



Missouri Voter

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The League of Women Voters of Missouri

November/December 2018

LWV Poster Encourages Students to Register to Vote

Laura Champion from Lafayette High School in the Rockwood School District just won LWVMO's statewide poster contest to promote youth voter registration. The League will send a copy of Champion's poster to every high school in Missouri before the April 2019 local elections.

Metro St. Louis League co-presidents Nancy Miller and Louise Wilkerson surprised Champion with a \$500 prize.

"This vibrant poster catches your attention," Miller says. "Laura is a very talented young artist and I hope this poster will inspire more interest in voting among high school students."

"The colors make it more exciting and enthusiastic, which is my stance on getting people to vote," Champion said. "I'm passionate about having people's voices heard."

Miller noted that overall voter turn-out of almost 60 percent in November was unusually high for a mid-term election. An early estimate shows 31 percent of young adults ages 18 to 29 nationwide voted in 2018, but that would be an improvement over 20 percent in 2014. For more on youth voting, see www.civicyouth.org.

LWV State President Kathleen Boswell said, "We hope this poster will encourage more young people to register to vote as soon as they are eligible, which in Missouri is six months before their 18th birthday."

The finalists in the competition included students from Kansas City, Sedalia, Springfield and Vandalia.



Members of the LWVMO Board pose with cardboard cutouts of the Suffragist and the Flapper at Mary Merritt's home in Sedalia. Back row: Mary Merritt, Linda McDaniel, Kathleen Boswell, Sharon Swon, Evelyn Maddox and Louise Wilkerson. Front row: Marge Bramer, Nancy Copenhaver and Marilyn McLeod.

Fall State Workshop Summary

About 45 LWV members attended the LWVMO Workshop in Sedalia on November 10 at State Fair Community College in Sedalia. Registrants heard from a wide variety of presenters.



Lafayette County Clerk Linda Niendeck, who first became county clerk in 1998, shared the changes that have occurred over the last 20 years in the “life of a county clerk”. Back in 1998, there was no social media or the computerized information that we have today. Life was much simpler back then in the world of elections. She gave us some background on things we may not know; for example, initiative petitions: the numbers required to get an item on the ballot may reflect a number that may be too low. Each individual name is checked against the local registration record, so consider the time it takes to do this, especially for larger counties. There are issues with signatures, especially if a person has registered online. Another issue is caused by the court system and its potential impact on the ballot. Clerks need to send absentee ballots by six weeks before the election. Problem: they need to have final certification 10 weeks before the election. Thus, late decisions on court cases can impede the ability to follow the law.

Sarah Smith, president and general manager for KMBC and KCWE television in Kansas City, told about her career path which led her to become one of the few women in the industry with her position. She shared her belief that local news is really news as it doesn’t include opinion, just delivers the facts and lets the viewers decide.



Jessica Rohloff travelled to Sedalia from Minnesota to represent LWVUS and the “Transformational Journey” for diversity and inclusion. She suggested that local



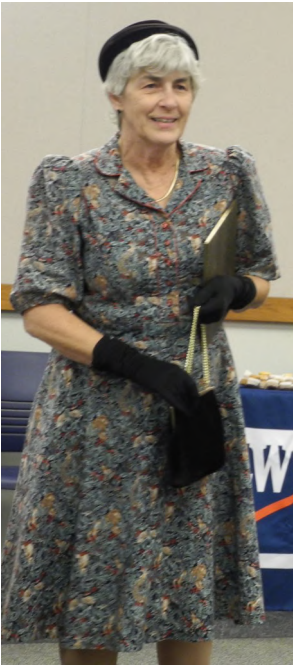
Leagues invite local powerful women to a board meeting to get their observations. Question everything you do. If you get rid of it all, what will you want to keep? Look at your group and ask “who is in the room and who isn’t?” LWVUS wants us to be more “power” focused, “power with”, not “power over.” This will call for radical self-evaluation. Pick where you can actually do something. Jessica described the impact of, and challenged us to recognize, white privilege in our actions.

In the planning for the **Centennial** of the League and Women’s Right to Vote, each League presented some of their ideas, including parades (ex. July 4), fashion shows, library displays, partnering with local organizations, author presentations, concerts, proclamations, etc.

Angie Dunlap from St. Louis Metro LWV (pictured at right) presented background on the “National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.” Details on this are provided on Page 6.



Linda McDaniel presented an update on the three current lawsuits in the state in relation to voter protection. Two were from LWVMO: one on the Motor Voter Law and one on Voter ID and the third that struck down the part of the Voter ID law that requires an affidavit.



Above, Elaine Blodgett shares information on the League archives stored at the University of Missouri in St. Louis.

Kathleen Boswell made a guest appearance at the Fall Workshop as Mildred Whiteman Rogers, the aunt of George Whiteman, the first soldier killed at Pearl Harbor. She challenged each local League to develop a suffragist re-enactment as part of the League's 2019 Centennial.

Local League Reports

LWV-Southwest Missouri

A November meeting featured Dr. Dan Ponder, the L.E. Meador Professor of Political Science and Director of the Meador Center for Politics and Citizenship at Drury University. He gave a historical overview of the Electoral College and presented the argument that it is an outdated and outmoded method of electing a president. Dr. Ponder also discussed the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, which was endorsed by convention delegates to the LWVUS Convention last summer.

Springfields' Friendly Competition

Springfield, MO participated in a friendly competition to see which city named "Springfield" would win the battle for increasing voter turnout. Missouri, Illinois, Massachusetts and Oregon participated, and Springfield, MO won! Here are the numbers: Springfield, Missouri: 27.64 percent voter turnout increase, Springfield, Illinois: 11 percent voter turnout increase; Springfield, Oregon: 5.62 percent voter turnout increase; Springfield, Massachusetts: 1.4 percent voter turnout increase.

Congratulations to LWV of SWMO!

LWV of Kansas City/JCP Counties

11,000 *Voters Guides* for the November 2018 general election were distributed between October 22 and November 5. Based on members' reports, voter guides were available in over 300 locations in the four-county area before the election—especially in community sites, such as libraries, churches, and community centers. Additionally, over two dozen members requested guides to distribute to family, friends, and businesses in their communities.

LWV of Columbia-Boone County

Following a very busy election season, our League held our annual Founders Luncheon on November 12 which featured a presentation by Mary Shaw, portraying Luella St. Clair Moss, a well known figure in both Columbia and LWVMO League history. We presented the annual Liz Schmidt Community Service Award to the Central Missouri Stop Human Trafficking Coalition.

History Made in the 2018 Mid-term Elections

The mid-term elections of 2018 are finally over, and our League members are probably relieved about that. Many members passed out voter guides and registered voters, served as poll judges and poll monitors, made presentations and otherwise participated as League members.

We can be proud that the proposals we supported, Amendment 1 (CLEAN Missouri) and Proposition B (Raise Up Missouri's minimum wage initiative), both passed with more than 60 percent of the vote and will become law.



There is much that is historic in the results of 2018 mid-term elections. First, the voter turn-out was close to historic. According to the U. S. Elections Project, 49.2 percent of eligible voters cast their ballots, nearly 116 million people. That is the highest recorded turn-out for mid-terms since 1914, when the rate was 50.4 percent. Twenty-five states recorded 50 percent turn-out or higher. States that exceeded 60 percent turn-out includes Colorado, Minnesota, Montana, Oregon, and Wisconsin. Turnout was 69.24 percent in St. Louis County.

Second, a historic number of women won political seats, at least 100 women were voted into Congress alone. Martha Blackburn became the first woman senator from Tennessee. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez became the youngest woman ever elected to Congress (age 29). Kristi L. Noem became the first female governor of South Dakota and Janet Mills became the first female governor of Maine. Iowa sent its first women to the House of Representatives, Cindy Axn and Abby Finkenauer.

Third, it was historic because of the variety of ethnicities in the elected officials. In Congress: Ayanna Pressley became the first black woman to represent Massachusetts and Jahana Hayes became the first black woman to represent Connecticut. Deb Haaland of New Mexico and Sharice Davids of Kansas became the first Native American women. Veronica Escobar and Sylvia Garcia became the first Latinas to represent Texas. For the first time, two Muslim women were elected to Congress. Rashida Tlaib of Michigan is the first Palestinian-American woman. Elhan Omar of Minnesota, a former refugee, is the first Somali-American in Congress.



Fourth, there were breakthroughs in sexual orientation in these mid-term elections. In the K.C. Metropolitan area, Sharice Davids became the first lesbian to represent Kansas in Congress. Kyrsten Sinema is the first openly bisexual woman to represent Arizona in the Senate. Jared Polis will be the first man to win a governorship (Colorado) as an openly gay man. While this was an historic election for women nationwide, the Women's Foundation analyzed how women did in 2018 races in Missouri and Kansas. In Missouri, there was a total of 118 women running for office in state, federal, and judicial races. Sixty-one, or 53 percent of those candidates, won their races. In Kansas, there were 75 women candidates, 32 of which won their elections. The percentage of women in the Missouri General Assembly rose from 22.8 percent to 26.5 percent.

After all these statistics are noted, the real excitement is anticipating the work ahead for all of the new office holders, and what these changes will reveal about our country and our future.

(Thanks to Pauline Testerman, Kansas City LWV for this article. It was based on information from articles: November 12 press release from Women's Foundation; A Night of Firsts, *The Guardian*, Nov. 7, 2018; Historic Firsts of the 2018 Midterms, *Washington Post*, Nov. 7, 2018; *New Yorker*, Nov. 17, 2018)



As part of this advocacy work, the League purchased a digital billboard along a busy highway in Kansas City.

“The League of Women Voters of Missouri played a crucial role in promoting the anti-gerrymandering provisions of Amendment 1,” said Clean Missouri Communications Director Benjamin Singer. “Thanks in big part to the League, Missouri will have more fair and competitive maps that protect minority representation and follow city and county lines when possible. Thank you, League of Women Voters of Missouri.”

LWVMO President Kathleen Boswell was encouraged by the vote. “Amendment 1 will clean up state politics by increasing fairness, integrity and transparency in government.”

The League ran Facebook and Instagram ads that had a reach (audience) of 179, 761 and 306,494 impressions (number of views).

Kathleen Boswell, Nancy Copenhaver, Louise Wilkerson and other League leaders taped radio ads that ran on stations in Columbia, Kirksville, Mexico, Moberly, Sedalia, Springfield and St. Louis. The disclaimer said: “Paid for by the League of Women Voters of Missouri Education Fund. The League has been working to empower and educate voters since 1919.”

Voters Approve Amendment 1

Voters approved Amendment 1 by a wide margin (62-38%) on Nov. 6. After careful study, LWVMO endorsed Clean Missouri’s ballot initiative in 2017. Using grants from the LWVUS Education Fund and the Election Reformers Network, LWVMO advocated for Amendment 1 and its changes to how legislative district maps would be drawn after each census.



Join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact Committee

Angie Dunlap of the National Popular Vote Committee gave the committee’s Power Point presentation at the November 10th Fall Workshop.

The League of Women Voters of the United States studied and arrived at a consensus supporting abolition of the Electoral College in 1970. Support for the National Popular Vote was a result of a study and national League consensus in 2009 to get the president elected by a direct vote of the people. The Leagues in Missouri participated in this study. Since then several Leagues around the U.S. advocated for the Compact and were successful in having it passed in their state.

At the national LWV Convention in June of this year, the Convention passed a resolution urging Leagues in non-Compact states to work for its passage. And that is what we plan to do in Missouri. Missouri has not passed the Compact although it has been introduced in the state legislature many times.

For more information, go to the National Popular Vote website: <https://www.nationalpopularvote.com/>

The committee is expanding statewide to focus on education. Please contact Sydell Shayer at s/shayer@gmail.com if would like to join the group.

Sharing Information on the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact

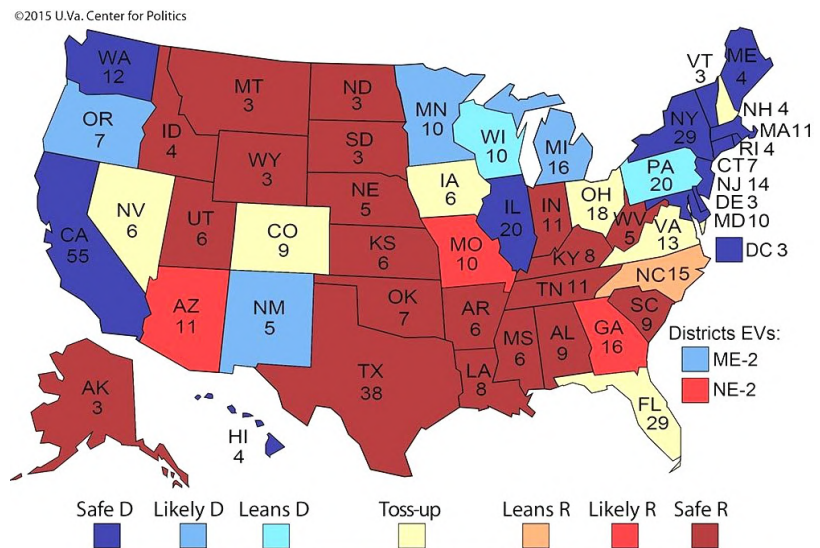
Under the Electoral College, the candidate who receives the most votes nationwide is not necessarily elected president. They are elected by the number of electoral votes they get. The electoral college system requires that each state appoint electors, (who are actually people) to cast the state's ballot for president and vice-president. Each state decides how they want to choose the electors because the Constitution does not spell it out.

How is the number of electors chosen for each state?

The number is based on the number of representatives plus the two senators for each state. Nationally there are 435 state representatives and 100 senators which equals 435 plus 3 added for the District of Columbia totaling 538 electors. A presidential candidate wins if he or she gets a majority of the electoral votes which equals 270 electoral votes. Missouri has 10 electoral votes.

There have been five times when the presidential candidate who received the most votes nationwide lost the election. They were Andrew Jackson in 1824 who won the votes, but lost the election. The same with Rutherford B. Hayes in 1876, Grover Cleveland in 1888, Al Gore in 2000 and Hillary Clinton in 2016. She won the popular vote by 2-½ million votes.

An analysis by 2016 National Popular Vote (national organization promoting NPV) found that it's theoretically possible to win the electoral college with just 23 percent of the popular vote. Fortunately, it has never happened.



Why don't we work to abolish the Electoral College?

Actually we have tried to abolish it.— It is part of the US Constitution, Article II Section 1. The League as well as many other groups nationally still testify in Congress to eliminate the Electoral College to no avail. In fact it is introduced in Congress every year. It is very difficult to amend the Constitution.

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is the League's preferred method until the Electoral College can be abolished. We believe the direct-popular vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. Up to 75 percent of voters surveyed nationwide by Public Policy Polling supported electing the president by a direct vote.

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is an agreement among the states that instead of giving their electoral votes to the candidate who gets the most votes in their state, **states would pledge all of that state's electoral votes to the presidential candidate who wins the most votes nationwide.** A poll of 840 Missouri voters conducted in January 2015 showed 75 percent supported the idea that the President should be the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states.

Bills have been introduced in both the House and Senate, not always in the same session, sometimes by an individual, sometimes by a small group, sometimes by a Republican, sometimes by a Democrat, sometimes a bipartisan bill. In the 2018 session, a Democratic representative introduced a bill, that was assigned to a committee. No action was taken.

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF MISSOURI

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Historian and Voter Protection Coalition
Liaison: Linda McDaniel

LWVUS Board Liaison: Karen Nicholson

LWVUS MLD Coach: Donna Lauffer

2019 CALENDAR

January 11: LWVMO Board Meeting – Columbia

March 15: LWVMO Board Meeting – Springfield

March 29: Centennial of Missouri law on women's suffrage

May 4-5: Board Meeting and LWVMO State Convention, St.. Louis

June 5: Centennial of Congress passing the 19th Amendment

July 3: Centennial of Missouri ratification of the 19th Amendment

Oct. 16-18: Centennial of Missouri League of Women Voters

Nov. 13: Centennial of St. Louis League

Dec. 12: Centennial of Columbia League



Recent Contributions Received

The LLS Foundation gave a check for \$5,000 to the LWV of Missouri Education Fund.
Two members contributed a total of \$600 to the LWVMO Ed Fund earmarked for Columbia-Boone County.
Two members contributed a total of \$65 to the LWVMO Ed Fund earmarked for LWVSEMO.

Contributions from members and friends are always welcome. You can send a donation to: **LWVMO, 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144.**

Your donation will be much appreciated!

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Members of the LWV of Kansas City/JCP Counties presented a check for double their share of per member payment. Front row: Melodie Armstrong, Annette LePique, Susan Sarachek, Mitzi Klukvin, Marti Wheaton, Stacey Webb, Pat Keairnes, Pauline Testerman, Cheryl Barnes . Back row: Donna Hoch, Jane McClain, Evelyn Maddox, Kathleen Boswell (LWVMO President), Caroline Arnold, Jean Ann Kouns.

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