



The VOTER

Bulletin of the League of Women Voters of Lawrence-Douglas County, KS
 PO Box 1072 • Lawrence KS 66044-1072

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influencing public policy through education and advocacy.

Co-Presidents:
 Membership:
 Voter Editor:
 Local League
 State League:
 National League

Marlene Merrill & Ann Carlin Ozegovic
 Margaret Arnold
 Ruth Lichtwardt
 www.lawrenceleague.com
 www.lwvk.org
 www.lwv.org

president @ lawrenceLeague.com
 membership @ lawrenceLeague.com
 votereditor @ lawrenceLeague.com
 www.facebook.com/lwvldc
 lwv.kansas @ gmail.com

www.twitter.com/lwvldc
 785-234-5152
 202-429-1965

League Calendar

Thursday, November 2nd	8:00 am	Naturalization Ceremony. <i>Lied Center, 1600 Stewart Drive.</i> Contact Melissa Wick to volunteer, wickma @ aol.com
Thursday, November 2nd	7:00 pm	Eudora Forum for School Board Candidates. <i>Eudora City Hall, 4 E. 7th St., Eudora</i>
Saturday, November 4th	2:00 pm	We the People Tour Event. <i>Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St.</i>
Tuesday, November 7th	7:00 am - 7:00 pm	Election Day - <u>Go Vote!</u> A League goal is to increase voter participation, so call and bring a friend with you to vote.
Tuesday, November 14th	7:00 - 8:45 pm	LWVL-DC Board Meeting. <i>Lawrence Public Library, Room A, 707 Vermont St.</i> All League members are invited to attend.
Thursday, November 16th	11:30 am - 1:00 pm	Hot Topic: Nursing Home Issues, Overmedication & Related Issues for Seniors. <i>Watkins Museum, 1047 Massachusetts St.</i> Gathering at 11:30, program at noon.
Saturday, November 18	TBA	TENTATIVE: Democratic Coffee for Women Legislators
Monday, December 4th	7:00 pm	League Christmas Party. <i>Conway's Pub, 3115 W 6th St. Ste D.</i> Dinner on your own at 6:30, party starts at 7 pm.
Tuesday, December 12th	7:00 - 8:45 pm	LWVL-DC Board Meeting. <i>Lawrence Public Library, Room A, 707 Vermont St.</i> All League members are invited to attend.
Saturday, December 16th	9:30 - 11:30 am	Coffee & Conversation. <i>Z's Divine Espresso, 2351 West 31st St.</i> Drop in any time. See article on page 2 for more info.
Tuesday, January 9th	7:00 - 8:45 pm	LWVL-DC Board Meeting. <i>Lawrence Public Library, Room A, 707 Vermont St.</i> All League members are invited to attend.
Thursday, January 18th	TBA	League Program Review. <i>Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St.</i>
Saturday, January 20th	TBA	Meet the Legislators Reception. <i>Carnegie Building, 200 W. 9th St.</i>

Co-President's Message

It is time that the public hears from us; we are serious about increasing participation in elections. Voter registration has been a strong activity as it should be. Our League will continue to provide voter registration events and continue to expand options by going to Haskell, our high schools, and the library. Registering voters is the first step, but I do believe it is important to expand our work. I am urging each League member to call a neighbor or friend and take them to the polls with you on November 7th or if you vote early take them with you to the Courthouse for early voting. This seems like a small step but it could yield large rewards – stronger involvement in citizenship.



For the November election we will be voting for three city commissions and three school board members. The voter's guide from the newspaper has been posted on our web site. The November election is also important because of the sales tax issues. The League sponsored an October Hot Topic on these issues. The Transportation study committee also developed a very complete brochure on the three sales tax questions. A video of the meeting is on UTube and the brochure can be found on our web site.

At the People Vote kickoff it was reinforced that during the past six years, Kansas has seen constant attacks on an essential right in our democracy, the right to vote. Citizen participation is the cornerstone to a healthy democracy. Some ideas for change that were shared were: Expand Early voting, Election-Day Registration, and repeal Kobach's SAFE act requirements. Promote Kansas withdrawing from the Crosscheck system which identifies 250 false positives to one voter who has incorrectly registered. All those ideas will require a Kansas Legislature that will be receptive to new ideas. There are also other ways you can take action. Write or call your legislator and let them know you support reforms that will increase citizen participation in elections. Attend one of the upcoming campaign trainings to learn the best practices used by activists to advocate for increased civic participation. The one in our area will be November 4 at 2 PM at the Lawrence Public Library.

At the state's League Day, Cille shared the national agenda – the mission statement is Making Democracy Work. Looking at 2016 to 2020 goals the mission is driven by three areas of work: Impact, relevance, and visibility. Simply stated the League wants to have an impact on the individual, community, and systemic level by increasing and expanding revenue sources. The League will develop new engagement model driven by our membership so we can focus and prioritize activities and investments to concentrate our efforts. Finally the League will expand our visibility on a national scale so to align our organizational culture and structure to enable success.

- Marlene Merrill, Co-President

Welcome, New Members!

Six new League members joined in October:

**Diana Bunin, Tracey Casey, Deborah Krauth,
Kristin Salmans, Connie Stoker,
and Lucca Wang**

Please welcome them when you see them at our next events!

Next Coffee & Conversation



It's not too early to mark your calendar for the next Coffee & Conversation on December 16th from 9:30am to 11:30am. Z's Divine Espresso at 2351 West 31st Street. Drop in anytime, join us to discuss upcoming League events, hear about committee needs, and meet fellow Leaguers. No RSVP necessary but contact Melissa Wick at 785-550-6160 or via email at wickma@aol.com if you have any questions.

- Melissa Wick

Report on October Hot Topic: Tax Ballot Issues

Signs are popping up all over Lawrence in the wake of the coming election November 7, including "YOUR VOTE MATTERS" signs sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

In addition to the election of city commissioners and school board members, we will be voting on important tax renewal proposals. To get a better idea on the background of these proposals, the League sponsored an evening Hot Topic October 18 at the Plymouth Congregational Church.

Teresa Malarky, a newly elected LWV board member, moderated the forum, assisted by Mari Francisco. Six community members and city officials spoke on the three sales tax renewal proposals.

The taxes, which were passed in 2008, were set to expire in 2018. The vote on November 7 will, if passed, extend the same amounts for another 10 years. The ballot measures, which will be voted on separately, will be 0.2% for public transportation, 0.3% for infrastructure & equipment, and 0.05% for affordable housing.

Speaking from the City of Lawrence staff were Porter Arneill, Interim Communications Manager; and Chuck Soules, Director of Public Works, who made it clear they were "here to share information, not to advocate." Other panelists were Phyllis Farrar, Friends of Lawrence Transit; Sara Taliaferro, Justice Matters; and Patrick Wilbur and Hayden Maples, Lawrence Sunset Alliance.



Farrar spoke in glowing terms about the transit system, calling them "good stewards of the tax funds" and reminding everyone if you "ride a bus you'll find you're never alone." "We have good collaboration with KU with more students now able to live throughout the city using some 12 different routes," she added. The Nite Line, for second and third shift workers, numbered 18,000 trips per year. Farrar said she was very concerned if the ballot measure does not pass. She shared the fact that 54% of residents do not have reliable transportation, the top barrier to employment. Soules questioned whether the KU students should be counted as they use their ID to board buses, but Farrar said each student pays a \$90 fee each semester for transportation. "Federal funding depends on number of riders so we need those KU student numbers."

A representative of the Americans with Disabilities urged the city to have Sunday bus service. Several audience members concurred.

"Often we don't have a sufficient discussion on ballot issues," Pat Wilbur of the Lawrence Sunset Alliance said. "We have a very progressive town, but not a progressive tax structure." Citing increased state income taxes, property taxes and utility rates, Wilbur urged a "no" vote on all three of the ballot questions. If you figure in and add these special sales taxes, which are regressive, Lawrence has a total sales tax rate of 9.05%. That is in the 90th percentile in the state, he added.

Regarding Question 2 on Infrastructure & Equipment, Soules spoke on the importance of maintenance. "Spending \$1 now saves \$8 of expense down the road." The \$6.3 million, annually, would be spent on residential streets, curb and cutter repair, and sidewalk needs including ADA ramps. "But then we have the unexpected good news happen, like the recent \$2 million we just received from KDOT for a tunnel under Iowa at 19th.

Sara Taliaferro spoke on behalf of Justice Matters, which represents 21 faith-based organizations.

Affordable housing is a top priority for the group, who have conducted between 80-100 different house meetings on the issue. Among the many concerns they list are 1. 40% of households earn \$35,000 or less per year. 2. The average home sells for \$225,000. 3. One in five residents pays more than half their income for housing. 4. Lawrence has second-worst housing crisis in Kansas.

Federal funds have been cut 36% since 2012. Some 550 communities have trust funds to bridge the gap, Taliaferro said. "Last year Family Promise had 491 requests and were able to serve only 20. Justice Matters advocates for the construction of 3 permanently affordable homes in East Lawrence that demonstrate how local affordable housing trust funds work. If this ballot question 3 passes, it will dedicate an estimated \$1,000,000 per year to create affordable housing.

Here is a link to view the Hot Topic meeting:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rsmMPcY7JA>

To view the LWV brochure:
<http://lawrenceleague.com/files/2017SalesTaxBrochure.pdf>

- Ann Carlin Ozegovic

October Voter Services Report

We held 11 voter registration events from September 30 through October 17, the final day to register for this November 7, 2017 election. We registered voters at a variety of locations: Lawrence Farmer's Market, Eudora High School, Kennedy Walk Your Kids To School Day, Brandon Woods, Let People Vote campaign kickoff, Lawrence Public Library, The Windsor and the Voter Suppression Forum at KU. The following individuals tabled during these drives: Margaret Arnold, Ann Ozegovic, Marjorie Cole, Cille King, Tayler Bertelsen, Sonja Czarnecki, Marlaine Stoor, Becky Plate, Deb Duncan, Rachael Donahue, Christian Sellier, Teresa Malarky, Marlene Merrill, Tamara Cash, Di Bunin, Janice Friedman and Melissa Wick.

In total we registered 129 new voters, helped 24 registered voters change their address, handled 1 name change, provided



6 requests for advance ballots, had one voter change his party affiliation and attracted 4 new members.

Our last scheduled voter registration is at a Naturalization Ceremony on November 2, 2017 at the Lied Center. 475 applicants are expected to become citizens that day.

- Melissa Wick, Voter Services Chair

Highlights of the September LWVL-DC Board Meeting

Present: Marlene Merrill (Co-President), Ann Carlin Oze-govic (Co-President), Marjorie Cole (Treasurer), Sharon Brown (Secretary), Margaret Arnold, Tamara Cash, Janice Friedman, Kim Gibson, Cille King, Thea Perry, Melissa Wick

Absent: Debra Duncan, Anne Fluker, marci francisco
Guests: Nicole White, Taylor Bertelsman, Jamie Benvenuti

Treasurer Report: Marjorie reported income of \$1,666.00 for August 2017 (dues \$645, contributions \$21, transfer from Stucky Account to cover Stucky award paid in July) and expenses of \$153.60 (administration 123.94, VOTER printing \$29.66) Net Inflow/Outflow was \$ 1,512.40. In-kind contributions: mailing labels for VOTER \$14.71. Current balances as of August 31 were checking account \$13,492.29, money market account \$2,106.92, Stucky Account \$1,633.81, Education Fund \$430.39.

My League Online (MyLO) Webinar Report: Kim presented the following:

Introduction

We have discussed throughout the past year the possibility of updating our web presence. Our current website's lack of dynamic content and its lack of online payment services are two main reasons that make an upgrade effort attractive. Our current website is administered by the League of Women Voters of California using their web product, EasyWeb. They are launching a new, more full-featured version called My League Online, or MyLO (pronounced like "Milo").

I attended a webinar on August 23, 2017 to view the demonstration of MyLO. This report will summarize the

new features of the new web platform and identify the next steps, if we decide to move forward with using MyLO for our web remodel.

Differences and New Features

Modern technology

Content classified into types rather than pages: articles, events, images, etc. This also means when an article is updated in one location, each instance on the site is simultaneously updated.

Content more easily shareable to social media by administrators and users

Mobile ready, search engine optimized

Shared media library: We can use images created by other leagues with an image library that is much more modern and easy-to-use.

Individual user accounts, rather than a single shared administrator account

Draft content and scheduled publishing

Member-only area for local League member access to internal information like directories

Donate button and online payment processing built-in
WYSIWYG post editing

More dynamic content on homepage like a newsfeed that can be updated more frequently.

Next Steps

1) If we want to explore this option further, I would propose that we get a quote and transition plan from LWV-California. I would like them to agree that we will work on the transition during the last part of this year's subscription with a switchover in February or March when our regular subscription would come due.

2) List prices in service agreement <https://lwvc.org/MyLOServiceAgreement>

\$400/year service subscription

\$200 setup fee waived for League EasyWeb subscribers

\$200 content migration fee for 15 pages from EasyWeb site to MyLO (we don't have more than 15 pages)

After discussion Janice moved and Marjorie seconded that we adopt Kim's proposal. Motion carried.

- Sharon Brown, Secretary





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LAWRENCE / DOUGLAS COUNTY

Make a Difference – Join/Support the League!

Return this form with a check made out to LWV L/DC, and mail to LWV L/DC, PO Box 1072, Lawrence, KS 66044.

*(Membership is open to any man or woman who is sixteen years of age or older.
New or renewed memberships received now will expire March 31, 2019.)*

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 \$50/member (\$32 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:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>General Membership Meetings:</p> <p>___ Set up and/or tear down</p> <p>___ Hospitality (provide coffee/tea/dessert)</p> <p>___ Taking notes/writing up report of meeting</p> <p>Membership:</p> <p>___ Recruitment</p> <p>___ Mentor/follow-up with new members</p> <p>___ Provide a ride to a fellow member</p> <p>___ Phone members without internet access about special updates</p> <p>Voter Services:</p> <p>___ Register voters</p> <p>___ Help with voter education</p> | <p>Promotion of League to our Community:</p> <p>___ Public speaking</p> <p>___ Represent League at community events</p> <p>___ Observer corps (attend/report on government meetings)</p> <p>___ Help with research for League studies on issues</p> <p>___ Serve on the Board of Directors</p> <p>I have the following skills:</p> <p>___ Editing articles/reports</p> <p>___ Database management</p> <p>___ Microsoft Word / Excel / Quickbooks</p> <p>___ Website/Social Media design/management</p> <p>My interests include:</p> <p>_____</p> |
|---|--|

PO BOX 1072 • LAWRENCE KS 66044-1072

President@lawrenceleague.com • www.lawrenceleague.com
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