

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

The Voter

RESCHEDULED ANNUAL MEETING & FUNDRAISER

Date: Monday, June 2, 2025

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Empower: Abilities, 1450 W Cambridge St
[Please RVSP Again.](#)

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 and 5/19/2025. **

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. 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 or buy at the Annual Meeting.

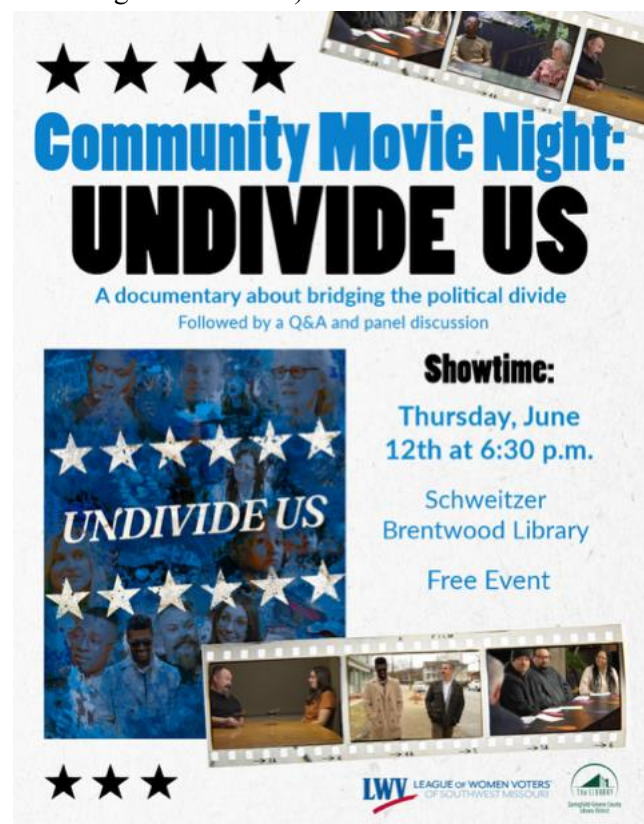
“UNDIVIDE US”

DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

What happens when most Americans are silenced because they are too despondent or afraid to speak openly in schools or school board meetings, in college classrooms, in their communities, or at the family dinner table? Are we dangerously close to a tipping point where the extremes on the right and the left make it impossible for the peaceful coexistence of varying viewpoints?

So, what can we do about that? Let's have a community conversation and start talking with each other!

Join us for a screening of Undivide Us, a documentary about bridging the political divide, on **Thursday, June 12 at 6:30pm at the Schweitzer Brentwood Library in Springfield** (NOTE: The previously announced screening at the Alamo Drafthouse has been cancelled due to logistical reasons).



"Undivide Us is leading a movement of people to reclaim the nation's soul through open discourse, civic engagement, and self-governance. Our discussion will revolve around understanding how to diffuse toxic polarization, celebrate differences, and identify actions we can take to foster more community connections." - Undivide Us team

The League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri and the Springfield-Greene County Library District have partnered to provide this documentary screening, It's a 1-hour documentary, followed by an audience Q&A and a panel discussion featuring Andrew Crocker, a political science instructor at OTC, and Nora Cox, a political communications instructor at MSU. The intent is to start not only a community conversation, but some personal reflection in our own lives, on what each of us can do to better understand the political divide and help bridge the gap, along with ideas on where to take the conversation from here.

VOTER SERVICES & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Voter registration events continue to occur, although at a slower pace than during a midterm or general election year. Two Naturalization events, one at Marshfield and the other at George Washington Carver National Monument, resulted in forty-seven new citizens registering to vote. The George Washington Carver event was tabled by the League of Women Voters of the Greater Joplin Area and the League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri.

During Artfest 2025, league members maintained a voting booth so that folks attending Artsfest could vote on their favorite pieces of "live art" that were in the process of being created by artists in the Art Yard. Artsfest staff provided ballot boxes and voting tickets. We were able to remind folks, young and old, about the importance of voting. We also had voter registration supplies available. The Art Yard turned out to be popular and we were asked if the League would be interested in doing it next year.

We continue to be a presence at Harmony House and the O'Reilly Center for Hope.

Registration at the Farmers' Markets on Republic Road begins May 31 and we will be present at both Pridefest and Juneteenth.

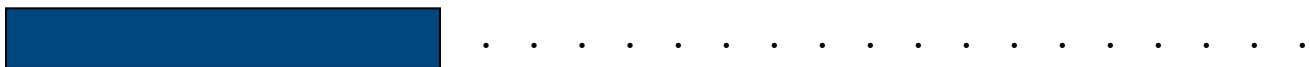
Let me know if you see any opportunities for registration tabling. Information about the August 5 and November 4 elections is slow in coming and folks are not thinking about voting. That could change if the Governor decides to put the Abortion Amendment on the ballot this year as opposed to leaving in on the ballot in 2026.

DEI COMMITTEE UPDATE

This year's celebration of Juneteenth encompasses multiple events over several days--made possible by Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Springfield NAACP, the City of Springfield, and Community Foundation of the Ozarks.

- The Juneteenth Celebration at Silver Springs Park, Friday, June 20, 5 p.m., includes the unveiling of a newly renovated pavilion.
- The Juneteenth Community Celebration, Saturday, June 21, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Springfield Expo Center, is a celebration of freedom, excellence, and unity that includes music, vendors, food, kids' activities, and awards ceremony; a concert follows at the Gillioz, 6:15 p.m. Free admission to the Expo Center events.
- Two film screenings at the Moxie: Hidden Figures, Thursday, June 19, 7 p.m. (\$5); and The ParkDay Reunion Documentary, June 22, 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., and June 23, 7 p.m. (free), Tickets for both films are available online at the Moxie website. Details available at sgfjuneteenth.com.

Ozarks Pridefest 2025: Homecoming features a parade at 11:30 a.m., June 14, beginning at the Martin Luther King Jr. Historic Bridge, as well as a main afternoon event on Park Central Square, beginning at noon. Details for all Pridefest events are available at Ozarkspridefest.com.



ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Our group picked up trash along Sunshine Street on May 3. Our next trash pickups will take place this fall.

Loring Bullard, an area environmentalist, will talk about his recently published book, *An Environmental Journey*, at 6:30 pm on June 3 at the Frisco Community Room, the Library Station.



LWVMO EDUCATION FUND

Much of our work for our community involves educating and informing citizens and all people living in the area. In addition to voter registration, voter's guides, vote411, the Making Democracy Work radio program and many other educational projects, we're currently helping our immigrant neighbors understand the rights under the Constitution of all people living in our country, regardless of their status. Thus far we've distributed more than 1400 wallet cards and flyers in nine languages. We have three ongoing projects using education funds: community education and voter registration work, Paws to the Polls projects to create a culture of voting at MSU, and immigrant rights education.

We couldn't do this work without our generous donors who contribute to our Education Fund. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to assist our efforts, you can send it to our League address: LWVSWMO, PO Box 3036, Springfield, MO 65808-3036. Your check

March 2025

should be made to: LWV of Missouri Education Fund, with a notation that this donation is for use by the Southwest Missouri League. You will receive a receipt for your tax records.

Thank you to our members who have previously donated to our Education Fund!

LOCAL LEAGUE MEMBERS NOMINATED FOR STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SWMO League members attending the June 7 State Convention of the League of Women Voters of Missouri will be pleased to see that three members of our League have been nominated to be members of the State League board of directors.

They are:

- Sherry Buchanan, past president of the League of SWMO
- Shelby Butler, our meeting host at empower:abilities and member of our Pay Day Loan Study Committee
- Joan Gentry, current member, LWV of SWMO board of directors and current LWV Missouri board member, up for reelection

Congratulations to all three!

Thanks go to local League member Marge Bramer who is stepping off the State board in June after serving several terms, including the current one as State treasurer.

For more information on the State Convention of the League of Women Voters of Missouri, contact a member of our local League board of directors or visit <https://my.lwv.org/missouri/event/2025-state-convention>

Ann Elwell, a member of the League of SWMO, served on the Nominating Committee of the LWV of Missouri.

67th LWVMO STATE CONVENTION



Speaker: **Emily Regier**

Professor, Kinder Institute
of Constitutional Democracy

Register at lwvmo.org.



