

## The VOTER: December 2019

### Join us at the 2020 Action Planning Meeting!

Tuesday, Jan 7, 2020, Advanced Learning Library. Doors open at 5:30.

2020 is going to be a year for action! Our LWV Wichita-Metro priorities include Voter Services (registration and education), 19th Amendment Centennial Celebrations, “March to the Polls” to get out the vote, promoting the US Census, the “People Powered Fair Maps Campaign” on redistricting, and including more diversity in all that we do.



But that is not all.... The League of Women Voters can advocate for issues that we have studied and have positions on. What do you care most about? Involved members can work to reduce mass incarceration in Kansas, fight climate change, expand Medicare, and more - so many issues that can be tackled IF we have volunteers willing to commit.

Join us on January 7 to participate in discussion groups on all of this. You can also contribute in 2020 by joining our Observer Corps, Communications Team, Membership, Tuesday Topics planning, Fundraising, studying issues for future positions, and attending Board Meetings.

We want to hear from you - contact [president@lwvwichita.org](mailto:president@lwvwichita.org) with your questions and ideas. Thank you for being part of our mission to Empower Voter and Defend Democracy!

~Pat Reinhold and Laura Thompson, Co-Presidents

## Upcoming Events

**December 14, 2019, Saturday, 3-5 p.m., Evergreen Branch Library ([2601 N. Arkansas](#))**

### [SMART JUSTICE UNITY MEETING](#)

The goal of the meeting is to educate, empower, and enroll those in attendance in the movement to reduce mass incarceration in the state of Kansas. We will focus on tangible solutions to fix our broken criminal justice system and the bills that will be introduced in the 2020 legislature to make that happen. Sponsored by the ACLU.

**January 7, 2020, Tuesday, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Advanced Learning Library**

### [LWV WICHITA-METRO 2020 ACTION PLANNING MEETING](#)

See the description above.

**January 18, 2020, Saturday, 9-11 a.m., St. Paul's Lutheran Church ([925 N. Waco](#))**

### **LWV WICHITA-METRO BOARD MEETING**

Members welcome.

**January 28, 2020, Tuesday, noon-1 p.m., Advanced Learning Library**

### [TUESDAY TOPICS: Kansas Legislative Preview](#)

Dr. Russell Arben Fox, political science professor at Friends University, and Pilar Pedraza, reporter at KAKE TV and host of Kansas Week on KPTS, will offer analysis of the upcoming legislative session. What issues will the legislature address? What are the challenges for issues such as Medicaid expansion, gun laws and the budget? Q&A will follow the presentation. Co-sponsored by the Wichita Public Library. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

**February 4, 2020, Tuesday, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Advanced Learning Library**

### **LWV WICHITA METRO UNIT MEETING**

Shana Chivon Stephens will speak about Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion.

**February 13, 2020, Thursday, Kansas State House in Topeka**

### **LWV DAY OF ACTION**

Mark your calendars and plan to join LWV Wichita-Metro and other Kansas Leagues at the Kansas State House on February 13. We will have a couple of hours of presentations and time to meet with state legislators about critical issues. Members are encouraged to wear white. Stay tuned for further details.

## LWV Wichita-Metro 2020 Scholarship

Our League is pleased to offer two merit-based scholarships this year to further the educational opportunities of post-secondary students interested in the League's principles.

Scholarship applicants should be residing in Wichita and surrounding counties and/or direct lineal descendants of current LWV Wichita-Metro members. Also, applicants should be enrolled, or intending to enroll, in post-secondary education in Kansas.

The League of Women Voters Wichita-Metro is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government. We seek to influence public policy through education and advocacy and never support or oppose any political party or candidate.

The League has two separate and distinct roles:

☛ **Voters Service/Citizen Education:** We present unbiased nonpartisan information about elections, the voting process, and issues.

◆ Action/Advocacy: After study, we use our positions to advocate for or against particular policies in the public interest.

One scholarship of \$1000 and one of \$500 will be awarded. Read more about the requirements and find the application [here](#).

More than 50 members attended our MEMBERSHIP RALLY on November 21 and many signed up to join League committees. In case you missed it, read our recap [here](#).



## December 2019 Voter Service Report

It has been a very productive year. We registered 1,795 new voters and held 60 events, including 90 new voters at the Naturalization Ceremony on December 3. We will redo all of our handouts for 2020 and our voter registration efforts will target High Schools, Colleges, Technical Schools, Elderly and underrepresented neighborhoods. We have already committed to continuing Voter Registration at the Naturalization Ceremonies. In addition to voter registration, we will work on getting people to the polls. With both a presidential election and the Centennial Celebration, 2020 will be a very busy year.

We welcome all thoughts, ideas, and volunteers. We will be joining with other organizations to broaden our ability to reach as many people as possible.

Happy Holidays to All!

Carole A. Neal, Voter Service Chair

## Member News

Welcome to new members Linda Bever, Kate Hamm, Karol & John Schlicher, Barbara Kieffer, Jack & Lydia Davis, Brent Lewis, Elizabeth Ablah, and Deanna Zitterkopf!

### Hurry up and renew!

League members, it is time to renew! We have 117 members who have renewed so far and several dozen people who still need to renew. If you received a letter inviting you to renew, please complete the enclosed membership form and return it or renew it [online](#). We report our membership to LWVUS at the end of January and we want everyone to be counted. Dues are \$65 a year and student dues (for anyone attending high school or college classes) are \$10/year. Send dues to Elaine Harvey at LWV Treasurer P.O. Box 2411 Wichita, KS 67201. Thanks to all who have renewed! We are excited to have so many new members this fall.

### League Support!

Our League dues partly support local activities, partly support LWV Kansas activities, and partly support LWVUS activities. LWVUS has an important new initiative, [“People Powered Fair Maps,”](#) working toward fair redistricting throughout the nation, and we are helping support this through our dues. There are two ways you can give additional support to our local League beyond your dues. One is to donate to LWV Wichita-Metro’s activities. Those donations are not tax-deductible. The other avenue is donating to the LWV Wichita-Metro “Education and Scholarship Fund.” Write your check to LWV Wichita-Metro Ed. Fund if you want your donation to be tax-deductible. Please consider a donation beyond your dues!

### Dues and our Local, State and National Leagues

Our State and National Leagues are engaged in important work to advocate for the positions the League has taken on public issues. LWVUS and LWVK periodically send out fundraising requests to support their work. Making a donation to LWVK or LWVUS doesn’t make a person a member of the League. Paying dues through the local league is how to become a member of the League.

## Addressing Climate Change

Urging bold action to address climate change and the public health damage it is expected to cause, Kansas and Wichita Leagues joined 30+ other Kansas organizations to endorse [Resilient Kansas’](#) Kansas Climate + Health Declaration.

The Declaration states:

- Climate disruption impacts the lives, health, and economic well-being of Kansans.
- Climate change is a major public health concern in Kansas.
- Those least responsible will be the most impacted and least able to adapt.
- Solutions exist at all levels to build resilience, economic opportunities, and healthy communities.

**WE DECLARE OUR COMMITMENT TO A HEALTHIER FUTURE FOR ALL.** We stand with leading public health organizations in making a clear call to our state’s leadership to address climate change as a primary threat to public health. We urge bold, comprehensive action to reduce emissions and build resilience. We need to reduce risks of climate disruption to safeguard the future of our state.





## Tuesday Topics

### September 2019 - Are Our Children Falling Behind in Reading?

Dr. Kim McDowell, Professor in the Education Department at WSU, shared insights on how reading proficiency is measured. She used NAEP tests to show that on a national scale, the reading levels stayed pretty level between 1992 – 2017. One fact that came out is that Kansas has a gap in educational levels between low income versus not low income.

So, are our children falling behind in reading? The conclusion was “not necessarily.” The scores could be a function of the measurement tool or they could be a function of a focus on instruction versus a focus on assessment. This presentation provided some insight and really questioned the rhetoric of the allegations that our children are falling behind.

### October 2019 - GMO vs Non-GMO

What a great educational experience our GMO and Non-GMO Tuesday Topic turned out to be with about 50 people attending the presentation. We had Dr. Harold Trick present the pro-GMO side and Mr. Gail Fuller presented the Non-GMO side.

Dr. Harold Trick, Professor of Plant Pathology at KSU, presented information on what GMO actually means and how it has been used in seeds for crops like soybeans, cotton, and corn. His presentation included slides on DNA splicing which was very helpful and informative in clarifying how a GMO is accomplished. He presented information concerning the advantageous reasons for creating a GMO plant.

Gail Fuller, a Kansas farmer who stopped using GMO seeds in favor of traditional, non-GMO seeds, explained what difference this made in his farming practices. For most GMO seeds and Non-GMO seed users, the result was in the way that pesticides and herbicides are used in the management process.

One of the points brought out in the discussion is that a claim by the GMO side is that to feed the world, we need GMOs. However, the Non-GMO side maintains that we are growing enough food to feed the world already.

### November 2019 - Vaccinate: Yes or No?

The November Tuesday Topics on Pros and cons of vaccinating children was a well-attended and controversial event. The speakers were Eric Gunderson, PharmD. from the KU School of Pharmacy and Dr. Christina Joy Mackie, a naturopathic doctor and certified acupuncturist, from In Joy Wellness Clinic in Delano. Dr. Gunderson presented the medical community’s positive view of vaccination. Dr. Mackie spoke from the holistic side which argues that other healthy foods can be used in place of vaccination.

## 2019 Vote 411 Report

Our efforts to provide a guide of candidates to voters continue to improve. We had 167 races defined in areas that the 9 local leagues are located. Following is a recap of the races and candidates covered, and the rate of responses. Overall, 167 races were covered; 116 of those were contested and 51 uncontested. There were a total of 400 candidates, with 354 in contested races and 55 in uncontested races. 138 candidates in contested races responded, reflecting 39%. 6 candidates of the 55 uncontested candidates responded or 11%.

Usage of Vote411.org by voters increased dramatically. Comparing 2019 Election to 2017 Election, we had 13,312 users compared to 4,397 users for an increase of 203%. Total session numbers were 15,871 compared to 4,606, reflecting a 245% increase.

Submitted by Carole Neal, LWV Kansas Vote411 Chair

### Vote411 Report – December 2019

167 races with candidates defined  
116 contested races  
51 uncontested races  
136 Candidates in contested races responded  
6 candidates in uncontested responded  
State amendment article

#### Contested Races By County/League 116

Sedgwick County - 34  
Johnson Co - 35  
Wyandotte – 10  
Shawnee – 24  
Douglas – 4  
Leavenworth

Manhattan – 2  
Emporia – 2  
Great Bend – 3  
Salina – 2

#### Uncontested Races By County/League 51

Great Bend - 3  
Sedgwick County - 30  
Douglas County - 5  
Shawnee County - 12  
Wyandotte - 1

#### Candidates: 409

354 in contested races  
55 in non-contested races

#### Candidates Responding:

136 responded contested responded.  
Sedgwick - 19  
Johnson - 65  
Manhattan - 10  
Lawrence - 16  
Topeka - 16  
Great Bend - 4  
Emporia - 5  
Leavenworth - 1

6 responded in non-contested races.  
Topeka - 1  
Great Bend - 2  
Wichita - 3

### LWV Wichita-Metro Board of Directors

Co-Presidents:

Pat Reinhold [president@lwwichita.org](mailto:president@lwwichita.org)

Laura Thompson [info@lwwichita.org](mailto:info@lwwichita.org)

Treasurer: Elaine

Harvey [treasurer@lwwichita.org](mailto:treasurer@lwwichita.org)

Secretary & Membership Chair: Pat

Purvis [member@lwwichita.org](mailto:member@lwwichita.org)

Past Co-President: Sharon Ailsieger

Voter Service Chair: Carole

Neal [wichitametroLWV@gmail.com](mailto:wichitametroLWV@gmail.com)

Centennial Chair: Martha Pint

Centennial Event Chair: Sharon Cranford

Communications Chair: Cindy

Kelly [lwwmcomm@gmail.com](mailto:lwwmcomm@gmail.com)

Observer Corp Chair: Barbara Moore

Tuesday Topics: Megan Wright-Hagan

Members at Large: Bridgette West-Williams,

Jane Byrnes

Our League phone number is 316-573-5583.

Our League website is [lwwichita.org](http://lwwichita.org).