

## The VOTER: September 2020

### We're Facing a Historic Shortage of Poll Workers. Can Voters Count on You?

America is facing a critical shortage of poll workers, the linchpin of our voting process, all of whom need to be signed up and trained in time for November. The future of our democracy – and our communities – is at stake this November and you can be part of the solution. [Read more in this blog post from LWVUS.](#)

Poll workers ensure that polling places run effectively and efficiently. The Sedgwick County Election Office is seeking individuals who want to get involved. Here are the election worker requirements:

- Must be a registered voter in Sedgwick County or a 16 or 17 year-old who is otherwise eligible to register to vote, except for not yet being of legal age.
- Must be available to work on Election Day from 4:45 a.m. until 9 p.m. or until all of the closing procedures have been completed.
- Must be available to attend a mandatory training class.

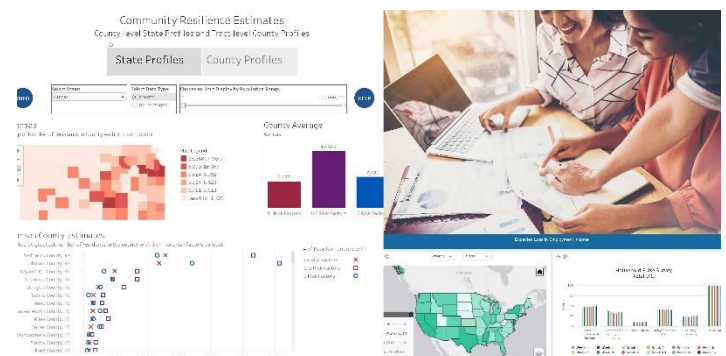
Poll workers in Sedgwick County are financially compensated for their work. The Election Office is working to protect poll workers and voters by providing personal protective equipment (PPE) for election workers and hiring professional sanitation services for all polling locations.

If you are able, consider signing up to become a poll worker. For more information or to apply to become a poll worker, visit [the Sedgwick County Election Office website.](#)

### Tool Tips Webinar This Wednesday: How COVID-19 Impacts Our Lives

While there are many facets of disruption to COVID-19 and we all have challenges, knowing tips and tricks for effective searches on [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov) as well as how to download, customize, and map data is a valuable resource & skill.

This **Wednesday, September 16, at 5:30 p.m. (CT)** Toni Pitchford with the U.S. Bureau of the Census will share how average citizens can access census data



which our elected officials use as they consider the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic within our state and our community.

**Registration is required for this FREE event.** Sign up at [bit.ly/Sept16registration](https://bit.ly/Sept16registration). All are welcome.

Read more [on our website](#) and our [Facebook event page](#).

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## Going Virtual with Tuesday Topics

### September 22, noon – 1 p.m.: [Dying with Dignity](#)

Death with Dignity laws allow terminally ill patients who are mentally competent to request and receive medication that will hasten their death. Nine U.S. jurisdictions have passed Death with Dignity laws, and one state permits the practice by court order. Other states are considering passing a similar law. Join us to learn more about how these laws are a benefit to those facing end-of-life issues, and why some citizens oppose such legislation.

**Registration is required.** Call 261-8500 or [register online](#). This program will be held online via Zoom. A link to the program will be sent to your inbox the day before and the day of the program.

### Oct. 27: Confederate Monuments: Support and Protests

Erecting monuments is one way that Americans have commemorated significant historical figures and events. Recently, Confederate monuments have been the target of citizens who object to the values they portray as symbols of a racist past. Learn more about the claims made by those who wish to preserve these tributes to their ancestors as well as those who strive to create a socially just environment for generations to come with speakers Speaker Pat O'Connor will base his presentation on his interviews of 28 officers of the Mechanized Cavalry of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Dr. Sharon Cranford, retired Diversity Instructor, author and historian, will discuss the viewpoint of those who oppose the placement of these monuments.



### Dec. 1: Election Analysis

The 2020 election cycle has been unique in many ways in dealing with the ripple effects from the protests to the pandemic. The impact of this election will be seen in the days and months ahead. Join us for a look at the results of the 2020 elections with analysis by Dr. Russell Fox, Professor of Political Science at Friends University. Find out more about how this year's candidates will shape public policy and shape the decisions that will affect our lives.

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## September Unit Meeting

Our League's next unit meeting will be September 28 at 6:30 over Zoom. The speaker will be Wichita Chief of Police [Gordon Ramsay](#) in support of the [LWV of Kansas' study on Criminal Justice](#).

Anyone interested in attending should RSVP to [sailslieger@netscape.net](mailto:sailslieger@netscape.net).



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## Going Virtual at Tallgrass Film Festival

For the first time since it started in 2003, Wichita's [Tallgrass Film Festival](#) is going virtual. The event, which normally runs five days, will stretch over 10 days this year from Oct. 16 to Oct. 25. **Our League is sponsoring a film this year.** Until the schedule is announced, we can't talk about it, but trust us: *it's a compelling feature length documentary exploring one particular oddity of the US election system that you will want to see.*

Watch our [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter account](#) for an announcement. We hope to have the date by the end of September if not sooner.

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## LWV Masks & Signs Available

Wanting that perfect face mask and yard sign that encourages people to vote and promotes the League of Women Voters? The Metro Wichita League has you covered!

We are offering a stylish and comfortable face mask with adjustable elastic ear loops and a metal nose piece. Fully washable three-ply fabric masks mean that you don't need an additional filter, and you can clean them easily.

We've already sold half of the masks we ordered so get yours while they are still available. We are asking for a donation of at least \$10 each. Reach out to Leanne Ralston Chase at 316-650-8463

or [lrc4620@aol.com](mailto:lrc4620@aol.com) if you are interested or have questions. Leanne would be happy to arrange a meet up or porch drop.

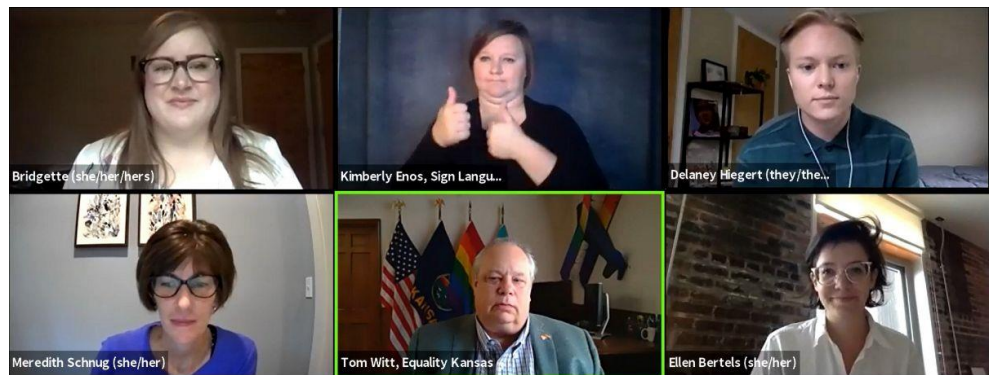


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## LGBTQI+ ID Rights in Kansas

There are many legal steps involved when changing your name or gender identification markers on your Driver's License or other forms of identification.

On August 29, 2020, we invited Tom Witt of Equality Kansas, Delaney Hiegert of The National Center for Lesbian Rights, Meredith Schnug of the KU Law School Legal Aid Clinic, and Ellen Bertels, J.D.



Candidate at the University of Kansas Law School and Democracy Intern for the Brennan Center for Justice, for a virtual discussion.

Watch the recording [here on Facebook](#) and [on YouTube](#).

Sign language interpretation was provided during the discussion.

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## Co-Presidents' Message

Hard to believe that summer is winding down and the general election is right around the corner. School is starting, quickly followed by cooler weather, falling leaves, and the presidential election. Shutdowns and social distancing have lulled many people into thinking that, in the days of Covid-19 there is little we can do, but the League of Women Voters would disagree!

Not only do we have an upcoming election to prepare for, we are charged with developing new ways to engage those who are disenfranchised, those who are not registered, and those who are less than enthusiastic about casting their votes during a pandemic. This is a PERFECT time to become involved in the process and active with the League!

Our League is fortunate to be led by strong board members and committee chairs and we are thrilled to introduce them here:

- Secretary — [Laura Thompson](#)
- Treasurer — [Elaine Harvey](#)
- Past Co-President — [Pat Reinhold](#)
- Membership Co-Chairs — [Bridgette West- Williams](#) & [Andrea Anglin](#)
- Voter Services Co-Chairs — [Carole Neal](#) & [Barbara Bell](#)
- Advocacy & Action Co-Chairs — [Nancy McCarthy Snyder](#) & [Kate Hamm](#)
- Communications Chair — [Cindy Kelly](#)
- Program/Unit Co-Chairs — [Sharon Ailsieger](#) & [Krista Lovette](#)
- DEI Co-Chairs — [Sharon Cranford](#) & [Joan Warren](#)
- Fundraising Chair — [Leanne Ralston Chase](#)
- Tuesday Topics — [Megan Wright-Hagan](#)
- At Large — [Jane Byrnes](#) & [Barbara Moore](#)

We encourage you to become involved with one of these committees: observing local government meetings to stay informed on their actions, developing virtual programming so that voters are educated on the issues, registering voters and assisting to get out the vote (GOTV), among others.

This being our Centennial year it is important to remember what the suffragists accomplished during the Spanish Flu pandemic 100 years ago. ***Don't be mistaken, this isn't your mother's League of Women Voters!*** We've evolved in the last 100 years but if they could do it, we can too. Come find your calling!

— [Martha Pint](#) & [Jennifer Byers Heminway](#)



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## September 2020 Voter Service Report

August 2020 was a very busy month for our League. We participated in a neighborhood drive thru campaign in Hilltop and Evergreen and then the citywide Community Coalition Car Caravan with drive up voter registration locations. We met with Senior Center to work out a plan to register senior residents in the current environment and ran an article in Active Aging to encourage participation.

**National Voter Registration Day** – The League of Women Voters has been a long time participant in National Voter Registration Day. This year it is on September 22<sup>nd</sup> with events across the nation. This year we are actually participating in two separate events to honor the project.

On Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will be registering voters at the **Table of Hope Drive Thru Food Pantry**, 156 So. Kansas from 9am to 6pm. They are seeing 20 car loads per half hour (often times with multiple families in each car). We will need at least 4-6 volunteers for 2 hour 15 minutes shifts for the day. [Sign up online](#). Everyone will be masked and using safe distancing.

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> we will participate **Youth to the Polls** in getting the young people across the city registered. This is a drive through voter registration that is being sponsored by the Wichita Community Voting Coalition of which we are a member. We kick off on the 12<sup>th</sup> with DJ and giveaways, on the 19<sup>th</sup> the Kansas State Secretary will be in attendance with other elected officials, on the 26<sup>th</sup> there will be local sports celebrities supporting the event. This will be a low contact event that requires masks and safe distancing. We would like some of our younger members to be part of the event. If you would like to participate please contact Carole Neal at 316-259-7575 or email at [wichitametrolwv@gmail.com](mailto:wichitametrolwv@gmail.com).

**Naturalization Ceremonies** – In August we registered new citizens on two days at small outdoor ceremonies. Thank you to all of our great volunteers. This month will be a full ceremony at Hughes Metroplex on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The new citizens will have voter registration forms in their packets and we will have 4 volunteers with cars decorated for them to turn their applications in. Even though we aren't back being able to do our "thing" we are at least providing our new citizens with resources.

For those of you who are not comfortable getting out, we are planning on making phone calls to people who are low turnout voters and to new registered voters to encourage their participation in the election.

If you would like to sign up to make a few calls please [sign up online](#).

We will also provide a speaker for IRC's on line Welcome Week and an online presentation on the 25th for Wichita Alternative High School. This past month we spoke at the Goddard Women's Club and presented a power point presentation and participated in discussion of the 19th Amendment and Feminism Today with First Unitarian Universalist Humanist group.

The Neighborhood Car Caravans will resume on Saturday, September 12, assembling at the Planeview Community Center (on other side of Colvin School) located at 2820 S. Roosevelt at 10:00 am. On Thursday, September 24th, we will revisit the Hilltop Community Center at 4:00 pm where we again will have direct contact with the residents as they assemble for the Lord's Diner (while still observing social distancing and wearing masks). Saturday, September 26, we've selected the South Central neighborhood where we've participated previously in their community events. More details will be provided when plan is more fully developed. Additional caravans are scheduled for Saturday, October 3, at Evergreen, and back at South Central Wichita on Saturday, October 10th. Volunteers can [sign up online](#)

Coming up in October we are working on participating in candidate forums. Will keep you posted. Welcome to all of our new members who are wanting to work in Voter Service. As you see we can certainly use your services.

— Carole Neal and Barbara Bell, Voter Service Co-Chairs

[wichitametrolww@gmail.com](mailto:wichitametrolww@gmail.com)

316-259-7575



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## DEI Team Report

The DEI team met August 7th on Zoom with 5 attendees and quickly set to work on our League's DEI policy, starting with [the national version](#).

The DEI team also discussed how to broaden our League's membership by asking people to join who also belong to other organizations, i.e., Hispanic activists, Moms

Demand Action, deaf community, etc. Suggestions included sending a member to their meetings and providing scholarships.

Educate, enroll, and coalesce were themes considered in the meeting. Encouraging all members to use the pronouns that best describe them, i.e., she/her/hers, he/him/his, was also discussed.

In addition to working privately on our League DEI policy, each member was tasked with [formulating three goals](#) for DEI for the next meeting.

At their August 28 meeting, the team prepared the DEI policy to propose for our League. It will be shared at the next board meeting. The team's goals are still a work in process. They will include DEI training and outreach to others.

Any League member interested in joining the DEI committee is welcome to reach out to co-chairs Joan Warren ([joanwarren2000@yahoo.com](mailto:joanwarren2000@yahoo.com)) & Sharon Cranford ([sharoncranford@gmail.com](mailto:sharoncranford@gmail.com)).

## League Members Serve on WSU Panel

LWWM Board member Sharon Cranford and new League member Mackenzie Haas were panelists on a virtual public forum focusing on women in politics. Sponsored by the Wichita State University department of Diversity and Inclusion, [the forum celebrated Women's Equality Day](#) by featuring six diverse professional women who addressed factors impacting choices and decisions regarding running for office. Sharon opened the discussion with the history of the national and local League, and our impetus toward promoting voting rights, as well as supporting and encouraging women to run for political office.

[Watch the recording on Facebook.](#)

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## Membership Committee Outreach

Would you like to stay in touch with other League members? Or, have someone to discuss current events, voting or League history? The Membership committee is facilitating a Pen Pal Program to help members stay connected, learn more about the League, and to discuss current topics—like the importance of accessible voting during this time when our normal in-person unit meetings don't look quite the same.

Not everyone likes email or social media to connect, so we hope facilitating this Pen Pal Program will not only help members stay connected about League events and action, but will also support the United States Postal Service—one of the best resources our country has to keep voting safe and accessible!

To sign up [complete this form](#), or call Bridgette West-Williams, Membership co-chair, at 316-573-5324, or email [bridgette@baselinecreative.com](mailto:bridgette@baselinecreative.com) with the subject line "LWV W-M Membership Pen Pal Program."

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## Treasurer's Report

**We welcome the following new members:** Catherine Catt, Samuel Catt, Nancy Dinell, Sherry Grady, Mackenzie Haas, Jessica Henning, Debra Huddleston, Tom James, Alexia Jones, Jan Langley, Cathy Lavender, Judith Naillon, Melissa Schnieders, Stacy

Shanahan, Marty Smith and Corrie Stumpf, and welcome back former member Gretchen Eick. Right now we are 188 members strong.

Time to pay dues! Our League is working hard to help get out the vote. Thank you to our continuing members who have already renewed!! Our dues year is from July 1 to June 30. Annual dues are \$65 for an individual membership, \$97.50 two members in the same household, and student memberships are \$10 a year. We also have a new category of membership: a sustaining membership at \$75 a year.

*If you are a **new** member who joined after February 1, 2020, you don't have to renew until July 2021.*

Mail your dues check to Elaine Harvey, Treasurer, LWV Wichita-Metro, P.O. Box 2411, Wichita, KS 67201 or you can [renew online](#). Send me a note if you have a question about your dues.

— Elaine Harvey, Treasurer  
[treasurer@lwwichita.org](mailto:treasurer@lwwichita.org)

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

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## Contact Us

Phone: 316-573-5583

Email: [info@lwwichita.org](mailto:info@lwwichita.org)

Website: [lwwichita.org](http://lwwichita.org)

## Follow LWV Online

**Wichita-Metro:** [lwwichita.org](http://lwwichita.org)

[facebook.com/League.Of.Women.Voters.Wichita](https://facebook.com/League.Of.Women.Voters.Wichita)

**State:** [lwk.org](http://lwk.org)

[facebook.com/lwv.kansas](https://facebook.com/lwv.kansas)

**US:** [lww.org](http://lww.org)

[facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters](https://facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters)

If you are a LWV Wichita-Metro member, join our members-only [Facebook group](#) where we post updates on calls to action and information tailored to our members.

Everyone is welcome to [subscribe to our e-newsletter](#).