

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

The Voter

LWVSMO HOLIDAY PARTY

Date: Monday, December 8, 2025

Time: 5:30-7:30 PM

Where: 902 W Brookshire Dr.

Join us for a festive evening of connection, celebration and League spirit. We hope you'll be there to help us close out the year together! Please bring light finger foods, preferably nothing that needs a fork or spoon to eat! Drinks will be provided.

We will also be collecting donations for Ozarks Food Harvest and Least of These.

Ozarks Food Harvest suggested items: canned protein (tuna, chicken), peanut butter, canned fruits & vegetables, soups, rice, pasta. You can also donate online by clicking [DONATE NOW](#).

Least of These suggested items: cereals, shelf-stable milk, boxed meals, canned meals, hygiene items (soup, toothpaste, etc). You can also donate online by clicking [DONATE NOW](#).

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

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=OZZ8MEk14VpTJsvWKyUcnEHNsLDaZ.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).

LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

The Legislative Action Committee is now an LWVMO standing committee to facilitate legislative tracking and advocacy. The email address for the committee is legislativechair2@lwvmo.org. Priorities for the 2026 legislative session will be endorsed by the LWVMO Board this month so that tracking teams for all of the priorities can be populated. Trackers follow bills as they move through the House and Senate so that Calls to Action can be sent out when LWV members need to respond. Members will continue to receive an email LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN each Monday with background information about bills and Calls to Action. Several LWVSWMO members are trackers, and there is room for others to join a team. Zoom training will be on Saturday, 12/13/25 at 1:00p.m. Training is for new trackers, experienced ones who want an update, or for anyone who might be interested so they can find out more about what is required. The Zoom will be recorded. The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86827725642>

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Good news on the library front: ["Missouri Court Strikes down 2022 Library Law that Pulled Library Books of Shelves." Missouri Independent 11/18/25](#). This law was a nod to the book banners and people who wanted to intimidate and demean public school librarians and teachers. The Missouri Library Association, Missouri Association of School Librarians, and the ACLU won their challenge to this unnecessary, public performative law. And on the federal level, a District Court [permanently blocked the executive order to dismantle the federal agency for America's libraries](#).

In other library-related news, the Christian County Library Trustee from the Ozark area has resigned. If you know a library-loving person from that area who would like to apply for this position, please encourage them to visit the [CC Library Trustee website](#) and apply. League representatives have delivered public comments twice in the past year regarding concerns about transparency, changes to library policy, and the need to represent the entire community.

The committee urges all members to **be vigilant in their protection and defence of public schools**. This includes speaking out when schools and teachers are demeaned, vilified, or misrepresented---the first step in convincing parents to leave public schools. (Psst: There were never litter boxes or gender surgeries happening in public schools.) Voucher programs (like MoScholars) can harm public schools. The funding depletion, closing & consolidation of schools, and fraud/misuse of funds that is happening in other states with advanced voucher programs could happen in Missouri if citizens do not stay alert and informed. The Missouri National Education Association is currently arguing that channeling \$50 million general revenue funds into the MOScholars voucher program violates the state's constitution. [Missouri Independent 11/21/25](#) MoScholars was supposed to be funded by donations----not tax dollars. Eleven states have adopted *universal* voucher programs (MO is not there *yet*). A Sept. 2025 study by Tulane University determined that [90% of voucher funds go for students who were already attending private schools](#).

December 2025

If you were able to attend the David Pepper Zoom at the Nov. General Meeting, you probably left with a sense of hope. He made the audience feel as if our work matters and emphasized there are topics of agreement that span political divides. One example he gave was the success Kentucky had in defeating vouchers in EVERY county. If you are signed up to receive email from David Pepper, you may have already read his recent article about the success in Kentucky: ["How to Win on Education, and Community."](#) (You may need to be a free subscriber to Substack to read.) The education committee will host a book discussion on Pepper's book *Saving Democracy: A User's Manual* sometime in late January at Before and After Brewery. Anyone is welcome to join us. We will provide updated details in the Jan. newsletter.

The **next Education Committee Meeting** will immediately follow the General Meeting on **Saturday, Jan. 17 (9:30-11:00)**. The General meeting ends at 11:00. We will meet in the same room of the **Library Center**, approx **11:10-12:00**.

UPCOMING DATES

LWVSWMO Holiday Party

Monday, December 8, 2025, 5:30-7:30 PM
902 W Brookshire Dr, Springfield

Legislative Action Tracker Training

Saturday, December 13, 2025, 1:00 PM
Via Zoom

Education Committee Meeting

Saturday, January 17, 2026, after the General Meeting ends at 11:00am

DEI & Nonpartisan Training

Sunday, January 25, 2026, 4:00 PM (Zoom)

LWV National Convention

Thursday, June 25 – Sunday, June 28, 2026
Columbus, OH



VOTER SERVICES UPDATE

Our last 2025 registration event will take place on December 4th at Harmony House. Many thanks to all of you who provided opportunities for folks to register to vote or to update their registration information. 2026 will be busy. Details for a meeting will be provided in the next issue of the Voter.

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](#).

November 3: [Background on petitions being circulated for signatures](#)

November 10: [Statewide initiative helps people in recovery find jobs](#)

November 11: [Art plays a key role in community and democracy](#)

November 19: [Connection and resilience are the focus of the Drew Lewis Foundation](#)

UNITE AND RISE 8.5: AN INITIATIVE TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY

From blog: <https://www.lwv.org/uniteandrise>

How Can You Make Change?

Unite and Rise 8.5 will fight for our democracy on multiple fronts, from the courts to the streets. More actions will be outlined in the future, but as of today, here are a few you can take:

- **Commit to action:** [Sign our commitment](#) to Unite and Rise for democracy!
- **Protect equal voting rights:** Tell your representatives to support the [John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act](#)!
- **“Turn Up the Heat” on elected officials:** [Connect directly with your representatives](#) on the issues that matter (like [midcycle redistricting](#)) via Town Halls and other opportunities.

December 2025

- **Oppose federal interference in DC:** Tell Congress to [stop interfering in Washington, DC!](#)
- **Raise your voice about illegal deportations:** join mobilizations around immigrant rights and due process with organizations like the [National Partnership for New Americans](#), [United We Dream](#), and others.
- **Act locally:** Join local organizations like [your state or local League](#) to act on the issues that matter in your community.

