

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

The Voter

UNIT MEETINGS

Topic: De-mystifying the Legislative Process - 2026
Speaker: Sherry Buchanan

The 2026 legislative session is in full swing. Let's meet the moment and make sure you know how to keep engaged during this session.

Sherry Buchanan is an LWVMO board member and heavily involved in the statewide legislative trackers' efforts of the state league. Come learn how a bill becomes law and how to accomplish testimony and contact legislators during the 2026 legislative session.

In addition, Sherry will cover the LWV's legislative priorities, give pointers about navigating the Missouri House and Senate websites, how to use the Legislative Bulletin, how to send written testimony, and more related issues. Knowing what is happening during this legislative session is very important to the mission of the League. Come to learn how you can make a difference.

Monday, February 16, 2026, 5:30 PM
Where: The Pitch Pizza, 2924 E Sunshine St, Springfield
OR
Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 12:00 PM (Noon)
Where: The Pitch Pizza, 2924 E Sunshine St, Springfield

LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

If you missed the LWV Voter Power Hour on 1/27/26, this is the link: <https://my.lwv.org/missouri/voter-power-hour>

The first half was a presentation about the work of the Legislative Action teams who produce the weekly Calls to Action and Legislative Bulletin. This was followed by information from the Jones Advocacy Group about their work as lobbyists in the MO Capitol.

Please take part in LWV's important advocacy work by responding to the Calls to Action. Every phone call or online contact counts!

VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE UPDATE

The 2026 election season is off and running. Legislators have already filed over 2000 bills with the last day for filing occurring late February/early March. The Municipal Election occurs on April 7th, the Primary Election is August 4th, and the General Election is November 3rd.

Voter registration events are being scheduled, and deputy registrars are signing up to provide this important service. Our first event was held January 19th during the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The Informed Voter Coalition is planning candidate interviews with the focus on Christian County City Council and the Ozark School Board races. Paws to the Paws is gearing up for its spring Voter Fair as well as other events. Voter Services has a brand-new voter registration sub-committee. Kelly Sutton and Mary Sue Hoban are now contacting registrars as events are scheduled and registrars are needed. Their help is greatly appreciated.

The Greene County Clerk's Office has a new Voter Registration Coordinator. Once his schedule permits, registrar training dates will be scheduled. In the meantime, if you receive emails from us, then you are current with your training obligations.

If you are already a registrar, but feel that you need a refresher course, please let Joan Gentry know (joangentry2012@gmail.com, 417-840-4551). She would be happy to set up a training, either by zoom or in person.

If you are not a Greene County deputy registrar, but are interested in becoming one, let Joan Gentry know. She'll keep you in the loop as training dates are scheduled.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 18, 2026, from 12:00-1:00 PM at the Brentwood Library. We will continue the discussion of threats to public education (funding, current bills, etc.).



PROGRAM COMMITTEE UPDATE

At the recent “Mugs and Muffins” new member social (so fun!!), someone was curious about how the league decides policy and action. Look for an article in the March newsletter discussing the two ways the league develops policy and how members of each league help determine their program. As a grassroots organization, member input is vital to future planning. A member survey of priorities will be made available in March and April. The results will be discussed at the May annual meeting.

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](#).

January 1: [OPT General Manager discusses year ahead after monumental changes in 2025](#)

January 12: [Cultural tourism is important economic benefit of the arts](#)

January 15: [MSU Agriculture expert discusses keys to a farm’s success](#)

January 22: [Drury professor explains gerrymandering and its impact on politics](#)

January 27: [Zone 1 Councilwoman Monica Horton hosts February town hall](#)

LWVSWMO OBSERVER CORPS

Attention Christian County Members:

The Observer Corps needs someone to observe the Christian County Library Board of Trustees. There has been quite a bit of controversy in the last couple of years and a significant turnover in the administration due to resignations and firings and practically a new Board of Trustees within the last year or two. This is one organization that we feel needs an Observer.

We also need members that are willing to be backup observers for the Springfield, Ozark and Nixa School Boards and the Springfield-Greene County and Christian County Library Board meetings.

Please contact Sue Walker at: susieQwmo@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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



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

LWV CONDEMNS PRESIDENT TRUMP’S CALL TO “NATIONALIZE” ELECTIONS

Press Release / Last Updated: February 4, 2026

WASHINGTON, DC — The League of Women Voters issued the following statement in response to President Trump’s call to “Nationalize” elections: “President Trump’s continued rhetoric is a calculated effort to dismantle the integrity of the electoral system as we know it. This is not political theater: it’s a direct threat to the very fiber of democracy itself.

“Time and again, the President’s claims of widespread fraud have been disproven by nonpartisan election officials, the courts, and the Department of Justice. Yet, the administration has extended this narrative across the nation, and most recently in Fulton County. Facts have not deterred this assault on our country, because facts were never the point.

“By demanding federal intervention in state and local elections, the Trump administration is working overtime to create intimidation, chaos, and confusion. This is exactly how we lose our country: erode trust, normalize lies, and intimidate voters and election officials.

“Calls to 'nationalize' elections, effectively shifting control from local to federal authorities, are deeply concerning, especially when paired with proposals to 'take over' voting in at least 15 jurisdictions. Absent any clear standards, such actions make clear this is not about election integrity. This is about exerting control where election results are politically unfavorable to the President. This is a dangerous precedent: manipulating who runs elections based on outcomes should alarm every American.

"Make no mistake—this is the latest tactic intended to suppress voters, disrupt the voting process, and undermine public confidence ahead of the 2026 midterms.

UPCOMING DATES

Unit Meetings

Monday, February 16, 2026; 5:30 PM
Tuesday, February 17, 2026; 12:00 PM
The Pitch Pizza, 2924 E Sunshine St

Education Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 18, 2026; 12:00 PM
Schweitzer Brentwood Library

General Meeting

Saturday, March 21, 2026; 9:30 AM
The Library Center
Topic: State Income Tax

LWVSWMO Board Meeting

Monday, March 30, 2026; 5:30 PM

Unit Meetings

Monday, April 20, 2026; 5:30 PM
The Pitch Pizza, 2924 E Sunshine St
Tuesday, April 21, 2026; 12:00 PM
The Library Center

LWVSWMO Board Meeting

Monday, April 27, 2026; 5:30 PM

Annual Meeting

Monday, May 18, 2026; 5:30 PM
Nathaniel Greene Botanical Garden Community Room

LWV National Convention

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

“We call on our leaders to reject this rhetoric and ensure that our elections remain free, fair, and secure from political interference. We urge all Members of Congress to affirm that this is a constitutional issue and that they have a responsibility to uphold the Constitution and protect our elections. Silence is complicity. Defending democracy requires action, right now, and without further delay.”

