

# LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup> OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

## The Voter

### SEPT GENERAL MEETING

September's General Meeting is on Saturday, September 14, 2024, at employer: abilities, 1450 W Cambridge St, Springfield, MO 65807. The social will begin at 9:30am, with the presentation to begin at 10:00am. **Come learn about Proposition A and Amendment 3, which will be on the ballot in November!**

Proposition A, if passed, will guarantee that Missouri workers earn up to seven paid sick days a year and gradually increase the minimum wage to \$15/hour by 2026. The [Missourians for Healthy Families and Fair Wages](#) campaign seeks to allow workers to earn paid sick time off at a rate of 1 hour for every 30 hours worked. The League of Women Voters of Missouri [supports](#) promoting a minimum wage in Missouri to advance self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Amendment 3, if passed, will overturn the state's current strict ban and legalize abortion until fetal viability. The [Missourians for Constitutional Freedom](#) campaign is steadfast in ending the state's total abortion ban and making sure Missourians and their families can make decisions that are right for them and their reproductive health care - including abortion, birth control, and miscarriage care. The League of Women Voters of Missouri [supports](#) an individual's right to privacy to make reproductive decisions.

Join us as we learn more about the two ballot measures and how we can help support passing two policies that align with the League of Women Voters of Missouri positions.

Consider bringing a friend! We invite new folks to meet members and learn more about our work! General meetings serve as a great entryway to becoming a member!

### INFORMED VOTER COALITION

The Informed Voter Coalition interviews are set to air on KSMU at noon the weeks of October 14 and 21. An exact schedule will be included in the October newsletter. Please share this information with your friends, family, co-workers, etc.

The Coalition is planning to interview:

- State Senate District 29
- Greene and Christian County Commissioners
- State Rep Districts 129-140
- US Rep District 7

The Coalition is made up of the League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri, Ozarks Technical Community College Social Sciences Department, Leadership Springfield, the Springfield-Greene County Library District, the L.E. Meador Center for Politics & Citizenship at Drury University, the Springfield News-Leader, Be Civil Be Heard, Missouri State University Office of Public Affairs, NAACP Springfield, the Junior League of Springfield, Rosie, Show Me Christian County, the Springfield Business Journal, and KSMU Ozarks Public Radio.

### DEPUTY REGISTRAR TRAINING

There is one more Deputy Registrar classes for the year. The session will be held at The Library Center, 4653 S Campbell Ave, Springfield.

- Saturday, September 13, 2024, from 10:00am-11:30am

If you would like to attend, please email Chelsea Pointer at [cpointer@greencountymo.gov](mailto:cpointer@greencountymo.gov).

### MEMBER UPDATES

If you have a new address, phone number or email since you joined the League, please update it to continue receiving communications from the LWVSWMO. [Click here](#) to update your contact information.

# BANNED BOOKS WEEK

Banned Books Week is September 22-28. Our state and local leagues consider book censorship to be a First Amendment issue and have signed on to the Right to Read Coalition. Each September, The American Library Association sponsors Banned Books Week.

**"Established in 1982, Banned Books Week brings together the entire book community in shared support of the freedom to read."** Visit the [ALA Banned Books Week website](#) to see a list of current and past challenged books. The education committee urges you to use this week (or any of the remaining 51 weeks in a given year) to celebrate your intellectual freedom and right to read.



## DEI & NON-PARTISAN TRAINING FOR LWVSWMO

The LWVSWMO Board of Directors has voted to implement a *mandatory* DEI & Non-Partisan Training for all forward facing LWVSWMO volunteers in alignment with our DEI Statement and Non-Partisan Policies. The LWVSWMO Board of Directors feels strongly that all forward-facing League members that interact with the public and our community fully understand our DEI Statement and thoroughly embody Non-Partisanship. Our community looks to the League as experts and it is critical that our members, when

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interacting with our community, uphold the values and positions of the League.

Over the next year, the League will host a variety of opportunities to attend the DEI & Non-Partisan Training, with priority on certain League action teams at various times throughout the next year. If a member is on multiple committees and/or action teams, they only need to attend the Training once.

In September, there will be two Trainings hosted for the following committees and action teams:

- Voter Services, including all voter registrars
- LWVSWMO Board Members & Designated Spokespersons
- Voters Guide Team
- Making Democracy Work (MDW) Radio Program Team
- Observer Corps
- PR & Communications Team

The DEI & Non-Partisan Trainings in September are as follows:

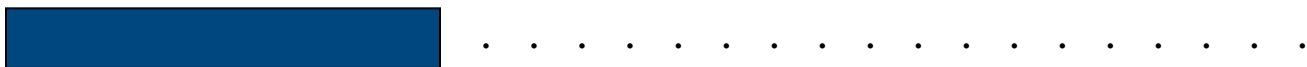
**Tuesday, September 17th at 6:30 p.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83190459365?pwd=YmRRzvjAJcCyPwNbQLLkmOIZPjcW8Ko.1>  
Meeting ID: 831 9045 9365  
Passcode: 150372

**Thursday, September 19th at 6:30 p.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81000764616?pwd=lGxCoLlI7h7nTrISPBSZ4CfMF7Z9zM.1>  
Meeting ID: 810 0076 4616  
Passcode: 107669

Following the DEI & Non-Partisan Training, LWVSWMO members must sign onto the LWVSWMO Volunteer Handbook, which includes volunteer signatures onto our DEI Statement and Non-Partisan Policy. Signature to the LWVSWMO Volunteer Handbook signifies completion of the Training, and commitment to the League's values and positions on DEI and Non-Partisanship. If you have any questions regarding the implementation of the DEI & Non-Partisan Training, please connect with Cynthia Erb, Chair of the DEI Committee, and Co-Presidents, Emily Fessler and Liz Wertz.



## DEI COMMITTEE UPDATE

The DEI Committee highlights two events in September. Culture Fest 2024 will take place at Historic C-Street September 28, 10-6 p.m. See the FB page for Culture Fest.

Historian Ray Suarez will do an author event for We Are Home: Becoming American in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century at Pagination Bookshop September 24, 7 p.m. His book is an oral history about new Americans. See Pagination’s FB page for details.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The next education committee meeting will be Wed., Sept. 18, 1:00-2:00 at the Brentwood Library. If you wish to join the committee (even if you cannot attend in person), please email Cindy Mueller at [cndymllr@gmail.com](mailto:cndymllr@gmail.com) so that you will receive the agenda, follow up notes, and info about future meetings.

## VOTER & ELECTION SERVICES UPDATE

With the exception of registration events held at the Farmers’ Markets on East Republic Road, August was a time for rest and relaxation for registrars. Fall is a different story. There are 30 events scheduled between August 31 and October 23, with requests continuing to come in. Thanks to all the registrars who put in endless hours providing opportunities for folks to get registered to vote.

Here are a few election reminders to share with family and friends:

1. The last day to register to vote if you are new to the process or new to Missouri is October 9.
2. Change of address continues through Election Day if you are already registered to vote in Missouri.
3. In-person absentee voting begins September 24. An acceptable excuse and a photo ID are required.
4. No excuse in-person absentee voting begins two weeks before November 5. A photo ID is required.
5. Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail is October 23.
6. Mailed absentee ballots must be received in the County Clerk’s Office by 7 pm on November 5.



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7. If you are registered to vote in Missouri, but do not have photo ID, you can vote a provisional ballot. If the signature on file in the Clerk’s office and the signature on your provisional ballot envelope match, your vote will be counted.



Photo: 1 League Members registering voters at the Labor Day Parade

## ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

On August 18, several LOWV members enjoyed an informative discussion about food waste with Laurie Davis and Ashley Krug from the Environmental Services division of the City of Springfield. We heard about how to sign up for the “Dish to Dirt” program and much more pertaining to food waste and how to reduce it. Individuals interested in taking a class this fall can go to <https://forms.office.com/g/isQqvXUTb7>. Classes will be offered on October 1 and 3.

If people would like to find out what happens to their trash, there will be a tour of our landfill in the morning on September 18. It really is a fascinating process! To sign up, [click here](#). If this tour fills up, we can have our own tour if at least 10 people sign up.

There will also be a Plastics 101 presentation offered this fall on November 20 from 6:30-8:00 at the Schweitzer-Brentwood Library.

The following events are still on the calendar:

- “The Impact of Dark Skies,” by Lane Pierce of the Springfield Astronomical Society, and Loring Bullard, of the Ozark Society, on September 11, at Schweitzer-Brentwood Library, from 6:30-8:00 pm.
- “Local Yard Ethic Program,” by Clarissa Hatley, Education Outreach Specialist, Division of Water Quality & Watershed, on September 24, in the Auditorium at the Library Center, from 6:30-8:00 pm.
- Trash Pickup, 1010 West Sunshine Street, October 19, 9:00 am.
- Trash Pickup, 1010 West Sunshine Street, November 2, 9:00 am.

## RADIO PROGRAM

Have you listened recently to our weekly Making Democracy Work program on KSMU radio? The League hosts a weekly program, every Monday at 9:45am, on KSMU 91.1FM. In case you missed the most recent episodes, you can click here to browse through the archives for topics you might want to listen to now: [Making Democracy Work](#).

August 2 - [Update on the Lake Springfield plan approved by City Council](#)

August 5 - [Here’s what to know ahead of the Primary Election](#)

August 14 - [What is ranked choice voting? Expert explains this November ballot issue](#)

August 22 - [Food insecurity has increased since the pandemic](#)

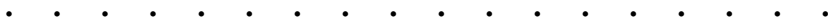
August 28 - [Drury University professor gives a refresher on the Founding Fathers and US Constitution](#)

## POLICY POSITIONS TEAM COMPLETES WORK

Marge Bramer, Ann Elwell, Cindy Mueller, and Sherry Buchanan have finished the revisions of our policy position statements.

Many of our “historical” statements have been moved to our “Long Form” where they will be available to be reactivated if needed for our chapter’s work.

Our new “Short Form” shows all the national, state, and local policy positions that undergird the work of our current committees and work groups.



The new “Short Form” is available on our website. It should be especially helpful to new members and a good reminder about “why we do what we do” for all members.

## GOTV BUS WRAPS

The GOTV bus wraps will continue to roll until the November election. This is a collaboration with NAACP and Leadership Springfield. Funding has been provided by grants from LWV Making Democracy Work and the Community Foundation of the Ozarks and by individual donors.

If you know of a group that might benefit from “Get Out the Vote” encouragement, please contact Sherry Buchanan or Lisa Langley.

## LWVMO WEBINAR

You are invited to a free webinar on voters with disabilities hosted by the League of Women Voters of Missouri on Saturday, Sept. 21, from 9 to 10 am. This invitation extends to all Missouri individuals, organizations serving people with disabilities and any other interested parties.



LWVMO Ed Fund is paying the cost for MT &

*Photo: 2 Kay Meyer voting in St Louis with help from her husband.*

This webinar will focus on general Missouri voting information as well as information of specific interest to voters with disabilities. Time permitting, plain language descriptions of the ballot measures on the Nov. 5 election will be presented. After the presentation, there will be a question-and-answer session. The Associates to provide an ASL interpreter.

Find the Zoom invitation on the calendar on both the LWVSTL and LWVMO websites with both electronic and telephone options to

connect to this webinar. Consider hosting your own local watch party, especially for anyone who cannot access the Zoom.

[Click here](#) to register. Any reasonable accommodation request should be included with your registration and submitted no later than Sept. 7.

Find resources for voters with disabilities at [Voters with Disabilities | MyLO \(lww.org\)](#).

## MEMBER NEWS

Long-time League Member, Dot Powell, passed away peacefully on August 22, 2024. There will be a Celebration of Life event in Springfield on Sept 8, 2024, at 2 PM at the Historic Firehouse located at 101 East Commercial Street, Springfield, MO. [Click here](#) to read the full obituary.



Photo: 3 Long time League Member Dot Powell

## FAVORITE FALL ACTIVITY?



## UPCOMING DATES

**DEI Book Discussion: *Invention of Wings***  
Sunday, September 8, 2024, 5:00pm

**How Dark Skies Can Impact Our World**  
Wednesday, September 11, 2024, 6:30pm  
Schweitzer-Brentwood Library

**National Voter Registration Day**  
Tuesday, September 17, 2024

**Education Committee**  
Saturday, September 18, 2024, 1-2:00pm  
Schweitzer-Brentwood Library

**DEI & Non-Partisan Training**  
Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 6:30pm  
Thursday, September 19, 2024, 6:30pm  
Zoom Meetings

**Webinar for Voters with Disabilities**  
Saturday, September 21, 2024, 9-10:00am

**Banned Books Week**  
September 22-28, 2024

**Local Yard Ethic Program**  
Tuesday, September 24, 2024, 6:30pm  
The Library Center Auditorium

**Deputy Registrar Training**  
Community Room B, The Library Center  
Friday, September 13, 2024, 10:00am

**Trash Pick-Up Dates**  
Saturday, October 19, 2024, 9:00am  
Saturday, November 2, 2024, 9:00am

**Election Day**  
Tuesday, November 5, 2024  
Polls are open 6:00am-7:00pm

