

# LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

## The Voter

### ANNUAL MEETING & FUNDRAISER

**Date:** Monday, May 19, 2025

**Time:** 5:30 PM

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

**Cost:** \$15.00, please pay by May 12<sup>th</sup>. You may [pay online](#), or send to: League of Women Voters of SWMO, PO Box 3036, Springfield, MO 65808-3036.

Dinner will be provided by Bambinos. There will be gluten-free and vegetarian options as well.

\*\* Please make sure to review the documents that were emailed to members on 4/30/2025. \*\*

#### Books with a Story

Donate up to five books in very good condition that are meaningful to you. We'll sell them for \$5 each at the event. Please include a short message about why the book is special or what memory it brings back.

#### Sommelier-Curated Wine Pull

We're bringing back the wine pull! This year's wine will be carefully selected by a local sommelier. Each mystery bottle will be available for a \$20 donation, with each guaranteed to delight.

#### Homemade Baked Good

Share your favorite treat! If it's a family recipe or tied to a special tradition, please include the recipe card so others can enjoy it too.

If you plan to bring a baked good to sell, please email Skyler Hawkins at [Skyler.n.hawkins@gmail.com](mailto:Skyler.n.hawkins@gmail.com). If you forget, bring the goods anyway!

### 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 Annual Meeting.

### "UNDIVIDE US" MOVIE SCREENING

Do you hear "*We are so polarized and divided!*" all the time? If so, then join us for this event. The League of Women Voters has partnered with the Springfield-Greene County Library District and Alamo Drafthouse for a movie screening of "**Undivide Us**", rated TV-PG.

This 1-hour long documentary is about bridging the political divide. Stick around after the film for a panel discussion, moderated by a League member, to talk about what we can all do to bridge the gaps between us.

There are two screenings of this film with the same format and discussion questions. More details will be posted in the June newsletter, so mark these dates on your calendar now. For a sneak peak, watch the movie trailer: [Undivide Us](#)

- Tuesday, June 10, 6:30-8:30pm - Alamo Drafthouse (\$5 ticket)
- Thursday, June 12, 6:30-8:30pm - Schweitzer Brentwood Branch Library Community Room (Free)



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The last Education Committee Meeting prior to summer break will be Wednesday, May 7, 12:00-1:00 at the Brentwood Library. A few members are presenting our slides to the LWVMO delegates via Zoom on June 5 in the hopes of getting the following LWVNH education policy adopted via concurrence at the June 7 conference. We are planning on a trial run of our slides to check for clarity and timing, so this will be the primary topic of our May 7 meeting.

*"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."*

**Why is this an issue?** The MO House passed the governor's planned \$50 Million dollars of general revenue (taxpayer money!) to go toward the MoScholar Program (basically private school vouchers). Thankfully, the Senate rejected the funding and even voted to fully fund the public education foundation formula. Things still need to be negotiated, but that is good news so far.

## ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Several members of our committee enjoyed a presentation by Sarah Sims from the City of Springfield entitled "Recycle Right." We also enjoyed learning from Dr. Robb Jacobson's presentation, "The History of Conservation on the Lower Missouri River: A Long Strange Trip." Our trash pickup scheduled for April 6 had to be postponed due to weather. Our next trash pickup will be May 3, at 9:00 am.

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## LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE BOARD, APRIL 28, 2025

**Committee Members: Michele Breshears, Ann Elwell, Cindy Mueller**

Our committee solicited input from members for changes to our **Local League Public Policy Positions (known as our "Program")** via the March General Meeting, April newsletter, and during the April 15-16 Unit meetings. Eleven individuals filled out notecards with suggestions. Nobody followed up with direct contact to our committee. Below is the tally of suggestions. The number represents how many times each subject was listed. As you can see, local campaign finance reform was mentioned several times. The board may want to recommend an update to our Campaign Finance position to include "local" campaign finance. Several topics deal with issues our committees are already addressing and taking action on. **Several of the suggestions might be good topics for speakers next year.**

- Campaign Finance Reform (City Council/School Boards/Other Local Government) 5
- Public money for public schools / Vouchers 5
- Voting Rights / Voter Suppression / Save Act 3
- Libraries / Censorship - 3
- OPT / NPR -3
- Transportation -2
- Unions
- Affordable Housing in Springfield
- Quality care for the underprivileged / Medicaid
- Environmental---mass animal manufacturing plants, pollution to water
- Food shortage
- Jordan Valley Community Health Center funding/ Public Health (post Covid)
- Funding for Jordan Creek restoration/daylighting
- Cooperative projects with other non-partisan groups in our area / United Springfield

**Public Policy Short Form Update:** The "Short Form" list of League policies (national, state, local) that guide our current work have been updated to reflect the 2024-26 *Impact on Issues* page numbers (instead of 2022-2024). Basically, this was just changing page numbers, although the national league did include a comment on book censorship that is now included. A similar update will have to be completed again after State League Convention when the state makes changes to the new Guide to State Action (and hopefully adds an education policy).

Our committee recommends waiting until July to post the 2025 updated "Short Form" versions to avoid confusion. This will also allow committee chairs to double check on policy changes/ additions/ deletions in their area.

## 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](#).

April 1: [Local Refugee Resettlement Agency Discusses Federal Funding Freeze](#)

April 8: [Planned Day Center Helps Unsheltered Find Resources](#)

April 15: [SPS Launch Impacts Students Beyond Springfield](#)

April 24: [Efforts to Address SW Missouri's Suicide Rate](#)

## LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

The 2025 Missouri Legislative Session ends May 16. Legislators' attention has been most avid around efforts to overturn Amendment 3 (reproductive rights), Proposition A (minimum wage & earned sick leave); to make the Initiative Petition process less democratic; to underfund public schools and divert more money to private schools; to make our tax laws even more inequitable; and to pass dangerous gun legislation. Thanks to all members who have followed through on

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weekly Calls to Action. Please keep up your efforts until the end of Session.

[Click here](#) to view the April 27 Legislative Bulletin.

[Click here](#) to view the April 27 Calls to Action

[Click here](#) to view the April 29 Alert on Reproductive Rights

## UPCOMING DATES

### Trash Pickup Dates

Adopted section of West Sunshine

May 3, 2025, at 9:00 AM

October 25, 2025, at 9:00 AM

### Education Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 12:00-1:00 PM

Schweitzer Brentwood Library

### Annual Meeting & Fundraiser

Monday, May 19, 2025, 5:30 PM

Empower: Abilities, 1450 W Cambridge St

### LWVMO State Convention

Saturday, June 7, 2025

Boone Electric Cooperative, Columbia, MO

### "Undivide Us" Movie Screening

Tuesday, June 10, 2025, 6:30-8:30pm

Alamo Drafthouse (\$5 ticket)

### "Undivide Us" Movie Screening

Thursday, June 12, 2025, 6:30-8:30pm

Schweitzer Brentwood Branch Library

Community Room (Free)

### LWVMO 67th Biennial State Convention



June 7, 2025  
Boone Electric Coop  
Columbia

Happy Hour on June 6 at Delia's Mexican Grill.

Register by May 19 at [LWVMO.org](#).