



## MEMBER HANDBOOK – 2019-2020

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#### League of Women Voters of Kansas City/Jackson, Clay & Platte Counties

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### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2019-2020

Name	Position	Term
Sandy Eeds	President	2021
Anitra Steele	Vice-President	2020
Anne Calvert	Secretary	2021
Caroline Arnold	Treasurer	2020
Sheryl Eufinger	Director	2020
Stacey Webb	Director	2021

Pauline Testerman	Director	2021
Dawn Wade	Director	2020
Josh Williams	Director	2020
Becky Yockey	Director	2021

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2019-2020

M.J. McCall	Chairperson
Rita Gulden	Committee Member
Rose Stuckey	Committee Member

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### Voter Services

- Registration
- GOTV activities and initiatives
- Voter Awareness
- Poll Work (poll workers, poll monitors)
- Liaison with KCEB and other election boards

Becky Yockey  
Becky Yockey, Symie Menitove

Pat Goodwin  
Sandy Eeds (KCEB)

### Voter Education

- Forums
- Vote411.org
- Observer Corps
- Adult and Student Civic Education
- Speakers Bureau

Stacey Webb  
Anitra Steele  
Pat Goodwin

Stacey Webb  
Stacey Webb

### League Programs

- General and Special meetings (non-committee meetings)
- Calendar/anniversary-driven events (Centennial)
- Hospitality
- Conferences/Conventions

Pauline Testerman  
Pauline Testerman, Sandy Eeds  
Anne Calvert  
Sheryl Eufinger

### Membership/Volunteer Recognition

- Training of existing volunteers
- Recruitment
- Volunteer time accounting
- Volunteer incentives/recognition events
- New member orientation

Laura Mountjoy  
  
(Board)

### Finance/Human Resources

- Development and reporting on the financial health of the League
- Staff

Caroline Arnold

### Funding Resources

Sandy Eeds

### Media/Communications

- Maintaining the League calendar
- Outside media - print, broadcast, digital
- Social media
- Periodic issues of the eVoter

Cheryl Barnes  
Pat Goodwin (website)  
Cheryl Barnes  
Pat Goodwin (website), Becky Yockey (FB), Wendy Noll (Twitter)  
Cheryl Barnes

**Ad Hoc (for specific tasks and activities)**

- League potential positions/studies as may arise
- Environment
- Tax Increment Financing
- Diversity
- National Popular Vote Compact
- Units/Regional meetings

Board Oversight

TBD

Pauline Testerman, Sheryl Eufinger

Alice Kitchen, Cheryl Barnes

Josh Williams, Anne Calvert

Annette LePique, Dawn Wade

**HISTORY:** The League of Women Voters was conceived in St. Louis, the last week of March 1919, at the convention of the National American Woman's Suffrage Association. During her keynote address to the convention, Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the Association, called for a "league of women voters as a memorial to suffrage pioneers." On the day after the convention adjourned, the Missouri and St. Louis suffragists met to plan the organization of an interim League. At an October 1919 convention, the Missouri League of Women Voters was formally born. The following March (1920) the national League was officially organized in Chicago. Its principal aim was to help the newly enfranchised women to become politically responsible, educated voting citizens. At the 1974 national League convention, the delegates voted to welcome men to full voting membership.

**LOCAL HISTORY:** The Kansas City LWV was formed in 1920 by Mrs. A. Ross Hill out of the local KC Women's Suffrage League which was organized in 1910. The League has a strong history of opposing the Pendergast regime, working hard on the Non-Partisan Court Plan and studying local issues. The Raytown LWV was formed in 1954 and disbanded in 1981 with local members joining the Independence League. The Independence League was born in May 1959 and was instrumental in the passage of the Independence City Charter with a City Manager. In 1997 the Independence League was renamed LWV Eastern Jackson County to better reflect its membership. In 1966 the local Leagues of Jackson County formed a County Council to handle study and action on a county level. In 1972 the Council was transformed into the Council of the LWV of Jackson, Clay and Platte or Tri-County League. The purpose of this Council was to provide the League with the ability to deal with governmental issues which are metropolitan in scope. It disbanded in 1982. Lee's Summit also had a LWV but due to a change in times and declining membership they disbanded and interested parties joined the Independence League in 1982. In 2004 the Eastern Jackson County League and the KC League merged and was renamed the LWV of Kansas City, Jackson, Clay & Platte Counties.

**PURPOSE AND POLICY:** The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization, promotes political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The LWV has a well-established process for studying selected governmental issues at the national, state and local levels. The League may, in the public interest, decide to take action on an issue which has been studied and on which consensus has been reached. These actions are taken within the boundaries of the Principles of the League of Women Voters of the United States. In its efforts to remain nonpartisan the League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate.

Through its Voter Service activities, the League provides nonpartisan information on the structure and functions of government, political parties, voting procedures, election issues, and candidates. The League works actively to register new voters including youth who have reached voting age and new citizens.

**PRINCIPLES:** The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.

The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings, and making public records.

The League of Women Voters believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.

The League is deeply concerned about issues that are affecting our democracy including voter suppression through voter ID laws, the need to curtail the vast and growing amounts of money spent on political campaigns and the need to strengthen ethical standards for elected officials.

The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

The League of Women Voters believes that government should be responsive to the will of the people and should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources and the environment in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.

The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems. The development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

**NON-PARTISANSHIP POLICY:** The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes any political party or candidate for elective office. Individual League members may, and are encouraged to run for elective office, and to work actively for political parties, except for members of any League Board of Directors. In the event a local Board member anticipates political activity, it shall be reviewed and acted upon by the local Board on the basis of the policy guidelines set forth in the publication *League Basics*. Certain sensitive off-board positions may be similarly affected by political activity. Non-Board members of the LWV, as private individuals are encouraged to participate fully in the party and political activities of their choice.

**DIVERSITY:** (adopted in 2008) The League of Women Voters of Kansas City Jackson/Clay/Platte counties, in both its values and practices, is committed to inclusion and diversity. This means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of economic position, gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. We recognize that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. We believe inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs. We affirm our commitment to reflecting the diversity of the Kansas City area.

**CONSENSUS:** Policies and positions of the LWV are made through a consensus development process. Consensus in the League means agreement reached among a substantial number of members after sustained study and group discussion. It is not just a simple majority or necessarily unanimity. Consensus within a group which is meeting for discussion is the "sense of the meeting". It comes after study of the facts and free discussion, in which expression of all points of view has been encouraged and the views of the minority considered, as well as those of the majority. It is expressed in terms of board objectives. If a state or national issue is under study/consensus, the local board then sends their consensus to their state or national office, where the officers on the appropriate level consider constituent leagues' consensus material to arrive at a position on which to take action. Further details on LWVUS positions and action is found in the publication *Impact on Issues - A Guide to Public Policy Positions* at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) and LWVMO positions and action is found in *Guide to State Action* [www.lwvmissouri.org](http://www.lwvmissouri.org) These guides emphasize the importance of a partnership at all League levels in order to achieve League objectives.

**CONCURRENCE:** According to the LWVUS handbook *League Basics*, concurrence is the act of agreeing with – or concurring with – a statement or position. A decision-making technique used by the League for some time, concurrence can work in several ways. Groups of League members or League Boards can concur with 1) recommendations of a resource committee or a committee or a unit group; 2) decision statements formulated by League Boards; or 3) positions reached by another League or Leagues.

As a general rule, background materials presenting the pros and cons of the issue being considered are provided to Leagues and members in the concurrence process. In area Leagues, an issue relating to one jurisdiction is often studied by members living in that jurisdiction, and, after member agreement has been reached by those members, the other members are asked to concur with the results.

**DISAGREEMENT WITH CERTAIN LEAGUE POSITIONS:** Individuals may not agree with certain League positions. League asks that members do not oppose the issue publicly in the name of the League. However, members are free to express opinions as individuals.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to everyone who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League.

- Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League are voting members of the Local LWV, LWVMO & LWVUS.
- Those who have been members for 50 years or more shall be life members and excused from paying dues.

There are about 100,000 members of the League in the United States. There are Leagues in every state, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam. At present there are 8 Leagues in Missouri. Metro St. Louis, SW Missouri, SE Missouri, Sedalia/Pettis county, Moberly/Randolph County, Mexico/Audrain County, Kansas City, Jackson, Clay & Platte Counties, Columbia/Boone County.

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:** The LWVKC/J/C/P, unless otherwise decided and announced, holds a monthly meeting on the second Saturday. The doors open at 9:30 a.m., with coffee and conversation; the meeting and program begin at 10:00 a.m. and ends between 11:30 and noon, depending on the program. Information about meetings will be posted at [www.lwvkc.org](http://www.lwvkc.org) and sent out in the eVoter. The LWVKC/J/C/P has a rich history of speakers at our meetings. In recent years these have ranged from environmental issues, money in politics, access to health care and related reform, local and regional ballot issues, violence in our community, journalism and electoral politics. All meetings are open to the public.

**MEMBER INVOLVEMENT:** All members of the LWVKC/J/C/P are encouraged to be involved in the League's work. This can range from serving on an ad hoc committee or group to address a single issue or need, to heading a group (e.g. Voter Registration) and taking on a significant coordinating function, to serving on the Board. Help is always needed in the following areas: Voter Registration, Forums, Fundraising, and Voters' Guide, arranging for speakers for meetings or helping with refreshments. Please contact either of the Co- Presidents of our League identified at the beginning of this handbook.

**FUNDING:** Part of the League's financial support comes from members and friends and businesses that support the educational work the League does. The LWV of KC/JCP is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions made to us are tax deductible to the contributor if they itemize on their tax return. The LWV is also directly supported by membership dues (\$70 individual, \$105 Household, \$8 Student), gifts (will/estates), foundation grants, fund-raisers and corporate & union contributions.

**THE FOLLOWING ARE SUMMARIES OF POSITIONS/POLICIES ADOPTED BY THE THREE LEVELS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS (NATIONAL, STATE, LOCAL) WITHIN WHICH LEAGUES, INCLUDING OURS, MAY TAKE ACTION.**

## **LWVUS - SUMMARY OF PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS – 2018-2020**

### **REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT**

**Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.**

#### **Voting Rights**

**Citizen's Right to Vote** - Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

**DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation** - Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full representation in both houses of Congress.

## **Election Process**

**Apportionment** - Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population

**Redistricting Position** - Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.

**Money in Politics** – Support campaign finance/MIP regulations that enhances political equality for all citizens, ensures transparency, protects representative democracy from distortion by undisclosed contributions and big money, and combats corruption and undue influence in government. Support campaign spending that is restricted but not banned. Supports public financing, full disclosure, abolishing Super PACs and creating an effective enforcement agency.

**Selection of the President** - Promote the election of the President and Vice- President by direct popular vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

## **Citizen Rights**

**Citizen Right to know/Citizen Participation** - Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.

## **Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals and Constitutional Conventions**

**Amendment Proposals** – Consider whether a proposal addresses matters of abiding importance, makes our political system more democratic, protects individual rights, could be achieved by a constitutional amendment or legislative proposal, and is consistent with other League positions.

**Constitutional Conventions** – Hold Constitutional Conventions only when certain conditions are in place, such as: limited to a single specific topic, full transparency, delegates selected by population, and voting by delegates not by states.

**Public Policy on Reproductive Choices** - Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices

## **Congress and the Presidency**

**Congress** - Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability, effective performance and transparency.

**The Presidency** - Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

## **Privatization**

Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector.

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.**

### **United Nations**

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

### **Trade**

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals

### **Developing Countries**

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

### **Arms Control**

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

### **Military Policy and Defense Spending**

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.**

### **Natural Resources**

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

### **Resource Management & Protection**

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Promote resource conservation, stewardship, and long-range planning with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government. Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

**Air Quality.** Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

**Energy.** Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

**Land Use.** Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

**Water.** Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water, and set up a process to evaluate inter-basin water transfers.

**Waste Management.** Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

**Nuclear.** Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

**Climate Change.** Support climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations.

### **Public Participation**

Promote public understanding and participation in decision-making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.



## **Agricultural Policy**

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

**Federal Agriculture Policies** Provide financial support to subsidize agriculture in specific instances, enforce federal antitrust laws to ensure competitive agricultural markets and apply clean air and water regulations to all animal and aquaculture production. The federal government should fund basic agricultural research to provide adequate safety of our food supply.

## **SOCIAL POLICY**

**Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.**

### **Equality of Opportunity**

**Equal Rights.** Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA. Support equal rights for all under state and federal law regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability.

**Education, Employment and Housing** Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

**Federal Role in Public Education** Support federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12.

### **Fiscal Policy**

**Tax Policy** Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

**Federal Deficit** Promotes responsible deficit policies.

**Funding of Entitlements** Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

### **Health Care**

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents, including behavioral health that is integrated with and achieves parity with the physical health care system.

### **Immigration**

Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

### **Meeting the Basic Human Needs**

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

**Income Assistance.** Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

**Support Services.** Provide essential support services.

**Housing.** Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

**Child Care**

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

**Early Intervention for Children at Risk.** Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

**Violence Prevention** Support violence prevention programs in communities.

**Gun Control**

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

**Urban Policy**

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

**Death Penalty**

The LWVUS supports the abolition of the death penalty.

**Sentencing Policy**

The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

**Human Trafficking**

Oppose all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

***Whatever the issue the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review***

## **PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR 2019 – 2021 STATE PROGRAM**

*Including changes voted in at the 2015 and 2017 LWVMO Conventions*

### **GOVERNMENT**

**Constitutional Revision**

of specific constitutional revisions to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of state government

**Adopted 1941, Updated,1962, Revised 2017 Support**

**County Home Rule**

Support of measures to extend home rule to counties

**Adopted 01-08-1971**

**Election Process**

**Campaign Finance**

The complete lack of limits on payments in Missouri is a cause of substantial concern

**Adopted 12-1978, Updated 2015**

This, coupled with the enormous influx of virtually uncontrolled money flowing into the election process, calls for LWVMO to be more direct in its position

**Legislative Reform****Adopted 1964, Updated 1967, 2017**

Support of measures to improve the organization and powers of the Missouri General Assembly

Support of standards for apportionment to make congressional and legislative districts as compact, contiguous, and as nearly equal in population as possible with no partisan gerrymandering.

**Presidential Nominee Selection Process****Adopted 1970, Updated 1986**

Support of measures to increase the informed participation of Missouri citizens in the selection of presidential nominees

**Voting Rights****Adopted 1919, Updated 1966, 1970**

Support of an accurate, efficient, accessible, accountable, and uniform election process Support of measures to ensure a secret ballot

Support of absentee voting, advance voting and measures that facilitate participation in the election process

**Adopted 2010**Support the fundamental right of every citizen to vote **Adopted 2015****Fiscal Policy****Adopted 1940, Updated 1973, 2003**

Support of a balanced and progressive tax system to finance necessary governmental services Opposition to revenue and expenditure limits to control the growth of state government.

Fiscal policy should be in state statutes, rather than the Constitution.

**JUSTICE****Judicial System****Adopted 1940, Updated 2007**

Support of a flexible unified system of courts under the Supreme Court

Support of the Nonpartisan Court Plan and an improved system of selection, tenure and retirement of judges

**Juvenile Justice****Adopted 1974, Updated 1987**

Support of measures to insure a coordinated system of juvenile justice which treats children fairly and effectively

**NATURAL RESOURCES****Air Quality****Adopted 2015**

Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources

**Hazardous and Solid Waste****Adopted 1972, Updated 1987**

Support of strong provisions to fulfill state and local government's responsibility for hazardous and solid waste management

**Land Use and Growth Management****Adopted 1976 Based on National Positions 1986**

Support for the adoption and implementation of long range land use plans and regulations by state, county and municipal governments which incorporate sound policy development based upon the goals, needs and resources of each locale.

**Water****Adopted 1958, Updated 1989**

Support of a comprehensive water policy for Missouri, one that includes the public trust doctrine

**Climate Change** **Adopted 2017**  
Recognize manmade climate change as a critical threat to the planet

**SOCIAL POLICY**

**Education** **Adopted 1965, Updated 1970, 1974, 1983**  
Support for equal opportunity in education, access to quality programs and adequate financing.

**Charter Schools** **Adopted 1999, Updated 2007, 2015**  
The League does not support or oppose charter schools. Since Missouri law permits Charter schools, the League supports criteria for governance and operations similar to those of traditional public schools, but accountability and accreditation same as those of traditional public schools.

**Family Planning** **Adopted 1988 by Concurrence w/ Springfield/Green Co.** Support state family planning programs and educational programs about family planning including funding for these programs.

**Human Trafficking** **Adopted 2015**  
The League opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking. The League supports appropriate legislation and policy to lead to strict enforcing of these laws; services for victims; and education and awareness in our communities and schools.

**Minimum Wage** **Adopted 2018 (Concurrence St. Louis Metro)**  
Promote a minimum wage of at least \$12.00/hr in Missouri to advance self-sufficiency for individuals and families\*

*\*This was approved by the LWVUS Board following the direction of the LWVUS Board under the position of Quality of Life.*

**Gun Control** **Adopted 2014**

**Gun Control** Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Should Municipalities be able to pass local gun control ordinances? **New Study approved 2015**

**HEALTH**

**Mental Health** **Adopted 2015, Amended 2016**  
Support an adequately funded behavioral health care system, and strengthens families. Implement full insurance parity for behavioral health care.

**Medical Marijuana** **Adopted 2015**  
Support legislation which allows marijuana for medical treatments Support treating possession as one of the lowest law enforcement priorities

**PUBLIC LIBRARIES** **Adopted 2007, Amended 2013**  
Support of a public library system as a basic community service, including internet access, with a long-term assured, stable and adequate funding source.

Support of access by all persons to public library services as a major source of knowledge and information necessary for informed, active participation in a democratic society.

# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KC/J/C/P

## POSITIONS IN BRIEF (adopted April 2004)

### EDUCATION

**Kansas City:** Support of adequate local tax levies to provide optimum education systems for the school districts within the Kansas City limits. The following criteria should be used to evaluate the adequacy of proposed tax levels:

1. Retention or improvement of the districts state classification.
2. Competitive teacher's salaries among the twelve Kansas City, MO districts.

### **Independence:**

1. Support open meetings of the school board for the purpose of informing and soliciting public opinion, and encouraging the public to attend these meetings. (1971)
2. Support a quality education that prepares students for their role as contributors in the changing cultural, social and economic world. (1-1972)
3. Support of the school system in Independence with the objective of providing optimum education for all. (9-1975)

### CITY POSITIONS

**Kansas City: Human Resources** – Currently (3-1-04) the functions delineated below are performed or monitored by the City's Human Relations Department. There is no Human Relations Commission now; however a Human Rights Commission (HRC) has the task of responding to all issues of bias although it has no enforcement power.) (Consensus 1966)

Support of equality of opportunity in public accommodations and housing. The Kansas City fair housing ordinance should include these provisions:

1. Coverage of all dwellings except rental units in one-family or two- family owner occupied structures.
2. Actions of real estate brokers, lending institutions and builders should be covered.
3. An anti-blockbusting clause should be included.
4. The Human Relations Commission should enforce the ordinance with recourse to the courts.
5. Complaint investigation procedures should be in the following order:
  - a) Voluntary compliance, b) efforts at mediation, c) subpoena of witnesses at all stages, d) public hearings and e) court action
6. The enforcing agency should be allowed to initiate complaints
7. The principle of ascending fines for second violations should be part of the housing ordinance.
8. A program of public education should be instituted by the Human Relations Commission, with a sufficient budget.

### City Government

**Support of Council-Manager form of government.** The following points were emphasized:

1. The six district and the six at-large council members create a representative government that can be responsive to the will of the majority.
2. More emphasis should be placed on the policy-making capabilities of the council.
3. Consideration should be given to transfer of some of the detail of the charter to the administrative code.
4. Consideration should be given to methods for strengthening the policy making leadership role of the mayor.

**Support of the following City Charter Changes:** (Consensus 1972)

1. A considerable increase in the number of signatures required to declare intent to cause referendum petitions to be circulated.
2. Raising the number of signatures required to bring an issue to referendum to about 10% of the registered voters.

3. Charter revision should be done by an appointed non-partisan committee rather than a 13 member elected commission.
4. Charter review body should make proposals to city council every 10 years to be taken as amendment to propositions to the voters.

**Support of Planning and Zoning:** (Consensus 1977)

1. Applicants for rezoning, opponents, and citizen groups should have equal opportunities to present their information and opinions.
2. Persons appointed to the City Plan Commission and the Board of Zoning Adjustment should have a balance of interest among them.
3. Notification of rezoning hearing should be published in a paper of general circulation other than the Daily record. Written notification of hearings and rehearing's to all owners of record and residents of adjoining property should be a requirement not a courtesy. The notification procedure might include prominently posting a sign at the property, easily recognizable from a distance, at least two weeks before the first hearing.
4. In the planning process, a set of goals should take priority over a map showing proposed uses, although it is understood both are important.

**Housing:** (Consensus 1981)

1. Support of a written housing policy to preserve a healthy environment and conserve decent and safe housing stock.
2. Support the conservation of the city core and older housing stock.
3. Support the Mayor and City Council formulating this policy.
4. Support and adequately funded Housing Department.
5. Support property maintenance and code enforcement.
6. Support private investment in housing.

**Finance:** (Consensus 1984) Support for adequate financing of city services. Support of budgeting procedures that facilitate citizen comprehension and City Council participation. Support for reliance upon progressive taxes. The following points were emphasized:

1. **Expenditures:** Among the categories used in the Budget by objectives, the League gives highest priority for support of two, "Public Safety and Protection" and "Maintenance and Utility".
2. **Procedures:** The League would like to see the format of the Proposed Budget and the Financial Report coordinated to facilitate citizen comparison and comprehension as well as meeting accounting and city finance principles. The League would also like to have significant changes in the budget from the preceding year noted and fully described in the proposed budget.
3. **Revenue:** The League supports a reduction of the utility tax. When taxes are justified to the public, based on an emergency and earmarked for a specific use, the League supports a sunset clause tied to their adoption. The League supports bond issues for needed capital improvements.

**Independence City Positions**

1. Support of Independence City Charter (including our position opposing formation of a board of police commissioners with the exception and conditions state in the position paper) and evaluation of any proposed amendments or revisions. (1961)
2. Support having a functioning Human Relations Commission. (3-1964)
3. The LWV of Independence supports a sound system to finance Independence municipal services and capital improvements. (1971)
4. Annexation (12-1972)
5. Oppose formation of a Board of Police Commissioners. (10-1974)
6. Support recreation programs designed and available to meet the needs of all ages. (10-1977)
7. Support services to be accessible to every citizen by means of an efficient and economical delivery system form the Fire, Health, Police and Public Works/Maintenance Departments and any other departments appropriately assigned to these services. (1993)
8. Support of comprehensive planning as a general guide for the development of Independence. (1994)
9. Support of tax increment financing as first implemented by the City of Independence, MO. (1996)

## COUNTY POSITIONS

**CLAY COUNTY:** Study of the home rule charter government for Clay County. Support of criteria for a new jail facility in Clay County.

1. The Plans for the jail must take into consideration the current as well as the long range uses and needs of the entire County.
2. All federal minimum standards should be met.
3. Adequate parking facilities should be included in the total jail plan.
4. The future expansion of all county governmental facilities should be an integral part of the overall planning for a new jail.

**JACKSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT:** The following positions were established by the now defunct Tri-County League, an inter league organization (ILO), after study and consensus all the participating Leagues:

1. Support of the charter form of government in Jackson County (1967-1970)
2. Support of the authorization for home rule charter counties to provide services approved by the voters on a county-wide basis. (1967-1970)
3. Support of authority of Jackson County to enter into inter- governmental contracts. (1967-1970)
4. Support of a merit system applying to all county employees below the level of department head. (1967-1970)
5. Support of improved administration of institutions and services for juvenile wards of Jackson County, with chief emphasis on treatment. (1967-1970)
6. Support of increased accountability for administration of Jackson County finances. (1974-75)
7. Support of a continuing re-evaluation of property tax assessment. (1974-75)
8. Support of a sound county tax system. (1974-75)
9. Support the minimum standards in the Jackson County Jail position for the housing of jail inmates. (1974-75)
10. Support continuance of Jackson County Anti-Drug Tax for an additional seven years. (1995 position of Independence only as the Tri-County ILO had dissolved.)

## REGIONAL POSITIONS (Tri-County)

1. Support of an adequate welfare program for residents of Jackson, Clay and Platte Counties. (1970)
2. Support of a regional plan for management and disposal of solid waste in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area. (2-1973)
3. Support of the expansion of a public mass transit system and the need to develop a mass transit metro in the Kansas City area. Locally, we support the concept of one regional authority governing mass transit in the Kansas City statistical metropolitan area. The League supports provisions which take into consideration convenience, accessibility, reliability and speed. Also important is reasonable fares, minimal comfort and personal safety. The League supports those measures, which reduce to a minimum the disruption of existing communities and ecological balance. The League also favors the use of existing facilities and rights of way where possible.

## LWV of KC, Jackson, Clay & Platte Counties:

### Metropolitan Water Position (Consensus April 2014)

We support maintenance of best practices for water standards throughout the Missouri River Basin, with particular emphasis on quality and quantity as it affects metropolitan Kansas City.

I. Quality: LWV/KC/J/C/P supports activities, legislation and regulations that:

- A. Ensures safe drinking water.
- B. Minimizes contaminants in the water supply by monitoring and reviewing residential, agricultural, commercial and industrial discharges.
- C. Holds residents, commercial entities and industry accountable for actions that can affect the water supply.
- D. Coordinates intergovernmental agencies charged with managing the water supply.
- E. Uses region-wide coordinated management plans and techniques in solving the Missouri River Basin problems.

- F. Protects the water in the ecosystem by strict adherence to agricultural, industrial, residential, environmental and commercial zoning regulations that prohibit the introduction of toxic or polluting discharges or detrimental land use techniques within the Missouri River Basin, which ultimately affects the metropolitan water supply.
- G. Continual testing of the Missouri River Basin water quality for impact from pesticides and fertilizers, resistant bacteria, persistent pharmaceuticals and other chemicals.

II. Quantity: LWV/KC/J/C/P supports activities, legislation and regulations that:

- A. Encourages water conservation.
- B. Discourages inefficient water practices; restrict requests for large withdrawals with the potential for or actual damage to the ecosystem.
- C. Supports reclaiming wetlands and marshes for native species, recharging aquifers and minimizing flood damage.



## PERSONAL VOTER INFORMATION

Use this page to record the governmental districts in which you reside. Many of these are found on your Voter Identification card. You may also go to [www.sos.mo.gov/elections/voterlookup](http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/voterlookup) for this information.

VOTER ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Ward: \_\_\_\_\_

Precinct: \_\_\_\_\_

Senate District: \_\_\_\_\_

House District: \_\_\_\_\_

Congress District: \_\_\_\_\_

County Legislative: \_\_\_\_\_

City Council: \_\_\_\_\_

Metro. Com College District: \_\_\_\_\_

School District: \_\_\_\_\_

## AREA ELECTION BOARDS

Absentee Ballot and other information is available:

<b>Kansas City</b>	<a href="http://www.kceb.org">www.kceb.org</a>	816-842-4820;
<b>Jackson Co.</b>	<a href="http://jcebmo.org">http://jcebmo.org</a>	816-325-4600;
<b>Cass Co.</b>	<a href="http://casscounty.com">casscounty.com</a>	816-380-8106;
<b>Clay Co.</b>	<a href="http://claycoelections.com">claycoelections.com</a>	816-415-8683;
<b>Platte Co.</b>	<a href="http://www.plattemovotes.org">www.plattemovotes.org</a>	816-858-4400
<b>Johnson Co., KS</b>	<a href="http://jocoelection.org">jocoelection.org</a>	913-782-3441
<b>Wyandotte Co., KS</b>	<a href="http://www.wycokck.org/election">www.wycokck.org/election</a>	913-334-1414

**Member Roster:** The Roster of the LWV - KC/JC/Platte Counties is provided for the convenience and use of its membership in carrying out the work of the organization. The membership roster is not to be sold, distributed or used for any other purposes without prior consent.

**Communications:** Communications are very important to our League.

- Visit our web site, [www.lwvkc.org](http://www.lwvkc.org), or our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/LWVKCMO](https://www.facebook.com/LWVKCMO), to learn about what we're working on and upcoming events.
- Email us at [lwvcjcp@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcjcp@gmail.com).
- Call our official League phone number - 816-464-1800. This line is monitored by a volunteer who forwards messages to the appropriate party.
- Our newsletter, *The eVoter*, is distributed periodically and electronically to conserve resources.
- Contact information for LWVKCJCP, LWVMO, and LWVUS is on the front of this local membership booklet.

*All internal communication is done electronically. If you do not have an email address, please let us know, so arrangements can be worked out to keep you informed.*

**Only the President/Co-Presidents may speak on behalf of the LWV/KC/JC/ P unless another officer, Board member or member is authorized to do so.**

***Voter Service – Citizen Education -- Local Issues – Legislative Action- Development – Forums – State Taxes– Money & Politics-- Voter Protection,***

## **EMPOWERING VOTERS – DEFENDING DEMOCRACY**

