



The VOTER: January 2021

Out with the Old and in with the New!

If you had told League members back in 2019 that 2020 would be a huge year for us, preparing for the presidential election AND doing it in the midst of a worldwide pandemic, we likely would never have believed it. But as it was, we rolled up our sleeves and got to work! But who would have ever guessed that we would have been as successful as we were?!?!

We participated in 43 voter registration and education events, used 574 volunteer hours filling 216 volunteer slots and registering 659 voters on paper. That doesn't include all those new voters we handed out QR codes to and directed them to [KSVotes.org](https://www.ksvotes.org) to register to vote, or those to whom we gave advance ballot request forms!

We hosted and supported candidate forums. We built coalitions, working with organizations across our community who support many of our positions, varying from racial justice to a woman's right to choose.

We celebrated 100 years of the League itself, along with the centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

We partnered with the Wichita Symphony, the Advanced Learning Library, the Women's Fair, the Kansas African American Museum, and Wichita State University. Many of our 2020 events had to be cancelled or postponed so don't be surprised to see them rescheduled in 2021.



We successfully transitioned from in-person to virtual meetings, partnering with KMUW for [Digital Democracy on Tap: Elections During Coronavirus](#), hosting our monthly membership meetings with great guest speakers including [Lt. Gov. Lynn Rogers](#), [Wichita Police Chief Gordon Ramsay](#), [Tom Witt with Equality Kansas](#), [KU Political Science Professor Patrick Miller](#), Sedgwick County District Attorney Marc Bennett, Sedgwick County Sheriff Jeff Easter, Rise Up for Youth's David Gilkey, and WSU's Community Engagement Coordinator Dr. Kevin Harrison ([watch here](#)). Our partnership with the Advanced Learning Library and Tuesday Topics continued this fall discussing [Dying with Dignity](#), [Confederate Monuments: Support & Protests](#), and an Election Analysis.

With 2020 officially in our rearview mirror it would be easy to sit back and pat ourselves on the back for all our hard work and say "mission accomplished!" But in the League of Women Voters, the work is never finished and the mission is never accomplished. There will always be voters to register and educate.

This year's elections will focus on our local offices, school board and city council. The issues we'll focus on..... well, those are yet to be determined and **that's where we need YOUR help!** What issues matter to you at the local, state, and national levels of government? We KNOW that the redistricting that comes out of Census2020 results will be tantamount, but do you have talking points in mind to share with those you encounter when it comes to this topic? What are the chances that Medicaid will be expanded during this legislative session? What can we as League members do to support that effort?

Hopefully you know that the League only speaks on issues studied, whether at the local, state, or national level. Are you familiar with the positions at the various levels? The positions can be found at the links below:

- [Local](#)
- [State](#)
- [National](#)

Sometimes positions need to be updated or a new study needs to be conducted. **We NEED you to join us on January 25th at 6:30 p.m. for [our annual planning meeting](#)** to discuss the issues and positions we'll focus on moving forward. Respond to our simple 5 question registration form [here](#) and you'll receive a Zoom link by email to attend!

We appreciate all you do in support of the League!

— [Jennifer Byers Heminway](#) & [Martha Pint](#) , Co-Presidents



Help us kick off 2021 with our annual beginning-of-the-year planning meeting on January 25th at 6:30 p.m. Open to all League members, the 2021 Virtual Planning Meeting is when we will brainstorm our goals and initiatives for the new year. We need your ideas to create a better community. Make your voice heard!

Register for the meeting TODAY by filling out this form: bit.ly/LWV_JanUnitMeeting

Advance registration is **REQUIRED** for this event as it will NOT be streamed on Facebook or YouTube. To attend you must register by end-of-day January 22nd to receive the Zoom link. [See the Facebook event page for more info.](#)

2021 College Scholarships

Our LWV-Metro 2021 Scholarship application is [now available online](#). The Board voted to award two scholarships, one for \$1000 and the other for \$500, to recipients chosen from completed applications submitted by the deadline, 11:59 p.m. on February 15, 2021. The scholarships are open to any student residing in Wichita and surrounding counties pursuing post-secondary education in Kansas and to Metro members' direct lineal descendants who live outside of Kansas but who will be pursuing post-secondary education in Kansas.

The application includes the regular biographical and educational background information, a letter of recommendation, a transcript, and a short essay on one of two scenarios presented on the form. The link is being sent to area high schools, colleges, technical schools, and interest groups as well as our community partners. Please help spread the word about our scholarship by sending the information and link (bit.ly/2021scholapp) to individuals and groups you think might be interested.



The Scholarship Committee has been meeting by Zoom to create the application and is planning on a final Zoom meeting in early March to determine our two recipients. The 2021 Scholarship Committee is chaired by Paul Babich and includes members Sharon Cranford, Beckie Jenek, Martha Pint, Laura Thompson, Ashley Watkins and Bridgette West-Williams.

Our Fundraiser Continues through January!

Imagine, every eligible Kansan registered to vote and informed on the issues! We have the potential of reaching this goal. You can help by [making a donation](#) to our League today, either online or by mailing a check. Instructions are [here](#).

While considering the amount of your gift please be aware that **we have a generous donor who has offered to match contributions up to \$100** through January 31, 2021. ([Read more](#).) Also many employers participate with matching funds which would triple your donation! You can verify your employer's participation by [searching here](#).

— Leanne Chase, Fundraising Chair, 316-650-8463 – lrc4620@aol.com

From Our DEI Committee

America, currently embroiled in divisiveness, needs a healing, a cause for which all Americans can rally around. At our upcoming unit meeting, our DEI speaker, Dr. Sharon Cranford, will submit convincing data to suggest that the cause and healing point is Juneteenth.

[Register today](#) for the League's monthly unit meeting on January 25 and hear a brief treatise on "Juneteenth: A Case for a National Healing."

Are You Registered for Tuesday Topics?

Advance registration through the Wichita Public Library is required for Tuesday Topics. Call 261-8500 or [register online](#). The January 26 topic is [Where Do You Get Your News?](#) The world of news reporting has undergone drastic changes in the past 20 years, and even more so in recent years. When you are looking for news, what sources are you using? Learn more about how media outlets have adapted to the changing environment from a panel of experts.

Tuesday Topics virtual events are held online through Zoom from noon to 1 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Everyone who registers in advance will receive the link by email the day before and the day of the program. [See more info about upcoming Tuesday Topics on our website](#).

January 2021 Voter Service Report

What we do? Register and educate voters!

Why it matters: (from LWV US)

“The leaders we elect make decisions that affect our daily lives. Elections are our chance to stand up for what matters most to us and to have an impact on the issues that affect us, our communities, our families and our future.”

In 2021 we will be having city council elections in most of the cities in Sedgwick County. Wichita will have three of six city council seats up for election, and Derby will be electing four council members. In addition, there will be School Board elections in all public school districts in Sedgwick County. All of these races are “non-partisan,” however as we continue to see in the highly polarized environment, party politics are definitely involved.

As we have stated before, our efforts to register voters will continue and we will focus on young voters, elderly, felons, low-income and minorities. In addition we will hold candidate forums and debates to introduce the candidates to the electors. But we need to do more to make sure voters know how to vote and are comfortable with the process.

Traditionally, voter turnout for local elections is very poor. In the 2017 election of three Wichita City Council members, a small percentage of registered voters elected our leaders, and the trend carried across the County in other cities.

	Votes	Registered Voters	% Turnout
District 1	4,591	37,687	12%
District 3	1,717	30,251	5.6%
District 6	3,254	37,287	8.7%

Our plan is to continue to work with other organizations to improve turnout and have voters really take their place in our local government. It will take all of our participation to truly protect our Democracy.

Respectfully submitted by,

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

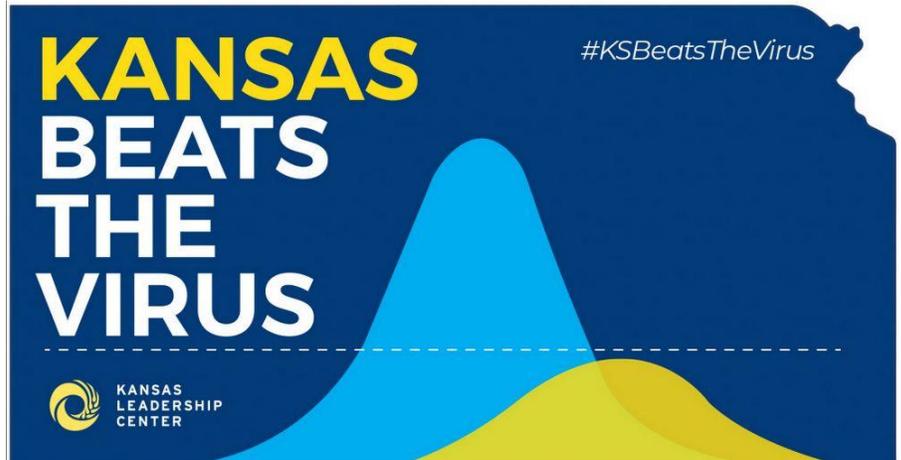
wichitametrolwv@gmail.com



Kansas Beats the Virus

The State of Kansas and the Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) are [partnering to dramatically reduce the spread of COVID-19 in local communities](#). KLC is organizing 1000 community meetings to mobilize more Kansans to generate their own local solutions and combat the virus. We have agreed to be part of the Kansas Beats the Virus initiative and have committed to two projects.

The first is to **provide emotional support to those in our community who are suffering from isolation**. Those individuals who are home bound and not able to have access to companionship are most likely being affected by the isolation. We have proposed implementing a Pen Pal program with a minimum of 100 individuals. We will be asking our members to participate by writing a note card each month, if comfortable providing their phone number to provide outside contact to help make their isolation less painful. The League will provide note cards and postage for a year for our volunteers and the recipients along with information on resources. Those of you wishing to participant please [signup online](#) or call 316-573-5583.



The second is to **donate blood**. During the past year blood donations have decreased dramatically. However, the need has increased. If you've fully recovered from a verified COVID-19 diagnosis, your convalescent plasma donation may help up to four coronavirus patients in need! Donors are critically needed as COVID-19 cases rise. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we will not do a formal drive, but donations may be made by contacting the Red Cross at 800-733-2767.



Mourning the Passing of Judith Loganbill

With great sadness, we announce the loss of Judy Loganbill on December 19, 2020. As a Kansas legislator from 2001 to 2013 and longtime League member, she was a fierce advocate for democracy. [Her obituary is available here](#). No memorial events are currently scheduled.

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

Contact Us

Phone: 316-573-5583

Email: [Co-president Martha Pint](#) and
[Co-president Jennifer Byers Heminway](#)

Follow LWV Online

Wichita-Metro: lwwichita.org
fb.com/League.Of.Women.Voters.Wichita

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](#).

State: lwvk.org
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US: lwv.org
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Thursday afternoon.