

The Voter

STATE BOARD REPORT

By Maggie Castrey

This has been a busy summer for the LWV State Board. We met in June at the League office in St. Louis and will meet again in Columbia on August 25th. We've held two additional meetings by conference call to take action on two issues of immediate concern.

The biggest decision of the Board was to enter into a lawsuit, with the NAACP, against the Secretary of State of Missouri. The ACLU has filed this suit on our behalf, and there will be no cost to the League. Although a request was denied in court for a temporary injunction to stop implementation of the law before the July election in St. Louis, a hearing has been scheduled for later in August at which both sides will be able to present evidence to the court. Data will be gathered at any elections held August 8 throughout the state, in order to show any evidence of harm caused by the new Voter Photo ID regulation. The basis of the lawsuit is that there are not sufficient funds in place for adequate training of election officials, poll workers, DMV staff, and voters affected by this law.

The Board is also monitoring the actions of the Pence-Kobach Commission on Election Integrity. Some of the information this commission has requested from Secretary of State Ashcroft is public information, and the SoS has not agreed to comply with their request for information not available in public records. The Commission's requests to states are now on hold because of litigation. Future actions by Pence-Kobach and Missouri's responses will be closely watched in the coming weeks. Privacy concerns and security issues are among the reasons for opposing the release of more information.

SUMMER SOUNDING BOARDS



Our July summer sounding board featured Vicki Kepling, a local activist, who participated in the Standing Rock Dakota Pipeline protest last November. She led a group of 12 "protectors", not "protesters", who demonstrated and advocated for alternative plans for the pipeline. Everything was in

an effort to protect the water resources of that region.



A full room of 34 league members and friends listened to her interesting stories about their experience and encounters with the Standing Rock Indian tribe and other protectors.

Our final Summer Sounding Board for the summer will be held on August 19th at 9:30am at Maggie Castrey's house. Join us for coffee and brunch and an open discussion. Directions to Maggie's house will be emailed separately to members.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Our League has a volunteer opportunity that will help Ozark Public Television's August Pledge Drive. They need volunteers to help answer donors' calls in the phone bank.

The drive starts August 3rd and runs through August 20th. On weekends, they will have breakfast, lunch, and dinner donated by local restaurants. We are trying to fill two different shifts during the pledge dates with League members.

The dates we'd like to fill are Saturday, August 12, from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Thursday, August 17 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. We will need 2-3 people per shift. As a small "thank-you" our League will receive on-air recognition during these shifts.

If you are interested in filling one of these spots go to <http://www.optv.org/support-opt/volunteers> or call the Ozark Public Television Volunteer office at [417-836-4402](tel:417-836-4402) to sign up. If you have questions, contact Lorraine Sandstrom (lcsandstrom@gmail.com).



COMMITTEE UPDATES

Voter Photo ID Update by Maggie Castrey

The Voter Photo ID law (HB 1631) went into effect June 1, and the first elections under the new regulation, except for a small city election held in St. Louis in July, will be August 8. Data will be gathered around the state and will be shared through conference calls with the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition.

We have prepared voter information flyers to help voters arrive at the polls with the documents they need to vote. These flyers will help voters who do not have the required ID's learn how to obtain the documents needed to receive a photo ID. League member Carol Bormann has also designed a wallet-sized flyer that voters can carry with them.

For the August 8 elections, flyers were delivered to the Southwest Center for Independent Living (SCIL) at the request of League member Shelby Butler, for an event last week. Additional flyers were taken to the Christian County Library, to be given to voters attending any of the four Town Hall Meetings being held around the county prior to the elections.

We hope to have poll workers and observers in place for upcoming elections and to provide more information, especially to the underrepresented and underserved voters in our area who may be the most drastically affected by the new requirements.

Our Action Team will meet next month to plan upcoming actions for voter registration events, including the Naturalization Ceremony in September. We hope to develop information that can be used on our webpage and FB page to help make the issue less confusing for voters.

LEAGUE UPCOMING DATES

Summer Sounding Board

Saturday, August 19, 2017 9:30am-11:15am
Maggie Castrey's house

National Voter Registration Day

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

TAKE ACTION!

REJECT 'ELECTION INTEGRITY' COMMISSION'S VOTER SUPPRESSION AGENDA!



Voting brings us together as Americans—it is the one time we are all equal. But a new national task force, created to justify President Trump's false claims of widespread voter fraud in the 2016 elections, is laying the groundwork for dangerous voter suppression across the country.

The so-called 'Election Integrity' Commission, chaired by Vice President Mike Pence and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, is seeking to find potential fraudulent registration on voter rolls across the country. They've requested personal, confidential information from all fifty states that threatens the privacy of Americans.

This Commission is not interested in facts, but rather false accusations in order to implement dangerous election policy. The League will not let this Commission intimidate voters but we need your help. Tell the Commission you won't let anything stop you from exercising your right to vote.

[Sign the League petition today!](#)

