



# 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.

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State League:	www.lwvk.org	lwv.kansas @ gmail.com	785-234-5152
National League	www.lwv.org		202-429-1965

## League Calendar

Tuesday, January 21st	Noon - 1:00 pm	<b>Hot Topic! Criminal Legal Reform, Public Defense, and the Death Penalty: It's All Basic Math.</b> <i>via Zoom.</i> See link on page 3, article on page 4.
Tuesday, January 21st	6:00 pm	<b>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee Meeting.</b> <i>via Zoom.</i> All interested League members are invited to attend. A link will be emailed before the meeting.
Tuesday, January 26th	7:00 pm	<b>Criminal Justice Position Concurrence meeting.</b> <i>via Zoom.</i> Presenter: Marlene Merrill. See President's Message - a link will be emailed.
Sunday, January 31st	3:00 pm	<b>Afternoon with the Legislators.</b> <i>via Zoom.</i> Don't miss this annual opportunity to chat with our local state legislators about what's happening in the Kansas Legislature! Link will be emailed.
Saturday, February 6th	9:00 am - 10:30 am	<b>LWV-Johnson County Panel on Gerrymandering.</b> <i>via Zoom.</i> See article on page 4.
Sunday, February 7th	3:00 pm	<b>Community Partners Meeting.</b> <i>via Zoom.</i> See article on page 4.
Tuesday, February 9th	2:00 pm	<b>LWV-L/DC Board Meeting.</b> <i>via Zoom.</i> All interested League members are invited to attend. Link will be emailed before the meeting.
Wednesday, February 10th	5:30 pm	<b>Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting.</b> <i>via Zoom.</i> See article on page 4.
Thursday, February 18th	6:00 pm	<b>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee Meeting.</b> <i>via Zoom.</i> All interested League members are invited to attend. Link will be emailed before the meeting.
Monday, March 1st		<b>Deadline to Submit Fluker Award Nominations.</b> See article on page 3.
Tuesday, March 9th	2:00 pm	<b>LWV-L/DC Board Meeting.</b> <i>via Zoom.</i> All interested League members are invited to attend. Link will be emailed before the meeting.



## President's Message

It has been a rough start to this new year. We have witnessed an attack on our Capitol and our democracy leading to the US House of Representatives impeachment of President Trump for the second time. The [League called for the removal of President Trump](#) for his role in the attack. This move is in line with 100 years of LWV defense of our democracy.

You can reach out to our U.S. Senators to encourage them to hold this president accountable through impeachment. Here is a link to [sign and share our action alert](#).

At the local level, we continue to build community partnerships and endeavor to work together to further civic engagement and education. The concurrence meeting to review the LWVK update to our Criminal Justice Reform Position is Tuesday, January 26 at 7pm. An extensive article which included the proposed changes was in the last Voter. All members are encouraged to attend. This is particularly important with current challenges and needed changes to the system. We will have a Community Partners Meeting on Sunday, Feb 7 at 3pm. Please plan to participate! These partnerships are essential to further reaching and empowering underrepresented people.

Events such as these, our educational Hot Topics, and keeping up with the Legislative updates from LWVK all strengthen our democracy. Although current events, the global pandemic, and economic concerns can be overwhelming, it is now more crucial than ever to stay involved and engaged. We need to take care of ourselves as well, taking breaks to recharge, but ultimately coming back and bringing our friends and family along.

Please keep safety in mind in the days ahead. And please, wear your mask!  
I am thankful for each of you and the opportunity to work together.

#MakingDemocracyWork

- Kristin

[kristinbrightstar@gmail.com](mailto:kristinbrightstar@gmail.com) 334-538-4410

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## WELCOME, NEW MEMBER!

**Sarah Kramer** is our newest member since the earlier January Voter. We look forward to seeing you at some of the Zoom events listed in our schedule, including the board meeting, for a taste of all the things we are doing!

- Marjorie Cole

# ZOOM LINKS FOR CALENDAR ITEMS

## Hot Topic! Criminal Legal Reform, Public Defense, and the Death Penalty: It's All Basic Math

To join Zoom meeting :

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84630531602?pwd=YWdpMnlWdHYzMFVIM3VNdWpDMzIxQT02>

Meeting ID: 846 3053 1602

Passcode: 900154

## LWV-LDC Board Meetings

To join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86368994704?pwd=YVczMEpYR2lWVK04lTXc5bCtzbWNzQT09>

Meeting ID: 863 6899 4704

Passcode: 472392

NOTE: This Zoom link and passcode is the same for every Board meeting.

## SAVE THE DATES!

LWV-L/DC Annual Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 19, at 7:00 pm.

The Fluker Award Presentation is scheduled for Saturday, May 1, at 10:30 a.m.

Zoom links will be announced before the meetings.

## LWV-L/DC INVITES NOMINATIONS FOR 2021 HELEN FLUKER OPEN & ACCESSIBLE GOVERNMENT AWARD

Each year since 1999, the League of Women Voters of Lawrence-Douglas County has recognized a Kansas citizen for contributions to transparency in government. The award is given in honor of the late Helen Fluker, a long-time League member who served twice as its president.

The League invites nominations of a person worthy of recognition for contributions to his or her community.

The nominee should be a Kansas resident over age 18. The activities for which he or she is nominated may be volunteer work or part of a regular job position. Some examples of accomplishments worthy of consideration include:

- Improving public access to local or state government processes
- Educating the public about an issue of importance
- Working for greater accountability from state and local representatives
- Legislating or promoting legislation to increase government transparency

If an organization is nominating, the nominee does not need to be a member. Prior years' nominees are eligible for resubmission.

A nomination form is also available at <http://bit.ly/FlukerLWV>. The deadline for nominations is Monday, March 1, 2021.

The award will be presented in Lawrence, Kansas on Saturday, May 1, 2021, via Zoom.



## MONTHLY GREEN CHALLENGE

Each month, we will challenge members to take one action toward living a "green," sustainable lifestyle and fighting climate change. This month's challenge: Eliminate Food Waste

Food waste in the US occurs mostly in stores and at home—either because it spoils on the store shelf or before we can eat it. According to an NRDC study, Americans throw away up to **40%** of the food they buy. Combat food waste by shopping for only what you need, eating leftovers, composting scraps, and donating excess to Just Food and other Lawrence organizations.

- Jeanne Klein

For the Climate Change Committee

# SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Here is something you might like to attend:

The purpose of the Sustainability Advisory Board is to advise the Governing Body of the City of Lawrence, Kansas, regarding issues affecting sustainability, environmental protection, waste reduction, recycling, energy conservation, and natural resource conservation environmental protection.

This group meets regularly on the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is February 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. It can be found in a live video stream on the City of Lawrence's YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/lawrenceksvideo>

For more Sustainability Advisory Board information: <https://lawrenceks.civicweb.net/portal/members.aspx?id=32>

<https://lawrenceks.civicweb.net/Portal/5382/BoardsandCommissions>

## HOT TOPIC! REPORT

Our Thursday January 21, 2021 Hot Topic will feature Meryl Carver-Allmond, public defender and board member of Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

Just as  $1 + 1 = 2$ , there are mathematical realities to what our criminal legal system can deal with. Please join us as Meryl Carver-Allmond takes us through the resources our criminal legal system takes to function and what that means for policy on public defense and the death penalty in Kansas.

The Hot Topic Committee met on January 8th, 2021. We have a great slate of future Hot Topics scheduled, that relate to LWV legislative priorities and the Kansas Legislature happenings. Stay tuned to our Facebook events page as those events firm up.



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If you have ideas for topics or would be interested in serving on the committee that develops this educational programming from LWV Lawrence/Douglas County, contact Denise Pettengill at 785-331-9276.

## INVITATION TO



### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF JOHNSON COUNTY KS

How do we ensure equal voting rights for all voters? Eliminating gerrymandering is crucial. It undermines our democracy by allowing officials to select their voters, rather than voters electing their officials.

Join us for a discussion about fair districting efforts in the Kansas legislature as well as LWV's efforts nationwide. Cathy Matlack will be the Moderator for a panel of Sheryl Spalding, former Republican member of the Kansas House of Representatives, Brett Parker, Democratic member of the Kansas House of Representatives, Dagny Velazquez, mathematics professor, Kansas City Kansas Community College and Demetrius Fisher, campaign manager, People Powered Fair Maps, League of Women Voters

Online: [us02web.zoom.us](https://us02web.zoom.us)

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS MEETING

Last February, LWV-LDC hosted our first Community Partners meeting bringing together groups in the Lawrence area to discuss how building



partnerships with local organizations can benefit all of us. We were able to identify common priorities/issues among the groups, as well as distinct priorities/issues for each group.

Now that election season is behind us, we would once again like to come together and figure out how we can build on the momentum of our combined efforts. We are hoping to continue working together and find ways to support one another and our community work.

We have scheduled the next Community Partners meeting for **February 7, 2020 at 3:00pm** via Zoom. LWV-LDC invites you to join us so that we can further discuss how we can work toward achieving our common goals and support the work that you do for the Lawrence community. Please RSVP to Ma'KoQuah Jones at [Makoquahjones@gmail.com](mailto:Makoquahjones@gmail.com) as we will be sending out the Zoom link and meeting agenda soon.

## RECOMMENDED DEI FILM

Watch James Baldwin in *I Am Not Your Negro*, an Oscar-nominated film by Raoul Peck at Independent Lens on PBS. In one excerpt from 1963, Baldwin speaks about the “the future of the Negro in this country,” which is “precisely as bright or as dark as the future of the country.” The central question he asks is aimed at American white people, asking them to address why they created and needed the idea of “the nigger.” Visit <https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/films/i-am-not-your-negro/>.

## LAWRENCE/DOUGLAS COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS BEATS THE VIRUS

At noon on December 17th, eleven members in two separate but simultaneous sessions participated in a

one-hour planning meeting to discuss ways that the local league could take community action to “Beat the Virus”. This effort, sponsored by the Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) <https://kansasleadershipcenter.org/ks-beats-the-virus/>, Climate and Energy Project (CEP) and the State of Kansas, was established to combat the spread of COVID-19 by developing local solutions to keep Kansans healthy, schools and businesses open and the KS economy strong amidst the pandemic. In December, 855 meetings were held statewide with over 799 actions developed. At least three KS League Chapters held Beat the Virus meetings: Lawrence/Douglas County, Emporia and Leavenworth.



For LWV-LDC, Kristin Salmans convened Group 1 and Kay Johnson convened Group 2. CEP donated a \$100 honorarium for each session held so our league raised \$200 to be used as needed. During the one-hour meeting, members identified many ideas for our group. Due to many league activities and the holidays, it was determined there wasn't enough time to plan for and act on a large project. However, both groups discussed getting messages out on social media and email with little to no cost. Kristin will evaluate the list of actions compiled by both groups. Social media messages and additional actions will be discussed at the next board meeting.

In the meantime, continue to wear masks, keep your distance from others, and refrain from attending large group gatherings. General information is available at the Lawrence/Douglas County Public Health website at <https://ldchealth.org/442/COVID-19-2019-Novel-Coronavirus>

Remember, 2021 is a time to be most hopeful. The COVID-19 vaccine is now being provided in Lawrence and locations around Kansas to healthcare and emergency response workers. Additional vaccine stocks will be available to Kansans through the winter, spring and summer. Watch for more information on vaccine availability <https://ldchealth.org/460/COVID-19-Vaccine>

Be helpful to your neighbors and friends – if you know of a special need. Contact United Way at 2-1-1

to speak to someone for 24/7 help or online resources are available for those living in Douglas County at: <https://coronavirus-response-dgco.hub.arcgis.com/>

Most importantly, feel free to reach out to community frontline healthcare and service workers and tell them "Thank you"! - Kay Johnson

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MINUTES

### LWV-L/DC BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 8, 2020, VIA ZOOM

**Present:** Kristin Salmans (President), Marjorie Cole (Vice President), Melissa Wick (Treasurer), Sharon Brown (Secretary), Charley Crabtree, Tracy Matthews, Denise Pettengill, Becky Plate, MTTP Coordinator Ma'Ko'Quah Jones

**Absent:** Tamara Cash, Sonja Czarnecki, Cille King, Emily Riner, Martha Silks

**Guests:** Jeanne Klein, Connie Stoker, Amber Sellers

Kristin called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. Tracy moved and Melissa seconded that the October minutes be approved. Motion carried. (There are no November minutes because the meeting was cancelled.) Marjorie announce that we have four new members: Kail Marie, Carol Bloom, Sophie Cunningham and Sarah Melody.

#### ELECTION AND VOTER SERVICE RECAP:

Ma'Ko'Quah reported on MTTP activities. Cruising for Voters events were held in September and October. Door to door canvassing using Smart Van software began September 19. Twenty volunteers knocked on 1265 doors and five volunteers phoned 238 people. A total of 750 post cards were mailed. We coordinated with ELNA to place hangers on every door in that neighborhood. She suggested that in the future we have two people in charge to help stay up with record keeping and that it is important that we continue to develop partnerships.

**TREASURER:** Melissa reported income of \$2,423.44 in October (dues \$894.90, contributions \$115, grants \$1,104.60, LWV-EF \$308.94) and expenses of \$3,757.62 (web site \$400, LWV-EF \$180, MTTP Co-ordinator \$2,440.67, postage \$159.29, state meeting reimbursement -\$128.84, state PMP \$706.50).

BALANCE SHEET	10/25/2020	
MMA		\$27,903.02
CHECKING (10/30/2020)		\$8,334.00
NAT'L EDUC FUND		\$3,398.39
L/DC SCHOLARSHIP FUND		\$4,638.33
CHECKING (11/01/2020)		\$8,334.00

For November Melissa reported income of \$597.11 (dues) and expenses of \$1,397.38 (fundraising letters \$115.15, VOTER printing \$26.23, national PMP \$1,256.00).

BALANCE SHEET	12/01/2020	
MMA		\$27,904.13
CHECKING (11/30/2020)		\$8,334.00
NAT'L EDUC FUND		\$3,398.39
L/DC SCHOLARSHIP FUND		\$4,638.33
CHECKING (12/01/2020)		\$7,353.73

**HOT TOPICS:** Denise announced that suggestions for possible future meetings include electoral redistricting and Haskell (HINU) separating from the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs. We would also like to invite Matt Cravens to return for another presentation.

- 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/DC, and mail to the address below.  
Membership is open to any person who is sixteen years of age or older.  
New or renewed memberships received now will expire March 31, 2021*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing Member \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_

I heard about the League via (Facebook, website, friend, other): \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Dues:\***

Approximate Household Income	Individual Membership	Household Membership
Student** (until 1/2021)	FREE	FREE
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 & 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 \_\_\_\_\_ (ZIP) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
(each member)

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

General Membership Meetings:

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

Membership

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

Voter Services

- Register voters
- Help with voter education

Contribute to the League by:

- Researching for League studies on issues
- Participating in fund-raising activities
- Attending/reporting on government meetings
- Representing the League at community events
- Serving 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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www.facebook.com/lwvldc • www.twitter.com/lwvldc

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