



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Columbia/Boone

VOLUME 76, No. 1

JANUARY, 2011

What is the State's Position on.....?

Do you know what positions the League of Women Voters of Missouri holds on schools, libraries, health issues, energy issues, taxes, etc.? If not, now is a good time to check out the positions at www.lwvmissouri.org (both short and long versions are available).

Why you ask? It is time again for us to review the state positions and make recommendations—no changes, amend wording of a position, update an item (requiring a mini-study), restudy an item, propose a new position (requires study and consensus), delete an item or proposed concurrence on an item already studied by the local league.



This January 18th, our League will be holding a chili supper in conjunction with this review. A committee will be meeting earlier in the month to develop the specifics of the program. Although we can't tell you yet what the evening will hold, we can guarantee a thought provoking and interesting evening. We will also provide chili and good fellowship to start out 2011!

We invite everyone to come out to the Boone Electric Community Room (plenty of parking and good lighting) on Tuesday, January 18th at 6:30 p.m. (You'll be out by 8:30 p.m.)

We must not always judge of the generality of the opinion by the noise of the acclamation. Edmund Burke

Meet the Superintendent



The Education Committee is hosting a meeting with Columbia Public Schools Superintendent Chris Belcher. It is open to all League members!

Dr. Belcher will provide an update on the activities of the school system and take questions. Models of the proposed new schools may also be available. The meeting will be on Thursday, January 27, at 6:30 p.m. in the board room in the district building on Worley.

Come and meet the Superintendent and learn more about our schools!

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

- *Civil Liberties Com. Mtg., Thurs., Jan. 13, 1: 15 pm., Library*
- *Peace Com., Fri., Jan 14, 9 am, Library*
- *LWVMO Program Review & Chili Dinner, Tues., Jan 18, 6:30 pm, Boone Electric Community Room*
- *Board Mtg., Mon., Jan 24, 6:30 pm, Boone Electric*
- *Energy Matters Com., Tues., Jan 25, 1 pm, Library*
- *Education Com., Thurs., Jan. 27, 6:30 pm, Board Rm. Columbia Public Schools Office*

FEBRUARY

- *Legislative Town Hall, Thurs., Feb. 3, 7 pm, Library*
- *Civil Liberties Com. Mtg., Thurs., Feb. 10, 1: 15 pm., Library*
- *Peace Com., Fri., Feb. 11, 9 am, Library*
- *Energy Matters Com., Tues., Feb 22, 1 pm, Library*

Fact Checking

In this political climate, citizens wanting to check the accuracy of allegations about political figures can go to ...

www.politifact.com or
www.factcheck.org

Freedom for all, or just those who are like me?



We have seen an interesting evolution over the past few years in the political arena. On the one hand, big government must be strengthened to protect us from the unknown terrorists, even to the extent our basic rights as embodied in the Bill of Rights have eroded. On the other hand, big government is a threat (remember the “death squads?”) and must be restricted. Our elected officials seem more interested in pursuing power than in governing. Media focus on “celebrity” politicians more than substantive stories, frequently failing to put actions and statements into any context on the apparent assumption that all statements are equally truthful and important.

Across the country, we have seen the Pledge of Allegiance used as a battering ram to assess who is really patriotic (even in our state in the recent voter forums in St. Louis). We have had legislators and others call those who disagree with them unpatriotic and un-American (including, in some quarters, the League itself). Can loyalty oaths, blacklists and a new Un-American Activities Committee be far behind?

Those of us who believe that this country is big enough for many different views to flourish and who believe that disagreement and dissent is a process towards finding the best policies for the most people (not unlike the League’s own consensus process) need to re-assert our views. We need to counteract the voices of hate and divisiveness so common today. Let your representatives know your views and write letters to the editor presenting the facts of an issue and challenging statements without a factual basis. Look for other ways to remind everyone that our country was founded on the spirit of freedom for all, not just those who agree with us! Do something or those who want everyone to think and act and believe alike will prevail.

Linda Kaiser
President

“Every effort to confine Americanism to a single pattern, to constrain it to a single formula, is disloyalty to everything that is valid in Americanism.” Henry Steele Commager

*“Here in America we are descended in blood and in spirit from revolutionists and rebels -- men and women who dare to dissent from accepted doctrine. As their heirs, we may never confuse honest dissent with disloyal subversion.”
Dwight David Eisenhower*

Did You Know That.....

In 2007, Missouri had the following national rankings for state revenues.

Total Tax	47th
Property Tax	26th
General Sales Tax	40th
Individual Income Tax	26th
Corporate Net Income Tax	46th
Other Taxes	46th



(For more information on taxes and other issues, go to www.stats.indiana.edu)

Axie & Darwin Hindman—Outstanding Citizens of the Year

The Hindmans were recognized at the League lunch on December 11 as the League's Outstanding Citizens of the Year for 2010. Following are the comments made when the award was presented; the complete nomination can be seen on our website. In addition to the certificate, the League donated \$50.00 to the Discovery Garden in their names.

Darwin served five terms as mayor of Columbia, spanning fifteen years from 1995 to 2010, with Axie at his side. He received wide spread support from all sectors of the city. Known for his ready smile and handshake, he was able to bring together diverse groups to work for the betterment of the community. At his retirement dinner, attended by 500 people, he was presented an award for outstanding volunteer service. Darwin and Axie both were warmly praised for their contributions.



In her role as Columbia's First Lady, Axie has been a strong supporter and participant in numerous beneficial local programs, including Columbia's One Read program, cancer prevention programs, and the expansion of bikeways and walkways, including the Katy Trail. In 2009, Michele Obama, First Lady of the United States, recognized Columbia for its programs of physical activity, health, and prevention of obesity.

Axie actively supported all of these while pursuing her own career in library work in which she holds a Master of Science degree. Also in 2007, Axie accepted the daunting challenge of co-chairing a six million dollar campaign to complete the renovation of the historic Missouri Theater and its transformation to the Missouri Theater Center for the Arts. This successful campaign culminated in the grand opening on May 21, 2009.

During his term in office, Darwin was temporarily knocked down by cancer but soon he was back on his bicycle, wearing his bright yellow helmet and jacket, encouraging people to participate in "Bike, Walk and Wheel Week." His championship of healthy, active lifestyles earned Darwin the national Leadership to Healthy Communities Award. He garnered public support for expansion of re-cycling, acquisition of park lands, and development of bicycle and walking trails such as the MKT/Fitness Trail. He used his skill as a lawyer to defend Columbia's beverage container law. In 2006, he signed the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, committing Columbia to take steps to significantly reduce local carbon emissions. He supported "green" building upgrades for the new city building addition and creation of the Office of Sustainability.

Hank Waters, Tribune editor, has written that Darwin "might fairly be remembered as the father of the Katy Trail." This year, Missourians celebrated the 20th anniversary of the popular Katy Trail State Park and, this year, the Hindmans celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

On November 6th, a ground breaking ceremony marked the beginning of the Darwin and Axie Hindman Discovery Garden at Stephens Lake Park, honoring the Hindmans dedication to our community.

Axie and Darwin Hindman have been loyal supporters of the League of Women Voters for many years. We are proud to honor their impressive record of service to the Columbia community with the League's 2010 Outstanding Citizens of the Year Award, and with a contribution to the Darwin and Axie Hindman Discovery Garden.

Welcome to the newest member of our League:

Barbara Banks, 215 West Ash Street 65201



The Nineteenth Amendment



The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

The 19th Amendment was proposed on June 4, 1919. Although we all know that Tennessee cast the final ballot approving the addition of this amendment to the Constitution, most of us don't know how or when the various states voted. Now you know (see www.usconstitution.net). In order.....

June 10, 1919 (Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin)	June 16, 1919 (Kansas, New York and Ohio)
June 24-28, 1919 (Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Texas)	July 2-3, 1919 (Iowa and Missouri)
July 28, 1919 (Arkansas)	Aug. 2, 1919 (Montana and Nebraska)
September, 1919 (Minnesota and New Hampshire)	October, 1919 (Utah)
November, 1919 (California and Maine)	December, 1919 (North & South Dakota, Colorado)
January, 1920 (Kentucky, Rhode Island, Oregon, Indiana and Wyoming)	
February, 1920 (Nevada, New Jersey, Idaho, Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma)	
March, 1920 (West Virginia and Washington)	August 18, 1920 (Tennessee)
September, 1920 (Connecticut)	February, 1921 (Vermont)
March, 1923 (Delaware*)	March, 1941 (Maryland*)
February, 1952 (Virginia*)	September, 1953 (Alabama*)
May, 1969 (Florida)	July, 1969 (South Carolina*)
February, 1970 (Georgia*)	June 1970 (Louisiana)
May, 1971 (North Carolina)	May, 1984 (Mississippi*)

*This amendment was specifically rejected by Georgia on July 24, 1919; by Alabama on September 22, 1919; by South Carolina on January 28, 1920; by Virginia on February 12, 1920; by Maryland on February 24, 1920; by Mississippi on March 29, 1920; by Delaware on June 2, 1920; and by Louisiana on July 1, 1920.

It was ratified in 441 days.

LWVUS Action Alert: Pass the DREAM Act



League position approved in 2008: *"...In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity."*

The Senate will be voting on the DREAM Act very soon. This bipartisan legislation will provide a path to citizenship for young immigrants who complete a college degree or serve in the military, thereby enabling them to be a fully productive part of American society.

The DREAM Act would provide hard-working students with the opportunity to earn permanent legal status if they came to the United States as children, have good moral character, finish high school or obtain a G.E.D., and then complete two years of college or military service. Too often, immigrant students now are unable to participate in society in even the most basic ways, such as getting a job, obtaining a driver's license, or applying to a four-year college. The DREAM Act opens the door of opportunity to them while it strengthens our economy and society.

The DREAM Act will help almost one million undocumented students realize their dreams of higher education and allow them the opportunity to contribute to the U.S. economy.

Take Action Now—Contact Your Senators

Why the League No Longer Sponsors Presidential Debates

The following account was taken from a longer email provided to the presidents list (now leaders list) by then board member Eleanor Revelle in July, 2000, in response to members who wanted to know why the League was no longer involved in the Presidential Debates.



The LWVEF sponsored presidential debates in 1976, 1980 and 1984. The LWVEF also sponsored presidential primary debates in 1988 and 1992.

In 1980, the LWVEF adopted candidate participation criteria designed to meet Federal Election Commission (FEC) regulations. The three basic criteria were Constitutional eligibility, Ballot accessibility (i.e., on the ballot in a sufficient number of states to have a mathematical possibility of winning a majority of Electoral College votes) and Demonstrated significant voter support and interest (e.g. nomination by a major political party as defined in the Federal Election Campaign Act - or 15% voter support as determined by selected nationwide public opinion polls)

John Anderson initially met the three criteria and took part in the first debate, with Ronald Reagan. (Jimmy Carter declined to participate.) He later fell below the 15% support level, and the second debate featured Reagan and Carter.

In 1984, the LWVEF made a number of changes. First, the LWVEF stated its intention to sponsor one presidential debate to which only the nominees of the two major parties would be invited. Second, the indicators to be used to show "significant voter support and interest" for additional debates were changed. Instead of requiring a 15% polling result, significance would be assessed by considering a number of factors, including active campaigning in a number of states, substantial recognition by the national media that a candidate merits serious national media attention and such other factors that, in the LWVEF's good faith judgment, would provide evidence of nationwide voter interest, such as national voter poll results.

Using these standards, the LWVEF sponsored three presidential debates (between Reagan and Mondale) and one vice-presidential debate (between Bush and Ferraro).

In 1988, the LWVEF again set out to sponsor presidential debates and adopted candidate participation criteria similar to those used in 1984. Nancy Neuman describes what happened next in her book, *The League of Women Voters: In Perspective 1920-1995*: "After the 1984 election, the chairs of the Democratic and Republican national committees announced that the parties, not the LWVEF, would sponsor the 1988 presidential debates. In 1987, they created the Commission on Presidential Debates. From 1985 through 1988, the LWVEF challenged political party debates sponsorship, resulting in broad editorial and public support. The LWVEF argued that voters deserved to see the candidates side by side in nonpartisan debates that were not controlled by the campaigns. The parties claimed that only they could institutionalize debates and eliminate the quadrennial "debate about the debates."

"Both the LWVEF and the commission submitted debates proposals to the campaigns in 1988; the campaigns chose the LWVEF as sponsor of the final debate. But they also presented the LWVEF with "take it or leave it" rules designed to protect the candidates and mislead the voters. For example, the rules specified ultimate campaign control of press panelists and moderators, and prohibited follow-up questions and camera shots of the candidate not speaking. The LWVEF trustees voted to withdraw sponsorship, believing that the rules undermined the LWV's goal to educate voters and posed a potential threat to its nonpartisanship. As national president Nancy Neuman (1986-90) explained in a press conference, the LWV "has no intention of becoming an accessory to the hoodwinking of the American public."

League Snow Policy: If school is cancelled by the Columbia Public School district, all League activities for that day are also cancelled.



The Thompson Center



The Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders was in celebration mode on Friday, December 3rd with the Grand Opening of its new facility at 205 Portland Street here in Columbia.

Governor Nixon and the First Lady were in attendance along with other dignitaries, including members of the founding family - the Thompsons.

The center's expanded services, advanced research and technological sophistication bring hope to clientele and their families who contend on a daily basis with autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders. Bipartisan support by the current governor and the preceding governor has been a legislative key in providing a five million dollar investment in capital improvements for the Thompson Center.

In contrast to the negative climate of closure in certain mental health facilities and cuts in mental health budgets, the Thompson Center brings us closer to the League of Women Voters' standard of mental health as an essential component of overall health. In previous writings in this field of health care, League has given positive recognition to other advances as well, such as mental health parity and the insurance mandate for coverage of autistic disorders.

The Thompson Center carries statewide and national rank, and we are fortunate that this new MU facility is here in Columbia.

Lael Von Holt

Were you interested in, but unable to attend, the League's recent programs on campaign financing ("If You Prick Them, Do They Bleed? Corporations as Persons") and federal health care legislation ("The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: How Will It Affect You")?. The League now has DVDs of both available. If you would like to view them, you may borrow them for two weeks. Contact Linda Kaiser (474-1407 or lindaskaiser@gmail.com) to make the arrangements.



Columbia's Solar Energy Program



The Columbia City Council lowered the cost of one block of solar energy from \$4.00 to \$3.35 a month. The cost has gone down since new solar projects have come in at a lower cost. For more information about Solar One, please go to <http://www.qocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Electric/SolarOne.php>

There are only 250 slots available so please sign up as soon as possible. To purchase additional slots, please fill out the form located here: <http://www.qocolumbiamo.com/WaterandLight/Forms/solarsignup.php>

An electric customer can purchase up to nine blocks of Solar One power. If you are already subscribing to Solar One, you do not have to register again. The cost of the Solar One energy you are currently purchasing will go down. You only need to use the link to the form listed above if you want to purchase additional Solar One blocks of energy.

The Solar One program has gone from having two solar systems or 10 kilowatts of energy up to 38.3 kilowatts. Quaker Oats has installed an additional 10 kilowatt system, Bright City Lights has installed 5 kilowatts and there is an additional 13.3 system behind the West Ash Pumping station on Bernadette. With these new projects we have 250 new slots of Solar One power to sell for a total of 375.

Information provided by Win Colwill
Chair, Energy Matters Committee

Officers

President: Linda Kaiser (474-1407)
1st Vice President: Rachel Brekhuis (875-4295)
2nd Vice President: Carol Schreiber (657-1467)
Secretary: Joni O'Connor (234-1012)
Treasurer: Liz Schmidt (445-0655)

Board Members & Committee Chairs

Budget: Shirley Troth (634-6157)
Civil Liberties: Linda Kaiser & Aline Kultgen (449-2149)
Communications: Maydell Senn (445-7844)
Discussion Groups/Unit Meetings: Midge Pinkerton (445-2052)
Education: Holly Burgess (449-0625) & Zona Burk (234-1083)
Energy Matters: Win Colwill (445-4663) & Dick Parker (below)
Fundraising:
Historian: Marilyn McLeod (445-3500)
Hospitality: Pam Springsteel (445-0642)
CAT TV: Elaine Blodgett (256-2803)
Membership: Linda Lenau Brown (447-3939) & Liz Schmidt
Mental Health: Lael Von Holt (443-7747)
Nominating: Sarah Wolcott (449-4407)
Peace: Dick Parker (256-4397)
Special Events:
Land Use/Sunshine Coalition: Jo Sapp (443-8964)
Voter Editors: Joni O'Connor & Linda Kaiser
Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

Meetings

Board: 4th Monday, 6:30 pm, Boone Electric Coop
Civil Liberties: 2nd Thurs., 1:15 pm*
Education: 4th Thurs., 6:30 pm*
Energy Matters: 3rd Tuesday, 1 pm*
Fundraising: Varies
Peace: 2nd Fri., 9 am*
Voter Service: Varies*
 *Meetings at Library

Membership

If you are a member and wish to receive a membership list, please contact Liz Schmidt at 445-0655 or email at lizschmidt@centurytel.net.

To join the League, fill in the information below and mail it, with your check, to Membership Chair, League of Women Voters, PO Box 239, Columbia, MO 65205. Dues are \$55 for individuals, \$80 for a household and \$15 for local students. (An "11" after your name indicates paid for 2011.)

Name _____

Email Address _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

I am particularly interested in _____

(Note: Tax deductible donations to the Education Fund should be a separate check, payable to LWVMO Education Fund.)

For more information, contact Liz Schmidt at 445-0655 or Linda Brown at 447-3939.

Websites

lww.columbia.missouri.org (local)
lwwmissouri.org (state)
lww.org (national)

Would you like to see the Voter in color? Save the League printing and mailing costs? You can now get the Voter direct to your computer early by contacting co-editor Linda Kaiser at lindaskaiser@gmail.com. Let her know you would like to receive your Voter via email and send Linda the email address to which you would like to receive the Voter.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Columbia – Boone County MO

P.O. Box 239

Columbia, MO 65205

<http://lwv.columbia.missouri.org>

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*LWV: Where hands-on work to safeguard
democracy leads to civic improvement.*



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

January 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Diversity Breakfast, 7 am, Exec Center Civil Liberties Com., 1:15 pm, Library	14 Peace Com. Mtg., 1 pm, Library	15
16	17 Martin Luther King Holiday	18 LWVMO Program Review & Chili, 6:30 pm, Boone Electric	19	20	21	22
23	24 Board Mtg., Boone Electric, 6:30 pm	25 Energy Matters Mtg., Library, 1 pm	26	27 Education Com. & Su- per. Belcher, 6:30 pm CPS Building	28	29
30	31	Feb 1	Feb 2	Feb 3 Town Hall Mtg., Library, 7 pm	Feb 4	Feb 5