

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

The Voter

GENERAL MEETING

Date: Saturday, March 15, 2025

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

Location: Empower: Abilities, 1450 W Cambridge St

Topic: Immigration

Join us on Saturday, March 15th, for our general meeting. Dr. Elizabeth Gackstetter Nichols will be speaking about the ever-changing tide of information regarding immigration.



Dr. Elizabeth Gackstetter Nichols is a Professor of Spanish at Drury University and Academic Liaison to the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP). Since 2019 Nichols has worked with the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law (CHRCL) to monitor the condition of children in

Border Patrol detention, visiting numerous sites on the U.S. Mexico border to interview children and families. Nichols also engages in ongoing translation and interpretation for immigrants seeking asylum through the Immigration Justice Campaign (IJC)

ANNUAL MEETING

Date: Monday, May 19, 2025

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Empower: Abilities, 1450 W Cambridge St

Cost: \$15.00, pay on website <https://lwvswmo.org/> or at a meeting. Dinner will be provided by Bambinos.

NATIONAL LWV FEDERAL JUDICIARY STUDY

Local League Consensus Meeting

At the LWVUS 2024 Convention, delegates voted to proceed with a study on the federal judiciary. The study will be completed on a fast-track timeline in time for a position to be announced at the LWVUS 2025 Council in June 2025. The goal of this study is: to develop a LWV position on the Federal Judiciary as an essential component of US democracy. The Study includes but is not limited to addressing concerns and clarifying judicial accountability, transparency, independence, and ethics. The scope addresses the US Supreme Court as well as the other Article III federal courts. The scope of this study focuses on the US Supreme Court and the other Article III federal courts to allow for a relatively quick but thorough, modernized study and adoption of a LWVUS position that is appropriate for years to come.

Following the March 15th General Meeting at empower: abilities, join us for a Consensus Meeting on the National League's Federal Judiciary Study!

Consensus/group discussion is the technique most often used in the League for reaching member agreement. It is a process whereby members participate in a group discussion of an issue. The consensus reached by members through group discussion is not a simple majority, nor must it be unanimous; rather, it is the overall sense of the group as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions, whether in a membership meeting or a series of membership or unit meetings. The League definition of consensus allows for dissent — for minority opinion. Every League that conducts a consensus meeting will answer the same set of consensus questions. Those answers will be used to write the new LWVUS position on the Federal Judiciary.

We hope that you can join us on March 15th at empower: abilities, following the conclusion of our General Meeting, to conduct our local Consensus! You can learn more about the LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study [here](#).

CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

Become informed before April 8 election day so your vote is cast for the candidates that align with your beliefs and standards! To help guide voters, the Informed Voter Coalition is again producing a series of nonpartisan interviews with candidates to air on KSMU Ozarks Public Radio (91.1 FM) between March 25th and March 28th. No registration is required - just tune into KSMU that week! View the video version on the KSMU website, ksmu.org, and the websites of other coalition members after they air!

Here are the following air dates:

- Ozark Mayor - Tuesday, March 25th
- SPS School Board - Wednesday, March 26th
- Springfield City Council - Thursday, March 27th
- Springfield Mayor - Friday, March 28th

The nonpartisan coalition was launched in 2019 with the shared goal of educating voters and engaging candidates with citizens.

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

For more information, contact lwvsouthwestmo@gmail.com

CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP STATUS

League members can check their membership status at <https://portal.lwv.org/>

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MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



For 2025, the National Women's History Alliance (NWHHA) proudly presents the theme "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations." This theme celebrates the collective strength, equality, and influence of women who have dedicated their lives to education, mentorship, and leadership, shaping the minds and futures of all generations. Through their efforts, they have served as an inspiration for all generations – both past and present.

Importance and Relevance

Throughout history, the process of information sharing has been a powerful catalyst for change. An honest, open examination of new insights and knowledge can create a framework for collaboration. This, in turn, promotes the well-being of groups, businesses, communities, and society as a whole.

From classrooms to boardrooms, and from grassroots movements to global initiatives, women educators and leaders have played a pivotal role in nurturing minds and inspiring transformative action.

The 2025 theme spotlights the contributions women have made to the American educational system, the free marketplace of ideas, and the very fabric of our democracy.

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 or buy at the February 15 and March 15 meetings.



PAWS TO THE POLLS NEWS

The 3rd annual local election voter guide, “What’s on Your Ballot?” will be produced by approximately March 20. It will be available electronically at [Paws to the Polls – Public Affairs – Missouri State](#).

Events Scheduled:

- March 5th, there will be a Voting Fair from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM in Plaster Student Union, MSU, 2nd Floor.
- March 26th, School Board Candidate Forum, 4:00-5:00 PM, MSU, Karls Hall 101
- April 2nd, Mayor and City Council Candidate Forum, 5:30-7:30 PM, MSU, PSU Theater, in collaboration with Neighborhood Advisory Council.

DEI COMMITTEE UPDATE

March is Women’s History Month. NAACP Springfield will host an event honoring six local women at National Avenue Christian Church on Saturday, March 29, 6 p.m.

Details will be forthcoming on the organization’s [Facebook page](#).



A screening of “The Milly Project” will take place at the Moxie on Sunday, March 30, 6 p.m. A brief mixer with complimentary refreshments is set for 5:30; a panel discussion follows the screening. Tickets are free and may be reserved on the

Moxie website.

VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE UPDATE

With the April 8, 2025, Municipal Election on the horizon and the new registration deadline March 12, voter registration and tabling opportunities picked up during February. League deputy registrars provided opportunities for folks to register to vote at Harmony House, Taxapalooza, neighborhood association meetings and a City Council forum hosted by PROMO, JWJ and STUN. PTTs and League registrars have been present

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during lunch at four of the six Springfield High School locations with the other two high schools scheduled for the first week in March. Ozark High School is in the process of rescheduling. Three senior residential centers are also on the schedule for the first week of March.

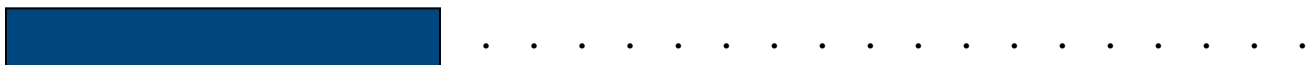
The MSU Bears Lead Program and the NAACP panel discussion “Where Do We Go from Here” provided opportunities for the League to highlight the importance of voting. A meeting with the County Clerk’s Office and representatives from the League and Empower: Abilities resulted in a survey form to be used by League members and others on April 8 to provide insight related to voting accessibility at various polling locations in Greene County. The PTT 2025 Spring Voting Fair, scheduled for March 5, will be providing voter/voting information for MSU students.

The Informed Voter Coalition candidate interviews airing schedule has been set for the last of March: Candidates for Ozark mayor (March 26); Springfield school board (March 27); Springfield city council (March 28); and Springfield mayor (March 29). The video recordings will be posted on KSMU.

PTTPs will be conducting two forums, one with Springfield school board candidates on March 26 and the second with Springfield mayor and city council candidates on April 2. PTT will be collaborating with the Neighborhood Advisory Council on the mayor and city council forum.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The next Education Committee meeting will be Wed., March 19th from noon to 1:00pm at Schweitzer-Brentwood Library.



UPCOMING DATES

General Meeting

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

Education Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 12-1:00 PM
Schweitzer-Brentwood Library

No-Excuse, In-Person Voting begins

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

**NAACP Women History Month
Celebration “Her Story is Our Story”**
Saturday, March 29, 2025, 6pm

The Milly Project

Sunday, March 30, 2025, 6:00 PM
The Moxie, 305 S Campbell Ave #101,
Springfield

Trash Pickup Dates

Adopted section of West Sunshine
April 6, 2025, at 9:00 AM
May 3, 2025, at 9:00 AM
October 25, 2025, at 9:00 AM

Municipal Election

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

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ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Environment & Sustainability Committee met on Saturday, February 22, at Mama Jean’s on West Sunshine. We discussed a number of issues, and basically decided on these three goals for 2025:

1. We want to try to track bills moving in the Missouri legislature that could have a negative impact on our environment.
2. We would like to have more speakers from the city of Springfield and others who can address our group on issues related to the environment and sustainability.

We are pledged to continue our trash pickups along our adopted stretch of Sunshine. Our pickup dates and times are as follows:

April 6, 9:00 am
May 3, 9:00 am
October 25, 9:00 am

Many thanks to those who were able to attend the meeting!

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](#).

February 3: [Empower Missouri hosts virtual Week of Action](#)

February 11: [A primer on social media use as fact-checking by Meta goes by the wayside](#)

February 21: [SPD Chief says recruitment efforts are slowly rebounding](#)

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

If you are not receiving the emailed Legislative Bulletins and Calls to Action each Monday, please check your spam. If that is not the problem, contact Sherry Buchanan. These are informative updates, and it is important for every member to help with the actions that are suggested. Whatever amount of time you have to take action, whether it's five minutes or five hours or a trip to Jefferson City, it adds up when we all pitch in. The League has greatly increased its influence with elected officials because of members' willingness to respond. If you need help with using the Bulletins, contact Sherry Buchanan (417)529-4636.

[Click here](#) to view the Feb 23 Legislative Bulletin.
[Click here](#) to view the Feb 23 Calls to Action

NATIONAL LWV BLOG: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RESPONDS TO GUTTING OF CIVIL RIGHTS OFFICES

Press Release / Last Updated: February 28, 2025

WASHINGTON — Today, the League of Women Voters of the United States CEO **Celina Stewart** issued the following statement in response to the Trump administration's closing of civil rights offices in agencies across the federal government.

To read the full statement: [click here](#)

ADVOCACY TIPS

Here are some tips for contacting your elected officials by phone, email, or personal letter.

- Make it clear if you are a constituent. Politicians and their aides are most interested in the words of voters who live in their district.
- Focus on a single issue.
- Ask your legislator to take specific action. If possible, share a bill number.
- Use your own words and share an example or personal story.
- Be concise, but feel free to repeat the main point.
- Ask for a written response.

Most elected officials have staff to track the number of calls for or against a specific bill. If you use a link shared by LWVUS or another organization to send an email to the White House or Members of Congress, add your own comments so that it will have more impact.

Contact info is listed on our website at [Elected Officials | MyLO](#).