

# LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

## The Voter

### GENERAL MEETING

**Date:** Saturday, February 15, 2025

**Time:** 9:30 AM Social, 10:00 AM Meeting

**Location:** Empower: Abilities, 1450 W Cambridge St

**Topic:** Demystifying the Legislative Process

Join us on Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, for our general meeting. The focus is on legislative tracking by the League and how the membership can use that. Sherry Buchanan will lead off by zoom. She'll speak about how the legislative trackers work in the state, as well as how League members can use that group's calls for action. Then a panel of committee action team representatives will speak briefly about how their committees also respond to League calls for legislative action. The goal is to inform our members about how to make the best use of the legislative update process in the state.

### LEAGUE T-SHIRTS

If you are interested in purchasing a League of Women Voters t-shirt, the cost is \$20.00. To order, contact [JPSmull@gmail.com](mailto:JPSmull@gmail.com) or buy at the February 15 and March 15 meetings.

### DEI COMMITTEE UPDATE

An [NAACP Townhall Meeting](#) will take place Sunday, February 2, 2025, 4 p.m., at Pitts Chapel, 600 N Benton. A panel co-hosted by Kyler Sherman-Wilkins and Duan Gavel will address the topic, "Where Do We Go from Here?" Details available on the Facebook page for NAACP Springfield.

The DEI Committee met for lunch Saturday, January 25, at Mama Jean's Deli, 228 W. Sunshine. We discussed putting into effect a more organized response to DEI-related legislative updates. Our current focus is on bills seeking to restrict or eliminate DEI initiatives, as well as new legislative initiatives on immigration. Anyone interested in attending our meetings or getting on our email list may contact Cynthia Erb at [cynerb@gmail.com](mailto:cynerb@gmail.com).

### VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE UPDATE

Voter registration events are being scheduled for the 2025 Election season. League registrars who are up to date with their registrar training (Greene County) and/or have participated in the League DEI/Non-partisan training will be receiving emails from me about the registration opportunities coming up. Except for the Municipal Election on April 8 there is nothing on the calendar as far as the August or November elections are concerned. However, this does not mean that something won't come up. So, we need to be vigilant in our efforts to provide registration and voter education opportunities whenever and wherever we can.

Registrar Training for Greene County

- Friday, February 7, 2025, 2-3:30pm, Library Center
- Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 10-11:30am, Schweitzer Brentwood Community Center

Email Chelsea Pointer, [cpointer@greencountymmo.gov](mailto:cpointer@greencountymmo.gov) if you plan to attend either date.

The unit meetings scheduled for February 17 and February 18 have been rescheduled for a General Meeting on February 15 at Empower: Abilities. This is going to be an advocacy program along the lines of "Demystifying the Legislative Process". You will have an opportunity to hear about legislative bills related to the priority issues that are important to League members. It's important to hear about the good, the bad, and the really bad bills being introduced in our legislature. And it's time to let our legislators know our concerns.

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The next Education Committee meeting will be Wed., Feb. 12, 1:00-2:00, at the Brentwood Library. Last year our committee's primary focus was the rise in censorship challenges (national and local) and the threats to libraries as institutions of democracy. We realize that the LWW's

This coming year, our committee's focus will be on the protection of public schools, and we will be closely monitoring what changes are being proposed for our state. The voucher policies that have been pushed forward in several states are a preview to what could be in store for Missouri if citizens do not monitor the process. We recommend that league members pay attention to articles concerning vouchers in other states. For instance, [this multi-year study of vouchers](#) from a Michigan professor determined that **75% of voucher funds go to students already attending private schools**. Follow the above link to read more! Voucher programs may have positive sounding names when they are introduced, but they usually amount to a decline in funding and services for public schools.

At the 2024 LWVUS Convention, Leagues agreed to conduct a new national study on the Federal Judiciary. The study will be completed in a shortened time frame - - conducted in just one year, with the final position set to be announced at LWVUS Council in June 2025. The scope of this study is to:

- To develop a LWV position on the Federal Judiciary as an essential component of US democracy.
- The study's purpose includes, but is not limited to, addressing concerns and clarifying judicial accountability, transparency, independence, and ethics.

The scope addresses the Supreme Court as well as the other Article III federal courts. You can find more information regarding this Study [here](#) including timeline, previous webinars/slides, and resources. In February, local Leagues will be sent consensus questions that each local League needs to submit back to the Study. If anyone is interested in following this Study and assisting in completing the consensus questions, please reach out to Emily Fessler at [ereichgeld@gmail.com](mailto:ereichgeld@gmail.com)

Legislative trackers are busy watching bills that relate to LWV priorities. Members are encouraged to read the weekly Legislative Bulletins and follow through on calls to action. Let's be heard in Jefferson City!

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](#).

On Feb. 14, the League will celebrate its 105th anniversary!

Join us for a [virtual birthday rally](#) to honor our accomplishments and uplift our commitment to empowering voters and defending democracy. You'll hear from CEO Celina Stewart, Esq., President Dianna Wynn, and more leaders from the League and beyond.

This rally will be hosted on Facebook and later uploaded to YouTube.

## THE RECENT RISE OF ANTI-VOTER LITIGATION

**Blog** / Last Updated: January 27, 2025

Election litigation leading up to and in the aftermath of presidential elections is nothing new. Many Americans distinctly remember the knife's-edge 2000 election, which resulted in the pivotal United States Supreme Court case [\*Bush v. Gore\*](#). During and after the 2000 election, [196 election-related lawsuits were filed](#). More than double that were filed during the 2020 Election following [candidate Donald Trump's baseless claims of election fraud](#).

The 2024 election was no exception, with multiple election lawsuits filed in the days, weeks, and months leading up to November 5. But, distinctly, many anti-voter lawsuits were filed that sought to disrupt election administration and purge eligible voters from the rolls.

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) monitored these eleventh-hour anti-voter lawsuits, including the substantial amount of [voter purge lawsuits](#). This blog will explore how many of these lawsuits were filed and how they impacted the election.

To read the entire blog on the League of Women Voters website: [Click Here](#)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY SUSAN B. ANTHONY!



Born on February 15, 1820, Susan B. Anthony is perhaps the most widely known suffragist of her generation and has become an icon of the woman's suffrage movement. Anthony traveled the country to give speeches, circulate petitions, and organize local women's rights organizations.

## UPCOMING DATES

### NAACP Town Hall Meeting

Sunday, February 2, 2025, 4:00 PM  
Pitts Chapel United Methodist Church  
600 N Benton Ave, Springfield

### Registrar Training

Friday, February 7, 2025; 2-3:30 PM  
Tuesday, February 11, 2025; 10-11:30 AM

### Education Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 1-2:00 PM  
Schweitzer-Brentwood Library

### League of Women Voters of the US

Friday, February 14, 2025  
105<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### General Meeting

Saturday, February 15, 2025; 9:30 AM  
Empower: Abilities  
1450 W Cambridge St, Springfield

### Municipal Election

Tuesday, April 8, 2025