



# 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

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## League Calendar

Sunday, May 6th	10 am - 5 pm	<b>Art in the Park Voter Registration.</b> Please contact Melissa at wickma@aol.com to volunteer.
Tuesday, May 8th	7:00 - 8:45 pm	<b>LWVL-DC Board Meeting.</b> <i>Lawrence Public Library, Room A, 707 Vermont St.</i> All League members are invited to attend.
Thursday, May 17th	8:00 am - Noon	<b>Naturalization Ceremony.</b> <i>Lied Center, 1600 Stewart Drive, KU West Campus.</i> Please contact Melissa at wickma@aol.com to volunteer.
Thursday, May 17th	7 pm - 8:30 pm	<b>Hot Topic: Affordable Housing: Policies, Guidelines and Challenges.</b> <i>Central United Methodist Church, 1501 Massachusetts Street in Lawrence.</i>
Tuesday, June 12th	7:00 - 8:45 pm	<b>LWVL-DC Board Meeting.</b> <i>Location TBA.</i> All League members are invited to attend.
Thursday, June 21st	11:30 am - 1:30 pm	<b>Hot Topic: Willow Center for Domestic Violence.</b> <i>Lawrence Public Library, Room A, 707 Vermont St.</i>

## Co-Presidents Message

April was a busy League month, and the last weekend saw both the State Council in Great Bend and our Annual Meeting, held at Maceli's.



Kansas League Co-President Cille King, LWVL-DC Co-Presidents Anne Fluker and Kristin Salmans, and Annual Meeting speaker Dr. Diana Carlin



The Annual Meeting featured a fascinating presentation by Dr. Diana Carlin on Kansas' role in the history of women's suffrage. The League's accomplishments in the past year were recognized, the budget approved, and new officers elected. Among those were Kristin Salmans and myself, who count ourselves honored to represent our League as your new co-presidents in the coming year.

We will be meeting this week with outgoing co-presidents Ann Carlin Ozegovic and Marlene Merrill to learn more about planning and organization and our duties to the board and to the League as a whole. We look forward to your advice and support as we learn on the job!  
- Anne Fluker, & Kristin Salmans, Co-Presidents

## Outgoing Co-President's Report: Marlene Merrill & Ann Carlin Ozešovic

With the Annual Meeting the last Sunday in April, this is the last report to be written by us for the Voter.

It is the time to say thank you to all of you that helped Ann and I guide the League this year. It has been a tremendous honor to have served as President. The Executive committee of Marjorie Cole as Treasurer and Sharon Brown as Secretary have worked hard to keep our records timely and accurate. A special thanks to Ruth Lichtwardt who published the Voter this year; it was always a pleasure to see the artwork and read the contents. And thanks to everyone who wrote articles about Hot Topics, Voter registration efforts, and observer reports of commissions attended. Special thanks for the exceptional advice this year from Deb Duncan who was past president and Cille King, State President. Tamara Cash, Margaret Arnold and Thea Perry helped with many of our Hot Topics this year. The League presence on the Web and Facebook was facilitated by Kim Gibson. Kim also developed for us Social Media Guidelines and has guided the development of the new web page. The expansion of the Fluker Award to statewide and the selection of Laura Bauer as awardee was made possible due to the work of Anne Fluker and Janice Friedman. Melissa Wick did an exceptional job as Voter Services chair; I don't think we have had a year where so many citizens were registered to vote. Thanks to Carol Klinknett and others who helped with the Candidate picnic last September. Also Thank You to anyone I have forgotten to mention by name.

The web presence has been greatly enhanced. Please check it out. We have a new provider and the old pages have gradually been taken down and updated or replaced. With the new version it will be easier for the League to make changes and keep things current. A new feature will be PayPal; it will be easier to pay dues or make a donation.

## Welcome, New Members!

Our newest members are **Mary Jane Clement, Charley Crabtree, Lori Johns, and Pamela McKean**. Please welcome them into the League! Invite them to go with you to any of our upcoming events.

## Evening Hot Topic: Affordable Housing May 17th

The Lawrence League of Women Voters will hold its May 2018 Hot Topic presentation on Thursday evening May 17th. While the Hot Topic series is usually held during the noon hour, the May 17th discussion will be held from 7pm to 8:30pm at Central United Methodist Church, 1501 Massachusetts Street in Lawrence.

The program is entitled "Affordable Housing: Policies, Guidelines and Challenges".

Several program panelists who specialize in affordable housing will update the audience on the current state of affordable housing in Lawrence, as well as discussing some of the challenges associated with planning, building and maintaining affordable housing stock in Lawrence. Time will be allowed for questions from the audience at the end of the panel discussion.

Please join us on the evening of May 17th for what should be an informative and lively discussion.



## Proposition 1

Ballots approving or disapproving the jail/health center proposition will still be accepted until noon on May 15 at the Douglas County Courthouse. If I had to guess I'd say about 60% of League members voted within the first few days of receiving the mail-in ballot. And if the remaining 40% are still confused on how to vote, I wouldn't blame them. I can honestly say I've changed my mind several times. One thing you cannot say is "there has not been enough information on the issue."

Here are just a few of the headlines coming to our house via Lawrence Journal World or mailed brochures just within the last month:

## Forum Report: Restorative Practices



LWVL-DC sponsored this well-attended Forum on Restorative Practices.

More than 80 people attended the April 14 forum at the Bert Nash Community Health Center. Discussing “Restorative Practices: What’s Next After the Vote?” were Chief District Court Judge Peggy Kittel, Patrick Schmitz, Bert Nash CEO, Mike Brouwer, County Jail Re-Entry Coordinator, Lawrence Attorney Julia Butler, and Jose Cornejo, mental health facilitator for Lawrence School District. The forum was moderated by Dr. Clarence Lang, who serves as chair of the African and African-American studies department at KU and was recently named interim dean of KU’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Judge Kittel discussed how funding has dried up for restorative measures. There is an effort throughout the country, she said, to do away with monetary bonds as poor people cannot afford them. Kansas still requires them. In discussing the role of the court, she spoke about being fair and impartial. “We need to think what it would be like if the roles are reversed.”

Cornejo spoke about working with students and their families, along with social services and counselors. “Educating teachers on the importance of restorative practices—all these things take time.” He also discussed racism and how it plays differently, mentioning a two-day workshop called “Beyond our Whiteness.”

“It’s time to step up and take action” on the needs of the vulnerable people in our system Brouwer said. Lack of funding resulted in cancelling some programs, including Women’s Fresh Start. “With a population of 102,000, Lawrence has four Oxford Houses (for drug and alcohol rehab) compared to Hutchinson (55,000) which has 10,” he said.

“Campaign against jail expansion kicks off” (Justice Matters, Kansas Appleseed, Lawrence NAACP, Lawrence Sunset Alliance) (3-23)

“Chief Judge: Changes to courts won’t fix jail crowding” (3-23)

“New group (Citizens for a Better Douglas) supports tax for jail expansion, mental health” (3-23)

“Forum speakers look beyond jail expansion, crisis center” (4-15)

“Leaders: No legal finding requires jail to expand” (4-18)

“County: Justice Matters can’t force mental health vote” (4-21)

“Get ready: Sales tax referendum kicks off this week with Q & A” (4-22)

“Vote Yes” ad sponsored by Citizens for a Better Douglas County (4-22)

“Vote Yes on Proposition 1” (editorial 4-22)

“Leader explains county’s jail backup plan if sales tax fails” (4-23)

“Americans for Prosperity campaigns against county tax referendum” (4-24)

“Jail’s rising population defies national trends” (4-25)

“Consider before Voting...” Brennan Center for Justice ad sponsored by Justice Matters (4-26)

“Jail expansion would worsen a painful reality” (commentary 4-27)

“Fact Check: A look at what both sides aren’t saying about the heated jail referendum campaign” (5-1)

These sample headlines do not include the many excellent and thoughtful letters to the editor on both sides of the issue, nor does it count robo calls, discussions on radio, television and social media.

In addition to the onslaught of coverage, both by the media, and individual groups, several excellent public forums have been presented on the issue. Among the sponsors were Justice Matters, Douglas County, local NAACP, Douglas County Democrats, Bert Nash Mental Health Center, the local NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), and of course, the League of Women Voters. I understand the Nehemiah Action Assembly of Justice Matters attracted more than 1000 people to their program April 21 at the Lied Center.

There is certainly no lack of impassioned interest in this issue!

- Ann Carlin Ozegovic



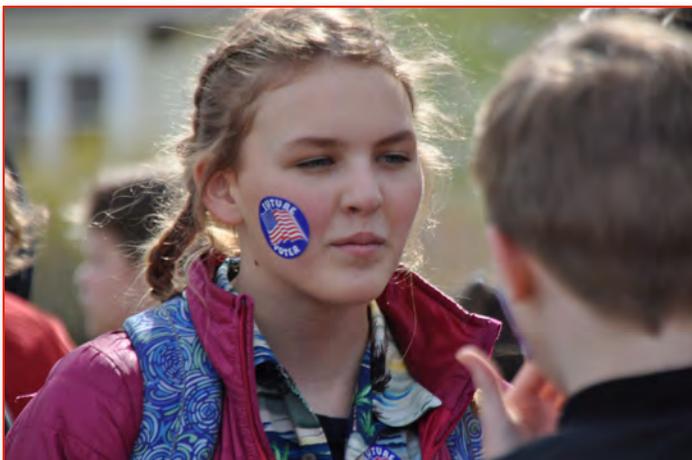
"Housing at the jail for women is grossly inadequate," Butler exclaimed. "They deserve to be in a safe environment." Both Judge Kittel and Butler addressed the need for affordable housing and day care. Butler gave the example of one of her clients who had a monthly income of \$900 and childcare expenses of \$768.

Schmitz worries that "we (at Bert Nash) risk losing the ground we achieved during David Johnson's administration but then the state started slashing funding for mental health. We are looking at a population of 150,000 in 20 years," he said. "There is money being spent to oppose this referendum that could be spent on addressing the improvements needed. Let's work together on this issue," Schmitz added.

"Social policy vs. criminal justice, it's a vexing thing with the ballot issue." Dr. Lang said. Judge Kittel added, "Don't read the blogs and comments. But I do, she said."

Organizers of the forum were Tamara Cash, Jamie Benvenutti, Marlene Merrill and Melissa Wick.

- Ann Carlin Ozegovic



## Voter Services Report

The month of April provided us with seven opportunities to register voters, in all we registered 96 new voters and changed addresses for 23 more.

Our most significant registrations took place in a voter registration drive at Lawrence High School and then on April 20 at South Park during the Walk Out. Many high school students are very motivated to become politically active in order to support candidates who will listen and act upon their school safety concerns. Cille King made a presentation at the Pioneer Ridge Independent Living Apartments about the League and we changed addresses for five voters. We conducted two drives at the Lawrence Public Library the weekend before and the final day to register in order to receive a ballot in the Jail/Mental Health Proposi-

tion. We also registered during a NAMI presentation and at the Earth Day Celebration.

Thanks again to all the volunteers who came out for these events!  
- Melissa A. Wick



## Observer Report City of Lawrence Public Incentive Review Committee (PIRC)

Monday, April 23rd 2018

Meeting place: City Commission Meeting Room, 1st Floor

NOTE: The Contents of This Document are not to be taken as a complete or accurate record of all proceedings

Meeting place: City Commission Meeting Room, 1st Floor, City Hall

### Agenda:

1. Approve minutes from the February 13, 2018 meeting
2. Review and recommend to the City Commission and County Commission on economic development outside agency funding requests for the 2019 budget.
  - a. Bioscience and Technology Business Center
  - b. Peaslee Technical Training Center
  - c. The Chamber/Economic Development Corp. and KU Small Business Development Center.
3. Consider and recommend on the Lawrence Humane Society request for IRB financing to obtain a sales tax exemption on construction materials for the new Humane Society facility at 1805 E. 19<sup>th</sup> Street.
4. Review 2017 Annual Report: Economic Development Support and Compliance and vote on recommendation for City Commission to accept.
5. General Public Comment on Items not for the Agenda.
6. Adjourn

### PIRC members \*Those attending

\*Aaron Cromwell, Sustainability Advisory Board Member

\*Diane Stoddard, Asst. City Manager

\*Jill Fincher, School Board Member

\*Ken Easthouse, At-Large Member CHAIR

Michelle Fales, Financial Analyst Representative VICE CHAIR

\*Rebekah Gaston

\*Erik Kirkendall

\*Brad Burnside, Economic Development Board Representative

\*Mike Gaughan, Douglas Co. Comm. Rep.

### Official Representatives/Presenters

#### City staff:

Britt Crum-Cano, Economic Development Analyst

Danielle Buschkoetter, City Manager Admin. Asst.

#### Bioscience and Technology Business Center

3-4 Executives

#### Peaslee Technical Training Center

Director

#### The Chamber/Economic Development and KU Small Business Development Center

Steve Kelly, Dir. of Economic Development, The Chamber

Larry McElwain, President, The Chamber

Others

#### Lawrence Humane Society

Director

#### Summary of Presentations and PIRC members votes

Bioscience and Technology Business Center (BTBC) PIRC members approved 6 for, 0 against, 1 abstain

1. BTBC is affiliated with KU
2. It develops infrastructure assets for new companies
3. It is one of the largest economic development companies in the Midwest
4. In the next 20-30 years, it plans to have 8-12 new buildings on its campus
5. It helps develop new companies and make them successful by providing rent subsidies, workforce development, and funds for equipment and furnishings.
6. It has assisted Foster Care Tech. in developing an algorithm for child foster care.
7. It provided a grant of \$100,000 to an Australian animal products company. Is this a grant or a loan to be forgiven? Is there a "claw back" provision if the company does not perform as anticipated?
8. BTBC encourages companies to "put down roots" in the community.

Peaslee Technical Training Center (PTTC) PIRC members approved 7 for, 0 against

1. The Kansas Board of Regents approved the Center as did the Kansas Apprenticeship Commission,
2. King & Rice Foundation provided a grant and a mortgage refinance agreement has been approved.
3. In 2018, PTTC became an OSHA training center.
4. The USD 501 welding program will be transferred to PTTC soon.

5. In 2019, PTTC requests \$100,000 from the City of Lawrence and \$395,000 from Douglas Co.
6. PTTC is the only certified voice writing program in Kansas. (Voice writers verbally record court proceedings and related activities.
7. PTTC will spend \$100,000 for capital improvements to establish a commercial driver training course. Currently, a new class starts every Monday, but PTTC has to send enrollees elsewhere for driving training.
8. PTTC is partners with the Boys and Girls Club and Hamm Construction.
9. PTTC is applying to become a United Way agency. There is a decline in outside funding so tuition and

outside contracts are to be funding sources. Other fund-raising is possible.

10. PTTC to focus on serving low-income families.

11. One PIRC member said local funding is necessary.

The Chamber (Lawrence Chamber of Commerce) PIRC members approved 6 for, 0 against, 1 abstain

1. Steve Kelly, Dir. of Economic Development presented

2. The strategic plan is to retain and expand businesses

- a. Work with existing small companies with banks as primary funding
- b. Need better information from companies
- c. Meet frequently with PTTC and support funding efforts
- d. Work for better relationship with KU
- e. Provide job shadowing for KU honor students
- f. Receive 50-60 rfp's from the Kansas Dept. of Commerce each year.
- g. There are 3 new buildings for companies in Venture Park
- h. The target industries (strategic) are small businesses
- i. Focus on facility and infrastructure development
- j. The Chamber has supported expanded Medicaid in Kansas
- k. Medical billing and administrative centers would be good for Lawrence.

Lawrence Humane Society (LHS) PIRC members approved 6 for, 0 against, 1 abstain

1. Seeks \$750,000 in Industrial Revenue Bonds for construction of a new facility
2. In the past, shelters such as LHS held animals for 3-5 days, but best practices require better treatment of animals.



3. LHS seeks exemption from sales taxes on materials for constructing the new facility.
4. Goal is to pay employees a living wage.

2017 Economic Development Report. PIRC members voted 7 for, 0 against, to send the report to the City Commission

1. Presented by Britt Crum-Cano, Economic Development Coordinator
2. More persons are commuting into Lawrence for work than commuting out.
3. City should grow the commercial base more than the residential base because residential development costs the City more.
4. Report will be sent to the City Commission for final approval.

- Dan Dannenberg



## Harper's Magazine Article

Pages 63-68 of the May 2018 Harper's Magazine has an article titled, Drinking Problems-A Kansas town confronts a tap-water crisis by Elizabeth Royte. She tells of the travails of Pretty Prairie, KS with its water supply being polluted above federal standards by nitrogen applied to surrounding farmlands. I commend this article to LWV members because it is an excellent supplement to the program on water issues in Kansas that the LWV presented a few weeks ago at the Baker Wetlands.

- Dan Dannenberg

## Highlights of the March Board Meeting

March 13, 2018

Present: Marlene Merrill (Co-President), Marjorie Cole (Treasurer), Sharon Brown (Secretary), Tamara Cash, Debra Duncan, Anne Fluker, Janice Friedman, Kim Gibson, Cille King, Melissa Wick Absent: Margaret Arnold, Ann Carlin Ozegovic, Thea Perry Guests: Lori Hutfles, Kristin Salmans

TREASURER: Marjorie reported income of \$50 for February (contribution) and expenses of \$213.39 (meals and hospitality \$92.13, banner \$91.96, Voter Service \$30). Net inflow/outflow was \$-163.39. Current balances as of February 28, 2018 were checking account \$11,339.14, money market account \$2,107.65, Stucky account \$1,634.37, Education Fund \$817.00.

Dashboard, 3/13/18

(Status Summary as of February 28, 2018)

	Year to Date	Annual Budget
General Fund Income	\$8,019.00	\$11,000.00

General Fund Expense	\$7,733.67	\$ 9,636.00
Net Revenue	\$ 285.23	\$ 1,634.00

The proposed budget for 2018-2019 will be prepared after March 31. We have three new members: Camille Healy, Laura Pfeifer and Lindsay Roester.

VOTER SERVICE: Melissa announced the following: Perry-Lecompton school officials have expressed interest in having us talk to school boards regarding voter registration events in the coming fall and spring. There will be an event scheduled at Bishop Seabury before the fall election.

OLD BUSINESS: Marlene will pick up the Stucky Scholarship applications from Lawrence High and Free State High and then choose a date for the committee to meet to review and select this year's winner.

NEW BUSINESS: Ranked choice voting was discussed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Ruth Lichtwardt has reminded Marlene that the Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority, which was established as the direct result of a 1967-68 League study which recommended the creation of a Lawrence housing authority, will have its 50th Anniversary celebration in July.

- Sharon Brown, Secretary

## In Memoriam

We sadly report the death of Margaret (Margie) McKinney on April 4, 2018. She was a former League president (1969-71) and a Life member, who maintained her relationship with us even after moving to North Carolina. Her daughter, Sue, writes that she remembers helping her mother stuff envelopes for the League: "This was a family affair and we all know how much she believed in the organization. She helped all of us kids have strong political beliefs - we are all voters!" Coincidentally, our current member, Mary Lou Wright, lives in the former McKinney Lawrence home and mails the Voter out each month in the same living room.

Magdalene (Maggie) Carttar died April 30, 2018 at the age of 95. She was especially interested in education and served the Lawrence community for years, working with Head Start as a volunteer, active in the Cordley PTA when her children were young, teaching sixth grade at Sunset Hill for seven years, and serving two terms on the Lawrence school board (1983-91).



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:\*

Table with 3 columns: Approximate Household Income, Individual membership, Household membership. Rows include Student\*\*, Under \$25,000, \$25,000 to \$50,000, Over \$50,000, Sustaining member, Life member (of 50 years).

\* 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:

- 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:

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# May 2018

Calendar .....	1
Co-Presidents' Message .....	1
Outgoing Co-Presidents' Message .....	2
Welcome New Members .....	2
Hot Topic: Affordable Housing .....	2
Proposition I .....	2
Restorative Practices Forum Report ...	3
Voter Service Report .....	4
Observer Report .....	4
Harper's Magazine Article .....	6
Highlights of the March Board Meeting	6
In Memorium .....	6

