

The Voter

GENERAL MEETING

Meeting with W/David Pepper
Saving Democracy 2nd Ed
Saturday, November 15; 10:15 – 11:00 am
Google Meet joining info
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/oub-mjux-wdv>

Information:

The author David Pepper encourages members to read the following pages before his presentation on November 15th at the General Meeting.

Click link for pages to read:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1OoBXOyBRCMDI9XfEWbAczai_rpqBncgmI_Q0IgrB5Wg/edit?usp=sharing

LEGISLATIVE TRACKING 2026

The Legislative Action Committee has been transferred from the KC chapter to LWVMO. Brandi Blackburn from the KC chapter and Sherry Buchanan from LWVSWMO are co-chairs. The LAC will produce weekly information about bills of interest to the League and provide Calls to Action so that all members can participate in legislative advocacy. These will come in weekly emails while the legislature is in session, Jan-May. This requires statewide teams of Legislative Trackers who monitor bills to let us know when to act. Several LWVSWMO members have been Trackers in the past and will continue in 2026. New people are needed because there are so many things to watch! If you want to be a Tracker for 2026, or are interested in learning more about what it requires, please email sherrybuchanan66@gmail.com

JEDI & NONPARTISAN

TRAINING

Last year, the LWVSWMO Board of Directors voted to implement a mandatory DEI & Non-Partisan Training for all LWV SWMO volunteers in alignment with our DEI Statement and Non-Partisan Policies. Our

community looks to the League as experts, and our members uphold the values and positions of the League. These trainings will take place quarterly and must be done to be a forward-facing LWV SWMO member. If a member is on multiple committees and/or action teams, they only need to attend the Training once.

Sunday, January 25th at 4:00 PM

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86890920701?pwd=OZZ8MEkI14VpTJsvWKyUcnEHNsLdZ.1>

Meeting ID: 868 9092 0701

Passcode: 740962

Following the DEI & Non-Partisan Training, LWV WMO members must sign onto the LWVSWMO Volunteer Handbook, which includes volunteer signatures on 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 implementation of the DEI & Non-Partisan Training, please connect with Co-Presidents Liz Wertz (elizabethwertz220@gmail.com) and Sandy Michaels (slm7593@gmail.com).

LEAGUE SOCIAL

Happy Hour for League members will be Thursday, November 20th at 5:30 at Tie and Timber. Come meet some new members and visit with members who are already your friends. Hope to see you there.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Is it time for you to pay your annual dues?

Click here to pay online: portal.lwv.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 New Member co-chairs are still seeking New Member Mentors. We are happy to have three members who have signed on to help mentor new members, but we need some more ladies to help as more new members sign up, and to keep it a more manageable number for each mentor. If you would be interested in helping guide our new members by encouraging them to attend general and unit meetings and giving them a friendly face to sit with contact:

Rebecca Callaway at cllwyrbcc@yahoo.com
Sandy Hopper @ shop91548@yahoo.com.

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

UPDATE

Seed Gathering Event at Shepherd of the Hills State Park: Members are invited to visit this brand-new state park, which is not yet open to the public, to gather seeds from native plants and flowers. We will get started at 9:00, and after we have gathered the seeds, you will get a chance to take a look at this wonderful park. Bring a lunch, rain gear, and sturdy shoes.

LOWV Trash Pickup: At 9:00 am on November 30 we will take part in our final trash pickup for the year. Once again, helpers should gather at 1010 West Sunshine.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

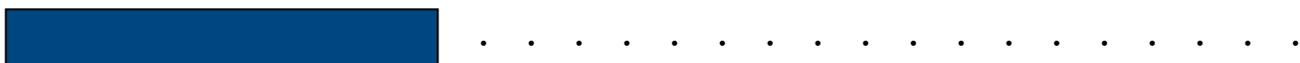
UPDATE

MEETINGS: Our next Education Committee meeting is scheduled for Sat., Nov. 15, directly following the General Meeting (9:30-11) at the Brentwood Library. However, instead of a formal meeting, we are heading to the Burger Bar (1845 E. Sunshine --VIB hotel) for lunch and conversation. **ANYONE is welcome to join us!** Chatting with some like-minded people sounds more fun than a meeting, right? We will not be meeting in December (League social is Dec. 8!). Our next formal meeting will be Sat., Jan. 17 at the Library Center, directly following the General Meeting. By then we should have an idea about legislation impacting education.

ACTION: We hope everyone is aware of the damage that voucher (school "choice") programs are doing to public schools across the country. Last June, the LWVMO adopted the following education policy: *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.*

As PUBLIC money is funneled to private schools and homeschools, public schools are starved of funds. This year, 50 million dollars of general revenue funds was diverted into the MOScholars voucher program, a program that was supposed to be funded only by tax credit donation (another way to divert tax money from the general revenue). Unfortunately, the Big B Bill passed this summer in Washington, D.C., is going to make similar tax credits to school "choice" programs a more financially beneficial option than donating to ANY other charitable cause (cancer research, etc.) on the federal level. States implementing voucher programs are also seeing that the majority of the funds are going to wealthy families who were already easily paying for private school. A recent Missouri Independent (great free resource) revealed that 98% of Missouri voucher funds went to religious schools. Homeschooling and private schools are an excellent choice for many families, but asking the public to pay for these choices at the expense of public schools is wrong. **Please help spread the word against the danger of the "school choice" (VOUCHER) movement.** "Choice" sounds good, but it comes at too high a cost for public schools. The impact on state budgets and on public schools is serious. Want to know more? Here are a couple of YouTube clips that help explain the issue:

- Texas Congressman explains why "ouchers are welfare for the wealthy."
- The Iowa State Auditor says there is no real competition when public schools have different rules, including having to accept the "public."
- The WV President of the State Board of Education explains why public schools in his state are closing or consolidating. This clip is long, but you can skip to the last five minutes where he holds up the huge stack of regulations public schools must follow. Then he holds up one page of charter school guidelines, followed by a notecard of homeschool guidelines. The cards are stacked against public



schools. (The closing of public schools is an important voucher side effect to be aware of. Last year 20 Arizona public schools closed. The state of Florida has started allowing charter schools to begin using newly underpopulated public-school spaces--- at no extra charge).

I don't really like the city parks.
I want to join a country club so my kid doesn't have to play with "those" kids and I want the city parks system to pay for my membership.
School Vouchers in a nutshell.

VOTER SERVICES UPDATE

The October 29, 2025, Naturalization Ceremony, which was to be held at the Juanita K Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts, was cancelled due to the federal government shutdown. There were 120 applicants for citizenship scheduled for this event and the League would have provided an opportunity for these new citizens to register to vote. Typically, about half of the new citizens do register at this time. Arrangements were made for the applicants to go to Kansas City to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services headquarters where most of them became citizens on October 29 as scheduled. The ceremonies are expected to continue in the Springfield area in 2026.

In the meantime, registration events were held at the Farmers' Markets and Harmony House.

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](#).

October 3: [Labor force is retiring and impacting local housing market](#)

November 2025

- October 8: [New City Council member talks about acclimating to new position](#)
- October 16: [Springfield-Greene County Library District offers more than just books](#)
- October 24: [Federal funding cuts impact response to local disasters](#)

UPCOMING DATES

November General Meeting
Meeting with W/David Pepper
Saving Democracy 2nd Ed
Saturday, November 15; 10:15 – 11:00 am
Google Meet

Trash Pickup Dates
Adopted section of West Sunshine
November 30, 2025, at 9:00 AM

Election Hero Day
Monday, November 3, 2025

Special Election
Tuesday, November 4, 2025

League Social
Thursday, November 20, 2025, 5:30 PM
Tie & Timber, 1451 E Cherry St, Springfield

DEI & Nonpartisan Training
Sunday, January 25, 2026, 4:00 PM (Zoom)

LWV National Convention
Thursday, June 25 – Sunday, June 28, 2026
Columbus, OH

