

The VOTER: November 2019

The League of Women Voters - Wichita Metro would love to see all members and prospective members at our meeting on Thursday, November 21.



Join us Thursday, November 21, for our **Membership Rally** at the Wichita Public Library at 711 W. 2nd Street. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for social time with appetizers, and program starts shortly after 6 p.m.

Committee chairs will be on hand to talk with all members, particularly our many new members, about opportunities to play a role in our League's many efforts to empower voters and defend democracy. We have lots of ways for everyone to participate in the League.

Guest speaker Tabitha Lehman, Sedgwick County Election Commissioner and League member, will share an update on the election process and answer our many questions about how things are going and what the outlook is for 2020.

Use our [event page on Facebook](#) to invite your friends and spread the word.

Other Upcoming Events

Nov 16, Saturday, 6 pm, 9100 E Corporate Hills Dr, Wichita

[NAACP 99th ANNUAL FREEDOM FUND BANQUET](#)

The NAACP has chosen the League of Women Voters as the Community/Neighborhood 2019 Legacy Award Honoree. We will have a table at the banquet and if you would like to attend email info@lwwwichita.org. Tickets are \$65, and LWV is subsidizing a limited number.

Nov 19, Tuesday, Noon-1 pm, Advanced Learning Library

[TUESDAY TOPICS: Vaccination: Where Does Freedom of Choice End?](#)

With some states now including religious objection to vaccination for exclusion from public school, and with the growing number of reported cases of measles, vaccination is in the news. How far does an individual's right to choose vaccination extend and exactly how much of a public safety issue is the choice to not get vaccinated? Are there legitimate alternatives to vaccines?

Dr. Christine Joy Mackey of Joy Wellness in Wichita and Erik G. Gunderson, PharmD from the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy – Wichita Campus will discuss vaccinations, alternatives to vaccines and whether government has a legitimate interest in the personal decision to vaccinate. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Bring a lunch or purchase one at Reverie Coffee Roasters at the Library.

The best way to keep up with our [events](#) right now is to follow [our Facebook page](#) and join our [members-only Facebook group](#).

Beginning in January 2020, our monthly unit meetings will be held on the 1st Tuesday of each month (Jan 7, Feb 4, March 3, April 7, May 5) so please mark your calendars.

On February 13, 2020, Leaguers from around Kansas are going to Topeka for a Day of Action. Mark your calendar and watch for more info to come.

November 2019 Voter Service Report



As you are all aware October was a very busy month. We were in classrooms at South, West, Southeast and Northwest High Schools. We had already been at Northeast High School last month. Great results and we made wonderful contacts.

We also had voter registration tables at all city library locations and registered new citizens at two naturalization ceremonies, helped with three Candidate Forums, co-hosted WSU

Ranked Voting presentation, tabled at Café con Leche Ascension Health event and State Social Studies Conference.

All together, we registered a total of 414 voters on paper ballots and an unknown number online. Hopefully, we will see that our efforts this year will show up at the ballot box by November 5th.

At our November Voter Service Committee meeting on the 19th, we will be reviewing what worked and what didn't as well as start planning for 2020. All are welcome. Email Carole at wichitametro1wv@gmail.com to let her know to expect you.

We certainly could not have accomplished what we have without all of you. Good job, Leaguers!

Carole Neal, Voter Service Chair

Secure Our Vote

Sedgwick County has new voting machines that print paper ballots and procedures that appear secure. However, many counties in Kansas and throughout the U.S. do not. We know our U. S. elections remain vulnerable to hacks from internal and external actors, and despite warnings from the national security community, Congress has yet to act. It has allotted \$250 million, but that it not nearly enough.

Contact Kansas senators to urge support of \$600M in election security funding **by Nov 21st** in the upcoming funding bill. Click these links for background on [vulnerability in election infrastructure](#) and [other states' senator visits on Nov 13th](#).

Senator Pat Roberts' Wichita office: 316-263-0416

Senator Pat Roberts' Washington office: 202-224-4774

[Contact Senator Pat Roberts by email.](#)

Senator Jerry Moran's Wichita office: 316-269-9257

Senator Jerry Moran's Washington office: 202-224-6521

[Contact Senator Jerry Moran by email.](#)

Climate Change & The LWV

The [national League's position paper on climate change](#) dated January 19, 2019, begins, "The League believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and our planet."

The League's agenda, along with 626 other organizations, is [explained here](#). It states unequivocally, "The science is clear that fossil fuels must be kept in the ground." Also on that website are links to related League positions on environmental protection, pollution control, air quality, water resources, solid waste, nuclear waste and agriculture.

Jane Byrnes invites League members to talk over these issues in Wichita. Email her at urbanejane@cox.net this month if you are interested in being involved.

LWV-Wichita Metro Observer Corps

As a member of the League of Women Voters, I hope you joined because you are interested in supporting the ideas and goals of LWV. With life as busy as it is for most people, it is often difficult to find time to become involved. Well, here is an easy way to become involved.

The LWV-Wichita Metro has a committee called [observer corps](#) that does not require regular attendance at committee meetings. Select a topic or group (does not have to be affiliated with LWV) that interests you; attend their meetings, educational opportunities or events; and then briefly report the main ideas back to the LWV-Wichita Metro. You do not need to make it lengthy or super detailed. You can email, text, mail or present your information verbally by phone. All that is required is for you to wear your LWV pin, observe what happens, and clarify information. In this capacity, you are not speaking for the LWV, but rather gathering important information.

"An [observer](#) is an individual who attends a governmental meeting, notes what happens at the meeting, and reports back to the League and (hopefully) the community. By attending public meetings of local governmental bodies/agencies, observers learn more about what their government is doing. They learn about issues facing their community and are empowered to take action, if warranted. They also learn how issues are being addressed.

"Observers keep elected and appointed officials on notice; they let them know that someone is watching what decisions are being made and how they are being made. They help ensure that the issues facing their community are being handled 'in the sunshine,' in the open." ([LWV publication 2080](#))

Looking forward to seeing you all at the November 21 at LWV membership meeting at the New Learning Library. You will be able to ask questions and get more information.

Barbara Moore, Observer Corps Chair

Local Member Serving on National Strategic Planning Committee

We are pleased to share that Wichita Metro Board member Sharon Cranford has been selected to serve on the LWVUS strategic planning committee. Referred to as the Futures committee, its purpose is to provide an informed critique of the Transformation Roadmap from 2020-24 in the context of an even longer-term view. The outcome is to recommend to the national Board a theory of change, a strategic lens to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), long and intermediate-term goals and a way to measure progress on these items. Finalized Roadmap and a new North Star will be brought to Convention for approval.

Sharon was in Washington D.C. November 23-25, 2019 for the kick-off meeting with the LWVUS president Chris Carson, past president, Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins and 16 other LWV representatives from across the nation. She is excited to share regular progress reports as this group's work continues.

Member News

Welcome to new members Dana Aaby, Suzanne Laycock, and Alan & Julie Snowden!

Thanks to all who have renewed for our July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020 League Year. Please contact Elaine Harvey at 316-744-2935 or elaine.harvey@wichita.edu if you have questions about your dues. Membership dues make you a member of LWV Wichita-Metro, LWVK and LWVUS.

Mail your check made out to LWVWM to Elaine Harvey, Treasurer, LWV Wichita-Metro, P.O. Box 2411, Wichita, KS 67201 or renew via our website at lwvwichita.org. Annual dues are \$65. Dues for a second member in a household are \$32.50 a year, so \$97.50 for both members together. Student dues are \$10 a year this year.



LWV name tags with a magnetic back are available for \$7. If you would like one, please send a request with your name to info@lwvwichita.org.

For updates on what the League of Women Voters of Kansas is doing across the state, check out the [November edition of VOTER Notes](#).

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Our League phone number is 316-573-5583.