



Missouri Voter

Volume 78, Issue 5

The League of Women Voters of Missouri

September/October 2017



LWVMO Fall Conference October 28, 2017 State Fair Community College—Sedalia

- 8:30 to 9:30 Registration/Get acquainted
- 9:30--Opening remarks--Kathleen Boswell
- 9:40--New LWV merchandise-- Mary Merritt
- 9:50--Observer Corps--Nancy Copenhaver
- 10:00-- CLEAN MO--Sean Nicholson
- 11:00-- The View from a County Clerk's Office--Nick LaStrada
- 12:00-- Lunch-visit with our speakers around the table
- 12:45-- St. Louis Speakers' Bureau--Nancy Miller
- 1:00-- DC Voting Rights and Statehood--Anne Anderson
- 2:00-- What's Coming-Spring in KC--Evelyn Maddox
- 2:10-- Wrap up/finish any local League reports

Registration fee is \$20 per person. Individuals can register (and Local Leagues can send a list of their attendees) and send a check to the LWVMO Office (or go the website lwvmissouri.org and pay by credit card or PayPal). The address of the office is LWVMO, 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144. Deadline: October ?

Hotel reservations for Oct. 27 available at the Comfort Inn, 3600 West Broadway. (660) 829-5050. Rooms are \$82 plus tax. Prefer to reserve by September 26. Mention LWV.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI ENDORSES CLEAN MISSOURI

Desperately needed legislative reforms will increase integrity, transparency and accountability in government.

The League of Women Voters of Missouri has announced that it has endorsed the Clean Missouri initiative petition campaign to make Missouri state government more transparent, limit the power of big money in the General Assembly, and ensure voters are able to hold legislators accountable when they fail to act in the public interest.

“The League of Women Voters – Missouri is excited to support the lean Missouri initiative. We have already begun educating St. Louis Missouri residents about Clean Missouri and encourage members to help put this initiative on the November 2018 ballot, by signing the petition, spreading the word, and connecting them with the St. Louis Regional campaign to collect signatures. No matter what party you believe in, we have all seen that lobbyists, big donors, and small groups of political insiders have too much control and influence over Missouri state government. But it doesn’t have to be this way, and we are excited to be part of the solution,” said League members.

The Clean Missouri initiative will:

- lower campaign contribution limits for state legislative candidates --- \$2, 500 for state senate, and \$2,000 for state house.
- eliminate almost all lobbyist gifts in the General Assembly
- require politicians to wait two years before becoming lobbyists after their final legislative session
- require legislative records be open to the public
- ensure neither political party is given an unfair advantage when new maps are drawn after the census, by asking a nonpartisan expert to draw fair legislative district maps, which would then be reviewed by a citizen commission

Full text of the proposal and more details may be found at CleanMissouri.org.

(The LWVMO Board approved this endorsement at their board meeting on Aug. 25, 2017.)

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK! *Help Wanted!*

LWVMO has been wanting a presence on social media, but it requires someone to do it. Now, Nancy Hutchins, a LWV member from St. Louis, has volunteered to be our Facebook coordinator! Look for Nancy at the upcoming Conference.

She is seeking your help and guidance to establish and share info, events, and input from and between our various chapters and members.

Nancy Hutchins bodaciouspsychobabe@yahoo.com.



Statement from LWVUS on Supreme Court Case on Gerrymandering

By: Wylecia Wiggs Harris
Chief Executive Officer
League of Women Voters
of the United States

10/3/2017

This morning oral arguments began in the Supreme Court case of [Gill v. Whitford](#), a case that challenges partisan redistricting in Wisconsin and could have implications for redistricting nationwide. But the real show was outside the courtroom.

I joined voting rights leaders and a bipartisan group of politicians at a rally calling for an end to gerrymandering.

That's a big word, "[gerrymandering](#)", but its meaning is quite simple. This is the process of politicians unfairly drawing electoral maps to benefit themselves and their political party. Not the voters.

The result? Dysfunction. Mistrust. And public policies that do not reflect the will of the people.

In Wisconsin, in North Carolina, in Ohio and Pennsylvania, and all across the country there are districts that don't make sense, that cross school districts, that break up communities – and for what? So that the politicians hand-pick their electorate, effectively taking away the rights of voters to decide who will represent them.

It is high time we took charge of this and put an end to partisan gerrymandering.
And it can be done.

In [California](#), the League of Women Voters helped spearhead a successful statewide referendum that ended gerrymandering of political districts.

We formed a coalition across the political spectrum. The business sector, labor organizations, and concerned members of community groups all came together to create a ballot measure.

The intent? To be fair to voters.

(continued on page 4)

Supreme Court Case on Gerrymandering, continued from page 3**And that's what the voters wanted. More equality in the system.**

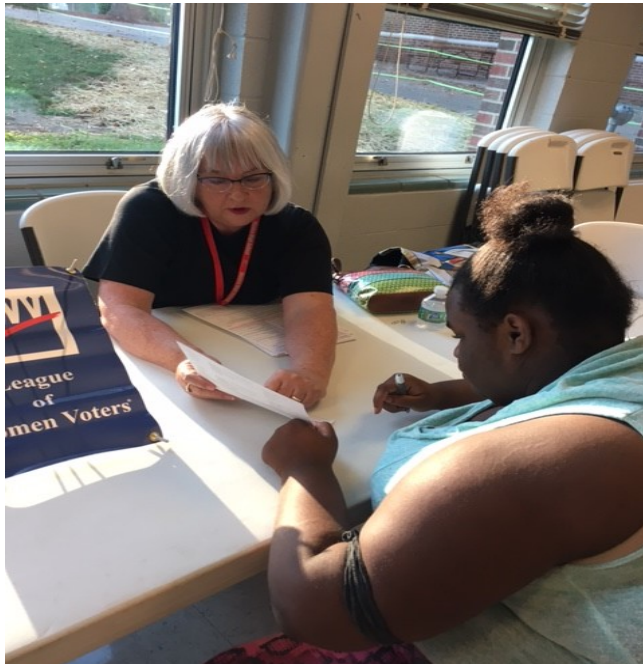
So, working across party lines – we formed an independent commission that redrew the electoral map in California. And it restored the public trust. The districts were drawn for the voters – not for special interest or a particular political party. Around the country in other states, both parties have taken advantage of partisan gerrymandering when they are in power.

But today is the beginning of the end. We know partisan gerrymandering is wrong – and it's even been deemed unconstitutional. But until now, there hasn't been a test. It is now up to the Justices to set a standard - to determine when partisan gerrymandering is so extreme that it violates the Constitution. It is up to the Supreme Court to create ground rules that will help restore trust in our electoral system and create a more democratic and fair country. This case is about fairness. Fairness to the voters.

Americans deserve fair, [equal representation](#) in our democracy.

Because voters should select their elected representatives.

Elected representatives should NOT choose their voters.

***LWV Registering Voters***

LWV Member Sharon Swon of LWV of Mexico-Audrain County helps a citizen get registered to vote.

Recent Contributions Received

Contributions from members and friends are always welcome. We recently received two contributions from non-members totaling \$210. You can send a donation to: LWVMO, 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144.

Local League Reports

LWV of Mexico-Audrain County

LWV members met Tuesday September 12, 2017 at the Mexico Chamber of Commerce office. Plans for the upcoming year were discussed. The League is going to restart our Observer Corp where we observe public board meetings. This is a way to gain visibility in the community and engage our members. We are planning to visit the three high schools in the county to register to vote those who are 18. We will be registering voters at Mexico High School Friday September 22, 2017 in the cafeteria at breakfast and lunch. We welcomed a new member, Debbie Jenkins.

— Sharon Swon

LWV of Metro St. Louis

NO SUMMER BREAK FOR METRO LEAGUE

While many organizations enjoy the down-time afforded by a summer break, the League of Women Voters Metro (LWVMSTL) has been busy with Speakers' Bureau events and advocacy efforts on behalf of voter rights, environmental quality, campaign finance reform, and health care, as well as preparation of an online Voters Guide and voter information/education materials. We've reached out to the community through diverse voter registration events such as:

- The Islamic Food Fair in Forest Park
- The Union Communion Ministries' Free Outdoor Concert Series at Ivory Perry Park
- The Urban League's National Convention
- Beyond Housing back-to-school events at Trojan Park and Normandy High School
- Naturalization ceremonies

As a member of the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition, the LWVMO continues the struggle to preserve and protect all citizens' right to vote. In the St. Louis area and throughout the state, League members were poll observers for summer 2017 elections. We collected data on voters' experiences and passed out palm cards regarding the new law's requirements. The data we collected will help determine if the state of Missouri has adequately notified voters and trained poll workers. Our preliminary conclusion is that voter information has been woefully insufficient and poll worker training is inconsistent.

We are delighted to report over 55 new LWVMSTL members since January 2017! This indicates many people's desire to actively address the social, economic, and political situation in which we find ourselves. The fact that these new members chose the LWV as a way to get involved is fantastic. We are determined to make their membership in the League worthwhile!

On another positive note, congratulations to ***Kathleen Farrell***, immediate past co-president of the LWVMSTL. She received an award on August 26, 2017 by the Missouri Women's Network at their annual Equality Day Brunch for her leadership in the struggle for social justice and equal rights for women.

We look forward to our continued work with you and partner organizations toward our worthy goals. Together, we can change the world.

—Nancy Miller & Louise Wilkerson, Co-Presidents

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

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Nancy Copenhaver (Moberly)

Debby Howard (St. Louis)

Evelyn Maddox (KC)

Carol Schreiber (Columbia)

Linda Smith (KC)

Sharon Swon (Mexico)

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Pauline Testerman (KC)

Elaine Blodgett (Columbia)

Executive Director: Elizabeth McDonaldVoter Protection Coalition Liaison:
Linda McDaniel

LWVUS Board Liaison: Karen Nicholson

LWVUS MLD Coach: Donna Lauffer

**CALENDAR****2017**October 27—LWVMO Board meeting—
SedaliaOctober 28—LWVMO Fall Conference—
Sedalia**2018**January 17 —LWVMO Board meeting -
Jefferson CityMarch 16 —LWVMO Board meeting -
ColumbiaMay 4—LWVMO Board meeting
May 5—LWVMO Spring Conference
Kansas CityJune 28-July 1—2018—LWVUS
Chicago**2018 LWV Calendars are now available!**1-9 Calendars—\$7.00 each plus S&H
10-99 Calendars—\$6.00 each plus S&H

You can order from LWVMO:

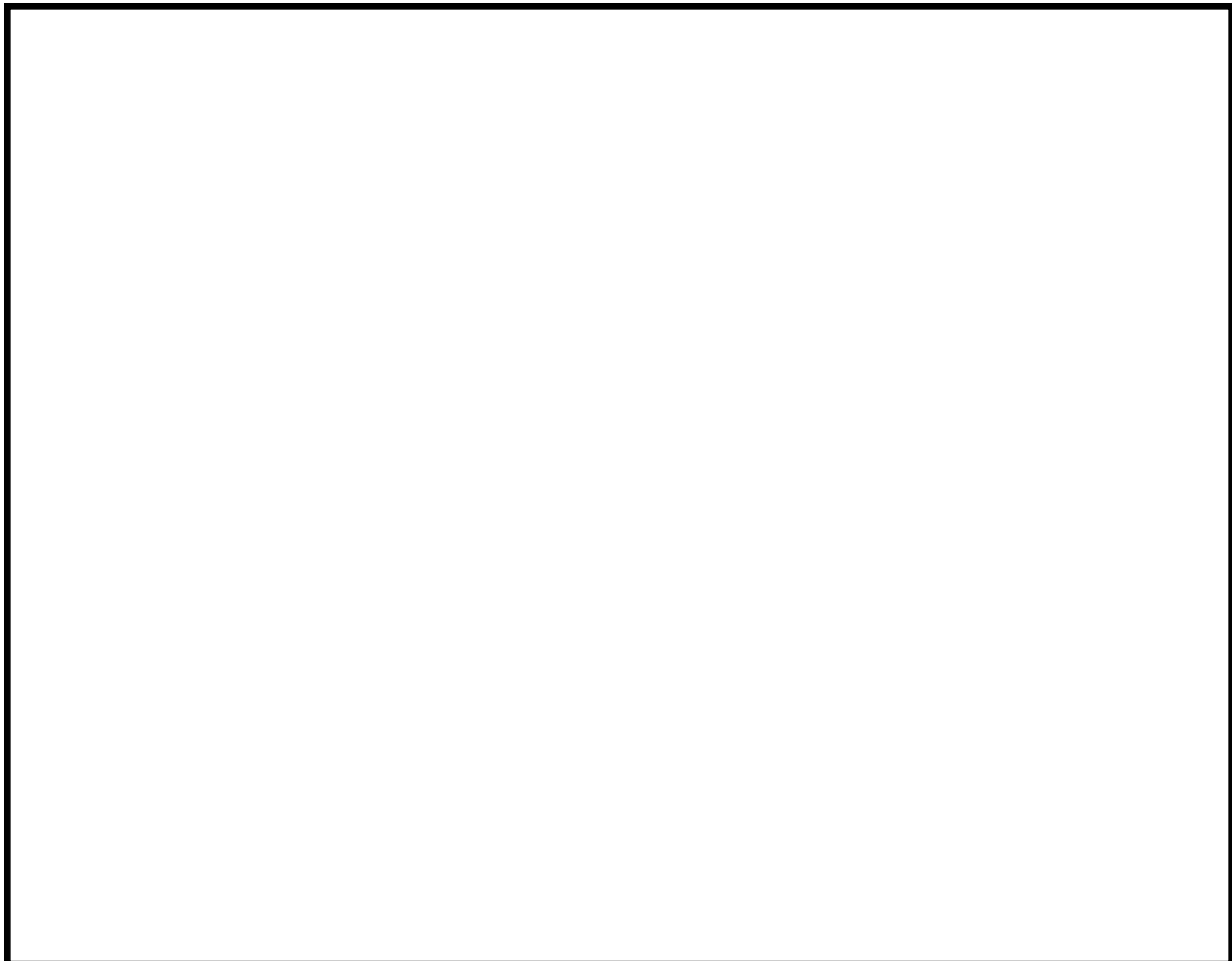
League of Women Voters Missouri
8706 Manchester Rd. Suite 104,
St. Louis, MO 63144Questions? Call 314-961-6869 or email
league@lwvmissouri.org. Please include your name, address, telephone number and email.You can order directly from the LWVMO website at this link:
<https://lwvmissouri.org/shop-2/calendars/>

Local League Reports (continued)

LWV of SW Missouri

LWV members participated in a Health Care Town Hall, seeking an active and solution-focused bipartisan discussion with state lawmakers and policy experts on health care in Missouri. The event was held on Monday, September 11, 2017. A panel composed of Dr. Randall Williams, Dir. Dept. Health & Senior Services; State Rep. Lynn Morris; State Rep. Crystal Quade; Lincoln Hough, Greene County Commissioner with Crystal Brigman Mahaney, MO Health Care for All and Brian Colby, Missouri Budget Project.

LWV members attended the Naturalization Ceremony on Wednesday, September 13 on the Missouri State University campus. Afterwards, there was a reception for new citizens and their families, and that is where the LWV had a table to register the new citizens to vote. This was a great opportunity where we encourage many members to attend and assist in welcoming new citizens to the ranks of American voters.





MISSOURI VOTER
League of Women Voters of Missouri
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Register Today!
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State Fair Community College—Sedalia

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