



VOTER

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Johnson County

How To Reach Us

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Since 1920, the League of Women Voters has been a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

General Meeting Saturday, April 4

Atonement Lutheran Church – 9948 Metcalf

8:30 a.m. – Socializing

9 - 11 a.m. – Program

11 a.m. - noon – LWV JoCo Board Meeting

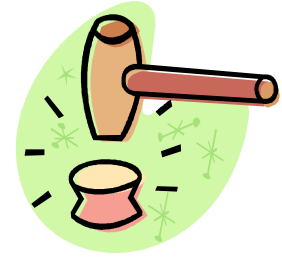
National Popular Vote Compact: A Better Way to Elect our Presidents?

Four times in our nation's past--most recently being the 2000 election--the president chosen by our Electoral College system was not the same person receiving the most popular votes. The National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact provides a way to choose the President of the United States by popular vote without amending the Constitution.

Come prepared to debate the pros and cons of this issue. Consensus questions that we will be discussing are printed on page 3. For background information, as well as the pro and con positions, we urge you to check the League web site: www.lwv.org, then type Popular Vote in the search box.

We look forward to seeing you

One feature that attracts many to League is our in-depth study of issues. League's history and policy is to undertake intensive study of an issue, discuss it in small groups, and through consensus arrive upon a position. We have position statements of issues on a national, state and local (Johnson County) basis.



President's Message

March has been a busy month for the League. The National League participated in Washington, along with Oxfam, to celebrate International Woman's Day. Women across the country are committed to spreading the word about the adverse effects of global climate change on women and children around the world. The League urged members of Congress to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as provide climate change adaptation projects. We have experienced weather related disasters in recent years, and populations need to learn ways to adapt to the changes that have occurred and that can no longer be reversed.

March includes the annual Sunshine Week National Dialogue.* The National League, along with coalition members of OpenTheGovernment.org, is sponsoring a webcast on "Opening Doors: Finding the Keys to Open Government." This features a discussion between panelists and the audience on what the new administration hopes to achieve with its new directive, the policy issues facing this administration and the new vision for e-government, and financial and economic transparency.

March is also Women's History Month. For 90 years, the League has worked to ensure our democracy is transparent, effective and truly representative. National League President, Mary Wilson, said, "Those challenges are as real today as they were for our suffragist foremothers who struggled for their right to vote so many years ago." We are proud of our heritage and celebrate the many contributions our members have made to our community.

I urge you all to attend the April 4 meeting to participate in the National League study on National Popular Vote. Be sure to check the national website for background on the study, so you will come prepared to discuss the issues involved with other league members. Hope to see you then.

Barbara Stillman

* **Sunshine Week National Dialogue:** **WHEN:** Friday, March 20 from 2 - 3:30 PM (CDT) **WHERE:** *On your computer via webcast.* Participants can ask questions by phone and email. For information and to participate, visit www.openthegovernment.org

National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact Study

Delegates at LWVUS Convention 2008 voted to study the advisability of using the National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact among the states as a method for electing the U.S. President.

The National Popular Vote Compact Proposal

The National Popular Vote Compact proposal offers a method of achieving the result of election of the President by popular vote without amending the Constitution to eliminate the Electoral College. Instead, this method uses the mechanism of the Electoral College to ensure that the candidate who receives the most popular votes is elected President of the United States.

Under the proposed legislation to enact the National Popular Vote Compact, all of the state's electoral votes would be awarded to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The bill would take effect only when enacted, in identical form, by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes—that is, enough electoral votes to elect a President (270 of 538)

The National Popular Vote Compact is the topic for our April 4 general meeting. The National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact provides a way to choose the President of the United States by popular vote without amending the Constitution. For background information on this topic, as well as the pro and con positions, check the League website: www.lwv.org, then type Popular Vote in the search box.

National Popular Vote Compact Consensus Questions

Amending the Constitution

1. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- a. Action to alter a basic element of the Constitutional framework, which is achievable by amendment to the Constitution, should be accomplished by amendment to the Constitution.
- b. Action by states through a compact process is an acceptable way to alter the method for electing the President and Vice-President.
- c. The group could not reach consensus.

2. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- a. Because a compact has never before been used to address a fundamental constitutional issue such as voting, the chance that it might set a precedent for the future leads to the conclusion that it is better that the League continue to work for an amendment to the Constitution to establish the direct popular election of the President and the abolition of the Electoral College.
- b. Despite the novelty of the use of the compact approach to address a fundamental constitutional issue such as voting, the League should support the NPV Compact as a way of achieving an important goal.
- c. The group could not reach consensus.

Congressional Consent

3. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- a. The possibility that the NPV Compact will require congressional consent is not of sufficient concern to block the implementation of the plan.
- b. The possibility that the NPV Compact will require congressional consent is sufficient to conclude that the plan should not be implemented without obtaining such consent.
- c. The group could not reach consensus.

Enforcement

4. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- a. The NPV Compact contains sufficient enforcement provisions to assure smooth operation of the plan.
- b. Although it is not possible to determine whether the enforcement provisions will be sufficient to assure smooth operation of the plan, the plan should be passed anyway.
- c. Enforcement of the plan is likely to add uncertainty and bring the courts into the presidential election in ways that raise substantial concerns.
- d. The lack of adequate enforcement provisions is sufficient to conclude that the NPV is not a viable plan.
- e. The group could not reach consensus.

Uniformity

5. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- a. The uniformity of voting systems is more important to American democracy than the possibility that the NPV Compact can be adopted.
- b. The NPV Compact is more important than uniformity of voting systems because it would succeed in achieving the popular election of the President.
- c. The group could not reach consensus.

Popular Election of the President

6. Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group? Select one.

- a. It is more important to achieve the goal of national popular election of the President than it is to achieve the goal of abolition of the Electoral College.
- b. It is more important to amend the Constitution to abolish the Electoral College than it is to achieve the goal of popular election of the President by alternative methods, such as the NPV Compact.
- c. The group could not reach consensus.

Achievability

7. Which statements reflect the views of the group?

- a. The NPV Compact will have problems being passed because of the need for congressional consideration and the need for action by so many states.
Agree Disagree No Consensus
- b. A constitutional amendment to establish the direct popular election of the President and the abolition of the Electoral College will continue to have problems being passed.
Agree Disagree No Consensus

Election of LWV Officers and Board

Our LWV by-laws explain the process for electing our officers and Board of Directors. Article V deals with the election of officers and their rotation. "The first Vice President and the Secretary shall be elected in odd numbered years. The second Vice President and Treasurer are elected in even numbered years." (The treasurer's term actually ends on June 30th, the end of the fiscal year.)

The Board of Directors includes the officers, seven elected and not more than seven appointed Directors. Elected Directors shall be elected, four in even numbered years and three in odd numbered years, and shall serve for a term of two years. Appointed directors serve for one year only.

In May 2008, we elected co-presidents-elect **Candi Birch** and **Gwynne Lee**. Their terms as presidents will start on May 9, 2009. We also elected **Betty Wyckhoff** as treasurer; she is serving a two-year term.

Nominations for Officers and Directors 2009-2010

Officers

President-Elect: Harriett Anderson (1 yr term)

1st Vice President: Harriett Duff (2 yr term)

Secretary: Edys Cacy (2 yr term)

Board of Directors

International Relations: Nancy Martin (2 year term)

Government: Ann Etter (2 year term)

Observer Corp: Nancy Jefferies (2 year term)

Nominating Committee 2009-2010

Barbara Stillman, Chair; Carol Snyder and Pat Lanser

*Respectfully submitted,
Royceann Mather, Chair,
Myrna Stringer, Janis McMillen, Carol Snyder and Marian Wade*

Making Democracy Work Award

The Johnson County League of Women Voters created the Making Democracy Work Award to recognize an outstanding community leader who has:

- Served the public sector or community for at least 5 years
- Exhibited honesty and integrity
- Made a difference in the community
- Kept promises made to others and the community
- Has a proven she/he is a highly principled individual

The League celebrates leaders who have envisioned a way to improve our community and who have mobilized others to work collaboratively to affect positive change. The Making Democracy Work Award honors one such individual who has, in the League tradition, helped make our local governments strong, vibrant, fair and responsive to the needs of all members of our community.

The League congratulates our 2009 Making Democracy Work Award recipient, **Prairie Village Councilwoman Ruth Hopkins**. She has served Johnson County in many capacities. Most recently, under her leadership, the Solid Waste Management Committee developed a progressive 20-year Solid Waste Plan for Johnson County. As was stated in her nomination, "Ruth Hopkins is one of the 'worker bees' who keep government running efficiently." Come and celebrate Ruth Hopkins' contributions at our Annual Meeting on May 9, 2009.

Ann Sanders

Revised May 2009

Attachment to the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Johnson County, Inc.

Standing Rules

“Standing Rules ... are rules which are related to the details of the administration of a society ... A standing rule can be adopted by a majority vote at any business meeting without previous notice.” Changing a standing rule requires (a) a two-thirds vote, or (b) a majority vote when notice of intent to make the motion has been given, or (c) a vote of the entire membership. (Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, pages 17-18, 299-301)

The League of Women Voters of Johnson County has adopted the following Standing Rules at Annual Meetings. (*Highlighted sections are changes proposed by the Board.*)

1. The Board of Directors may ask the Nominating Committee for the recommendation of a nominee to fill a vacancy of an officer or elected director. (1968)
2. The date of the annual meeting shall be during the month of May. (1993)
3. The Board of Directors shall consider the nominated officers and directors for the ensuing year when selecting delegates and alternates to the State Convention and Council. (1977)
4. Any unbudgeted expenditure above \$50.00, must receive prior approval of the Board Directors. When appropriate (i.e. printing costs) 3 bids should be sought and lowest best bid should be approved by the Board. (2009)
5. Dues. Basic membership dues and categories will be set at the Annual Meeting. Members may choose one of these categories:

A. Membership Dues	\$ 55.00	(2008)
B. Supporting Membership	\$ 75.00	(2009)
C. Sustaining Membership	\$100.00	(2009)
D. Household membership	\$ 82.50	(2009) (regular plus half)
E. Scholarship Member		(1989)
F. Student membership	\$ 20.00	(1997)
6. Names of sustaining members will be listed among the contributors.
7. Membership will be renewed on an annual basis notwithstanding the date the membership is accepted. The membership renewal date will coincide with the first day of the fiscal year. Memberships accepted in the seventh month through the tenth month of the fiscal year will be charged one-half of the membership dues. Memberships accepted at the Annual Meeting through the end of the fiscal year (June 30) will be charged the full amount with the funds and membership attributable to the following fiscal year. Membership dues may be paid in two equal payments. The first payment will be due on the first day of the new fiscal year and the second payment will be due 90 days later. Membership renewal notices will be mailed to each member one month prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. (1989)
8. Expenses for Meeting Attendance. Each of the delegates selected for National Convention – shall be advanced a proportionate share of the budgeted amount to be spent in the following priority: (1) registration, (2) round trip air fare based on the lowest 30 advance purchase fare, (3) hotel room and tax, and (4) extra-cost conference functions. Any amount not spent should be returned to the Treasurer. Each delegate selected for the State Convention or the State Council shall receive an expense advance equal to the total budgeted for that expense, less total registration fee advanced, divided by the number of selected delegates who attended. All of the above are subject to the availability of funds. (1992)

2010 Budget *(To be voted on at the May 9 Annual Meeting)*

	2008 Budget	2009 Budget	YTD	2010 Budget
Income				
Dues				
33 Household membership	8000.00	8,580.00	0.00	1,237.50
118 Individual membership			9,004.00	6,325.00
Student membership			0.00	
Supporting membership			0.00	
Sustaining membership			0.00	
3 Honorary membership			0.00	
19 Rebate for national members	100.00	60.00	60.00	65.00
173 Total	8,100.00	8,640.00	9,064.00	7,627.50
Contributions				
Member contributions	1000.00	1000.00	100.00	500.00
Non-member contributions			35.00	
Honorarium/memory contributions			170.00	
Total	1,000.00	1,000.00	305.00	500.00
Fund Raising				
Member fund-raising	500.00	400.00	546.00	400.00
Promoting League in community			0.00	
Total	500.00	400.00	546.00	400.00
Transfer from Reserves	518.00	0.00	0.00	2,447.50
General Meetings	400.00	400.00	0.00	
Miscellaneous				
Gifts in Kind (non cash)	250.00	250.00	0.00	250.00
Miscellaneous			0.00	
Total	250.00	250.00	0.00	2,697.50
Total Income	10,768.00	10,690.00	9,915.00	11,225.00

Expenses

	2008 Budget	2009 Budget	YTD	2010 Budget
Operating				
Supplies, Stationery, Misc.	250.00	200.00	549.67	200.00
Telephone	500.00	500.00	320.90	500.00
PO Box yearly rent	50.00	50.00	0.00	50.00
Miscellaneous	25.00	25.00	40.00	25.00
Total	825.00	775.00	910.57	775.00
Administrative				
President and Board	100.00	100.00	25.58	150.00
Membership and Fund Raising	500.00	400.00	1,046.84	200.00
Fund Raising				200.00
State Corporation fee	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
Financial Review	35.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Postage	200.00	200.00	76.52	150.00
Total	875.00	790.00	1,238.94	790.00
Delegates and Travel				
State meetings (Council)	250.00	600.00	0.00	250.00
National Convention (1)	1000.00		900.36	1,000.00
Total	1,250.00	600.00	900.36	1,250.00
LWV Financial Support				
State PMP	2880.00	2800.00	1,944.00	2,500.00
National PMP	4288.00	4700.00	2,979.00	4,060.00
LWV JC Donation to 2020	160.00	160.00	0.00	170.00
Total	7,328.00	7,660.00	4,923.00	6,730.00
Service and Information				
Voter Service	25.00	25.00	42.00	25.00
Speakers/Awards	40.00	100.00	0.00	75.00
Contributions to other groups	80.00	80.00	110.00	80.00
Total	145.00	205.00	152.00	180.00
Publications				
Annual Meeting Book	125.00	150.00	0.00	150.00
Brochures		0.00	196.07	0.00
Other Handbooks		0.00	0.00	0.00
Local Position Handbook	100.00	100.00	608.59	0.00
Member Handbook and Directory	150.00	100.00	218.81	50.00
VOTER, publishing	250.00	225.00	225.80	225.00
VOTER, postage	350.00	325.00	177.44	675.00
Total	975.00	900.00	1,426.71	1,100.00
Meeting and Studies				
Program and Portfolio Studies	100.00	300.00	0.00	100.00
General/Unit meetings, refreshments	100.00	125.00	80.95	100.00
Church facilities	100.00	265.00	200.00	200.00
Total	300.00	690.00	280.95	400.00
Total Expenses	11,698.00	11,620.00	9,832.53	11,225.00

NOTE: Reserve Funds The League of Women Voters of Johnson County has two CDs that total \$24,065.83 and two CDs for the 2020 account that total \$16,191.53. The Educational Fund currently, has \$1,598.25 locally, and \$2,266.14 in the national account. Total assets for all accounts amount to \$47,388.73 as of the end of February 2009.Betty Wyckhoff, treasurer

Let's Talk Issues

Let's Talk Issues is a program presented six times a year, sponsored by the Johnson County Community College, The Kansas City Star, and Johnson County League of Women Voters. It is taped at the Community College and can be seen on the college television station and accessed through its website.

Anyone interested in attending the taping is invited. Plan to arrive no later than 6:45 p.m. on April 8 at the JCCC television studio. The college provides us with a DVD of each program. On April 8, the final Let's Talk Issues program for the season, members of the Kansas Legislature will discuss what happened during the recent legislative session.

Board Briefs

At the March 7 meeting, the Board of Directors expressed appreciation to Bettie Swiontek, who 8 years ago started the League's program of registering new citizens as voters. Betty has continued to chair the committee and to provide each new citizen with the JCLWV a booklet, *Welcome New Citizens*. Because Betty and her husband are moving out of state, Ann Arnott has volunteered to chair the committee. Naturalization ceremonies take place in Kansas City, KS, on selected Fridays. The board also approved the 2010 budget, reviewed extension of the Poverty Study 2009 -2010, and discussed the program for the Making Democracy Work Award brunch. Diane Kuhn urged members to attend the state LWV convention in Great Bend on May 2.

Polly Swafford

Naturalization Ceremonies

Naturalization Ceremonies are held at the Federal Courthouse in KCK at 5th and State on the last Friday of each month. They begin at 1:30 p.m. and last about 45 minutes. Then we register the new citizens to vote. If anyone is interested in attending this very moving ceremony and helping with voter registration, please contact Bettie Swiontek (booklady@kc.rr.com or 913-362-4918).

Please mark your calendar with dates of upcoming Naturalization Ceremonies.

March 27	Judge Carlos Murguia
April 24	Magistrate Judge David J. Waxse
May 22	Magistrate Judge James P. O'Hara

Bettie Swiontek

May Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar for the Annual Meeting on May 9. (Note the date change. It is on the second Saturday this time because of the State Convention on May 2.) The Annual Meeting at Atonement Lutheran Church is scheduled from 9 to 10:30 a.m., followed by brunch and presentation of the "Making Democracy Work" award to our 2009 recipient Ruth Hopkins, who will be the featured speaker at our Annual Meeting Brunch.

At our April meeting, you will have an opportunity to reserve your brunch ticket for \$15. Please invite your family and friends to hear Ruth's presentation and to enjoy a scrumptious brunch and great conversation. Remember: The Brunch is one of our major fundraisers. Thank you for your participation.

Candidate Forums

Mike Waugh, with Johnson County Community College, asked for League's assistance with the televised candidate forums. He believes the reputation and integrity of League members is a huge asset.

During the week of March 16, JCCC scheduled 10 forums with pairs of opposing candidates. This included candidates for the JCCC Board of Trustees and candidates for the mayoral races in the cities of Fairway, Gardner, Merriam, Roeland Park, and Edgerton. League members served as moderators and/or timekeepers.

The forums will be telecast at later dates on the JCCC Channel via Comcast Cable Channel 22, Everest of JoCo Cable Channel 17 and Time Warner Cable Channel 17. Forums can also be viewed through the JCCC website: www.jccc.edu.

Thank you for your continued support with these forums. They provide such a great way for the community to receive information on candidates.

Jodie Dietz

Membership/Board Approved Local Programs for 2009-2010

Recommended Study Items for 2009 – 2010

- Poverty in Johnson County, Kansas [Approved January 2009] Extend the Study through 2009 – 2010 and include: Financial crisis impact on Jobs – Lay-offs - Wages - Housing – Property Values - Transportation – Education – Health Care – Social Services – Poverty Panel

Non-Recommended Study Items for 2009 – 2010

- Financial Picture of Johnson County: Board of County Commissioners - Allocation and appropriation of Local/State taxes -- How they work -- Decision Making – Rationale – Transparency – Stimulus – Gas Tax
- Procedure for selecting JoCo District Attorneys: (Could expand to include how other offices are filled mid-term).

Suggested Informational Programs for 2009 – 2010

- Presidential Elections – Popular Vote vs. Electoral College
- Updates to Local Positions
 - Recycling
 - Immigration
 - Use of Energy
 - Mass Transit/Transportation (1974 – last updated 1999)
 - City Officials
 - Mental Health
 - Universal Health Care
 - Juvenile Services/Justice (4-6 years ago)
 - International Relations/Trade Agreements
 - Health Studies – Last date: 1993

Candy Birch, LWV Jo Co President-Elect 08-09

LWV Position

Each month, we will review one of the League's positions. We hope members will familiarize themselves with all positions held by the local Johnson County League, the Kansas State League and the National League. An understanding of League positions, how they interrelate and how they can complement and reinforce each other, will strengthen the League's impact on issues at all levels of government. It is important for members to understand and agree on positions for action on the issues to be effective.

At the monthly general meetings, Candy Birch will ask a question about the position printed in the VOTER, and the first person to answer correctly will win a prize. So this month's local position quiz will be on Adult Corrections

Statement of Position

Adult Corrections: LWV supports in this county the following:

- No further construction of jails until alternatives have been exhausted
- Equal programs for all jail inmates, according to needs
- Improvement of coordination, cooperation, communication among various agencies
- Carefully implemented volunteer programs to assist overworked staff

Observer Corp Report: Johnson County WaterOne Board March 10 meeting

- The board voted to extend the auditing contract with McGladrey for FY'09 and '10. Each audit will cost about \$49,000.
- Four easements related to new transmission lines were discussed. Two are likely to be acquired through negotiations with property owners but the other two may require eminent domain.
- Staff sent "shovel ready" proposed projects to KDHE for possible stimulus package funding. Federal criteria used by KDHE give highest priority to utilities out of compliance with water regulations; low priority goes to serving new growth. Kansas will receive \$19.5 million but got \$150 million worth of projects.
- Separately, WaterOne is asking for about \$3 million from the feds for Missouri River Recovery feasibility study completion. The district will ask that the feds pay the entire bill since it was the Army Corps of Engineers that caused the river's problems.

Submitted by Ellen Miller

COME TO CONVENTION 2009

“WINDS OF CHANGE”

On Saturday, May 2 Leaguers from around Kansas will gather at the Highland Hotel in Great Bend to elect officers; choose a new study; hear about National programming from Stephanie Johnson, LWVUS Liaison; and network with others about what is happening in each of your Leagues. Everyone has had some important successes this year to share, and everyone will benefit when we celebrate our wealth of wisdom and experience with each other. Dr. Scott Brantley, Great Bend chiropractor, will be the keynote speaker relating his experiences in installing and operating his own wind turbine.

League members from Eastern Kansas may want to spend Friday night in the hotel. By arriving late Friday afternoon, you can plan to visit Cheyenne Bottoms, a fascinating wildlife refuge just outside Great Bend, before sunset. Then you can join Board members for special entertainment in one of our rooms. The Board hopes to have representation from all Leagues, and we want everyone to leave Convention with a greater appreciation of what League is and does. And, we want you to have fun. There will be prizes!

Convention registration details (\$55 registration fee) are in the upcoming April *LWVK KANSAS VOTER*. Your Local League President has a registration form and car pool information. I hope to see many of you in Great Bend. You will be glad you came.

Diane Kuhn, president LWV-Kansas

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KANSAS CONVENTION 2009

May 2, 2009 – 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

WINDS OF CHANGE

Name _____

League _____

League Responsibility _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Daytime phone _____

I am attending as a delegate _____ non-voting member _____ guest _____

I will need a table to sell wares _____

Registration Fee (includes continental breakfast and lunch) \$55 ____ LWVK Board Members \$27 ____

Payment to: League of Women Voters Great Bend, P. O. Box 1666, Great Bend, KS, 67530 by April 28.

Contact: Bev Komarek – 620-792-2821

Hotel Accommodations are available at the Highland Hotel, 3017 West 10th St., phone toll free 1- 866-212-7122. Room rates are \$64 plus tax for one king size or two double beds. To receive contract rates attendees must identify that they are League members attending the conference. Rates apply for both Friday and Saturday nights. Guest rooms as confirmed will be held on a tentative basis until April 17.

General Election - April 7, 2009

Election of Mayors and/or Council Members in the following cities

Bonner Springs, De Soto, Edgerton, Fairway, Gardner, Lake Quivira, Lenexa, Merriam, Mission Hills, Mission Woods, Olathe, Overland Park, Roeland Park, Spring Hill, and Westwood Hills.

Election of School Board Positions for the following districts:

Blue Valley, Spring Hill, Gardner Edgerton, De Soto, Olathe, Wellsville, Eudora, and Shawnee Mission

Election of Board Positions for:

Johnson County Community College Trustees and Water District #1 of Johnson County -

Check www.jocoelection.org and do a “Voter Lookup” for the list of candidates on your ballot.

OBSERVER CORP REPORTS

Learn about your community and help League prepare for action

Observer Corp is vital for keeping our membership informed on local issues. Observers are needed for:

- Blue Valley School Board: Meetings held on the 2nd Monday at 7 p.m. at the Blue Valley District Administration Office, 151st & Metcalf
- Olathe School Board: Meetings held on the 1st Thursday, 5:30 p.m. at 14160 Black Bob
- Johnson County Airport Commission meets the fourth Wednesday at 9 a.m. at 1 New Century Parkway, New Century, Kansas (near Gardner)

Thanks to Ellen Miller, who has volunteered to observe the Johnson County Water Board.

To volunteer as an Observer, please contact Marian Wade (362-7587 or fwade@kc.rr.com).

Johnson County Community College Board of Trustees

The February 19 regular meeting was called to order at 5 p.m. Routine business was conducted, including approval of agenda items presented by various committees.

Senator Sam Brownback had been touring the campus earlier that day and was a special guest for a portion of the meeting. He made brief comments regarding programs in which he sees future growth for JCCC, such as those that are environmentally oriented or that pertain particularly to technical training, including retraining for the unemployed in the current economy.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.; an executive session followed.

Submitted by Ann Arnott

Recent U.S. Senate Votes

[Confirmation of Hilda L. Solis, to be Secretary of Labor](#) - Vote **Confirmed** (80-17, 2 Not Voting) The Senate confirmed Hilda Solis to be Secretary of Labor.

Sen. Sam Brownback voted **YES** **Sen. Pat Roberts** voted **NO**

[District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009](#) - Vote **Passed** (61-37, 1 Not Voting) The Senate passed this bill to provide the District of Columbia a voting seat and the State of Utah an additional seat in the House.

Sen. Sam Brownback voted **NO** **Sen. Pat Roberts** voted **NO**

[Cloture Motion; Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009](#) - Vote **Agreed to** (62-35, 2 Not Voting) The Senate reached the necessary sixty votes to end debate on this bill funding government programs. The bill was later approved by voice vote.

Sen. Sam Brownback voted **NO** **Sen. Pat Roberts** voted **NO**

Recent U.S. House Votes

[Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009](#) - Vote **Passed** (245-178, 8 Not Voting) The House passed this bill that would fund government programs through September 30, 2009.

Rep. Dennis Moore voted **YES**

[Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009](#) - Vote **Passed** (234-191, 7 Not Voting) The House passed this bill intended to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability.

Rep. Dennis Moore voted **YES**

[Making further continuing appropriations for FY2009](#) - Vote **Passed** (328-50, 53 Not Voting) The House passed this resolution to continue funding most government programs for fiscal year (FY) 2009 at FY 2008 levels through Wednesday, in anticipation that the Omnibus Appropriations Act will be passed by then.

Rep. Dennis Moore voted **YES**

[Omnibus Public Land Management Act](#) - Vote **Failed** (282-144, 6 Not Voting) Because this bill required a 2/3 majority vote, the House failed to pass this package of legislation related to public lands, national parks and water development.

Rep. Dennis Moore voted **YES**

[Water Quality Investment Act of 2009](#) - Vote **Passed** (317-101, 13 Not Voting) The House passed this legislation to authorize funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which helps states build water treatment facilities.

Rep. Dennis Moore voted **YES**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF JOHNSON COUNTY
9531 MEADOW LANE
LEAWOOD KS 66206**

Upcoming Events

Thursday March 19	LWV Day at the Capitol , First Presbyterian Church, Topeka 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Friday March 27	Naturalization Ceremony: Register new voters; 1:30 p.m.; Federal Courthouse, 5 th and State, Kansas City, Kansas; Judge Carlos Margaia presiding
Saturday April 4	General Meeting: Topic: National Popular Vote Compact; 8:30 a.m. refreshments, 9 a.m. program, 11 a.m. board meeting; Atonement Lutheran Church, 9948 Metcalf, Overland Park, KS
Friday April 24	Naturalization Ceremony: Register new voters; 1:30 p.m.; Federal Courthouse, 5 th and State, Kansas City, Kansas; Magistrate Judge David Waxse presiding
Saturday May 9	Annual Meeting: Atonement Lutheran Church, 9948 Metcalf, Overland Park, KS; 9 a.m. meeting; followed by brunch and Making Democracy Work award presentation; Brunch tickets \$15
Friday May 22	Naturalization Ceremony: Register new voters; 1:30 p.m.; Federal Courthouse, 5 th and State, Kansas City, Kansas; Magistrate Judge James P. O'Hara presiding

Deadline for the May 2009 issue is April 10.