



The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County, MO

CAT TV OCT. 11: WHAT IS A USE TAX?

What is a "Use Tax?" Both the City of Columbia and Boone County will have a "use tax" issue on the November 7th ballot.

Our CAT TV show on October 11th will feature representatives of the county and city to discuss the ballot issues. Fred Parry, Southern District Commissioner, and Steve Sapp, director of community relations for Columbia, will speak. Jim Robertson will be our moderator. Please tune in or watch the YouTube version that will be sent to our members and posted on Facebook.

The show airs live at 7:00 p.m. on October 11. The program will be available on our website or at www.columbiaaccess.tv. The show replays on CAT TV at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. CAT TV can be found on Mediacom Channel 85, Charter Communications 983, and CenturyTel Prism 98.



— Carol Schreiber

COMMUNITY HOUSING LAND TRUST: OCT. 17 LUNCH AND LEARN

Randy Cole, the City of Columbia Housing Program Specialist, will explain how the City of Columbia, through the Columbia Community Land Trust, a non-profit organization, is providing energy efficient & affordable housing to people with low to moderate incomes in Columbia.

Bring your lunch or purchase at the HyVee, and join us noon at the Conley Rd. HyVee, second floor meeting room on Tuesday, October 17.



— Barbara Hoppe

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2018!!

HOLLY BURGESS PUBLIC POLICY FORUM OCTOBER 29: ARE OUR ELECTIONS SAFE?



We hear in the news that there are concerns related to the security of elections in the U.S. Have elections in some states been hacked by outside forces? Could that happen here? Are the voting machines safe or do they need to be updated? These and other questions will be the subject of a public forum on Sunday, October 29, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at the Columbia Public Library.

discuss the subject of election safety. There will be opportunity for Q&A with the audience.

A panel consisting of Taylor Burks, Boone County Clerk, and Glenn Nielson, a computer expert, will

Taylor W. Burks was appointed as Boone County Clerk by Missouri's Governor following the retirement of longtime Boone County Clerk Wendy S. Noren. Taylor worked for US Congressman Bill Thomas, Chairman of the US House Committee on Ways and Means, and later for Missouri Senator Jack Goodman, (continued on page 3)

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

GERRYMANDERING AND REDISTRICTING	PAGE 4
FALL PICNIC PHOTOS	PAGE 5
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	PAGE 6 AND MORE!

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING REPORT

The September 25th board meeting provided time for lively discussion and sharing of many ideas. Jennifer Prohov from the *Missourian's* Community Outreach Team gave a presentation describing the *Missourian's* Progress Awards. She described the various categories in which awards will be given and encouraged the LWV to nominate persons. This is a new annual awards program designed to lift up people who are engaged in our community and who may not be recognized for their contributions otherwise. We encourage members to identify and suggest people for these awards. The following is a link with more specific information on the types of awards and the nomination process. https://www.columbiamissourian.com/from_readers/progress-awards-nominate-a-community-member/article_b2cd5754-a2cf-11e7-b5a9-7fe3a27e90a2.html?utm_source=Email%20Newsletters&utm_campaign=Daily%20Edition&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=headline

The board reflected on a number of the activities we have been involved in the past month. The picnic provided a time for good food and sharing with each other about our passions and interests in League work. I think everyone came away from this event feeling more connected to our fellow League members. A brief recap of the "Practicing Democracy" indicated that that play was well received and attended. Proceeds from the play covered all LWV out-of-pocket expenses and provided a bit of profit. In general, our foray into the world of theatre was deemed a success.

There are a number of activities coming up during the fall. On October 15th, we will participate in the Sustainable Living Fair; Lunch /Learn and CAT-TV sessions are planned for both October and November; the LWV will join forces with AAUW to sponsor the Holly Burgess Public Policy Forum in October. LWVMO will hold its Fall Conference on October 28th in Sedalia—we invite members to attend this event. This will certainly be a busy couple of months.

The board decided to initiate and/or resuscitate several committees. For several years, the Civil Liberties Committee has not been an active part of our League. However, given the times that we live in, it would seem prudent to 'resurrect' this committee. We will be providing information on programming activities for this committee in the near future. In addition, a new Committee to study the Redistricting issue is being formed. No doubt, this will be an interesting topic over the next several years. Finally, the board is in the process of organizing a committee to explore new and innovative ways to engage LWV members and the community. If you would like to be a part of any or all of these efforts, please let us know. All are welcome! The more voices, the merrier.

— Diane Suhler, President



FRIENDS OF THE LWV OF COLUMBIA-BOONE COUNTY

The LWV of Columbia-Boone County recognizes the many organizations and individuals who have helped us educate the public, provided meeting space, and given of their time, talent and treasure to the LWV. Each month we recognize a group of our Friends of the LWV as voted on by the LWV of Columbia-Boone County membership at our Annual Meeting on April 19, 2017. For October 2017 we recognize:

- **Rockie Alden, Marcus Reynolds and Katie Burnham Wilkins** for being our guests on the January 2017 CAT TV show entitled "Homelessness in Columbia: Programs and Policies."
- **Nick and Diane Peckham** are recognized for hosting a tour for the LWV of their new net zero energy home in November 2016.
- The **Columbia Missourian** for providing matching free ads for purchased ads and their coverage of our forums.

Thanks for being a Friend of the LWV!

PLEASE SIGN THE CLEAN MISSOURI INITIATIVE PETITION

The Clean Missouri ballot issue is a constitutional amendment by initiative petition and supported by the LWV. Signatures are being collected now and we encourage you to sign the petition. This measure has several features that are high priorities for the LWV:

- **Ethics in Government:** eliminate most lobbyist gifts to state legislators; require politicians to wait two years before becoming lobbyists; and lower campaign contribution limits for state legislative candidates.
- **Open Government:** require that legislative records be open to the public.

- **Fair Legislative Districts:** ensure that neither party is given an unfair advantage when drawing new legislative maps after the next census (2020) and all other censuses; add fairness and competitiveness as criteria; and ask an independent state demographer to lead the technical work on new maps.

If you are interested in being part of the team to collect signatures to put this issue on the ballot for an upcoming election, please email us at LWVCBC@gmail.com.

— Carol Schreiber

ARE OUR ELECTIONS SAFE? (CONT'D FROM P.1)

Chairman of the Missouri Senate Government Affairs and Fiscal Oversight Committee. Taylor served in the US Navy and while on active duty he continued his support for civic engagement by filling the role of Voting Assistance Officer, helping deployed service members register and exercise their right to vote.

Glenn Nielsen retired in 2013 from the University of Missouri System as a Computer Programmer Principle responsible for providing email and website hosting solutions for public institutions. In 2002 he served on a special committee formed by the Missouri Secretary of State to make recommendations for implementing election

process changes to comply with the Help America Vote Act.

This is the Third Holly Burgess Public Policy forum. It will be sponsored by the League of Women Voters, the American Association of University Women-Columbia Branch (AAUW), and the Columbia Public Library.

This forum honors the memory of Holly Burgess, a member of both LWV and AAUW, who was particularly interested in public policy issues.

The event is free and open to the public.

— Marilyn McLeod

ELECTION INTEGRITY COMMISSION UPDATE

On May 11, 2017, President Trump issued an executive order establishing the Election Integrity Commission, headed by Vice President Pence and Kris Kobach, the Kansas Secretary of State.

As we reported in the September *Voter*, League of Women Voters president Chris Carson issued the following statement in response to the first meeting of the 'Election Integrity' Commission: "This Commission is undermining the public's confidence in our elections."

Recently, the Commission met a second time (September 12th) in New Hampshire. And, on September 12th both the St. Louis League of Women Voters and the Kansas City League of Women Voters joined other groups to publicly voice their opposition to the Commission stating their concerns that the

Commission will ultimately support "inflexible voter ID laws, reduced polling sites and inadequate poll worker training, and request voter data".

Furthermore, the STL and KC LWVs state they believe the commission's actions have the potential of federal interference in state election laws.

No summary of the Commission's second meeting has been issued. For other information about the recent Commission meeting, see:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2017/07/13/presidential-advisory-commission-election-integrity>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/09/18/yes-u-s-election-integrity-could-be-improved-heres-why-the-pence-commission-probably-wont-do-it/?utm_term=.bd24de31600c

— Sharon Schneeberger

FROM GERRYMANDERING TO FAIR REDISTRICTING

What do U.S. citizens want with respect to redistricting? Do they care about how voting districts are configured?

A poll was conducted by Democratic pollster Celinda Lake of Lake Research Partners and Republican pollster Ashlee Rich Stephenson for WPA Intelligence. They compiled opinions from 1,000 respondents. The data shows Americans, from both major political parties, overwhelmingly support measures to limit partisan gerrymandering.

The results include:

- An overwhelming majority (71 to 15 percent) of Americans want the Supreme Court to place limits on lawmakers' ability to manipulate voting maps.
- By a margin of 62 to 10 percent, voters are less likely to support a candidate who supports partisan gerrymandering.
- By a margin of 73 to 14 percent, voters support removing partisan bias from redistricting, even if it means their preferred political party will win fewer seats.

On Oct. 3, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in *Gill v. Whitford*, a case in which the justices have the opportunity to set a standard to determine what constitutes an extreme partisan gerrymander.

A majority of the U.S. Supreme Court has already found, on more than one occasion, that partisan gerrymandering is constitutionally problematic. In the past, the Court has not been willing to overturn a mapping scheme because there wasn't a workable test to assess the severity of the gerrymander.

This poll underscores that voters overwhelmingly expect free and fair elections for choosing their representatives.

This information came from The Campaign Legal Center: <http://www.campaignlegalcenter.org/news/blog/results-are-most-americans-want-limits-gerrymandering>

Recent article on redistricting in Arizona and Ohio:

http://www.cleveland.com/datacentral/index.ssf/2017/09/what_ohio_can_learn_from_arizo.html

— Sharon Schneeberger

“MAYBE YES, MAYBE NO: OUR DEMOCRACY HANGS IN THE BALANCE”

From the LWVUS blog. By: Lloyd Leonard 10/04/2017

On Tuesday morning, the Supreme Court heard what we hope will be the historic case of *Gill v. Whitford*. Why historic? Because the case represents the last chance, probably for decades, for the Court to rule that excessive partisan gerrymandering violates the Constitution. The League filed an amicus curiae brief in the case and we dearly hope that the Court blocks partisan gerrymandering. It could be a decision as important for democratic government as the “one person – one vote” decision that brought fundamental change to state legislatures and revolutionized American politics.

First, a little background: The last time the Court considered a partisan gerrymandering case was more than a decade ago in the case of [Vieth v. Jubelir](#). The Court divided 4 – 1 – 4, with four Justices willing to overturn a Pennsylvania partisan redistricting plan and four opposed. The deciding vote belonged to Justice Anthony Kennedy, who agreed that excessive partisan redistricting could violate the Constitution but said he couldn't find a standard by which to judge when a plan was excessively partisan. He also suggested that the First Amendment's associational and free speech rights might be a better basis for overruling partisan

gerrymandering than the Equal Protection argument traditionally used.

Then came the Wisconsin legislature. After taking control of both houses and the Governor's mansion in 2010, Republicans produced a redistricting plan that is the most partisan observers have ever seen. And they did it on purpose, using computer programs and all the tools of our modern age. Moreover, they repeatedly fine-tuned the plan, not only to ensure a Republican majority in the next election, but to achieve a majority in the legislature for a full decade, no matter how the voters voted.

Gill v. Whitford is the challenge to this partisan redistricting plan. Plaintiffs argue that the plan does violate the First Amendment as well as the Equal Protection clause. And they used a new formulation that could provide a standard for courts to use. This is the “efficiency gap,” which measures the extent of “packing and cracking” -- the practice of concentrating the other party's voters in just a few districts or distributing them so widely that their votes don't affect the outcome – as well as partisan symmetry – whether each party would win the same number of seats if each received a certain number of votes. To read more, please go to <http://lwv.org/blog/maybe-yes-maybe-no-our-democracy-hangs-balance>

In September we participated in several voter registration events. Although we only registered a few individuals, it was still an opportunity to be seen in the community with information about voting and voter id. Why weren't there many who needed to register? This was probably due to the high level of interest in the election in 2016 and the work of the driver's license bureau which provides an opportunity for people new to the state to easily register when they get their Missouri license.

Thanks to the following members and friends who assisted: Sharon Schneeberger and Lael Von Holt at Stephens College (Sept. 19); Marilyn McLeod and Maria Parker at Columbia College (Sept. 12); and Barbara Hoppe, Sharon Schneeberger, Ava Fajen, Elaine Blodgett, Pam Gainor and David Leuthold at the library (Sept. 26).

— Marilyn McLeod

VOTER REGISTRATION UPDATE



Marilyn McLeod ready to register voters at the Columbia Public Library Sept. 26.



Left, David Leuthold and Sharon Schneeberger at the Fall Picnic held on September 7. Above, Mahree Skala, Jan Swaney and Pam Gainer enjoy the evening. Below, Joan Mudrick, Pam Springsteel, Dianne Fox, and Elaine Blodgett.



FALL PICNIC



Upcoming League Events!



OCTOBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
OCT 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 CAT-TV Use Tax 7:00 p.m.	12	13	14
15	16	17 Lunch and Learn: Community Land Trust Conley Rd HyVee Noon	18	19	20	21
22	23 Board Meeting UU Church 2615 Shepard Blvd 6:30 p.m.	24	25	26	27	28 LWVMO Fall Conference Sedalia, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
29 Public Policy Forum: Are Our Elections Safe? Library 2:00 p.m.	30	31	NOV 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 CAT-TV 7:00 p.m.	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Lunch and Learn Conley Rd HyVee Noon	22	23	24	25
26	27 Board Meeting UU Church 2615 Shepard Blvd 6:30 p.m.	28	29	30		

LWVMO STATE CONFERENCE OCTOBER 28

The LWV of Missouri will be presenting a day-long conference on Saturday, October 28 in Sedalia at the State Fair Community College. This is always a great opportunity to meet and network with LWV members from around the state and learn about various League issues. If you are interested in attending, please contact Diane Suhler (drsuhler@ccis.edu). A number of our members are planning on attending and we will be carpooling to Sedalia.
—Marilyn McLeod

LWV Officers:

President: Diane Suhler (443-0549)
 1st VP: Sharon Schneeberger (443-4605)
 2nd VP: Ava Fajen (424-6683)
 Secretary: Carol Schreiber (657-1467)
 Treasurer: David Leuthold (449-1358)

Elected Directors:

Meredith Donaldson (289-3018)
 Barbara Hoppe (443-5107)
 Vena Long (777-2487)
 Marilyn McLeod (445-3500)
 Gayla Neumeyer (882-8366)
 Mahree Skala (474-2195)
 Pam Springsteel (445-0642)
 Shirley Troth (443-7033)

Appointed Directors:

Elaine Blodgett (256-2803)
 Dick Parker (256-4397)
 Lael Von Holt (443-7747)

Committee Chairs:

Budget: Shirley Troth
 Civil Liberties: Open position
 Education: Vena Long
 Energy Matters: Dick Parker
 Fundraising Chair: Pam Springsteel
 Health: Mahree Skala
 Hospitality: Pam Springsteel
 Membership: Meredith Donaldson
 Mental Health: Lael Von Holt
 Voter Service: Carol Schreiber

Voter Editor: Ava Fajen

Local Website: lwvcbc.org
 State: lwvmissouri.org
 National: lwv.org
 Local Voter Information Portal: lwvcolumbiamo.turbovote.org
 Like us on Facebook: "League of Women Voters - Columbia, MO"

TIME TO RENEW FOR 2018!!



Thank you very much for your continued support! We are preparing for the upcoming Cat TV programs, Lunch & Learn programs, plus our educational forums on a wide array of important topics. Membership dues are \$65 for individuals, \$100 for a household, and \$25 for local students. Individual and household memberships also include

state (LWVMO) and national (LWVUS) membership.

Send payment to PO Box 239, Columbia, MO. 65205 or (NEW) by PayPal on line at <https://lwvcbc.org/join/>.

Name _____

Email Address _____

Street _____

City _____

State and Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

I am particularly interested in _____.

I would like to receive my Voter by postal mail _____

___ Individual \$65 ___ Household \$100 ___ Student \$25

\$ ___ Additional to subsidize students or other members

\$ ___ General Donation

\$ ___ Education Fund donations are tax deductible. Please pay by separate check payable to the LWVMO Education Fund.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING FAIR OCTOBER 15

LWVBCB Energy Matters Committee will have a booth at the Sustainable Living Fair again this year. There are 8 workshops and two sustainable building tours. A new feature is a jazz ensemble, Band of Brothers. The Fair starts at 10:30 on Sunday morning, October 15th, and runs till 5:00 in City Hall on Broadway. It is always a great place to learn new things. Energy Matters will show the display we used at Earth Day pointing out that 2016 was the hottest year ever and that 16 of the 17 hottest years have occurred this century. NASA reports that the first half of 2017 was the second hottest, slightly below 2016. We wish to keep people aware that this is a real problem.

— Dick Parker

For quick and easy access to your elected officials, bookmark this URL: <http://hq-salsa.wiredforchange.com/o/5950/getLocal.jsp?zip=65203-3462&zip4=>:

— Sharon Schneeberger



League of Women Voters

PO Box 239

Columbia MO 65205

<http://lwvcbc.org>

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE LIZ SCHMIDT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

In 2016, the LWV of Columbia-Boone County found a way to honor our long-time member and amazing volunteer Liz Schmidt. We established the Liz Schmidt Community Service Award to be given each fall to a deserving individual or group making a difference in the lives of Columbia-Boone County. Last year we honored Verna LaBoy.

Nominations will be accepted until October 20, with the selection being made by the Board of Directors at our October 23rd meeting. If you would like to

submit a nomination, please include a description of the work being done by the nominee and include your contact information. Send your nominations to lwvcbc@gmail.com or to P.O. Box 239, Columbia, MO 65205.

The award will be presented at our Founder's Lunch or Dinner in November or December, with date and location to be determined.

— Carol Schreiber

“PRACTICING DEMOCRACY” PLAY WAS WELL ATTENDED

We are delighted to report that about 225 people attended the four performances of the play “Practicing Democracy” from Sept. 21 to Sunday, Sept. 24 at the Missouri United Methodist Church, which generously donated the space.

Dr. David Webber was the proud author of the play, which was intended to raise questions about ethical behavior in political campaigns and Byron Scott directed. Each performance of the play was followed by a panel discussion of the issues. We noticed quite a few LWV members, but also many other local

citizens, college students, some Osher students, and former students of Professor Webber.

As a result of the play, we were able to raise about \$1,500 to continue our LWV work in the community.

Our thanks to Professor Webber for providing this opportunity to share his message about the importance of clean elections. Democracy requires honest politicians and an informed electorate!

— Marilyn McLeod
