



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Columbia/Boone County

VOLUME 77, No. 10

OCTOBER, 2012

Candidate/Ballot Issue Forums

We are pleased to announce that KFRU will again broadcast the LWV Candidate/Ballot Issues forums for the November General Election. Renee Hulshof from KFRU will moderate the **October 4th forum**. This forum will include Democratic and Republican candidates for State House Districts 44, 46 and 47 and State Senate. An historical presentation will be made on the Municipal Police Department Governance ballot issue, which dates back to the Civil War.



David Lile from KFRU will moderate the **October 9th forum**. This forum will include Democratic and Republican candidates for Northern (District II) and Southern (District I) County Commissioners, and Boone County Public Administrator. Pro and con speakers will make presentations on the Boone County Mental Health Sales Tax; the Tobacco Tax; and the Judicial Appointment ballot issues. An informational presentation will be made on the complex Healthcare Exchange ballot issue explaining what healthcare exchanges are and what the ballot issue does.

Both forums start at 6:30 p.m. with refreshments at 6:00 p.m. at the Columbia Public Library.

(Note: These forums will be broadcast repeatedly up until the election. Although you won't be able to ask your questions, you can get information about the candidates and the issues by turning in to Mediacom's local channel.)

Mark Your Calendar: The LWV Founder's Day Luncheon will be on Saturday, December 15th at 11:30 a.m. at Jack's Restaurant. Details will be in the November Voter.

LWV and the Columbia Teacher Collective Bargaining Vote



Thanks to the many League members for volunteering to serve as election judges at the Columbia Teacher Collective Bargaining Vote on October 11th. Twenty-seven schools will serve as polling places. Volunteers will work a morning shift (7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.) and an afternoon shift (3:00 to 4:45 p.m.). Several LWV members will then count the ballots. The Columbia School District and MNEA will be making donations to the LWV Education Fund to thank us for our efforts. These funds will then be used to pay for expenses and advertising for future public forums.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

October

- **Election Forum 1, Thurs., Oct. 4, 6:30 pm, Library**
- **Board Mtg., Mon, Oct 8, 6:45 pm., Boone Electric**
- **Election Forum 2, Tues., Oct. 9, 6:30 pm, Library**
- **League Presents on Upcoming ballot issues, CAT-TV, Wed., Oct. 10, 7 pm, Stephens College Studio**
- **Civil Liberties Com. Mtg. Thurs., Oct. 11, Library**
- **2012 Energy Efficiency Expo, Sat., Oct. 20, 11 am-3 pm, Central Mo. Events Center**
- **Education Com. Mtg., Mon., October 22, 6:30 pm, Library**
- **Learn & Share, Wed., October 24, 7 pm, 703 Hilltop Dr.**
- **Learn & Share. Thurs., Oct. 25, 1:30 pm, 2307 Ridgfield Rd.**

November

- **Board Mtg., Mon, Nov. 12, 6:45 pm., Boone Electric**
- **Civil Liberties Com. Mtg. Thurs., Nov. 8, Library**
- **League Presents, on CPS & Core Standards CAT-TV, Wed., Nov. 14, 7 pm, Stephens College Studio**
- **Education Com. Mtg., Mon., Nov. 19, 6:30 pm, Library**

Fact Checking

Want to check the accuracy of allegations or emails? Go to ...
www.politifact.com
www.factcheck.org
www.flackcheck.org

September Board Report

The LWV Board met on September 10th. The main focus of the Board was to discuss how to fill the required 54 time slots for the Columbia Teacher Collective Bargaining Vote on October 11th. We are needed at 27 schools from 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. We have most of the slots filled.



Other items:

- Liz Schmidt reported that we have our new membership brochures and they will be sent out with the October newsletter.
- The Board decided to keep the picnic at Stephens Lake Park and continue serving sub sandwiches.
- The topic for the October LWV Learn and Share will be the Ballot Issues and Liz Schmidt will be the presenter. The dates will be October 24th at 7 p.m. at 703 Hilltop Dr., and October 25th at 1:30 p.m. at 2307 Ridgefield Dr.
- For the December 15th luncheon, Lael Von Holt will look for a speaker. We need nominations for the Outstanding Citizen of the Year before the October 8th board meeting when a decision will be made. We also decided we would honor several of our League members with the Eleanor Goodge Award at our Annual Meeting in April.
- The Board decided to contact CEC about having our annual fundraiser at their April musical, "9 to 5."
- The Board heard a proposal to formally participate with "A People's Visioning" group. The Board decided that since we did not formally participate in the Columbia City Visioning, we would not formally participate with this group. However, individual members participated in the Columbia City Visioning process and can participate with this group, too.
- The Board decided to try to have our November post election Happy Hour to coincide with the birthday of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's birthday on November 12th. This is for new members, prospective members and current members. Details to come.

The next board meeting will be on Monday, October 8th at 6:45 p.m. with social time at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is at Boone Electric Cooperative.

Carol Schreiber
Co-President

On November 6th, you do NOT have to provide a PHOTO ID in Missouri's General Election. Please, pass this information on to all your friends and especially our college students. Let the students know, however, they must either vote absentee from their home district or re-register to vote in Columbia. Last day to register to vote is October 10. Go to the Boone County Clerk's website for more details (www.showmeboone.com/clerk/).

Ballot Issues October's Learn & Share



Liz Schmidt will preside over a discussion of the ballot issues on the November ballot. This event will include information from the October 4th and 9th Candidate/Ballot Issue forums. It will also look at any positions taken by the LWV Board on the issues. And, of course, will include lots of discussion.

The program is repeated at two different times: Wednesday, October 24th at 7:00 p.m. at Rachel Brekhus' house, 703 Hilltop, and on Thursday, October 25th at 1:30 p.m. at Marilyn McLeod's house, 2307 Ridgefield. All members are encouraged to come, participate and bring a friend!

A Preview of the November Election

Jim Robertson will moderate a panel composed of a political reporter and a political science professor. The panel will discuss the upcoming November 6th General Election. This year we have a Presidential election, U.S. Senate election, statewide offices election, State Representatives and Senate election, and several ballot issues. So, there is a lot of ground to cover. We hope you will tune in on Wednesday, October 10th at 7:00 p.m. The show will be shown on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday at 7a.m. and Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday at 7:30 p.m. on Mediacom Channel 85, Charter Channel 983, Century Link Prism Channel 603 or streaming live at columbiaaccess.tv/watch or on-demand at www.columbiaaccess.tv/schedule.



To view our September program featuring a discussion on The Status of Higher Education in the Columbia Area and How to Reduce Student Debt, you can go to the two websites mentioned above or go to League of Women Voters Present on YouTube. Our panel included Dr. Evelyn Jorgenson, President of Moberly Area Community College, Dr. Terry Smith, Executive Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs at Columbia College and Dr. Jim Spain, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies at the University of Missouri with panel moderator Jim Robertson, managing editor of the Columbia Daily Tribune.

New Health Committee!



The new Health Committee for our League met last week. The main agenda topics are what the committee should explore and when it should meet. If you are interested in learning more about this new committee—and be on the ground floor in helping determine its direction—contact Linda Kaiser (474-1407, lindaskaiser@gmail.com) for the minutes of this meeting and the date and time of the next committee meeting.

Outstanding Citizen Award - It's Not Too Late!

Many individuals in the community have had significant impact on other individuals or groups, whether as a volunteer or as part of their job. Some may be well known; others are not. If you know of such an individual or individuals, please nominate them for this honor. The board will make a final decision on the award. Information for each nominee should at least include the following:



- **Name of person or persons being nominated
- **The Nominee's contact information (address, telephone number, email)
- **Your name and telephone number (and email if you have one)
- **Identify the reasons why you are nominating the individual with as many details as possible, but no more than 2 typewritten pages

Short Notes from Committee Board Reports

Prior to each monthly board meeting, committee chairs share what their respective committees are working on. Here are selected notes from those reports. If something catches your attention, all committee meetings are open and always welcome new potential members!

Civil Liberties (Aline Kultgen and Linda Kaiser, Co-Chairs): Having held its September 18 forum, *Who Own\$ the Elections?*, the committee is looking at ways to inform voters about the dangers of significantly altering the Missouri Court Plan (the proposed Constitutional amendment) and to oppose an expected retry at requiring a government-issued photo ID to vote. The next meeting is Thursday, October 11 at the Library.

Education Committee (Ava Fajen, Chair): At our most recent meeting we discussed some priorities for the upcoming year. We plan to:

- Track the progress of education bills as they move through the state legislature and have one or more guest speakers who are experts on this topic
- Learn more about our local schools, public and private, by taking some field trips to see them first hand.
- Study one or more education topics in-depth, including charter schools
- Learn more about the social studies curriculum and related activities in Columbia schools, especially about how children learn about voting, and about being a citizen.
- We will use what we learn to develop topics to share with other league members - by means of our Learn and Share meetings or newsletter articles – or with the public – by means of CAT TV programs or public forums.



Our October meeting will be a week later than usual -- October 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library's conference room A. We plan to have a guest speaker and there are two possibilities: a retired school principal or teacher or an expert on charter schools. In November we'll meet on a different date as well. We'll attend the league's live CAT TV taping on November 14 at 7:00 p.m. because the guest will be Nick Kremer (head of the social studies program for Columbia schools and a guest speaker for our committee last May).

Energy Matters (Carla Klein and Dick Parker, Co-Chairs); The committee staffed a booth at the recent Sustainable Living Fair and is hard at work planning for forum on December 6.

Enclosed with this issue is a new membership flier and envelope for paying the 2012-13 dues, which are now being collected. If you are unsure as to whether or not you have paid for next year yet, check your label (if getting the hard copy of the Voter) – it will have a “13” if you have paid and a “12” if you are paid through 2012 only. If you are getting the email version of the Voter, contact Liz Schmidt to determine your status.

Campaign Finance

Descriptions of the various organizations involved in this election (PACs, Super PACs, etc.) are now posted on our website along with a chart showing the tax implications of each. They were developed for the recent Constitution Day program, *Who Own\$ the Election?*

Some general information on the spending by independent groups (not candidates or political parties) is also posted. However, this data is only as of mid-September. More current information can be obtained at www.opensecrets.org, <http://projects.wsj.com/super-pacs/> and <http://projects.propublica.org/pactrack/#committee=all>.



The Vote on Women's Suffrage in Missouri (1914)

Following the annual conference of the Missouri Equal Suffrage Association in Columbia in May 1914, members worked on a petition drive to get a constitutional amendment for women's suffrage on the Missouri ballot in November. The petition drive was successful and a proposed amendment was indeed placed on the November ballot.

Supporters looked for various ways to promote their ideas while disseminating literature on the topic "to the doubtful and opposed voters." The literature summarized the reasons for granting women the ballot, including:

- Because there are 40,000 wage-earning women in the state, men use the ballot to protect their wage-earning interests; women need it for the same reason.
- Because Missouri still makes poverty a crime and punishes the widow and the fatherless by separating the child from the mother.
- ...the last legislature of Missouri jeered at a proposed bill to make the unmarried father of a child equally responsible with the unmarried mother..."

With only a few weeks before the November election, a major event was held when Jane Addams came to speak in Columbia on Thursday, October 21, 1914. This was one of four stops in Missouri by Ms. Addams on a tour promoting women's suffrage. Columbia was chosen because it was the state headquarters for the Missouri Equal Suffrage Association.

As you probably remember, Jane Addams (1860-1935) is best known for her social work activities, establishing Hull House* in 1889, a local social service foundation on the Chicago West Side, working with people in poverty, including many immigrants. As a pacifist and internationalist, she came out in opposition to the U.S. entry into the First World War and was the first American woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931. But Addams was also a major advocate of feminist thought, known for her suffragette pamphlet "Why Women Should Vote" (1915).

In an article promoting the upcoming event, Mrs. Walter McNab Miller was quoted: "*Miss Addams is a clear, forceful speaker, and one of the leading of votes-for-women. Her splendid record of self-consecrating work for the downtrodden of the great cities entitles her to an audience anywhere in the world, on any subject, but especially on woman suffrage.*" (Columbia Daily Tribune, October 19, 1914)

A front page story in the newspaper reported on the packed theatre that greeted Jane Addams, in fact, the "capacity of the house was taxed". Introduced by A. Ross Hill, the president of the University, Ms. Adams spoke for more than two hours. To quote from the article: "*It is a fact that Miss Addams made many converts in Columbia... Men were brought into favor with the causes which she represented, who had openly declared before that they would oppose the measure.*"

Some of Ms Addams comments included: "*The strongest and most logical reason for equal suffrage is that women should have equal justice...*" and "*Women in pioneer settlements have always been equal to emergencies, and the history of their deeds of heroism is another argument that they are able to take their places in society as the co-laborers of men—even at the ballot box.*"

She countered some of the (apparently) common reasons used not to grant the vote: "*Should women have the ballot since they cannot go to war? Should a man when he has arrived at the age of 60 have his franchise taken away from him because he can no longer bear arms?*" and "*In giving women the ballot the men have nothing to fear from the misuse of it by the poor women of the slums or those of the segregated districts. The poor women in the slums of Chicago, I have found, are even more intensely interested in voting rights on public questions than those whose stations in life are higher. They are more interested because they are daily brought face to face with the evils in our social system and they wish those evils eradicated.*" (Columbia Daily Tribune, October 23, 1914)

The November ballot in Missouri featured a large number of proposed constitutional amendments and propositions. The Thirteenth Proposition "Proposed by Initiative Petition" read in part:

"Females shall hereafter have the same right, under the same conditions, to vote at all elections held in this state, as males now have or may hereafter have."

For those of you who are superstitious, that this was the thirteenth proposition might have doomed it; for everyone else, it just lost at the polls. Even in Boone County, the vote was 1,795 yes and 2,861 against. (On the other hand, all the amendments on the ballot lost in Boone County.)

Work would have to continue on suffrage in Missouri and the country, but in the Minutes book of the Columbia Equal Suffrage Association, there are no entries from December 1914 to April 1918. The missing Minutes may have been written elsewhere and been lost, but the book continues in 1918.

* (Hull-House, first formed in 1889 by Addams, provided foster care, domestic violence counseling, child development programs and job training to children, families and community groups each year. Sadly, this organization closed in January 2012.)

Statewide Ballot Issues—Part 1

Proposition B Tobacco Tax Increase: The Missouri Tobacco Tax Initiative, also known as the “Health Missouri Initiative Petition” and the “Cigarette Tax Increase” would appear on the ballot as follows:

“Shall Missouri law be amended to:

- *Create the Health and Education Trust Fund with proceeds of a tax of \$0.365 per cigarette and 25% of the manufacturer’s invoice price for roll-your-own tobacco and 15% for other tobacco products’*
- *Use Fund proceeds to reduce and prevent tobacco use and for elementary, secondary, college, and university public school funding; and*
- *Increase the amount that certain tobacco product manufacturers must maintain in their escrow accounts, to pay judgments or settlements, before any funds in escrow can be refunded to the tobacco product manufacturer and create bonding requirements for these manufacturers?*

Estimated additional revenue to state government is \$283 million to \$423 million annually with limited estimated implementation costs or savings. The revenue will fund only programs and services allowed by the proposal. The fiscal impact to local governmental entities is unknown. Escrow fund changes may result in an unknown increase in future state revenue.”

If passed, the tax on a pack of cigarettes will increase from seventeen cents (\$.17) to ninety cents (\$.90). Fifty percent (50%) of the funds generated would be used for public school programs, thirty percent (30%) would go to higher education and twenty percent (20%) would support smoking cessation programs.

Proponents say that Missouri has the lowest cigarette tax and the 11th highest smoking rate in the United States. They also say that more than 9,000 Missourians die annually from tobacco-related diseases costing the state millions of dollars in health care costs. They also say that if the price of tobacco increases, the number of people who smoke will decrease. Finally they say that the revenue generated will provide needed funds for smoking cessation programs (currently not funded in Missouri) and K-12 and higher education. The American Cancer Society and its coalition members, the Missouri Budget Project and other groups support the measure. The League of Women Voters of Missouri supports it.

Opponents say that we will lose tax revenue from consumers who cross the border to buy cheap cigarettes and that the measure will only affect “off-brand” products. In addition, they argue that increased education revenues will not improve the quality of our schools and that these targeted taxes will disproportionately hurt lower income people who are addicted to tobacco. The Show Me Institute opposes the measure.

Constitutional Amendment 3 Judicial Appointment: The Missouri Judicial Appointment Amendment (measure SJR51) is a legislatively-referred constitutional amendment. The ballot will read:

“Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to change the current nonpartisan Selection of supreme court and court of appeals judges to a process that gives The governor increased authority to appoint a majority of the commission that Selects these court nominees; and appoint all lawyers to the commission by removing the requirement that governor’s appointees be non-lawyers.”

The Missouri Nonpartisan Court Plan provides for the selection of judges based on merit rather than on political affiliation. It governs the selection of judges at the circuit level in six jurisdictions including Clay, Greene, Jackson, Platte and St. Louis counties and St. Louis City as well as the Court of Appeals and Missouri Supreme Court.

If passed, the amendment would give the governor the power to appoint 4 persons, as opposed to 3 under current law, to the Appellate Judicial Commission, the body responsible for choosing nominees. Two appointments would occur at the beginning of the governor’s term and two midway through it. The constitution would no longer prevent those appointees from being lawyers and the Supreme Court would lose its voting position on the commission. The slate of nominees would consist of four people instead of three.

Proponents of the amendment say that increasing the governor’s power would decrease lawyers’ influence and give voters someone to hold accountable. They say it is a compromise that stops short of eliminating the Non-Partisan Court Plan and letting voters elect appellate judges.

Opponents say that it would give the governor increased control and would insert politics into the judiciary. They also argue that the chief justice should remain on the commission, lending important expertise and experience. The Missouri Bar Association, present and former Missouri Supreme Court judges appointed by both Democratic Republican governors and many civic organizations oppose the proposition. The League of Women Voters of Missouri opposes the proposition.

Note: The remaining issues will appear in next month’s Voter. The full listing of the ballot issues is also on our website (lwvcbc.org). They have been compiled by the LWV of St. Louis.

Officers

Co-Presidents: Carol Schreiber (657-1467) and Marilyn McLeod (445-3500)

1st Vice President:

2nd Vice President: Ava Fajen (442-0803)

Secretary: Joni O'Connor (234-1012)

Treasurer: Liz Schmidt (445-0655)

Board Members & Committee Chairs

CAT TV: Carol Schreiber

Civil Liberties: Linda Kaiser & Aline Kultgen (449-2149)

Communications: Maydell Senn (445-7844)

Discussion Groups/Unit Meetings: Midge Pinkerton (445-2052)

Education: Ava Fajen (above)

Energy Matters: Carla Klein (417-631-9633) & Dick Parker (below)

Historian: Marilyn McLeod

Hospitality: Pam Springsteel (445-0642)

Membership: Linda Lenau Brown (447-3939) & Liz Schmidt

Mental Health: Lael Von Holt (443-7747)

Nominating: Linda Brown (above)

Other: Peggy Placier (442-2996) & Diane Suhler (443-0549)

Peace: Dick Parker (256-4397)

Voter Editors: Joni O'Connor & Linda Kaiser (474-1407)

Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

Web & Social Media: Rachel Brekhuis (875-4295)

Meetings

Board: 2nd Monday, 6:30 pm, Boone Electric Cooperative

Civil Liberties: 2nd Thurs., 1:15 pm*

Education: 3rd Mon., 6:30 pm*

Energy Matters: Varies

Fundraising: Varies

Peace: Varies

Voter Service: Varies*

*Meetings at Library

Membership

If you have an "12" after your name, your membership is current. Our membership year runs January 1-December 31 (and a "13" means you've paid through next year).

To join the League or renew your membership, 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.

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.

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.

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 the email address you would like used.

Websites of Interest

lwwcbc.org (local)

lwwmissouri.org (state)

lww.org (national)

www.covermissouri.org (Missouri Foundation for Health)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Columbia – Boone County MO

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Columbia, MO 65205

<http://lwvcbc.org>

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October, 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Election Forum, 6:30 pm, Library	5	6
7	8 Board Mtg., 6:45 pm, Boone Electric	9 Election Forum, 6:30 pm, Library	10 CAT-TV—League Presents (Ballot Issues) , 7 pm	11 Civil Lib. Com., 1:15 pm, Library	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Energy Efficiency Expo, 11 am-3 pm, Fairgrounds
21	22 Education Com., 6:30 pm, Library A	23	24 Learn & Share—Ballot Issues, 7 pm, 703 Hilltop	25 Learn & Share—Ballot Issues, 1:30 pm, 2307 Ridgefield Rd.	26	27
28	29	30	31 Halloween	Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Nov. 3
Nov. 4	Nov. 5	Nov. 6 Election Day	Nov. 7	Nov. 8 Civil Lib. Com., 1:15 pm, Library	Nov. 9	Nov. 10 LWVMO Conf. Sedalia