It.

--Elaine Blodgett

***WITH IMMENSE GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION,  
THANK YOU ELAINE BLODGETT  
For your exceptional leadership as LWVMO President  
from 2013—2017***



### *League of Women Voters—Kansas City, Jackson, Cass, Clay & Platte County*

The League of Women Voters of Kansas City/J/C/P dug deep and made a financial commitment to continue its mission to educate voters by purchasing a subscription and participating in Vote411.org. In addition to uploading over 250 races, which represented over 400 candidates who ran for county, municipal and school board positions in Kansas City, Jackson, Clay, Platte and Cass, and over 80 ballot issues, we loaded all GIS data for those jurisdictions.

Vote411.org, a ‘one-stop shop’ for nonpartisan, election information launched March 15, 2017. The next phase of the project was to get the message out to the public.

A PR committee stepped up and had 2000 Vote411 cards made and put together a distribution plan.

One of the members reached out to a contact at LAMAR Advertising and secured a digital billboard for one week leading up to the April 4 election. (Photo of the billboard is above)

Another member reached out to local radio stations that donated air time for PSAs. Yet another member wrote a guest column for the KC Star that appeared on 3/31/17 describing how to use vote411.org.

Have your say on the issues that matter  
to you and your community.

**REGISTER TO VOTE**

## ***Local League Reports***

### ***LWV of Columbia-Boone County***

#### ***Workshop on Messaging Elected Officials***

The Columbia League held a workshop on *Crafting Messages for Elected Officials* in March. We had representatives from Rep. Vicky Hartzler's office (Republican) and Sen. Claire McCaskill's office (Democrat) to talk about how to contact federal elected officials. There was great audience engagement and participation and a very civil discussion. Nancy Copenhaver provided insights on contacting state legislators and Marilyn McLeod provided information on contacting local elected officials as well as testifying at legislative hearings as a citizen and providing testimony at the Columbia City Council meetings. Marilyn and Carol Schreiber have prepared a hand-out on tips for contacting elected officials called *Crafting a Message for Elected Officials*. We will have the final version ready for the state convention.

— Carol Schreiber

### ***LWV of Metro St. Louis***

#### ***St. Louis Springs Into Action***

What does over 20 candidate forums and a 31 news page Voters Guide make a League office look like? A beehive of active volunteers, a wee bit of stress, and lots and lots of commitment to voter education. It has been that kind of spring in St. Louis. We began with the St. Louis mayoral race televised on KSDK and iHeart Radio on February 1<sup>st</sup> and ended with the Ritenour School Board on April 3<sup>rd</sup> with over 1,200 citizens attending and a record number signing up to learn more about the League. The Women's March in January brought us new volunteers and members. Our co-sponsorship with UMSL for a day long seminar on ethics and politics introduced us to more possible partnerships. As we approach the new year with a switch in leadership and projects, there is much to do. See you in Springfield.

—Kathleen Farrell

### ***LWV of Southwest Missouri***

*What are we doing in Springfield?* Well, we hosted our Greene County Clerk at our unit meetings to get an update on the Photo ID issue...we hosted a very interesting program on the "10 Dirty Little Secrets of the Missouri Legislature", given by a former state representative from Springfield...we selected an "Adopt-A-Street" section on our very visible Sunshine Street, as part of our Environmental Sustainability action team...we are working hard on upgrading our technology and communications interface between our webpage, Facebook, Twitter and newsletter...we are in the early states of planning a short video about what our League has to offer...we are gearing up for how to have the most effective impact during the November 2018 elections...we are hosting our second New Member Orientation since January...we are developing a list of trusted online resources and websites for members to access for information...and we are gearing up for State Convention in just a few weeks! *We are looking forward to greeting all the Leagues across the state and having a fun, productive, inspirational and friend-making State Convention.*

—Leslie Carrier and Kelli Wood

### Position of League of Women Voters of Missouri on HB 634 – Charter Schools

The League of Women Voters of Missouri *opposes* expansion of charter schools in the state.

At the time of publication of this “Missouri Voter”, HB 634 was passed by the Missouri House of Representatives and has been referred to the Senate where it was assigned to the Education Committee.

If passed and enacted, HB 634 will allow charter schools to be operated in any school district in which at least one school building has received a score of 60% or less on its annual performance report. The League opposes charter school expansion because:

- Charter schools are not held to the same standards as traditional public schools. They are “freed” from having to comply with most state regulations that are designed to ensure a minimum level of adequacy, including being accredited by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. For example, 100% of faculty in traditional public schools must meet state certification standards, while only 80% of charter school faculty members must be appropriately certificated.
- Charter schools are not required to serve their “fair share” of students who present many challenges such as students with significant disabilities, students who are homeless, and students recently released from juvenile detention programs. This inequity results in higher concentrations of students that require significantly more resources in traditional public schools.
- Charter schools are governed by boards that are privately appointed, not elected, and such boards often employ private for-profit corporations to operate publicly funded charter schools. This significantly weakens accountability and contributes to citizens becoming “disinvested” from their local public schools.
- There is an unfounded belief that charter schools are superior to traditional public schools and therefore provide parents with an advantageous choice. Studies of charter school academic achievement do not demonstrate that they are better than traditional public schools. Parents expect superior outcomes when placing their children in charter schools. Unfortunately, such is often not the case and all too often charter school outcomes are actually inferior to those of traditional public schools.

For these reasons, the charter school program in Missouri is seriously flawed. The League of Women Voters of Missouri calls for the defeat of HB 634.



If you have not already done so, please contact your Missouri State Senator and ask him or her to vote against this bill.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

In keeping with the By Laws of the League of Women Voters of Missouri, this report of the Nominations Committee is being sent to local LWVs prior to State Convention in late April.

### Nomination Slate—2017-2019

League of Women Voters of Missouri - State Board

#### **Officers:**

President	Kathleen Boswell ( Sedalia )
Vice President	Marilyn McLeod ( Columbia )
Secretary	Louise Wilkerson ( St. Louis )
Treasurer	Becky Clausen ( St. Louis )

#### **Directors :**

Marge Bramer ( Springfield )  
 Nancy Copenhaver ( Moberly )  
 Debby Howard ( St. Louis )  
 Evelyn Maddox ( KC )  
 Carol Schreiber ( Columbia )  
 Linda Smith ( KC )  
 Sharon Swon ( Mexico )

Nominating Committee 2017- 2019

Peggy Placier, Chair ( Columbia )  
 Pauline Testerman ( KC )  
 Elaine Blodgett ( Columbia )  
 Two others will be appointed at a later date by the new State Board.

Election will be held at State Convention in Springfield, April 28th and April 29th.

Report submitted by the Nominations Committee:

Sue Brockett, Nancy Copenhaver, Lois Detrick, Janie Riley and Lael Von Holt, Chair

## Recent Contributions to LWVMO

### **TO LWVMO**

Member contribution 1 for 100.00.  
 Member contributions 19 for \$2030.00 responses from fundraising letter.

### **TO LWVMO—Education Fund**

Member contribution 1 for \$25.00.  
 Member contributions 5 for \$450.00 responses from fundraising letter.

Non-member contribution 1 for \$100.00 for Sedalia-Pettis County League.

### LWVUS Urges Preservation of Johnson Amendment

The League joined letters sent to President Trump and Congress that supports the preservation of the Johnson Amendment which is a ban on political campaign intervention by 501(c)3 organizations. The League opposes recent proposals that would politicize the charitable nonprofit and philanthropic community by repealing or weakening current federal tax law protections that prohibit 501(c)3 organizations from endorsing, opposing or contributing to political candidates.

More information can be found at this link:  
<http://lwv.org/content/league-urges-preservation-johnson-amendment>



### CALENDAR

2017

- LWVMO Board  
April 28—  
Springfield
- LWVMO  
Convention—  
April 28-29—  
Springfield
- Deadline for next  
Voter:  
May 15

### Donations enable us to do our work for Missouri and Missouri League.

Please consider a gift to LWVMO today.

*To be tax-deductible make your check payable to LWV MO Education Fund. For non tax-deductible donations, make your check payable to LWV MO.*

*Thank you!*

—Mail to: LWVMO, 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144

#### Officers

**President:** Elaine Blodgett  
**Vice President:** Mary Merritt  
**Secretary:** Peg Prendergast  
**Treasurer:** Debby Waite Howard

#### Directors

**Kathleen Boswell:** Public Relations  
**Nancy Copenhaver:** Tax Policy  
**Dianne Modrell:** Health  
**Kathleen Farrell:** Voter Service  
**Linda McDaniel:** Elections  
**Marty Ott:** Legislative Action  
**Marilyn McLeod:** Missouri Voter  
**Janie Riley:** Membership Development

#### Nominating Committee

**Lael Von Holt,** Chair  
**Lois Detrick**  
**Sue Brockett**

#### LWVUS Board Liaison:

**Karen Nicholson**

**LWVUS MLD Coach:**  
**Donna Lauffer**

**Webmaster:**  
**Marilyn McLeod**

**Interim Joint Office Executive Director:**  
**Jan Scheurer**



**MISSOURI VOTER**  
League of Women Voters of Missouri  
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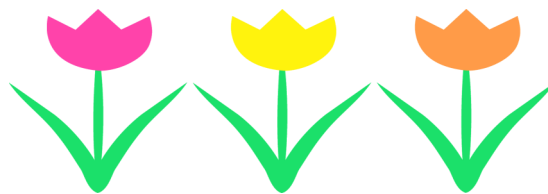
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at St. Louis, Mo**

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***WELCOME TO SPRING! (and Springfield!)***

***Looking forward to seeing many members at the  
LWVMO 63rd State Convention  
April 28-29, 2017  
Springfield, MO***



The Missouri VOTER is published bi-monthly at the League of Women Voters of Missouri (St. Louis).  
Subscriptions are \$2 per year.

Periodicals postage paid at St. Louis, MO USPS 593-960.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Missouri Voter, LWVMO, 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis,  
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