

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

The Voter

LWVSWMO BOARD

A huge thank you to retiring Co-President Jill Smull for her dedicated tenure. Also, a sincere thank you to the Board of Directors members who completed their terms in May 2023: Mahua Mitra, Suzanne Walker-Pacheco, Kelly Wood, and Ann Elwell. Their contributions of time, attention, and collegiality have helped our chapter accomplish significant things as we have recovered from COVID-19 restrictions and moved back into full operations.

At our annual meeting May 15, the League of Southwest Missouri elected two members to share duties as co-presidents.



Sherry Buchanan, Ph.D., begins the second half of a two-year term as co-president. A clinical psychologist with a long career focused on family violence and sexual assault, Buchanan was a founder of the Children's Center of Southwest Missouri, Joplin. She served six years on the Board of Governors for Missouri Southern State University, Joplin, one of those as president. Besides the League of Women Voters, Buchanan is active with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

Emily Fessler is Continuum of Care coordinator for Community Partnership of the Ozarks where she concentrates on issues of homelessness in Greene, Christian and Webster counties. She also oversees CPO's federal funding for homeless services. Fessler earned a Master of Public Health degree and a Graduate Certificate in health programming from Missouri State University. A native of Sheboygan, Wisc., she was

named in 2021 as one of only six Citizen Scholars at MSU.

As a founder of Paws to the Polls at MSU, Emily was a leader in engaging other students in elections, citizenship, and the importance of voting. She also volunteers with Missouri Jobs with Justice.

Also, welcome to newly elected Board of Directors members Jane Earnhart and Susan Cadwallader and to newly appointed Directors Jill Smull, Suzanne Walker-Pacheco, Liz Werner, Sue Walker, and Cindy Mueller.

Board of Directors for 2023-2024: Emily Fessler and Sherry Buchanan, Co-Presidents; Lisa Slattery, Vice President; Kelley Still-Nichols, Treasurer; Cynthia Erb, Secretary; Anissa Barber; Joan Gentry; Jane Earnhart; Lisa Langley; Susan Cadwallader; Jill Smull; Suzanne Walker-Pacheco; Liz Wertz; Sue Walker, and Cindy Mueller.



Front row: Sherry Buchanan, Lisa Slattery, Cynthia Erb
Back row: Jane Earnhart, Joan Gentry, Lisa Langley, Emily Fessler, Susan Cadwallader, Pam Shaver, Marge Bramer

Not pictured: Anissa Barber, Cindy Mueller, Kelley Nichols, Jill Smull, Sue Walker, Suzanne Walker-Pacheco and Liz Wertz.

LWVMO 2023-2025 BOARD

Marge Bramer and Joan Gentry were elected to the LWVMO State Board at the convention on May 6. Thanks to both for agreeing to serve, and thanks to Jill Smull and Julie Steiger for completing their terms on the State Board.



Front Left: President Marilyn McLeod and Vice President Nancy Copenhaver
 Back Row from left: Sheryl Eufinger, *Marge Bramer, Joan Hubbard, *Joan Gentry, Diane Suhler, Carol Schreiber, Louise Wilkerson, and Greg Woodhams.
 Missing: Patricia O’Roark
 *LWVSWMO Members

LWVMO SPRING CONVENTION UPDATE

Spring Convention Delegates Approve Bylaw, Program Changes

Bylaws Change

The delegates voted in a new Article in the LWVMO bylaws regarding LWVMO Committees structures and formal procedures. An amendment by Louise Wilkerson was approved: “No committee member shall act contrary to any position of the LWV at the national or state level. Noncompliance may result in disciplinary action by the Board that may result in the non-compliant member being removed from the committee.”

New LWVMO Positions through Concurrences with Local League Positions

The LWVMO does not take public advocacy on any issue unless there is a LWVMO or LWVUS position.

June 2023

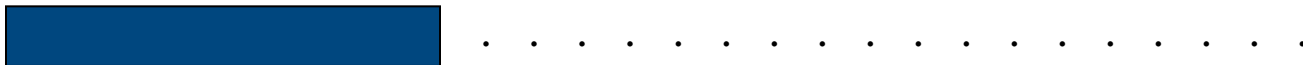
Three new positions were voted into our Guide to State Action which will be updated and posted on the website soon.

The delegates approved a new position on **Local Control**. Many League members would like to advocate against state overreach on laws that are one size fits all, such as no local control on health ordinances. This new position will allow active League advocacy.

The approved position is: “Local control has been a principle of U.S. democratic governance since the beginning of our country. There has always been tension between the different levels of government, which is addressed in both the U.S. and Missouri State Constitutions. Many aspects of life differ among local jurisdictions, for example: geography; environmental resources and hazards; economic, social and market conditions; and constituents’ concerns about particular issues. Local laws and policies tailored to address these factors can be more effective than one-size-fits-all solutions. State and federal legislation, in general, should provide a “floor” or minimum standard for local policies that local governments can build on to fit their jurisdictions’ needs and constituents’ desires, but not a “ceiling” that prohibits local governments from policy innovation and testing.”
 (Proposed by the LWV of Columbia-Boone County.)

The second new position is the legalization of **Adult Use of Marijuana**. Although legalized marijuana is in the Missouri Constitution, we know that laws can change (i.e., Clean Missouri). The primary reason for approving this position is the criminal justice aspect. The new position is: “The LWVCBC supports the legalization, regulation and taxation of responsible adult use of marijuana.”
 (Proposed by the LWV of Columbia-Boone County.)

The third new position is on **Election Security**. With the new threats to election workers and the election process, delegates voted to provide members the ability to advocate on this critical issue. Several good bills on election security died in the recently concluded Missouri Legislative Session. We will be able to do advocacy on this issue in 2024. The new position is: “LWVMO supports measures aimed at protecting and retaining election workers and officials.”
 (Proposed by LWV of Kansas City/Jackson/Clay/Platte Counties)



The Mayor's Commission for Children is committed to encouraging and supporting the development of early childhood programs. Come to the June Sounding Board meeting to hear how Springfield is using the Springfield Readiness Study to assess and address the needs of our student's readiness for school.

- Monday, June 19th 6:00 PM at the Pitch Pub, 2924 E Sunshine. Speaker: Brigitte Marrs, Executive Director of Mayor's Commission for Children.
- Monday, July 17th 6:00 PM at the Library Center, 4653 S Campbell. Speaker: Dr. Grenita Lathan, Superintendent Springfield Public Schools.
- Monday, August 21st 6:00 PM at the Pitch Pub, 2924 E Sunshine. Summer Social and League Kick Off!

DEI UPDATE

JUNETEENTH—Friday, June 16, 2023, “We Are One” Juneteenth will have multiple events at the Springfield Art Museum, including “Live Actors-Living History Tour,” 5-5:45 p.m. and The Millie Project, 6 p.m. Follow NAACP Springfield on Facebook for details. “We Are One” Juneteenth will also have a daylong event with booths at the Expo Center, Saturday, June 17, 2023, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Storyteller Bobby Norfolk will bring the African trickster Anansi to life in a performance at the Library Center, Saturday, June 10, 2 p.m., in the auditorium. See the latest issue of Bookends for details.

VOTER SERVICES UPDATE

Summer registration events are falling into place. We will have booths at Pridefest on Saturday, June 10 and at Juneteenth on Saturday, June 17. Several registrars have already volunteered for shifts in June and July during the Saturday Farmers' Markets on Republic Road. We recently participated with the Greater Joplin League in providing registration opportunities for new citizens at the Naturalization Ceremony held at the George Washington Carver National Monument.

The Greene County Clerk's Office is providing deputy registrar training on the following dates:

- Friday, June 9th, Library Center - Community Room A: 9:30am - 11:00am.
- Wednesday, June 21st, Library Center - Community Room A: 10:00am - 11:30am
- Thursday, August 17th, Library Station - Santa Fe Room: 1:00pm - 2:30pm.

Please email Chelsea at cpointer@greencountymo.gov if you want or need to take the training.



Leaving behind in-person candidate forums with typical audiences of less than 50, Langley and the coalition collaborated to interview individual candidates, air the conversations on KSMU Radio and post them to YouTube. The group estimates it now reaches upwards

May 25: [Southwest Missouri food bank says 1 in 5 children experience food insecurity](#)

Impact on Issues 2020-2022--LWVUS

Guide to State Action 2021-2023---LWVMO

LWVMO LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN: SESSION WRAP UP BUDGET APPROVED

GOOD STUFF THAT PASSED

- ## UPCOMING DATES

Trash Pick Up

June 4, 2023 at 1:30pm
September 30, 2023 at 1:30pm
Meet at 1010 West Sunshine

Deputy Registrar Training

Friday, June 9, 2023, 9:30am-11am
Wednesday, June 21, 2023, 10am-11:30am
Thursday, August 17, 2023, 1pm-2:30pm

Ozarks PrideFest

Saturday, June 10, 2023
Downtown Springfield

Juneteenth

June 16-18, 2023

Summer Sounding Boards

programs, including early childhood spending increased. Infrastructure spending was increased.

- ## GOOD STUFF THAT DIDN'T PASS

All of the following were supported by the LWVMO:

- Restoring the presidential primary in 2024.
- Revisions to the Circuit Breaker tax credits to enable more seniors and handicapped individuals to remain in their homes.

- Election protection bills that would have protected poll workers and election authorities, restored voting rights to parolees and those on probation, privacy for absentee voters, and expanded documents that could be used as voter ID.
- Reduction or elimination of sales tax on period products and diapers.
- Permanently raise salaries for teachers, changes to the funding formula to allow it to grow, and scholarships to attract new teachers to “hard to staff” positions.
- Making it illegal for minors to carry a firearm or any other gun safety measures.

BAD STUFF THAT PASSED

- Restrictions on gender affirming health care for transgender youth.
- Restrictions on participation in school sports by transgender girls as the gender they identify as.
- Reductions in tax revenue going to local governments without compensating increases in funding.

BAD STUFF THAT DIDN'T PASS

The LWVMO opposed the following:

- Changes in the Initiative Petition (IP) Process that would have made it much more difficult or even impossible for citizens to exercise their right to participate in direct government.
- So-called “Parent Bill of Rights” that would have made it much more difficult for teachers and administrators to comply, which could have exacerbated the teacher shortage.
- Cuts to funding for public libraries
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) restrictions that could have put millions of federal funding dollars in jeopardy.
- Closed primaries which would require voters to register with a political affiliation, reducing options for voters resulting in more polarization and less bi-partisanship
- Elimination of other forms of voting that have been instituted in some states and municipalities such as ranked choice voting or approval voting which could reduce extreme partisanship.
- Open public-school enrollment that could exacerbate existing inequalities in education and put rural schools in jeopardy.

June 2023

- Firearm tax credits or elimination of sales tax on ammunition.
- Eliminate options for red-flag gun laws.

GOOD/BAD...IT DEPENDS

The LWVMO had no position on these.

- Legalization (and taxing) of sports gambling did not pass. There was much support around the state with most of the surrounding states legalizing this. Substantial revenue that taxing this form of gambling would have accrued to the state general revenue.
- Elimination of Missouri income tax on Social Security and some retirement income passed. It also freezes property tax rates for Missourians ages 65 and older. It helps some seniors who need help and some other higher income Missourians who don't need the help. It will cost the state \$319 million annually.
- Foreign ownership of Missouri agricultural land is currently restricted to a maximum of 1%. Efforts were made to lower the cap or ban foreign ownership from some countries entirely were unsuccessful.

