

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

## The Voter

### SUMMER SOUNDING BOARD

**Date:** Monday, July 21, 2025

**Time:** 5:30 PM

**Location:** MaMa Jean's, 228 W Sunshine

**Topic:** Amendment 3 & Proposition A with Madi Summers and Jeanette Rouse

### GOOD TROUBLE: A TEACH-IN INSPIRED BY JOHN LEWIS

**Date:** Thursday, July 17, 2025

**Time:** 6:30 – 8:00 PM

**Location:** Washington Avenue Church

**Partners:** NAACP Springfield & League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri

Join us for **Good Trouble: A Teach-In Inspired by John Lewis**, an evening of reflection, education, and action honoring the legacy of civil rights icon Congressman John Lewis. This community event will explore the power of nonviolent protest, connect local struggles to national movements, and mobilize Springfield residents to take meaningful action.

#### What to Expect:

- **Learn** about the life and impact of John Lewis and why his legacy matters today.
- **Hear** from local leaders and organizers during a panel conversation (panelists announced soon).
- **Act** by participating in a postcard campaign at the end of the panel portion
- **Honor** a local "Good Trouble" leader who embodies the spirit of Lewis' fight for justice.
- **Reflect** together during a candlelight vigil to close the evening.

#### Why It Matters:

This teach-in is part of the nationwide **John Lewis Day of Action**, a time to recommit to protecting democracy, advancing justice, and making "good trouble." Our goal is to inspire and equip our community to take part in direct action — starting right here in Springfield.

#### Who Should Attend:

Everyone! This event is open to the public and especially welcomes anyone interested in civil rights, democracy, and local change-making. Spread the word and bring a friend!

### VOTER SERVICES & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Voter registrars were present during both Pridefest and Juneteenth to register voters and answer questions about upcoming elections. We will be present at Book Marx on June 28 supporting voter registration with the Nixa Students Against Book Restrictions group. Our presence at the Farmers' Markets on Republic Road has continued with four registration tabling events occurring during June. July 5 will be the last one until we begin the process again in mid-August. We have two neighborhood events coming up soon: July 18 is the ADA Block Party at empower:abilities and the CPO National Night Out is scheduled for August 5 at Meador Park.

There are two Greene County registrar training dates on the calendar: Thursday, July 17 from 10-11:30 am at the Library Center and Tuesday, September 9, from 2-3:30 pm at the Library Center. You will need to contact Chelsea at [cpointer@greencountymo.gov](mailto:cpointer@greencountymo.gov) to register for the training.

### "NOT IN OUR WILDEST DREAMS" FILM SCREENING

**Location:** Historic Fox Theatre, 157 Park Central Square, Springfield, MO 65806

**Date:** Thursday, Aug 21, 2025

**Time:** 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

**Organizer:** Caitlin Yager, (314) 371-8788, [caitlin@mohumanities.org](mailto:caitlin@mohumanities.org)

Join us for the Springfield Premiere of Missouri Humanities' latest documentary, "Not in our Wildest Dreams"! This documentary examines the role of the

Missouri Supreme Court, focusing on the state’s historic female majority’s teamwork in promoting civic engagement and empowering youth, as well as exploring their personal journeys. Several current and retired judges will join us for a discussion following the 26-minute film.

Reception at 6:30 PM, film at 7:00 PM, Q&A and reception to follow. [Click here](#) to register.



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the June sounding board. Some of our Education Committee members shared the slides used at the LWVMO convention to support adopting a new education policy at the state level. A link to the slides is on our local league website. The policy was adopted! It reads, *The LWVMO 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.*

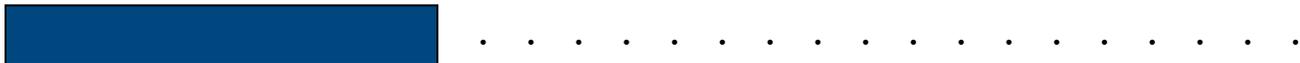
The timeliness of this policy (public money only for public schools) could not be more apparent. For the first time, Missouri will be spending \$50 million tax dollars to pay vouchers for private schools. The term “voucher” is no longer used by politicians because it is unpopular. People already know that school vouchers mean public school money is siphoned off for non-public entities (private schools, homeschools). Instead, legislators use phrases like “Education Freedom Accounts” (Arkansas), EdChoice Scholarship Program” (Ohio), “Students First Education Savings Accounts” (Iowa), “Family Empowerment Scholarships” (Florida), “Parental Choice

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Tax Credit Act” (Oklahoma), etc. Our Missouri program is dubbed MoScholars or Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA). Don’t be fooled by the terminology. Whatever the name, it is all public money for non-public schools. Voucher supporters may argue that “donations” pay for these programs, but even that is deceptive because the donations are actually tax deferments/credits, meaning a taxpayer (usually wealthy) can donate money to a voucher program and then receive a tax break. These donations actually divert what should be general revenue tax dollars into a voucher system. So even before our state voted to use \$50 mil GR funds this year, Missourians were getting prospective tax funds rerouted by these ESA donations.

Vouchers are now being proposed at the federal level as well. Again, the word voucher isn’t mentioned, but the program involves donations to Scholarship Granting Organizations. Early versions of the Federal Reconciliation Bill (BBB) being debated now in Washington DC, contained a provision for an unheard-of dollar-for-dollar tax credit (capped at \$5 bil). As Carl Davis at the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy explains, "It's about three times as generous as what you're gonna get from donating to a children's hospital or a veteran's group or any other cause. It really preferences voucher groups over every other kind of charity." ([Source link](#)). The final version of the bill may not contain these exact voucher provisions, but the fact that it was proposed at all shows vouchers to be a new priority at the federal level.

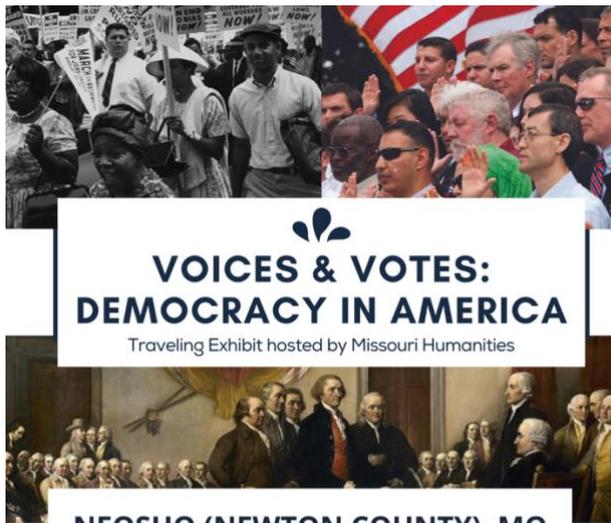
As we see in our own state, voucher programs begin small- geared for students with disabilities or those from poor performing schools. But they almost always go “universal,” meaning open to all. When this happens, state budgets explode, causing other programs to suffer. Public schools suffer as well, especially those in rural areas where the promised educational “choices” do not exist. Public schools must enroll the public, while private schools are able to choose their students. We see in states that now offer universal vouchers, the majority of the money flows to families (often wealthy) that were already paying for private options. Some states even allow voucher money for homeschoolers. Missouri’s governor has expressed a desire to expand the voucher program and has developed a committee to reexamine the funding of public schools ([Source link](#)).



Examining the fallout of universal voucher programs will be the topic of our next Education Committee (late Aug–date TBD). Our committee meets monthly during the school year. For the past two years, our primary focus has been in protecting public libraries and protecting public schools. Look for the meeting dates in the Aug. newsletter if you wish to join us in our future studies. In the meantime, **spread the word on the spread of vouchers**. Voters aren't asking for this, but they are paying for it anyway.

## VOICES AND VOTES TRAVELING EXHIBIT

Crowder College/Social Science Division (Neosho, MO)  
July 28, 2025 – September 8, 2025



**VOICES & VOTES:  
DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA**  
Traveling Exhibit hosted by Missouri Humanities

**NEOSHO (NEWTON COUNTY), MO**

**CROWDER COLLEGE/SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION**  
601 LACLEDE AVE, NEOSHO, MO 64850

**JULY 28, 2025- SEPTEMBER 8, 2025** Smithsonian  
**MISSOURI HUMANITIES**

Missouri Humanities is excited to host a special tour of *Voices & Votes: Democracy in America*, an exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution. Developed as part of the [Museum on Main Street](#) (MoMS) program, this exhibit is designed especially for small cultural organizations and rural audiences that lack regular access to traveling exhibitions due to space and cost limitations. In 1900, about 40% of Americans lived in rural areas. By 2010, less than 18% of the U.S.

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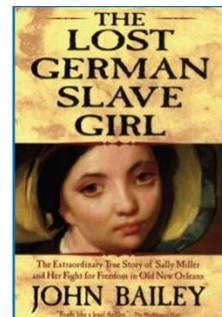
population lived in rural areas. In just over a century, massive economic and social changes moved millions of Americans into urban areas. Yet only 10% of the U.S. landmass is considered urban.

*Voices & Votes: Democracy in America* explores the foundational principles of American democracy, tracing its roots from the country's beginnings and examining key questions that continue to shape our nation today: Who has the right to vote? What are the freedoms and responsibilities of citizens? Whose voices will be heard? This exhibit serves as a springboard for vital discussions about these issues, reflecting our local stories and experiences.

## 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](#).

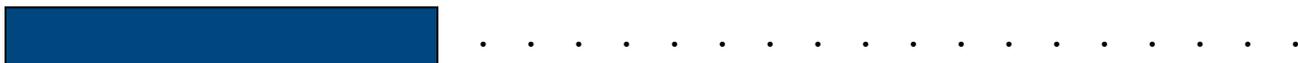
- June 2: [Community Focus Report has new host and home](#)
- June 4: [Undivide Us documentary explores how to bridge the political divide](#)
- June 20: [Leadership Springfield and Rosie are leadership development programs](#)
- June 20: [Misconceptions and information about bird flu](#)
- June 25: [Libraries offer more than books and have a long list of services](#)



**JEDI Book Discussion**  
(Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion)

**Sunday, July 29, 5 pm**

Go to [lwwmo.org/calendar](http://lwwmo.org/calendar) to find the Zoom link.



## UPCOMING DATES

### **Voter Registration Deadline for August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Election**

Wednesday, July 9, 2025, 5:00 PM

### **Greene County Registrar Training**

Thursday, July 17, 2025, 10-11:30 AM  
The Library Center

### **John Lewis Day of Action**

Thursday, July 17, 2025

### **Good Trouble: A Teach-In Inspired by John Lewis**

Thursday, July 17, 2025, 6:30-8:00 PM  
Washington Avenue Church

### **Summer Sounding Board**

Monday, July 21, 2025, 5:30 PM  
MaMa Jean’s Natural Market, 228 W Sunshine

### **Board Retreat**

Monday, July 28, 2025, 5:30 PM  
La Paloma

### **Voices and Votes Traveling Exhibit**

Monday, July 28, 2025-September 8, 2025  
Crowder College, Neosho, MO

### **105<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

Monday, August 18, 2025

### **“Not In Our Wildest Dreams” Film Screening**

Thursday, August 21, 2025, 6:30-8:30 PM  
Historic Fox Theatre, 157 Park Central Square

### **Greene County Registrar Training**

Tuesday, September 9, 2025, 2-3:30 PM  
The Library Center

### **Trash Pickup Dates**

Adopted section of West Sunshine  
October 25, 2025, at 9:00 AM

## SAVE THE DATE! 2025 CIVIC HOLIDAYS

Civic Holidays are nonpartisan national days of action that strengthen and celebrate our country’s democracy. LWV is a partner of five key civic holidays:

- August 12: National Poll Worker Recruitment Day
- September 16: National Voter Registration Day
- October 6 – 10: National Voter Education Week
- October 28: Vote Early Day
- November 3: Election Hero Day

