

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

The Voter

UNIT MEETINGS

April 20th - 5:30 PM

Big Whiskey's (1440 Republic Rd, Springfield, MO)
OR

April 21st - 12:00 PM

The Library Center (4653 S Campbell Ave, Springfield, MO 65810)

Topic: Education in Missouri

Speaker: LWVSWMO Education Committee



Join us for a presentation and hear from the Education Committee about the current state of education in Missouri, what's at stake during this legislative session, and the current attacks on public education.

In 2025, the League of Women Voters of Missouri adopted a new policy emphasizing a core principle: **public money should support public schools**. Members of our local Education Committee played a key role in helping bring this policy forward. Our League has a strong commitment to public institutions, and our members are the foundation of the power we can build to defend our public education system. This is a chance to hear directly from one of our local League committees about their continuous research on public education in Missouri.

We hope you'll join us to learn more, ask questions, and connect.

ANNUAL MEETING

Join us for the LWVSWMO Annual Meeting on:

 **Monday, May 18 | 5:30 PM**
 **Springfield Botanical Gardens Banquet Hall**
2400 S Scenic Ave, Springfield, MO 65807

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with fellow League members! Please RSVP using this form: [RSVP Here](#)

JEDI & NONPARTISAN TRAINING

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

Thursday, April 23rd at 6:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85977956507?pwd=QbnuIw5gSXU9HjdhPtv4DNtjblWbQ.1>

Meeting ID: 859 7795 6507

Passcode: 888650

If you have any questions regarding the implementation of the JEDI & Non-Partisan Training, please connect with Co-Presidents Liz Wertz (elizabethwertz220@gmail.com) and Sandy Michaels (slm7593@gmail.com)

LWVMO LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE


The 2026 General Assembly will adjourn on May 15. Until then, please follow through on the weekly Calls to Action. Remember to advocate as an individual, not in the name of the League. Some successes have been noted. A bill that would require proof of citizenship to register to vote in Missouri failed in committee (similar to the citizenship requirement in the national SAVE Act). And a proposal to restore voting rights for felons who have completed incarceration has passed from the House to the Senate. This is the most progress made in a multi-year effort to restore voting rights. Contacts with our senators could help push this over the finish line. Every phone call, email, and testimony counts!

[Click here](#) to view the latest Legislative Bulletin.

SUPPORT DEMOCRACY: SERVE ON THE LEAGUE BOARD


Looking for a meaningful way to get more involved with the League? Consider serving on our **Board of Directors** and help guide the future of our organization. If you're interested, please fill out this form: [Board Interest Form](#)

LEAGUE SOCIAL EVENTS

 **New Member Social – Pie in Your PJs**
Saturday, April 18 at 10:00 AM
Hosted at the home of Rebecca Callaway

New members — and any League member who would like to join — are invited to enjoy “Pie in Your PJs” in a relaxed, welcoming setting. Come meet fellow members, build connections, and enjoy a sweet treat!

Please RSVP to:

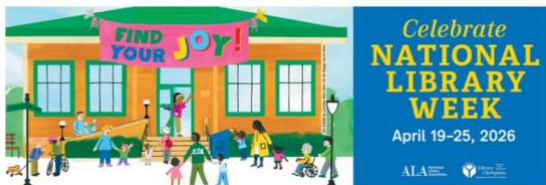
 417-224-2790 or 417-270-7271

 cllwyrbcc@yahoo.com

or shop91548@yahoo.com

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Some committee members will present slides during the April 20/21 Unit Meetings. We are sharing our research concerning the threats to public education. The committee will not meet in April. Instead, we are hosting another “Let Freedom Read” event on **Wed. April 29, 6:00-7:00** at Before and After Brewery (near Pitch). This is during **National Library Week, April 19-25**, and is a duplicate of what we did during Banned Book Week in October: 15 minutes of silent reading, followed by 45



Wednesday
April 29
6:00-7:00 PM

ALL ARE
WELCOME!

“LET FREEDOM READ” Pop-Up Event
Sponsored by the Education Committee of LWV Southwest MO
Bring a book and join us!
6:00-6:15 Sip and Silently Read
6:15-7:00 Keep reading or enjoy talking about the books you love with other people who want to celebrate their **Freedom to Read!**

Location: Before and After Brewing, 2940 E. Sunshine
(Delicious Food & Beverage for Purchase)

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minutes of informal talk about books (also great food and drink for purchase). Everyone is welcome.

VOTER AND ELECTION SERVICES COMMITTEE UPDATE

February and March found Voter Service and Elections Action Committees busy with preparations for the 2026 election season. Voter registration in February included events held at three senior residence centers, six SPS high schools, two City Council Town Halls, the monthly Drew Lewis family night and Tax-a-Palooza. March continued with a second family night event at Drew Lewis and at Tax-a-Palooza, an LGBTQ event and a Beacon Health event.

We've had opportunities for civic education by presenting “Ballots Measures and the League” to the FDR Club and the “League and Civic Engagement” to the Junior League. League members have made three trips to Jefferson City to participate in lobbying efforts related to voting rights.

Nine League deputy registrars met with Clint McConnell, the new Greene County voter registration coordinator to go over the deputy registrar training program with him.

Paws to the Polls enjoyed a day of lobbying in Jefferson City as well as a very successful Voting Fair on the MSU campus.

The Informed Voter Coalition interviewed Ozark School Board candidates and Nixa City Council candidates, and those interviews will air during the last week of March in preparation for the April Municipal Elections in Christian County. Candidates shared their ideas and goals in brief conversations that will air on KSMU Ozarks Public Radio (91.1 FM). Video versions produced by the Springfield News-Leader will be available on demand on coalition members' websites afterward. The following seats will be aired:

- Nixa City Council District 1
- Ozark Public School Board of Education

The LWV held a Christian County public forum on SB 3, Thursday, March 26 with panelists from Ozarks Public Schools, Nixa Fire District, Show Me Christian County and Christian County Links. The forum dealt

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with property tax freezes and the impact these freezes might or will have on county services.

The League was a part of the Fighting for Missouri Town Hall in Springfield and was also present at the Stand Up for Fair Maps rally in Jefferson City. Mark your calendar: The League will be hosting a Meet the Elected for Greene County on April 22nd from 5-7pm at the OTC Auditorium. We hope to see many League members there!

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

UPDATE

About League Positions and Programs: Where will we put our energy in the coming year?

Our May 18 annual meeting includes a celebration and summary of the year, the election of new officers, and the approval of by-law changes. At this time, we also look ahead to the upcoming year by noting what positions matter most to our members.

All of our actions, including lobbying, partnering, endorsements, protesting, commenting, sponsoring, and education, must be guided by national, state, or local positions. State and national positions are updated in alternate years, coinciding with state and national conventions. Find links to all our positions by visiting our local website: lwvswmo.org.

- National League Positions: **Impact on Issues** (2024-2026)
- State (MO) League Positions: **Guide to State Action** (2025-2027)
- Our Local “**Short Form**” highlights positions that currently drive the work of our League. The “**Long Form**” includes local positions we still support, but are not an active part of our current program

With so many positions to consider, our League decides at annual meeting which issues matter most to our members. In other words: where do we want to focus our energy? Those choices become our program priorities. Because the League is a grassroots organization, we check in with members every year to determine which issues should guide our work. This year, our annual program survey will be conducted electronically throughout March and April. You’ll find

the survey link in the April newsletter as well as through upcoming League communications.

So, what happens if there is an issue that you feel is important, but does not fall under a national, state, or local position? Under those circumstances, a new position may need to be developed. For instance, the National League recently conducted a year-long consensus study about the federal judiciary. It involved 321 Leagues--including our own, -- representing 45 states and DC. The study resulted in the adoption of a new position.

If there is a need, there are two ways that a League adopts a new policy:

- **CONSENSUS:** The League conducts a local study on an issue, develops consensus questions to understand where our members stand on the issue, and eventually votes to adopt a new policy—or not.. Some of our league members conducted a study on payday loans in 2019 ([Link to Payday Loan Study pdf](#)). The resulting policy was adopted at both the local and state levels. This is the longer path.
- **CONCURRENCE:** The League identifies a policy that another League has already researched, debated, and adopted—and then formally requests to adopt that same position. Our education committee successfully used this method last year when it proposed adopting a school voucher policy originally developed by the New Hampshire League ([Link to Education Policy Proposal pdf](#)). It was the shorter route, but even so, the process took about eight months. The League is nothing if not deliberate, and the result is that our members are informed and ready to lobby on the positions.

Please help us plan ahead for next year by following this [SURVEY LINK](#) and letting us know what issues are of most concern to you. Results will help decide where our League puts its energy. Results also help determine speakers and topics for Summer Sounding Boards, General Meetings, Unit Meetings and committee work. **The deadline to respond is April 23, 2026.** Results will be shared at the annual meeting on May 18. We hope that all LWVSWMO members will respond with the issues YOU care about and want to devote energy to in the upcoming year!

UPCOMING DATES

New Member Social

Saturday, April 18, 2026; 10:00 AM
Rebecca Callaway's home

Unit Meetings

Monday, April 20, 2026; 5:30 PM
Tuesday, April 21, 2026; 12:00 PM
The Library Center
Topic: Public Education

Greene County Meet the Electeds

Wednesday, April 22, 2026; 5:00-7:00 PM
OTC

JEDI & Nonpartisan Training

Thursday, April 23, 2026; 6:00 PM
Zoom Meeting

Adopt-A-Street Cleanup Dates

Sunday, April 26, 2026; 9:00 AM
Sunday, October 25, 2026; 9:00 AM

LWVSWMO Board Meeting

Monday, April 27, 2026; 5:30 PM

Let Freedom Read Event

Wednesday, April 29, 2026; 6:00-7:00 PM
Before and After Brewery

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

April 2026

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Is it time for you to pay your annual dues? Just a reminder that dues are now \$75 per year.
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

STAY CONNECTED

Don't miss important League news and opportunities to take action! By signing up for our SMS program, you'll receive timely updates, event reminders, advocacy alerts, and ways to stay engaged — all delivered directly to your phone.

We're committed to keeping messages meaningful, concise, and respectful of your time. You can reply with questions at any time, and you may opt out whenever you choose.

Sign up today:
<https://mailchi.mp/f614c099e92e/sms-signup>

RADIO PROGRAM

Have you caught our **weekly Making Democracy Work** program on **KSMU 91.1 FM**? The League hosts this show every **Monday at 9:45 AM**, covering timely topics about civic engagement and public policy. If you missed recent episodes, you can explore past programs and listen at your convenience here: [Making Democracy Work Archives](#).

March 4: [A mission of hope is the focus of the Fairbanks and Drew Lewis Foundation](#)

March 12: [Honeybees are important for pollination in the Ozarks](#)

March 18: [Drury University L.E. Meador Center for Politics and Citizenship celebrates 10 years](#)

March 24: [Springfield Community Gardens shares \\$2.5M grant with St. Louis organization](#)

LWV RESPONDS TO PRESIDENT TRUMP’S ANTI-VOTER EXECUTIVE ORDER

The League of Women Voters of the United States issued the following statement in response to President Donald Trump's signed executive order, "[Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections](#)," that threatens Americans’ freedom to vote and tramples states’ constitutional authority to run their own elections. [Click here](#) to read full statement.

WHAT IS IN THE SAVE ACT?

Anti Voter Law That Would Make Voting Harder for Millions of Eligible Voters

Call Our Senators And Say NO

2025 SAVE Act (HR22)

1. Requires in-person documentary proof of citizenship at the time of registering to vote in a federal election
2. Voter must present proof such as US Passport, birth certificate, or government-issued ID to register
3. Effectively ends mail-in and online voter registration
4. Changes how voting rolls are maintained and requires removal of non-citizens

2026 SAVE Act

(Passed House 2026)

1. In addition to 2025 in-person proof of citizenship to register or update voter registration, voters might also be required to present a government-issued photo ID when casting a ballot (unless their state regularly submits voter rolls to Department of Homeland Security).
2. Directs states to submit voter registration rolls to DHS’s SAVE (Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements) program for identity/citizenship verification.*

**In Boone County, MO more than half the voters flagged as "non citizens" by SAVE were actually U.S. Citizens*

Sen. Hawley: (202) 224-6154
Sen. Schmitt: (202) 224-5721

3/17/26 Amendment 4420 to the SAVE America Act by Missouri Sen. Eric Schmitt

1. Requires all citizens to show government ID
2. Requires proof of citizenship to vote
3. Ends mail-in balloting with exceptions for military, illness, travel, and disability
4. Keeps men out of women's sports
5. Protects children from transgender mutilation.

Results of Passage of the SAVE Act

- Effectively bans voter registration drives, mail-in and online voter registration
- Shifts state controlled voting to federally controlled voting

3/31/26 Trump's Executive Order Blocks Mail-In Ballots



Who Will Be Affected by the SAVE Act?

The Brennan Center for Justice estimates it will disenfranchise 21 million citizens who do not have necessary documents to meet requirements.

Especially burdened are high school and college students, rural voters, working class voters, tribal voters, survivors of natural disasters, the elderly and infirm, and 69 million married women in America who changed their names.

Mail-in Voting Ban primarily affects religious voters, workers with qualifying employment reasons (election officials, healthcare workers, law enforcement officials), older voters without illness or disability, people with mobility issues, and students who attend college away from home