

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

The Voter

GENERAL MEETING

Date: Saturday, September 13, 2025

Time: 9:30 AM

Location: Empower: Abilities, 1450 W Cambridge St.

Topic: Supporting Our Libraries & Access to Books

Speaker: Sheila Michaels and special guests

THE LEAGUE IS DEFENDING FAIR REPRESENTATION

Missouri's Governor and Legislature are being pressured by President Trump to revise the configuration of our congressional districts (gerrymandering). Our State Constitution calls for redistricting after each decennial census, so this mid-cycle proposal raises some serious questions.

The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate, but we strongly support fair representation in the House of Representatives. LWVUS rejects redistricting for the protection of incumbents or preferential treatment for a political party. The proposal for redrawing Missouri's districts assails these League policy issues. As stated by LWVKC, "Voters deserve stable, fair representation--not to be used as pawns in a power grab. When politicians rewrite the rules mid-game to protect their control, democracy loses. Redistricting should serve the people, not politicians."

Governor Kehoe will probably call a Special Session for purposes of redrawing the boundaries of the 5th Congressional District, giving Republicans a greater chance at winning the seat. As a nonpartisan group, the League would have the same opposition to mid-cycle redistricting regardless of which political party was seeking advantage.

League members should call the Governor's office (573-751-3222) to state our opposition. Calls to Speaker of the House Jon Patterson (573-751-0907) and President of the Senate Cindy O'Laughlin (573-751-7985) and your local State Representative and Senator would also help.

On September 10, we will rally at the Capitol with stakeholders from around the state to voice our serious opposition to this gerrymandering. An email regarding transportation has been sent to members.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

New member orientation has been scheduled for Saturday, October 18 from 10:30-12:00 at Brentwood Library.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Is it time for you to pay your annual dues?
Click here to pay online: portal.lww.org

To pay by mail send a check to:
League of Women Voters of SW Missouri
PO Box 3036
Springfield, MO 65808-3036

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Membership Committee is seeking active members who would be willing to mentor our new members. Each member would be assigned a few new members to message (call/text/email) prior to League events to encourage them to attend and sit with the mentor and the new members in the mentor's group.

In addition, we are also seeking some social members who would be willing to be social guides. These members would have a group of new members and would plan and organize as many social outings with their group of new members as they like, but ideally one per season (spring, summer, winter, fall). These social guides would meet on occasion with Sandy Hopper and me for ideas of social outings and potentially combine our social groups.

These groups would encourage friendships and a sense of belonging among new members of the LWVSWMO.

If you might be interested, you can contact me at cllwyrbcc@yahoo.com/417-224-2790 or shop91548@yahoo.com/417-270-7271.

We will also be at the September 13th general meeting at the sign-in table.

VOTER SERVICES UPDATE

August provided several “hot” opportunities for the League to be a part of voter registration and education events. Youth attending the UJIMA summer camp listened to a reading of the book “Granddaddy’s Turn: A Journey to the Ballot Box.” Paws to the Polls and the League took part in a panel discussion with students who were a part of the Youth Civic Leadership Conference held at Parkview High School. We were present during the National Night Out celebration held at Meador Park and had an information table at the Missouri Humanities showing of the documentary “Not in Our Wildest Dreams.”

Deputy registrars will be busy providing voter registration opportunities and election information as we move into fall. We will be at the Farmers’ Markets on Republic Road beginning August 30 and continuing through October 4. We will be at the Waterford at Ironbridge Senior Living Center and, during the week of September 15, as a part of September 16 National Voter Registration Day, (week), at the six SPS high schools during lunch. You will also find us with tables set up during the Annual Service Fair on the Square, the Excel Center Community Resource Fair, the Fairbanks Fall Festival and Pride on C Street event.

Thanks to all of our deputy registrars who give their time and energy to make sure that voter registration opportunities are provided throughout the year.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

UPDATE

After our summer break, the Education Committee will hold its next meeting on Saturday, Sept. 13, 11:30-12:30, at the Classic Rock Coffee Shop on Sunset Street. This will immediately follow the general meeting at Empower Abilities. The two areas of our focus for our committee continue to be protecting public libraries and

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protecting public schools. Both local newspapers (NewsLeader, Spfd Daily Citizen) do a good job of keeping up with local library news, and an online (anonymous) blog weareconcerned.wordpress.com gives further insight into the concerning actions of the Christian County library board of trustees.

Library lovers might also be interested in these calendar dates of note: UNESCO International Literacy Day is Sept 8, and ALA Banned Book Week is Oct. 5-11. Now is also a good time to call or write your state and federal representatives to voice your support for library and museum funding.

Our committee will also continue to look at how vouchers are negatively impacting public schools. The free digital newsletter *Missouri Independent* is an excellent source for state-wide education news. A recent article titled "[Lawsuits Challenge 'deceptive' summaries for Missouri Public Education Ballot Measures](#)" discusses how two groups are trying to get Initiative Petitions protecting public schools on the 2026 ballot, but their efforts are being hindered. For the first time, **\$50+ million Missouri taxpayer dollars will be used to pay for private school tuition**. Remember that Missouri voters did not ask for this, but we are paying for it anyway.

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](#).

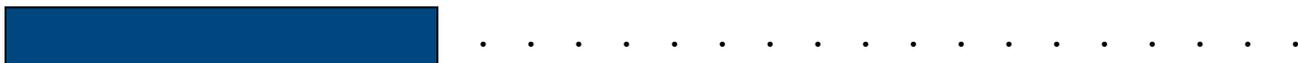
August 8: [Community collaboration continues several years after devastating tornado](#)

August 12: [Upcoming documentary highlights Missouri women working in the legal field](#)

August 19: [Library of over 300 tools is available in Springfield for residents to borrow](#)

LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

Our State Board has approved Legislative Action as a standing state committee. LWVKC had managed legislative tracking with help from members from

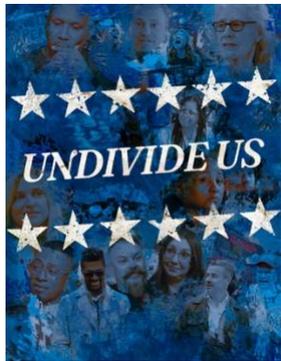


several chapters, including ours. This will now be centralized through LWVMO, with Brandi Blackburn (LWVKC) and Sherry Buchanan (LWVSWMO) as coordinators. The Monday morning Legislative Bulletins will continue as usual, giving members options for advocacy, one of our very important responsibilities. Please contact Sherry Buchanan if you would like to train to be a Tracker when the '26 Session starts in January.

UNDIVIDE US DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

If you missed it the first time, then join us for a second screening of **Undivide Us at the Republic Branch Library on Saturday, September 27 from 2-4pm.**

The League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri and the Springfield-Greene County Library District have partnered to provide this 1-hour documentary screening, followed by an audience Q&A and discussion. The intent is to start not only a community conversation, but to also better understand the political divide and what we can do to help bridge the gap.



"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

We had a packed house at the first screening in June, with lots of questions from the audience ranging from how to handle difficult relationships stemming from political differences to what small steps we can take in our community to become more connected despite our differences.

Watch the trailer here: [Undivide Us](#)

UPCOMING DATES

UNESCO International Literacy Day
Monday, September 8, 2025

Greene County Registrar Training
Tuesday, September 9, 2025, 2-3:30 PM
The Library Center

General Meeting
Saturday, September 13, 2025, 9:30 AM
Empower: Abilities
1450 W Cambridge St.

Education Committee Meeting
Saturday, September 13, 2025, 11:30 AM
Classic Rock Coffee Shop, 1900 W Sunset St

National Voter Registration Day
Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Undivide Us Screening
Saturday, September 27, 2025, 2:00-4:00 PM
Republic Branch Library

LWVSWMO Board Meeting
Monday, September 29, 2025, 5:30 PM
Library

ALA Banned Book Week
October 5-11, 2025

National Voter Education Week
October 6-10, 2025

New Member Orientation
Saturday, October 18, 2025, 10:30 – 12:00 PM
Schweitzer-Brentwood Library

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

