



# VOTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY KANSAS

LOCAL LEAGUE: [www.lawrenceleague.com](http://www.lawrenceleague.com) [www.facebook.com/lwvldc](http://www.facebook.com/lwvldc) [www.twitter.com/lwvldc](http://www.twitter.com/lwvldc)

## LEAGUE CALENDAR

Sat. Sept. 19th 7 pm.	LWVL-DC Land Use Committee meeting, <i>The Merc Co-Op, 901 Iowa Street, Lawrence</i>
Tues Sept. 22nd 3 - 8 pm.	<b>National Voter Registration Day.</b> We will be registering voters at the library. <i>707 Vermont Street, Lawrence</i>
Thurs. Sept. 24th 7:00 pm.	<b>Hot Topic!</b> <b>Planned Parenthood Presentation</b> <i>Carnegie Bldg., 200 W 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Lawrence</i>
Thurs. Oct. 8th 1:00 - 4:30pm. 5:30 - 7:30 pm.	<b>Protecting the Vote - Dialogs on Citizenship, Elections and the Franchise**</b> <i>Panel Discussion, Hall Center for the Humanities, 900 Sunnyside Ave., Lawrence</i> <i>Keynote Discussion: The Commons, Spooner Hall, 1340 Jayhawk Rd., Lawrence (See page 5 for details)</i>
Thurs. Oct. 15th 7:00 pm.	<b>LWVDC Board Meeting</b> , Library, 707 Vermont, Lawrence, <i>(our monthly board meeting, normally the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, is delayed a week to allow board members to attend the Protecting the Vote Conference on October 8th),</i>
Fri Oct 16th	<b>VOTER deadline 10 pm.</b> <i>Please send articles, calendar events and other info to: Debra Duncan herditb4@me.com</i>
Sat. Oct 17th 7:00- 9:30 pm	LWVLDC Land Use Committee meeting, <i>The Merc Co-Op, 901 Iowa Street, Lawrence</i>
Sat. Oct 24th 9am - 3 pm	State League Day in Topeka, <i>Westminster Presbyterian Church, 13<sup>th</sup> &amp; Boswell, Topeka,</i> For program details, cost and registration form go to: <a href="http://lwvk.org/calendar.html">http://lwvk.org/calendar.html</a>
NOTE**	Protecting the Vote (Oct 8 <sup>th</sup> ) <b>is not a league sponsored event</b> , but we encourage our members to attend. Free tickets but RSVP required. <i>See page 5 for details.</i>

### *President's Message*

According to our by-laws “the purposes of the League of Women Voters of Lawrence-Douglas County are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues”. Consequently, we don’t just register voters, we also provide information about candidates and encourage citizens to vote. Unfortunately, Douglas County’s voting record is abysmal. In 2014, with hotly contested races at both the state and federal level, voter turnout for the primary was 15.1% tying us with Wyandotte County for 100<sup>th</sup> place out of 105 counties.

Continued...

The general election was better; 51% of the 78,865 registered voters in Douglas County voted; tying us with Rice County (5,961 registered voters) for 75th place. This was despite multiple candidate forums and the work of the Voter Education Council, which posted videos and candidate's written answers to questions posed by the VEC, the League, the Chamber of Commerce and the Lawrence Journal World.

Energizing voters to actually vote has always been difficult but until 2013 allowing them the opportunity to vote was easy. 2013 was the year that the Kansas Secretary of State began requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote. On its face, this regulation doesn't seem onerous, but experience has proven otherwise. Not everyone keeps a copy of their birth certificate (or knows where it is) and older people, especially those born at home, may not even have one.

So instead of just filling out a form, now people have to take the extra step of locating and presenting paperwork. If they are excited about voting it's not a problem. But if they aren't really into politics, or don't have a particular issue they care about, it's easy to let it go. There is also the cost. People born in Kansas can obtain a free copy of their birth certificate, but many other states charge for copies. During our voter registration drives we almost always hear from someone who wants to register but doesn't have the money to buy a copy of his or her birth certificate.

Until I started registering voters I assumed the federal motor voter law, allowing people to sign up at the DMV or any governmental office, made registering to vote easy. It certainly helps people who are changing their address, but it does not always capture new drivers. First time drivers are generally 14-16 years old. They have to show a birth certificate to get that first license but they are too young to register to vote so the DVM does not save or pass on their information.

Our greatest concern is the growing "suspense list" - the list of potential voters who have

submitted incomplete voter registration forms, either because they didn't fill out the form correctly or, more commonly, didn't provide proof of citizenship. Statewide there are over 30,000 people on this list and approximately 1,100 more people are added each month. Many of them assume they are registered voters and are shocked when they show up at the polls and find they can't vote. They are allowed to cast a provisional ballot but if they can't provide the missing information their vote will not be counted.

The League of Women Voters of Kansas has made reducing the suspense list a priority. All nine of the Kansas leagues routinely attempt to contact people on their county's list to help them complete their registrations, but we are running out of time.

The Kansas Secretary of State has a pending regulation which will require county election officials to discard incomplete voter registrations if not completed within 90 days. A public hearing on this regulation was held on September 2, 2015. Marge Ahrens, Co-President of the Kansas League of Women Voters testified against the regulation. (See page 3 for a link to her testimony). The regulation is still pending but it could become final at anytime.

As of the end of August, 1,408 residents of Douglas County were on the voter suspense list. Our volunteers have been making phone calls and even personal visits to try to contact these individuals. Unfortunately, the list has missing information, making it difficult and time consuming to locate people. In a final effort to notify people that their voter registrations are incomplete, we have put their names on our website. We hope that everyone in Douglas County will review the list, first to make sure they aren't on it and then to look for the names of friends and acquaintances. Instructions on what to do if your name is on the list is also on our website. At the very least we hope to let people know they are not registered to vote so they can re-register before the next election.

Continued...

The public hearing on K.A.R. 7-25-15 was held on September 2, 2015.

State Co-President Marge Ahrens testified on behalf of LWVK.

To read her testimony click here:

[http://lwvk.org/leaguedocus/SOS rules and regs CK.doc](http://lwvk.org/leaguedocus/SOS_rules_and_regs_CK.doc)

I want to thank all of our volunteers who have worked on this project for their dedication and hard work, in particular Cille King, who stepped down from her role as LWVL-DC League President for the last two years to become our Vice President, while also tackling the job of Voter Services for our League. Cille is also on the board of the League of Women Voters of Kansas. Another one of our local board members, Carol Klinknett, has been working on this project since the beginning and has done a wonderful job of recruiting and managing volunteers. Despite the list on our website we are still trying to personally contact these people. **If you would like to help, please call Carol at 842-7081.**

The suspense list is available on our website: <http://www.lawrenceleague.com/>

With our community's help we hope to be able to eliminate the Douglas County "suspense" list before the new regulation kicks in.

- Debra Duncan

**DON'T MISS OUR SEPTEMBER HOT TOPIC!**

7 pm - September 24, 2015

guest speaker:

*Sheila Kostas,  
Vice President of Public Affairs  
Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri  
Carnegie Building, 200 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Lawrence*

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**Highlights of the July Board Meeting**

July 16, 2015, Lawrence Public Library

Present: Debra Duncan (President), Cille King (Vice-President), Marjorie Cole (Treasurer), Janice Friedman, Midge Grinstead, Carol Klinknett, Marlene Merrill, Marlaine Stoor, Austin Turney  
Absent: Margaret Arnold, Marci Francisco.

Scheduling and plans for upcoming events were discussed, including voter registration at the Sidewalk Sale July 16, a board retreat August 9, the fund-raising garage sale August 13-14, and voter registration after the Naturalization ceremony September 4. Other voter registration opportunities were announced: National Voter Registration Day, Sept. 22, when activities might include KU students, and another Naturalization Ceremony at Ft. Scott, Sept. 25. Possible future topics for brown bag meetings were discussed.

Marci Francisco led a discussion on Horizon 2020. (She followed up on this discussion by developing a review on Horizon 2020 positions representing the League's views which she presented later to the City Commission. ) Treasurer's report: Total income for June was \$594.94. Expenses were \$541.21. Current Balances as of June 30, 2015 were Checking Account \$7,290.79, Money Market \$2,104.63, Stucky Account \$4,630.40, Judiciary Account \$373.63, and Education Fund, \$283.38.

– Marjorie Cole



On November 1, 1872, Susan B. Anthony, and several other women, registered to vote in New York, quoting the Fourteenth Amendment's citizenship provision and the article from the New York Constitution pertaining to voting, which contained no sex qualification. Susan B. voted on November 5, 1872 and her vote was accepted. But a local poll watcher filed a complaint and she was arrested on November 18th.

Here is a link to the story about her trial:

<http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/anthony/sbaaccount.html>

**PROTECT THE VOTE SYMPOSIUM  
OCTOBER 8, 2015  
TICKETS ARE FREE BUT YOU MUST RSVP**

**Panel One: Historical Issues**

**THU OCTOBER 8, 1:00 - 2: 30 P.M.**

Hall Center Conference Hall

**Pippa Holloway**, Middle Tennessee State University

**J. Morgan Kousser**, California Institute of Technology

**Michael Clemons**, Old Dominion University

**Panel Two: Politics and Current Legal Cases**

**THU OCTOBER 8, 3:00 - 4:30 P.M.**

Hall Center Conference Hall

**Dan Smith**, University of Florida **Matt Barreto**, University of

California Los Angeles

**Lonna Atkeson**, University of New Mexico

**Keynote Event**

**THU OCTOBER 8, 5:30 PM** The Commons, Spooner Hall

**Stephen McAllister**, E.S. & Tom W. Hampton Distinguished Professor of Law, will interview **Kris Kobach**, Kansas Secretary of State, about protecting the vote.

**FOR RESERVATIONS:**

The panel discussions during the day and the evening Keynote Discussion are two separate events. To attend both you must RSVP for each one.

**Daytime events** - Your RSVP entitles you to watch both panel discussions taking place at the Hall Center for Humanities. RSVP Link for daytime events:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ebgz0t5gc57e25b3&oseq=&c=&ch=>

**Evening Keynote Discussion** - This event will be at the Commons, Spooner Hall.

RSVP Link for evening event:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/protecting-the-vote-dialogues-on-citizenship-elections-and-the-franchise-tickets->



### Lawrence Pedestrian Commission

The Coalition met on September 9. Erin Paden, the group's facilitator, presided. the intersection with Harvard Road. The Coalition will start an e-mail campaign in favor.

There was discussion about the City's Pedestrian-Bicycle Issues Task Force, on which several Coalition members serve. It wants to expand sidewalk coverage in Lawrence, which could cost many millions of dollars. How to finance this? Perhaps through a sales tax or property tax. It was noted that a task force is a temporary body; it would be desirable to have a permanent advisory board concerned with pedestrians.

There was support for the proposal to reconstruct part of Kasold Drive, which is being considered by the City. It would be reduced from four to two lanes between 8th and 14th Streets, and a roundabout would be installed at

Mike Kelly presented a report on school zones, which he and Carol Bowen prepared. At present Lawrence has no school zones. Best practices were described in Olathe, Topeka, and Manhattan. This report will be publicized. Copies will be sent to members of the City Commission and School Board.

The Coalition's next meeting will be on October 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Carnegie Building on Vermont Street.

- Alan Black

### Voter Education Coalition Report City Commission Candidates

The Voter Education Coalition (VEC) met on Friday, September 11, to discuss the process to fill the vacant city commission seat and the VEC's part in the public forum. Co-presidents Patrick Wilbur and Scott Criqui adeptly lead the group in the "what ifs". The city has received 14 applications

**Thurs. Sep. 17.** The city commission appointed advisory committee will choose 12 or fewer semi-finalists at a public meeting.

- **Thurs. Sep 24.** The 12 or fewer applicants will participate in a public forum in the city commission chambers. If there are more than 9 semi-finalists, there will be two 90 minute forums, the first starting at 6:30 pm. The second will start at 8 pm. The applicants will be asked questions from the VEC, the public and from the advisory committee.
  - The advisory committee will meet to select 6 applicants to forward to the city commission.
- **Tue, Sep 29.** The City Commission accepts list from the Advisory Committee.
- **Thurs. Oct 1.** City Commission interview applicants.
- **Tue. Oct 6.** City Commission elects the new commissioner by a majority vote.
  - The person selected is sworn into office and seated on the City Commission.

- Cille King

## **LEAGUE MEMBERS REGISTERED 46 NEW CITIZENS TO VOTE!**

On September 4th ten League volunteers registered 46 new US citizens to vote after their Naturalization Ceremony at the Dole Institute of Politics. The new citizens are residents of seven Northeast Kansas counties: Johnson, Douglas, Shawnee, Wyandotte, Geary, Riley and Lyon. Most of the new voters were from Johnson (19) and Douglas (10) counties.

League volunteers participating in this exciting annual event were Cille King, Marjorie Cole, Marlaine Stoor, Carladyne Conyers, Janice Friedman, Marguerite Lohrenz, Rita Spradlin, Melissa Wick and Debra Duncan

## **HOW TO CHECK YOUR LEGISLATOR'S VOTING RECORD**

All state legislator's voting records for the last three years are on-line. Go to the Kansas Legislature's website, click on LEGISLATORS at the top of the page, then click on House Roster or Senate Roster. When the roster appears, click on a name and it will take you to that legislator's statehouse website. Near the top, it will list the legislator's district and party affiliation. Right below it are links for the district map, profile and voting record. Click on the highlighted year to pull up the voting record.

Link for 2013 & 2014 voting records:

[http://www.kslegislature.org/li\\_2014/b2013\\_14/chamber/house/roster/](http://www.kslegislature.org/li_2014/b2013_14/chamber/house/roster/)

Link for 2015 voting record:

[http://www.kslegislature.org/li\\_2014/b2013\\_14/chamber/senate/roster/](http://www.kslegislature.org/li_2014/b2013_14/chamber/senate/roster/)

## **WHERE TO FIND BILLS AND BILL SUMMARYS OF ALL LEGISLATION PASSED DURING THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

The Kansas Legislative Research Department does end of session reports on every bill passed during each legislative session.

Summary of Legislation 2015:

[http://www.kslegresearch.org/KLRD-web/Publications/SummaryofLegislation/2015\\_summary\\_of\\_legislation.pdf](http://www.kslegresearch.org/KLRD-web/Publications/SummaryofLegislation/2015_summary_of_legislation.pdf)

Legislative Highlights 2015:

<http://www.kslegresearch.org/KLRD-web/Publications/LegislativeHighlights/2015-legislative-highlights.pdf>

Fiscal Facts 2015:

[http://www.kslegresearch.org/KLRD-web/Publications/FiscalFacts/2015\\_fiscal\\_facts.pdf](http://www.kslegresearch.org/KLRD-web/Publications/FiscalFacts/2015_fiscal_facts.pdf)

## LAND USE COMMITTEE REPORT

The League's Land Use Committee met on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> to consider the Planning Commission's August agenda. The Committee voted to oppose and comment on the first three agenda items: No. 1, 2A and 2B, all which dealt with a request to amend Horizon 2020 and rezone the SE Corner of property bordering on the junction of the South Lawrence Trafficway and US-59 Highway.

The first item would amend Horizon 2020 to change the designation from Auto-Related Commercial to Regional Commercial, and to revise the future land use designations from medium-density residential, traditional neighborhood design, open space, and auto-related commercial uses to commercial use at the southeast corner of the intersection of South Lawrence Trafficway and US-59.

Items 2A and 2B would rezone approximately 63.89 acres from a Single-Dwelling Residential District to a Regional Commercial District, and another 2.61 acres from residential to open space. The acres are located at the southeast corner of the South Lawrence Trafficway and US-59.

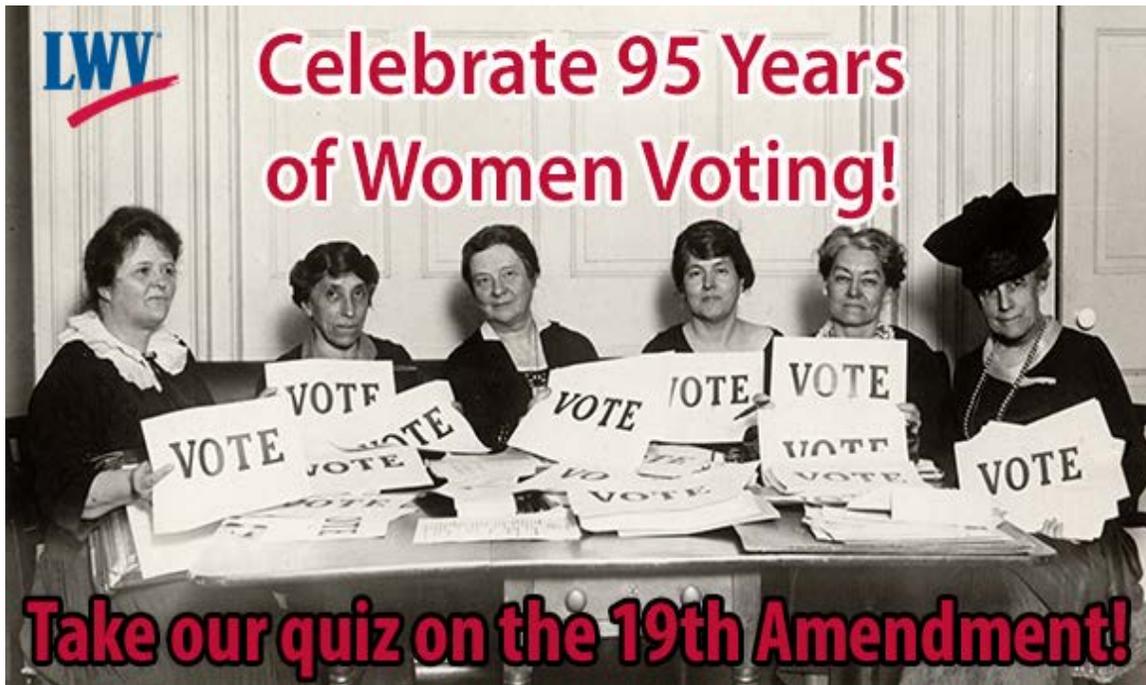
Our committee's letter in opposition to these amendments primarily focused on Item No. 1, the Comprehensive Plan (Horizon 2020) amendment. The Horizon 2020 steering Committee has been reviewing the Plan and holding community meetings since February 2014. The steering Committee was

meeting on August 31, 2015 (7 days after the Planning Commission meeting) to consider recommending that the Planning Commission, City Commission and County Commission accept their Issue Action Report. The League argued it would be irresponsible for the Planning Commission to acquiesce to a rezoning request until it has had the opportunity to accept and review the Steering Committee's Report.

Our letter also asked the Commission to deny both rezoning requests, pointing out that a quick perusal of two commercial realty websites identified 41 retail properties for lease in the city of Lawrence, including eight located in the downtown area. While several of those are small, one is 30,000 square feet and another 20,226 square feet. The vacant Discovery Furniture/Roommakers building on Iowa Street is 47,979 square feet and the Mercato, a new development site adjacent to Rock Chalk Park has 600,000 square feet of vacant retail space.

The Commission spent slightly over 2.5 hours on these three items. One particular area of concern was whether highway 10 (SLT) was intended to be the south boundary of the city. All three agenda items passed.

-Debra Duncan



Click here:

[http://participate.lwv.org/p/salsa/web/questionnaire/public/?questionnaire\\_KEY=825](http://participate.lwv.org/p/salsa/web/questionnaire/public/?questionnaire_KEY=825)

### “First ladies of Kansas” quiz – mix and match answers

1. first female mayor in the United States (1887) - **G. Susanna Madora Salter**
2. first elected female city Marshall in Kansas (1926) - **H. Mable Chase**
3. first American woman to earn a doctors degree in dental surgery (1866) - **F. Lucy Hobbs Taylor**
4. first woman to serve as treasurer of the United States (1949) - **E. Georgia Neese Clark Gray**
5. first female war correspondent accredited by US Government (1917) - **D. Peggy Hull Deuell**
6. first woman appointed as a Regent at KU (1881) - **C. Cora Downs**
7. first woman to fly across the Atlantic (1928) - **A. Amelia Earhart**
8. first woman to graduate KU law (1891) - **B. Ella Weiss Brown**
9. first native American woman admitted to the bar (1910) - **J. Lyda Burton\***
10. first female elected to the Kansas Legislature (1918) - **I. Minnie Grinstead**



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®**  
OF LAWRENCE / DOUGLAS COUNTY

**Make a Difference – Join/Support the League!**

**Complete form; enclose check made out to LWV L-DC, and mail to the address listed below.**  
(Membership is open to anyone who will be eligible to vote in the next November election.  
New or renewed memberships received now will expire March 31, 2016)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing member \_\_\_\_\_ New Member. \_\_\_\_\_ I heard about the League via (Facebook, Web

Site, Friend, Other): \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested voluntary membership assessment: \*

Approximate Household Income	Individual membership	Household membership
Student**	_____ \$17	_____ \$29
Under \$25,000	_____ \$20	_____ \$35
\$25,000 to \$50,000	_____ \$35	_____ \$55
Over \$50,000	_____ \$55	_____ \$85
Sustaining member	_____ \$100	_____ \$150
Life member (of 50 years)	_____ \$0	

\* Our membership assessment supports the National and State Leagues at \$49/member (\$31 National and \$18 State).

\*\* High school or postsecondary student enrolled at least part time in an accredited institution.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not a member, but would like to support the League with my contribution as indicated below.

I have enclosed a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the League General Fund.

I have enclosed a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the League Education Fund\*\*\*

\*\*\* This contribution is tax-deductible. Write check to "LWV Education Fund."

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

As a League member or supporter, I would like to help support League activities by participating as follows:

**General Membership Meetings:**

- Set up and/or tear down
- Hospitality (provide coffee/tea/dessert)
- Taking notes/writing up report of meeting

**Membership:**

- Recruitment
- Mentor/follow-up with new members
- Provide a ride to a fellow member
- Phone members without internet access about special updates

**Voter Services:**

- Register voters
- Help with voter education

**Promotion of League to our Community:**

- Public speaking
- Represent League at community events
- Observer corps (attend/report on government meetings)
- Help with research for League studies on issues
- Serve on the Board of Directors

**I have the following skills:**

- Editing articles/reports
- Database management
- Microsoft Word / Excel / QuickBooks
- Website/Social Media design/management

**My interests include:**



League of Women Voters  
Lawrence–Douglas County  
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Lawrence KS 66044-1072

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