

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

The Voter

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September Unit Meetings

Location: Election Center, 1126 North Booneville Ave

Monday, September 21, 6:00-7:00

Tuesday, September 22, 12:00-1:00

Topic: Voter Education: Election Security & Integrity / Role of Election Judges / Equipment

Speaker: Shane Schoeller, Greene County Clerk

Our Monday Night Unit meetings are typically held at a restaurant, but we were offered a chance to meet at our local Election Center and couldn't pass that up. Greene County Clerk Shane Schoeller will speak to us about election security/integrity and the training and responsibility of election judges. Attendees will also learn about election equipment. Members may come away ready to volunteer as a future election judge. Several League members already routinely sign up for this very rewarding civic duty. After the event, please feel free to join others at Hold Fast Brewery, [235 N Kimbrough Ave](#), for a beverage or bite.

October General Meeting

Location: Schweitzer Brentwood Library, 2214 S Brentwood Blvd

Saturday, October 17, 2026, 9:30-11:00 AM

Topic: Ballot Issues

Speaker: Various Speakers

Our October General Meeting will involve a discussion of ballot issues for the November 4 election. Our league is non-partisan, so we do not promote or discuss candidates. However, we do take positions on issues. For instance, LWW policy on the "right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices" leads to an **opposition to Amendment 3**. As other ballot issues are determined and the ballot is finalized, we will add additional speakers. Join us in October to make sure you know how to preview your ballot in advance so that you enter the voting booth as an informed voter.

A note about our August Summer Sounding Board:

We apologize for the last-minute cancellation of the Aug. 22 Sounding Board. Thank you to everyone who submitted questions. Our Q/A session with representatives from the Greene County Sheriff's Office will be rescheduled after the November election. We want to have an open and honest discussion with our local officials concerning immigration enforcement and incarceration, including their continued partnership with ICE. We plan to have the date posted in our October newsletter so that members can mark their calendars. Members will also be given another opportunity to submit questions.

UPDATE ON VOTER'S GUIDE AND VOTE411.ORG

The voter education outreach for the November mid-term elections will have a new emphasis this year. After careful consideration and examining various options, the decision was made to focus on the online [Vote411.org](#) platform and discontinue the printed Voter's Guide.

This was not an easy decision, as the printed guide has been a legacy project of the League for several decades. However, due to a significant disruption in our established printer and design team, along with more than double printing costs, the League Board made the decision to move in a new direction. Our efforts will focus on promoting [Vote411.org](#) which contains the exact same information as the former printed guide. In addition, we are working on some intermediary solutions to reach voters who may not be comfortable with technology and accessing their information through an online platform. Possible solutions, still in the works, include partnering with the public libraries to offer an option for patrons to print out the candidate and ballot information for their polling location, along with working directly with senior centers and senior living communities to provide this same voter information.

Change is hard, but the League is creative, and we will do our best to educate and encourage others to check out [Vote411.org](#) for their voter information. This new

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option aligns more closely with how people get their information and allows us to track the online hits and usage numbers so we can adjust our promotion efforts for future elections. Help us spread the word and tell your friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors to go to Vote411.org to get their candidate and ballot information for the November election. You simply enter your address, and it will populate a sample ballot with the candidates and ballot issues for your polling location. It's easy, fast, and at your fingertips any hour of the day!

NEW MEMBER SOCIAL

Join us for our first New Member Social on Saturday, September 26th at 10:00 AM, hosted at Sandy Hopper's home. This year's theme is a Tea Party and wear your League t-shirt if you have one! Beverages and snacks will be provided. Seasoned members are welcome too — come meet our newest League members and enjoy some tea and conversation together!

Members can RSVP by emailing cllwyrbcc@yahoo.com or shop91548@yahoo.com or calling or texting Rebecca Callaway at [417-224-2790](tel:417-224-2790) or Sandy Hopper at [417-270-7271](tel:417-270-7271). The address will be sent to those members who RSVP.

DEPUTY REGISTRAR TRAINING

Upcoming training for League members who are interested in becoming deputy registrars, helping citizens register to vote.

Date: September 9, 2026

Time: 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Where: Missouri State University, Strong Hall Rm 408
Meter parking near the building in Bear Park South (Grand and Holland)

If you are interested in this training, please contact Suzanne Walker-Pacheco.

Date: October 28, 2026

Time: 9:00 - 10:30 AM

Where: The Library Center, 4653 S Campbell Ave, Springfield

If you are interested in this training, please contact Joan Gentry by October 27, 2026.

Email: joangentry2012@gmail.com

Phone: [417-840-4551](tel:417-840-4551)

LEAGUE HAPPY HOUR!

Mark your calendars — join fellow League members for a Happy Hour at Char, 1620 E Republic Rd on Wednesday, October 22nd, 5:00 PM. All League members are invited to attend — come relax, connect, and enjoy some good company!

**SAVE
the DATE**

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](#).

August 3: [Disability advocates discuss voting accessibility options](#)

August 13: [Local newspaper editor talks about the importance of community collective memory](#)

August 20: [Renew Jordan Creek Phase 1 is nearing completion](#)

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Environment & Sustainability Committee will meet twice this fall to pick up trash along our adopted section of Sunshine Street:

- September 27 at 9:00 am
- October 25 at 9:00 am

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Education Committee met August 22. Much of our discussion concerned recent articles about the nationwide decline in literacy, from loss of critical thinking skills to a huge decline in individuals who read for pleasure. We also discussed the increased use of AI in classrooms and in our own lives. As always, the primary focus of our committee is protecting public schools and public libraries.

A belated *Thank You* to the following members who provided refreshments or helped sell t-shirts at the July Sounding Board: Kathy Funk, Marci Dowdy, Molly Plate, Becky Callaway, Cindy Mueller, and Arleen Pickett.

Future Meeting Dates: **Sat. Oct 17**, 11:10-12:00 (following General Meeting); **Sat. Jan 16** 11:10-12:00 (following General Meeting); **Tues, March 16** 1:00-2:00 (following Unit Meeting).

We have planned two evening “**Let Freedom Read**” events that are open to all: **Oct 7** (Banned Books Week), and **April 7** (National Library Week). Both will run 6:00-7:00 at Before and After Brewing, [2940 E. Sunshine](#). These are very fun and informal. We silently read for 15 minutes and then spend the next 45 eating, drinking, and talking about books. Please join us Wed. Oct. 7 during “Banned Books Week” and celebrate your right to read!



Wednesday

Oct. 7

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)

VOTER SERVICES UPDATE

New voter registration ended July 8 with the Primary Election on August 4. “Know your Ballot” presentations were made to four senior living communities with emphasis on the pros and cons of the amendments on the ballot. Advocacy presentations for Amendments 4 and 5 were made as a part of the John Lewis Good Trouble event held at the Unitarian Universalist Church and as a part of the “Celebration of Life and Unity” event recognizing black leaders on the city council and on the Springfield school board.

August events included voter registration at Harmony House and a presentation about the League to members of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association.

A very warm August evening was spent at Meador Park as the League celebrated National Night Out with community members. Kids visiting the booth were provided with a Future Voter sticker with magic markers available to highlight the words “Future Voter”.

Voter registration tabling will pick up in September with preparation for the November 3 election. Springfield high schools, the Farmers' Market and several senior living communities have already scheduled events to occur during this time.

Kelly Sutton, League co-president and co-chair of Voter Services, is introducing a new, more transparent way for League deputy registrars to sign up for each event.

The Greene County Clerk's Office has a deputy registrar training scheduled for October 28, 9 - 10:30am, at the Library Station on North Kansas Expressway. Contact Joan at 417-840-4551 if you are interested in participating in this training.

NEW TOOLS AVAILABLE FOR FIGHTING AMENDMENT 3

Please help amplify: Share, comment, like, follow and subscribe

A new podcast series featuring Missouri women’s voices debuted August 14, called Amendment3andMe. It’s designed to help speak to voters with doubts and

questions. Please share the interviews and social posts with others or listen to inform your own conversations.

- For those with questions about abortion, interviews include a high-risk maternal-fetal specialist, a personal abortion story, a volunteer activist with Abortion Action Missouri, and a Missouri League of Women Voters state director.
- For those with questions about gender-affirming care, interviews include an attorney mother of a trans child, and a trans person living in rural Missouri.
- Members of minority communities, including Black and Brown and LGBTQIA+, may be interested in interviews including a NAACP chapter president and PROMO field director.
- For those with a religious concern about abortion, interviews with Catholics for Choice and the pastor of a Disciples of Christ church both speak about the spiritual foundation of a pro-choice stance and opposition to Amendment 3.
- All interviews include suggestions for having conversations with family, friends and neighbors about the Amendment.

The podcast series can be heard on your favorite podcast platform. Please listen and help us show the social algorithms that this is an important program of wide interest to Missourians.

<https://www.instagram.com/amendment3andme2026/>

Please follow, share, like and comment

<https://www.facebook.com/Amendment3andMe/>

Please follow, share, like, and comment

<https://rss.com/podcasts/amendment-3-and-me/>

Listen here or subscribe and review through your favorite platform like Apple or Spotify

The podcast is produced by The A Team, a group of activist voters in Springfield MO, aged 30 to 80, united in opposition to Amendment 3. The A Team developed out of grassroots organizing efforts in Springfield in early 2026.

Longtime Springfield League member Maggie Castrey is one of the Amendment3andMe hosts. You might recognize her voice from the KSMU radio program,

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Making Democracy Work, which has informed Springfield for over 40 years.

FINDING YOUR PLACE IN THE LEAGUE

By Kelly Sutton

When I joined the League two years ago, I wasn't sure where I fit or what I could contribute. I knew **why** I joined—I believed in the League's mission and wanted to make a difference in my community—but I wasn't sure what that looked like for me.

So, I started by simply jumping into the first opportunity that sounded interesting.

I joined Legislative Tracking, even though I knew nothing about it. I figured if I didn't like it, I didn't have to do it again! I found out I really liked it! One opportunity led to another. I became a deputy registrar, took on VOTE411.org data entry for our general elections, helped with social media and voter education. I'm now in my first of two years as a Co-President. Yes, I retired two years ago—but I apparently didn't get the memo about slowing down!

I certainly didn't join the League knowing how to do all these things. **I learned by getting involved, working alongside other members, and finding places where my interests and skills could be useful.**

Along the way, I also developed relationships with people I might never have met otherwise. We come from different backgrounds and have different experiences, but we share many of the same values—a belief in democracy, informed voters, and making our community stronger. That shared purpose is one of the things I value most about the League.

There is no single way to be an “active” League member. Maybe you have a few hours for an event. Maybe you enjoy writing, organizing, researching, talking with people, working behind the scenes, learning about public policy, helping with technology and more! Maybe you're ready for an ongoing role—or can only help occasionally. **Every contribution matters.** Membership helps our League grow, but it's the members who give their time, talents, ideas, and energy who turn our mission into action.

So, think back to your “**why.**” What made you join? What issue or value mattered enough that you became a member? Your answer might be the best place to start.

You don’t have to know where you fit before you begin. Let us help you find your place.

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>

FROM LWV MO:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **LWV MO JEDI Online Book Club**, Sunday, September 27, 2026 at 4:30 PM, Positive Obsession: The Life and Times of Octavia E. Butler by Susan M. Morris
- **LWV MO Voter Power Hour** webinar, Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 6:30 PM, Topic: November ballot
- **VOTE**, Tuesday, November 3, 2026
- **SAVE THE DATE** - LWVMO Virtual Fall Conference, Saturday, November 14, 2026

Visit our website at lwwmo.org to learn more and to register for these events.

UPCOMING DATES

Deputy Registrar Training

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Missouri State Univ., Strong Hall Rm 408

Unit Meetings

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Tuesday, September 22, 2026, 12:00-1:00 PM

Election Center, 1126 N Booneville Ave

New Member Social

Saturday, September 26, 2026; 10:00 AM

Let Freedom Read Event

Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 6:00-7:00 PM

Before and After Brewing, [2940 E. Sunshine](#).

General Meeting

Saturday, October 17, 2026, 9:30-11:00 AM

Schweitzer Brentwood Library Meeting Rm

Education Committee Meeting Dates

Saturday, October 17, 2026, 11:10 AM-12:00

PM (following General Meeting)

Saturday, January 16, 2027, 11:10 AM-12:00

PM (following General Meeting)

Tuesday, March 16, 2027, 1:00-2:00 PM

(following Unit Meeting)

League Happy Hour

Thursday, October 22, 2026; 5:00 PM

Char, 1620 E Republic Rd

Adopt-A-Street Cleanup Dates

Sunday, September 27, 2026; 9:00 AM

Sunday, October 25, 2026; 9:00 AM

Unit Meetings

Monday, November 16, 2026, 5:30-7:00 PM

Tuesday, November 17, 2026, 12:00-1:00 PM

Winter Social

Monday, December 7, 2026