

WICHITA-METRO LWV

Who We Are

The League was founded in 1920 to “finish the fight” after women won the right to vote. Our aim from the start has been to ensure that citizens are informed about the issues and prepared to play their part in community building and government. For more than 35 years, men have also been members of this organization of women and men voters—though we maintained the historical name that carried such prestige

Through candidate debates, issue forums, community dialogs, online discussions and more, the League helps Americans arrive at answers to issues of local, regional and national concern.

The League earned its activist credentials as a committed fighter for child labor laws, equal pay for women, campaign finance reform and other important causes.

We were an early advocate for international peace-building through the United Nations and other organizations in the 1940’s. A tireless foe of discrimination in education, employment and housing in the 1960’s and 1970’s. A strong supporter of action to clean up the environment, stop the arms race and promote equality of opportunity in the 1970’s and 1980’s. And in the 1990’s we led the successful effort to wipe out remaining obstacles to voter registration in America. And in 2002 a quarter of century of work culminated in passage of significant campaign finance reform legislation.

Where We’re Going

- Today, the League is taking on the challenges of a new century, working reforming the governmental system and engaging the citizens – so that everyone votes and every vote counts.
- We are getting voters to the polls.
- We are community based with nearly 1000 local leagues across the nation.
- We are democracy-focused by working to ensure that governments and records stay open and voting rights are protected and provided to all.
- We are creating opportunities for citizens to come together to discuss issues and shape solutions for the future.
- We are educating citizens, giving them the knowledge and tools they need to make a difference. We register voters to vote.
- We are diverse, working for all of America’s voices regardless of gender, ethnicity or age.

Voter Service

Our Local League is particularly active in voter service activities:

- We register new citizens following naturalization ceremonies.
- We sponsor and moderate candidate forums and mentor other groups who sponsor forums.
- We publish “*Things to Know about Your Government*” brochures.
- As we engage in our voter service activities, we never take sides. The League never supports candidates or political parties.

Study and Action

At local, state and national levels we join in studying issues and then taking action on positions arrived at by consensus.

The League of WV-US recently completed a two-year study on immigration, and during 2010 the LWV Kansas State Study will advocate on important KS public issues.

During 2010, the LWV - Wichita Metro’s Local Study is on transportation.

Monthly Meetings

Unit luncheon meetings of the LWV Wichita-Metro are currently held at 11:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the Candle Club, 6135 E 13th Street North. Lunch costs \$15. These meetings are open to non-members as well as members. Call 773-7420 for reservations.

Programs include speakers and panels who address current issues and topics, frequently chosen to educate us on a current League study topic, presentations on local studies and consensus or concurrence discussions on proposed positions.

Publications

Members of Wichita-Metro LWV receive subscriptions to the following periodicals: *The Wichita-Metro Voter*, *The Kansas Voter*, and *The National Voter*.



Join LWV - Wichita Metro!

We invite you to become a member of the League of Women Voters-Wichita Metro. The League is a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Membership is open to all persons (men and women) of voting age. Household memberships are offered at a discounted price, as are memberships for students. Joining at the local level means you become state and national members and will receive subscriptions to their publications.

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Yes, I want to add my voice to yours by joining the League of Women Voters-Wichita Metro.

Please send more information; I may join later.

Dues

Mark the appropriate line(s) and send check to the address listed below.

\$60 for a 1-year membership

\$90 for a household membership

\$30 for a student membership

I am adding \$10 to my membership check because I prefer to receive *The Wichita-Metro Voter* by mail instead of online

In addition to paying my dues, I would like to donate \$_____ to the League.

\$_____ Total Enclosed

For more information: call 264-VØTE (264-8083) or write info@lwvwichita.org

Mail membership form & check to: LWV-WM, P.O. Box 2411, Wichita, KS 67201

Speakers Bureau

Call the Wichita-Metro League, contact the Speakers Bureau Chair, or email Speakers@lwvwichita.org. We have members who can present programs for groups on a variety of topics including the importance of voting, Kansas women's history, world poverty, Kenya women, democracy update in Russia, etc. We also provide "suffragette" programs with members as re-enactors playing suffrage leaders.



Lobby Corps and Action Alert

During the Kansas Legislative Session, the LWVK Lobby Corps follows its proceedings and alerts our membership to legislation that is pertinent to a league position. Our LWVUS Lobby Corps does the same function at the national level. Check the web site of The LWVUS at www.lwv.org and the web site of LWVK at www.lwvk.org. We also monitor issues that arise in the local governing bodies and speak to such groups as appropriate.

We are particularly vigilant about judicial independence, fairness in campaign financing with timely public reporting of the source of donations, adequate funding for education, open government, and the issue of clean energy.

A Proud History and Much to Do

"Winning the vote is only an opening wedge – to learn to use it is a bigger task."

Kansas adopted a constitutional amendment granting women full suffrage in 1912. Carrie Chapman Catt, leader of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, was one of the founders of the League of Women Voters. The Wichita League is considered the oldest League chapter in the United States. The Sedgwick County League of Women Voters elected its first officers June 4, 1919. Jane Brooks of Wichita was elected chair of the National League of Women Voters in March 1919 within the larger suffrage movement still struggling to get the "woman vote" nation-wide.

The League functions in two ways.

One is to educate the public and ourselves on issues of local, state or national importance. For this role we conduct public panel discussions, candidate forums, write newspaper articles, etc. We help voters register and at election time have a website where voters can find out the positions of the candidates.

In the second function the League members study issues thoroughly and through consensus, decide League positions and advocate for those. The end goal is to increase good government at all levels.



P. O. Box 2411
Wichita, KS 67201
316-264-VOTE/www.lwvwichita.org

What is the League?

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Any person of voting age may become a member. (Younger people may have associate membership.)

The League takes action on government measures in the public interest. It does not support or oppose any political party or candidates.

Nearly 90 years ago the League was created by the same people who made the women's right to vote a reality.

Today the League membership consists of thousands of men and women and represents them on a variety of issues. This is a grassroots organization of volunteers that helps America's democracy work.

Join with us to do this great task!