

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

## The Voter

### UNIT MEETINGS

**Monday, April 14, 2025, at 5:30pm at the Pitch**  
**Tuesday, April 15, 2025, Noon at Schweitzer-Brentwood Library**

Join us for one of our unit meetings in April. Our speaker will be Carla Lantz and she will be speaking to us on accessible healthcare and what is happening with house bills that would undo Amendment 3 in Missouri. Carla is a Nurse clinician and certified midwife at Planned Parenthood Great Rivers.

### 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.

### KEEP, DROP OR UPDATE

**What should our local public policy issues be?**

Every year, Southwest Missouri League members participate in planning our local Program.

In "League-speak," the word Program means the list of our public policy positions. That is, the governmental issues chosen by members for study and action in Greene, Christian and Webster counties. It does not mean a series of meetings or speakers. A short form of all our positions is found on [our website](#).

League is a grassroots organization. That means it doesn't take a position on an issue without members studying it. These two facts are important to Program Planning. At our May 19 Annual Meeting, we will decide what policy positions we should keep, drop or update.

The Program Planning process is an important League tool for:

- identifying gaps in our local positions: Do we need a position on a new issue?
- evaluating current positions: Do any positions need updating?

#### What's important about April unit meetings?

At unit meetings April 00 and 00, be ready to share your ideas on [our list of public policy issues](#). With this member input, our Board of Directors will make recommendations for a vote at Annual Meeting.

#### Why do we do Program Planning?

- We need to plan what we will spend our time and money on!
- Our League needs a focus for education, action, and study.

#### We're seeking your input

Take a minute to brainstorm: Which local governmental issues are important to you?

- Should we advocate on these issues before city councils, library boards and others? Is this issue on [our list of current positions](#)?
- Which issues on the list should be a focus for the League?
- Should some positions be updated?
- Do we need a new in-depth study on a local issue?
- *Something to consider:* When thinking about changes you might want to see, remember that any new position must be supported by a study and a study must have a leader and volunteers committed to doing the work.

#### What's the last step?

Program planning ends at Annual Meeting May 19 when members will vote on our 2025-26 Program.

*Questions?* Program planning committee: Michele Breshears, Cindy Mueller, Ann Elwell

## CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP STATUS

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

## STANDING WITH OUR NEIGHBORS AND WELCOMING REFUGEES MARCH & RALLY

Date: Saturday, April 5, 2025

Assemble at 10:30 AM at South Street Christian Church (500 South Ave). Rally on the Square begins at 11:30 AM.

***Note:** In case of rain - the event will be held inside South Street Christian Church. Participants are encouraged to wear appropriate and supportive t shirts and can have flags of various countries.*

On Saturday, April 5th, a silent march in support of our neighbors who are immigrants and refugees will begin at 10:30 am from the South Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 500 South Avenue, and proceed to the Square.

The rally on the Square begins at 11:30 am, and you may join the event there if you are unable to march. If you can, please attend and invite others to join us in the march and rally to support our neighbors.

You are welcome to wear a League t-shirt if you wish. Numbers do matter, and every person makes a difference in the overall impact. Those attending are asked not to bring signs or chant while marching. Much appreciation to Faith Voices of SW Missouri and NAACP Springfield for sponsoring this event. Look forward to seeing you there!

## 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 April unit Meetings.

March 2025

## PAWS TO THE POLLS NEWS

The 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:

- April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mayor and City Council Candidate Forum, 5:30-7:30 PM, MSU, PSU Theater, in collaboration with Neighborhood Advisory Council.

## ACCESSIBLE VOTING

We are looking for League volunteers who can survey their polling places for accessibility on election day. By filling out this brief survey you can help us gather important information that can be used to improve places and to remove barriers that may exist. If you need a paper survey due to inability to use an online survey or have questions please contact Shelby Butler, [sbutler@empowerabilities.org](mailto:sbutler@empowerabilities.org) or Joan Gentry at [joangentry2012@gmail.com](mailto:joangentry2012@gmail.com).

**SCAN  
HERE**



## VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE UPDATE

Voter registrars were busy the first 2 weeks of March with events at a couple of the Springfield high schools as well as two senior living centers. We were also present at several of the neighborhood association meetings to field questions about voting and elections. We provided League election information to folks participating in the Paws to the Poll Voting Fair as well as to the parents of children who are a part of the Ujima reading resource program.

The Informed Voter Coalition candidate interviews are available for you to watch. The first of two Paws to the Polls forums has occurred with the second forum scheduled for April 2. These events are a showcase for the League and other coalition partners and for the PAWs student organization at MSU.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

In February, the education committee recommended that the state league adopt this LWVNH education policy via concurrence. "LWVNH believes that parents who choose not to use the public schools do so of their own volition and that public funds should not be used to support homeschooling or private schools and academies, including religiously affiliated schools." We were pleased to learn that the state committee has approved the proposal to move forward, which means some members of our local committee will have the opportunity to defend this proposal in June. Public funds are not currently used in our state for homeschooling, etc., but we are well aware of what is happening in other states, and we desire a proactive stance. Wish us luck!

**Local Issues:** Don't forget to vote in the local elections on April 8. School boards matter, as do other local boards and commissions! The Observer Corp has kept the education committee informed with events happening at the Christian County Library Trustee meetings. An anonymous blog has recently popped up and it does a good job of explaining the situation in Christian County, including the current lawsuits involving trustees:

March 2025

<https://weareconcerned.wordpress.com> If you live in Christian County, our committee recommends you become informed with your public library situation. The LWV supports public libraries as important institutions that are vital to a democracy. Our local and state leagues are also members of the Right to Read Coalition.

Our final two education meetings of the year:  
Wed., April 16, Brentwood Library, 12:00-1  
Wed., May 7, Brentwood Library, 12:00-1

## DEI & NON-PARTISAN TRAINING FOR APRIL 2025

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

On April 27, the League will host a DEI & Non-Partisan training for new members and any other members who have not completed it. Members who have already completed the training do not need to repeat it in 2025. The April 27 training is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. via Zoom. The Zoom information is below:

Topic: DEI & Nonpartisan Training  
Time: Apr 27, 2025 02:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89617483474?pwd=YsK4OZiOaeRWnauGT7dQKCoeHabLQC.1>  
Meeting ID: 896 1748 3474  
Passcode: 748804

Following the DEI & Non-Partisan Training, LWVSWMO members are required to 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 DEI & Non-Partisan Training, please contact Cynthia Erb, Chair of the DEI Committee, at [cynerb@gmail.com](mailto:cynerb@gmail.com).

## NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK



Attention all LIBRARY LOVERS! April 6-12 is National Library Week. This would be a wonderful time to visit your local branch and say something kind to the librarians and staff who serve our communities. If

you are a person who frequently contacts your elected officials, please remind them that **funding libraries on the local, state, and national level is important** to you.

## 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](#).

March 2: [Prosper Springfield reports drop in poverty rate](#)

March 14: [How to Stay Connected with your Elected Officials](#)

March 18: [What voters need to know before April 8 municipal election](#)

March 26: [League follows legislation to help inform voters](#)

March 2025

## UPCOMING DATES

### PAWs Mayor and City Council Candidate Forum

Tuesday, April 2, 2025, 5:30-7:30 PM  
PSU Theater, MSU

### Standing with our Neighbors and Welcoming Refugees

Saturday, April 5, 2025  
Line for march at 10:30 AM at South Street  
Christian Church, 500 South Ave  
11:30 AM Rally on the Square

### National Library Week

April 6-12, 2025

### 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

### Education Committee Meetings

Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 12:00-1:00 PM  
Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 12:00-1:00 PM  
Schweitzer-Brentwood Library  
2214 S Brentwood Blvd

### DEI & Nonpartisan Training

Sunday, April 27, 2025, 2:00 PM  
Zoom Meeting



## LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Please continue to respond to the Calls to Action in each week's Legislative Bulletin. We know from conversations with legislators that VOLUME of contacts is effective. Whether you have time to respond to one or all the Calls to Action, your input is important. If you need help, please send a message to [lwvsouthwestmo@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsouthwestmo@gmail.com).

[Click here](#) to view the March 30 Legislative Bulletin.  
[Click here](#) to view the March 30 Calls to Action

## LEAGUE RESPONSE TO EXECUTIVE ACTION ON ELECTION INTEGRITY

We want to alert you to the fact that the President issued an Executive Order last night that threatens our freedom to vote and would intentionally silence the voice of American voters, particularly impacting women voters by requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote. His [Executive Order](#) requires changes in states' voting methods and threatens to withhold funds to states which do not comply with the order.

“Let’s keep it real: this order is not about protecting elections; it is about making it harder for voters — particularly *women voters* — to participate in them,” said LWV Executive Director Celina Stewart. “This executive order is an assault on our republic and a dangerous attempt to silence American voters. The President continues to overstep his authority and brazenly disregard settled law in this country. To be very clear — the League of Women Voters is prepared to fight back and defend our democracy.”

“The President can’t unilaterally change election law,” said Marcia Johnson, LWV Chief Counsel. “This order is not only an attack on American voters’ fundamental freedom to vote, it is also plainly unlawful. The League is committed to working with our partners and legal advocates to pursue all avenues in fighting back against this dangerous order, and we will use every tool at our disposal to defend voters from unjust restrictions on their freedom to vote.”

March 2025

Click [here](#) for the complete statement that has just been issued by LWVUS regarding the League's serious concerns about this Executive Order.

Sincerely,

Marilyn McLeod  
 President

*“All eligible citizens have the right to vote. We need to do more to get people to vote, not to restrict them.”*



– Marilyn McLeod, LWVMO President

## HEAR FROM LOCAL CANDIDATES, IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Interviews with local candidates in the Nov. 5 General Election are available on the websites of [KSMU Ozarks Public Radio](#) and the [Springfield News-Leader](#). These brief conversations are the work of The Informed Voter Coalition, led by the League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri.

Candidate interviews include these races:

- State Senate District 29
- State Representative Districts 129-140
- Greene and Christian County Commissioners
- United States Representative District 7

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